

# VAA NEWS



## AirVenture Oshkosh 2008

In the months prior to the start of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2008, EAA President Tom Poberezny said he was asked one question nearly every day: "Will anyone come to the fly-in convention with high fuel prices and a struggling economy?"

To paraphrase the movie *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come." EAA developed the deepest and broadest lineup of events, announcements, flight demonstrations, entertainment, and happenings than ever before. And as a result, people did come and created one of the most event-filled, memorable conventions on record.

"The idea was to provide more value for the members and attendees than ever before," Poberezny said. "Attendance at this year's event, coupled with the fuel and economic issues, validates the unique relationship between the EAA members and Oshkosh, between the aviation community and Oshkosh, and between government officials and Oshkosh.

"All EAA members should be proud of the results and, more importantly, the impact their event has on the entire aviation community."

Numbers were up for homebuilts, warbirds, and vintage planes on the field. The North 40 was full much of the week. A record 23,000 youths visited KidVenture. Theater in the Woods saw its largest crowd ever on Wednesday night—an estimated 10,000 people—when comedian and ventriloquist Jeff Dunham appeared courtesy of RotorWay International. That same night, another 6,000 were at the EAA Fly-in Theater, presented by Ford Motor Co. and Eclipse Aviation, to hear Harrison Ford introduce *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*.

AirVenture 2008 raised the bar for what the convention will be measured against in future years. As a result, planning has already begun for 2009. Late in the week Poberezny revealed three major themes are already confirmed: the appearance of Virgin Galactic's White Knight Two (and maybe SpaceShipTwo as well); highlighting mission aviation, people who use flight to conduct humanitarian efforts throughout the world; and a Concorde reunion, inviting crews and passengers of the world's first supersonic airliner.

Mark your calendars: July 27-August 2, 2009.

## 2008 EAA Sweepstakes Winners

AeroShell Square was abuzz with anticipation as the cement mixer with sweepstakes entries rolled into place for the EAA Share the Spirit Sweepstakes drawing. And the winners were:

**First grand prize:** A new Cirrus SR20 with a year's supply of fuel—Greg Thompson, EAA 652822, Fairfax, Virginia

**Second grand prize:** A RotorWay A600 Talon kit—Mike Schoenmann, EAA 656186, St. Clair, Michigan

**Honda ST1300A motorcycle:** John Thibout, EAA 374572, Napoleonville, Louisiana

**John Deere Select Series X700 Ultimate tractor:** Martin Gerhard, Chandler, Arizona

**Bose Wave radio/CD system:** Steve Hill, EAA 583395, DeWitt, Illinois

**Canon EOS 40D camera:** Edward Leddy, EAA 14448, Maryville, Tennessee

Tickets for the 2009 EAA Share the Spirit Sweepstakes aircraft—a new Flight Design MC light-sport aircraft—will become available later this fall.

## Pelton Receives EAA's Highest Honor



**Jack Pelton and his award-winning Cessna 195.**

Cessna Aircraft President and CEO Jack Pelton received the 2008

Freedom of Flight Award, EAA's highest honor, bestowed annually to an individual whose contributions to aviation closely mirror the integrity, entrepreneurship, and innovativeness of EAA members.

EAA President Tom Poberezny said Pelton received EAA's highest award for three reasons. "We're recognizing Jack for his leadership as chairman of EAA's Gathering of Eagles; for his vision for supporting the light-sport aircraft initiative, as evidenced by the announcement of Cessna building the Sky-Catcher; and lastly, for his longtime involvement in EAA that goes back to his days as a youth growing up in southern California as part of Chapter 1."

Jack's contributions go beyond his position as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Cessna Aircraft Company—where he actively influences national policy on general aviation and is highly involved with industry organizations.

He is an EAA Lifetime member, belonging to EAA Warbirds of America, Vintage Aircraft Association, and International Aerobatic Club. Jack also supports numerous grassroots activities to expose kids to aviation, including the Build A Plane organization that gives young people the opportunity to build airplanes.

"The access and venues for youth are not like they were for me 40 years ago," he said. "Security at airports and fewer local air shows just don't give kids the opportunity I had to go hang out at the airport and bum rides. We have to work much harder to ensure we share our story with kids so they can catch the excitement that we all found."

### @EAA.org

**AirVenture 2008 videos, photo galleries, and news archive**

EAA's website team posted more than 100 videos, close to 250 stories, and 30 photo galleries covering all the happenings at AirVenture—with more videos being added every

week. Spend some time browsing these videos, stories, and photos to relive the excitement of The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration.

### Videos:



Link: [www.EAA.org/video/airventure.html](http://www.EAA.org/video/airventure.html)

### Photos:



Link: [www.AirVenture.org/photos](http://www.AirVenture.org/photos)

### News and Feature Stories From AirVenture Today:



Link: [www.AirVenture.org/2008/avtoday\\_index.html](http://www.AirVenture.org/2008/avtoday_index.html)

## Upcoming Major Fly-Ins

### Southeast Regional Fly-In

Middleton Field Airport (GZH), Evergreen, Alabama  
October 24-26, 2008  
[www.SERFI.org](http://www.SERFI.org)

### Copperstate Regional Fly-In

Casa Grande Municipal Airport (CGZ), Casa Grande, Arizona  
October 23-26, 2008  
[www.Copperstate.org](http://www.Copperstate.org)

