

# VAA NEWS

## Flush Toilets!

... and other site improvements to make AirVenture attendees more comfortable

It's not that often that something as modest as a commode takes center stage. But when talking to EAA's members about the sweeping changes coming to their convention site, one simple priority consistently rated highly: flush toilets.

Focusing on flush toilets in a broad discussion about the comprehensive AirVenture site-enhancement program is like focusing on shoulder harness adjustments in describing a cross-country flight. It's a small consideration in the big scheme of things, something that doesn't really matter to anyone... except to you when your comfort begins to suffer. And then it matters a lot.

The 10-year, multimillion-dollar plan to upgrade EAA's convention site not only will bring improvements to roadways, layout, and infrastructure (see last month's Hotline in *Sport Aviation*), but also will result in significant improvements in "creature comforts" for attendees. The long-range vision calls for flush toilets in many areas, additional and refurbished campground shower facilities, more green spaces, additional shaded rest areas, more benches, campground hookups, expanded wireless Internet availability, social gathering pavilions, and an evening sit-down dining option for unwinding or celebrating special occasions after the air show.

Enhancements in place for AirVenture 2009 will cater to the most compelling of the members' desires, according to member surveys, focus groups, and general feedback.

Accordingly, members will see more shady retreats as they traverse the grounds this year. "The best



**John Berendt**

Cannon Falls, Minnesota

Just as this issue was going to press we learned that longtime VAA Director John Berendt passed away early in the morning of April 15, 2009, at the age of 74. A lifetime EAA member (EAA 36591, VAA 984), John started flying in the late 1950s and had his interest in aviation renewed in

and most cost-effective way to create shade is with trees, and we had a ready supply of trees that had to be removed from the paths cleared for new roadways and construction," said Steve Taylor, EAA facilities manager. "We've transplanted 42 trees and added a few new ones to strategic locations around the site to create shade areas for relief from the sun."

Many of these shade areas were relocated around food venues so visitors will be able to take advantage of some refreshments while taking a break. In addition to the trees, Taylor's facilities team is also creating more seating and tables equipped with large umbrellas.

Another conspicuous enhancement, particularly for campers, will be the renovation and expansion of four key shower facilities. The

1967 when he joined EAA Chapter 300 in Faribault, Minnesota. John enthusiastically owned an Aeronca 11AC Chief, a Fairchild PT-19, and a Fairchild F-24. He's best known as the president of the Fairchild Club and editor of the *Fairchild Flyer*.

John was a charter member of VAA Chapter 13 in Albert Lea, Minnesota. He was appointed an advisor to the Antique/Classic Division (now VAA) in 1989, and after his election as a director in 1990, he continued to serve the membership until his death. John has been a volunteer at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh since 1975, concentrating his efforts on the VAA forums and the Type Club tent, and throughout the years John was the volunteer who sent you your membership longevity pins. We will miss John's direct and forthright manner as well as his passionate commitment to aviation and to the VAA. We extend our condolences to his wife, Marge, and his friends and family.

Bunkhouse, West, Stits, and North 40 shower houses will boast new interiors with better lighting, upgraded shower stalls, lavatory sink facilities... and, of course (drum-roll), flush toilets. The toilets will be added to the back half of each shower house, with access from both inside and outside the facility. The number of available stalls will vary from one to two dozen, according to each shower house's size. Renovations to the other shower houses and the addition of brand-new shower facilities are planned for subsequent years.

Next month, we will highlight new navigation, wayfinding, and transportation routes, including a map to acquaint readers with the site's new layout showing locations of the renovated shower houses and the shady rest areas.

## 2009 AirVenture NOTAM Available for Pre-Order

Get a jump on EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009 by pre-ordering the 2009 notice to airmen (NOTAM). Although many of the procedures are similar to previous years, there are updates in nearly every area to enhance safety, efficiency, and convenience for the thousands of airplanes expected.

The EAA AirVenture NOTAM is required reading and should be part of a pilot's preflight preparation. It outlines all arrival/departure procedures, radio frequencies, Wittman Regional Airport details, and much more.

The 32-page booklets are expected to be printed and available later this month, along with an online version.

You can place your order at [https://Secure.EAA.org/airventure/notam\\_request.html](https://Secure.EAA.org/airventure/notam_request.html).

## Submit Your Type Club Meeting Information

Many type clubs hold special events, dinners, and meetings in and around Oshkosh throughout AirVenture week, and EAA provides a listing on the AirVenture website.

If your type club plans to meet here, visit [https://Secure.eaa.org/airventure/type\\_clubs.html](https://Secure.eaa.org/airventure/type_clubs.html) and complete the online form. The deadline to submit information is July 14. Call 888-322-4636, ext. 6112, or e-mail [ssedlachek@eaa.org](mailto:ssedlachek@eaa.org) for more information.

## Submit Your Nominations for Young Eagles Awards

The EAA Young Eagles program is successful because of the efforts of EAA member volunteers who make significant contributions to its overall success. EAA chapters and individual EAA members are encouraged to nominate outstanding volunteers for the annual Young Eagles awards.

The following honors will be presented by Program Chairman Harrison Ford at AirVenture this summer: Chapter Coordina-

tor, Field Representative, Ground Support Volunteer, Humanitarian (presented for efforts to reach special needs Young Eagles), and the Young Eagles Horizon award, recognizing efforts to go beyond the

basic Young Eagles flight.

The nomination period is open through June 15, and the official nomination form is available at [www.YoungEagles.org/nomination\\_form.pdf](http://www.YoungEagles.org/nomination_form.pdf).



## VAA Work Parties

The new VAA Vintage Hangar is up, and now it is time for us to install the interior offices, reconnect the water supply, and install electrical service to the other buildings in the VAA Red Barn area. There is much to do before AirVenture 2009, and we sure could benefit from your skills, talents, and help. If you have any background in rough construction, finish work, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or if you would make a good supervisor, please come up and help us during any of our work weekends. Come for one day or all three days—it's up to you. All we ask is that you check in with us via e-mail before you arrive so we can plan our work and resources.

We have living accommodations for volunteers, and we will have great evening meals supplied by chefs Steve Nesse (your regular host at VAA's Tall Pines Café) and Bob Lumley. We will also supply lunch. Please let Archie James know ([afjamesn46p@comcast.net](mailto:afjamesn46p@comcast.net)) if and when you are coming so we can make arrangements for food and lodging.

Please bring tools . . . hammers, drills, tape measures, etc.

The work weekends are as follows:

May 15, 16, 17—Finish the electrical to the office spaces, start the electrical to the exhibition area of the new hangar, install paneling, and connect the water and drainage.

June 12, 13, 14—Finish the cabinets in the Volunteer Center, finish the trim to the other offices, connect the outside electrical, and finish whatever else needs to be done.

July 23, 24, 25—Setup and cleanup before EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2009.

See you there!

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EAA's Consolidated PT-3 will be featured at the Classic Military Trainers Ultimate Fantasy Camp, October 9-11.

## 'Ultimate' Fantasy: Classic Military Trainers

You won't want to miss this chance of a lifetime to experience unforgettable flights in two incredible aircraft from EAA's collection of military trainers—a Consolidated PT-3 and a North American T-6.

EAA's Classic Military Trainers Ultimate Fantasy Flight Camp, October 9-11, will include a course on the history of perhaps the most interesting period of military trainers: the 1930s. Participants will have a rare opportunity to fly in the only remaining airworthy PT-3, plus take a second flight in the famed "pilot maker," the North American T-6. Flights include a preflight briefing on the aircraft and its controls.

EAA pilots and instructors will perform the take-off, demonstrate in the air how the controls work, and then it is your turn! To learn more on this and other EAA Fantasy Flight Camps, visit [www.FantasyFlightCamp.org](http://www.FantasyFlightCamp.org).



## Send Your Young Eagle to Camp!

Cutline: Air Academy campers get to test their abilities on EAA's Challenge Course.

- Session 1: June 15-19, 2009
- Session 2: June 21-25, 2009

The EAA Young Eagles Camp is designed as an introduction to the wonderful world of aviation for students ages 12-13. This program uses small group activities and close counselor relationships to present the basics of flight in a science camp format that is a unique combination of fun and discovery. Primary activities include rocketry and learning about how balloons fly and about aviation history and flight.

There are plenty of opportunities for kids to learn about aviation at the EAA Air Academy. To learn more, visit [www.AirAcademy.org](http://www.AirAcademy.org).

## VAA Vintage Hangar Project Nears Completion

After a particularly harsh winter in east-central Wisconsin, we've enjoyed a nice stretch of workable weather as the construction crew

from MPB Builders completed the framing and outer shell of the new Vintage Hangar project. Here it is in its unpainted state after all exterior work has been completed. Now it's time for a swarm of VAA vol-

unteers to descend upon it and finalize the interior work that needs to be done and paint the exterior. See the item on page 3 for more details on how you can volunteer to help!