### U.S. Sport Aviation Expo

Sebring Regional Airport (SEF), Sebring, Florida  
January 22-25, 2009  
[www.Sport-Aviation-Expo.com](http://www.Sport-Aviation-Expo.com)

### Aero Friedrichshafen

Messe Friedrichshafen, Friedrichshafen, Germany  
April 2-5, 2009  
[www.Aero-Friedrichshafen.com/html/en](http://www.Aero-Friedrichshafen.com/html/en)

### Sun 'n Fun Fly-In

Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (LAL), Lakeland, Florida  
April 21-26, 2009  
[www.Sun-N-Fun.org](http://www.Sun-N-Fun.org)

### Golden West Regional Fly-In

Yuba County Airport (MYV), Marysville, California  
June 12-14, 2009  
[www.GoldenWestFlyIn.org](http://www.GoldenWestFlyIn.org)

### Virginia Regional Festival of Flight

Suffolk Executive Airport (SFQ), Suffolk, Virginia  
May 30-31, 2008  
[www.VAEAA.org](http://www.VAEAA.org)

### Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In

Front Range Airport (FTG), Watkins, Colorado  
TBD  
[www.RMRFI.org](http://www.RMRFI.org)

### Arlington Fly-In

Arlington Municipal Airport (AWO), Arlington, Washington  
July 8-12, 2009  
[www.NWEAA.org](http://www.NWEAA.org)

### EAA AirVenture Oshkosh

Wittman Regional Airport (OSH), Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
July 27-August 2, 2009  
[www.AirVenture.org](http://www.AirVenture.org)

For details on EAA chapter fly-ins and other local aviation events, visit [www.EAA.org/events](http://www.EAA.org/events).



## It's Amazing What Can Be Accomplished in a Week

The dozens of meetings, work groups, and brainstorming sessions held annually at AirVenture Oshkosh involve many of aviation's movers and shakers, from the grassroots level to the top. The 2008 fly-in continued that tradition, as EAA hosted representatives from the FAA, all levels of industry, EAA chapters, type clubs, other aviation interest groups, and thousands of individual aviation enthusiasts.

The flying community flocks to Oshkosh because this is where you can see everything and everyone. People identify problems and opportunities and are able to work on ideas, solutions, and strategies, all to keep airplanes flying, amateur builders building, aviators aviating, and preserve the dream of flight.

Representatives from the FAA always come to Oshkosh because it's a unique opportunity to meet and interact with aviation's grassroots, hear concerns, and work to solve problems.

Here's a list of just some of what was accomplished:

- VAA facilitated a series of six meetings with FAA staffers and vintage aircraft type clubs who requested face-to-face meetings to address their concerns.
- FAA representatives from the Small Airplane Directorate in Kansas City met with VAA and EAA staff to discuss the next steps in creating a new category of designated engineering representatives.
- Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Aviation Subcommittee spent a full day at AirVenture listening and talking with manufacturers, EAA members, and other aviation enthusiasts.
- A number of working groups met to discuss refining light-sport aircraft (LSA) ASTM standards to make them more user-friendly and to help usher in groundbreaking technological developments, such as electric-powered airplanes.
- One day FAA officials outlined proposed changes for administering and enforcing the 51 percent rule. The next day, EAA staff and members had their say, and in the end, both sides did a lot of listening.
- Warbirds of America and the National Association of Flight Instructors representatives met with regulators to resolve operating limitations and airworthiness issues.
- Industry experts discussed proposed standards for unleaded aviation fuel in anticipation of 100 low-lead fuel being phased out.
- Safety statistics for LSA and amateur-built aircraft went under the microscope as EAA and FAA officials and others met to review and identify ways of improving safety without adding new regulations. EAA also met with National Transportation Safety Board officials to answer that agency's concerns about LSA safety and standards.

Nick Sabatini, FAA associate administrator and an active pilot and strong supporter of LSA and grassroots aviation, summed things up. "We don't work together just for the sake of working together. We work together because of the things we can accomplish when we work together."

## Welch Airplane Help

Brandon Abel, the grandnephew of Orin Welch, is looking for information regarding the Welch airplane. Any information regarding the aircraft, plans, etc., is welcome. Please call Brandon Abel at 850-685-9207 (he's in the Pacific time zone) or e-mail him at *brandon.abel@yahoo.com*.

## VAA Hall of Fame Nominations

As mentioned in last month's issue of *Vintage Airplane*, the time is at hand to submit nominations for the 2009 VAA Hall of Fame. We have a preferred address for those of you who wish to send in a nomination. See last month's issue for the nomination details, and send it to:

Charles Harris, P.O. Box 470350,  
Tulsa, OK 74147-0350.

## TFR Website

If you're like most of us, reading a temporary flight restriction (TFR) listing written in all capital letters as it tries to delineate the boundaries of a TFR can be very confusing. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes that the nature of the text-only TFR can be perplexing and may lead to inadvertent TFR intrusions. To help combat that issue, the FAA has created a website that you may wish to make a part of your preflight briefing ritual. The website, <http://TFR.FAA.gov>, highlights in both text and graphical form the lateral boundaries of the TFR and its effective times, as well as defining its upper limits. While the FAA plans on updating the site as often as possible, it is possible that a newly issued text TFR may not be listed immediately. A call to flight service at 1-800-WX-BRIEF (800-992-7433) or a briefing using the online Direct User Access Terminal System (DUATS) is the only way to make a final check on the latest TFRs that may be issued for your route.