

# Plane & Pilot News

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**Keeping You In Touch  
With The World Of General Aviation**

A PUBLICATION OF PLANE & PILOT NEWS, INC., JETWAY AIRPORT, 7600 PECK RD., RAVENNA, OHIO 44266

# AirVenture 2023 *What A Party!*

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Photo credit: The Hayes family



# "It's My Opinion"

Editorial Column by Beverly Hartong

## AirVenture Does it Again!

It always amazes me that each year the staff at EAA seems to find a way to make AirVenture better. This year seemed to be no different. Of course I am being a back seat pilot, as I did not attend – but the press releases and photos I got told some of the story. But the true

capturing of the week was done by the "Hayes Family". Every year Bill and his entire family, from youngest to oldest dons a camera and literally takes hundreds of photos. The AirVenture issue would not exist without the help of Bill and his fabulous fam-  
See "It's" on page 10

### DISPLAY ADVERTISERS INDEX

	Page #
• A.E.R.O.	15
• Aero Pro Avionics	10
• Aero Structural Testing	6
• Aircraft Hose Store	12
• Airport Windsock Corp.	6
• AOPA	5
• Appareo	9
• Aviation & Aerospace - Detailing & Restoration	11
• Aviation Seminars	14
• AvMap	10
• Avtek	3
• BrightPortal	19
• Bruce's Custom Covers	12
• Canton Aircraft Sales	18
• Carrol Center for Aviation Medicine	20
• Carroll Co. Airport Restaurant	18
• Classic Jet Center	11
• Cleveland Jet Center	16
• Collins Equipment Co.	6
• Custom Aviation	6
• David Bishop Aviation	14
• Dr. Max L. Denton	3
• EAA	20
• Eagle Flight Simulation	20
• Fairfield County Airport	21
• ForeFlight	15
• FreeFlight	15
• Fremont Airport	3
• Gemco	18
• Gleim Aviation	17
• Guardian Avionics	10
• Hartong Electric	19
• Lightspeed	11
• Lindy's Aircraft Caddy	19
• Moody Aero-Graphics	6
• MyGoFlight	23
• National Aviation & Marine Underwriters	18
• Northeast Ohio Regional Airport	3
• Novak Aircraft Maintenance	7
• Ohio State University Airport	17
• Packer & Assoc.	15
• Plane Works	20
• Polestar Aviation	21
• Poplar Grove	14
• Preferred Airparts	13
• Rose Marie Kern	20
• Roy's Stow Travel	14
• Schwiess Doors	6
• Skysurance Agency	21
• Sirius XM	20
• Sporty's	24
• The Agent Insurance	7
• Tiffin Aire Inc.	12
• Tim Hartong	3
• Tin Goose Diner	17
• Tri-Tex Air	20
• Vee Neal	8
• William F. Hayes	3

# Aviation Law

By William (Bill) Hayes



Bill Hayes

## AirVenture 2023, America's Aviation Party

The biggest problem that AirVenture has is that it can only be compared to itself. No other aviation event makes plans to accommodate 10,000 airplanes and 650,000 plus attendees. Literally the FAA has its own special building during the event. Only at AirVenture is there disappointment when only one B-29 Bomber attends.

To put things into perspective Disney World averages about 450,000 visitors a week. This year at AirVenture there were 677,000 paid attendances, and AirVenture is principally run with volunteers. This year there were more than 5,500 volunteers who contributed more than 250,000 hours.

AirVenture is an example of the strength of general aviation in the United States. There were more than 1,400 forums, presentations and workshops during the week. More than 10,000 airplanes flew in.

The weather was not as kind as last year, but there was no severe weather. Monday, the start of

the show, was warm with good visibility. Mid-week it became hot with limited visibility. On Tuesday FISK arrivals were spaced out, at times to 2 miles. On Wednesday arrivals were spaced out to 5 miles. The poor visibility was a combination of a stagnant air mass and the fires in Canada. There were almost daily rain and thunder storms but they were short and caused no damage

Attendance went up to 677,000 from 650,000 last year. More than 10,000 aircraft attended at Whiteman field and at Appleton and Fond du Lac. At Whiteman Field there were more than 21,000 operations during the 11 day period from July 20 through July 31. This was also a record year for camping with more than 13,000 sites, including drive in and fly in. The reach of AirVenture is beyond the airport, more than 18.3 million people were reached through EAA's social media channels.

The highlight of every daily airshow was the

F-22 Demonstration and Heritage Flight Team. This United States AirForce demonstration flight team is based at Langley AFB in Hampton, Virginia. They brought 2, F-22 fighters, and demonstrated them to the max. They were fast, loud, and manurable. While at AirVenture, the very best of aviation show pilots performed in everything from gliders to Beach -18's, the F-22 stole the show every day.

On Monday the Super Guppy arrived making a slightly nose wheel first landing and become the centerpiece of Boeing Square. The Super Guppy is still in use transporting oversized rocket and missile components for NASA. The Super Guppy was originally a Boeing C-97G Stratotanker that first flew in 1953.

The recently restored Lockheed C-121A Constellation, Batan, traveled from Chino, California to AirVenture for its first public appearance since restoration and the first appearance of a Connie at AirVenture since the

See "2023" on page 15

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# Story Of A Female Thunderbird Pilot

By Carolyn Hayes



Michelle Curran

This year, EAA AirVenture commemorated 30 years of women flying combat aircraft. The EAA WomenVenture Center in Gateway Park featured exhibitors that support women in aviation and female aviation authors. There was the annual group photo of 1,000+ women in aviation in Boeing Square. Endeavor Air sponsored an Ice Cream Social. There was an evening program in Theater in the Woods with a panel of pioneering women military pilots. But spectacular as these were, my favorite this year was the Power Lunch with keynote speaker Michelle “MACE” Curran.

Michelle Curran served

13 years as a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force. From 2019 to 2021 she flew as the only female pilot for the Air Force Thunderbirds. But a little background. Michelle grew up about two hours from Oshkosh in Medford, Wisconsin in a non-aviation, non-military family. She was a self-admitted introvert in high school, and joined the Air Force ROTC program to pay for college. In her sophomore year, they toured an Air Force Base where she was first introduced to F-15 fighter jets. She was hooked.

At first she lacked confidence, but persevered through some mis-steps. For instance, on a training run she was to do a

circle entry at no more than 1G, but went MUCH higher than that, narrowly avoiding a G lock. Hence the MACE call-sign her teammates assigned her: “Mach At Circle Entry”.

Her first tour of duty was Japan. At just under 6 ft, she stood out in the crowds, and she was miserable. In her Fort Worth assignment, she started out unhappy as a person and as a pilot, but her new unit helped her through. She started saying “yes” to new opportunities, acquired new hobbies including running a marathon and solo trekking in Nepal. She flew missions in Europe, Asia and the

See “Mace” on page 7

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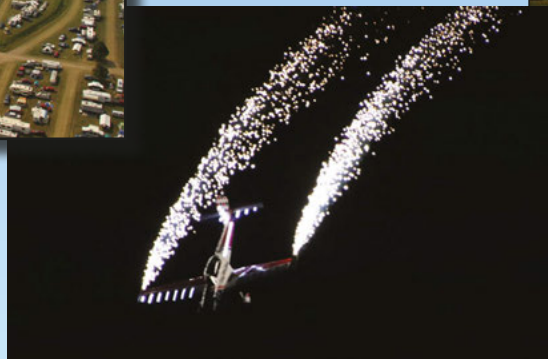
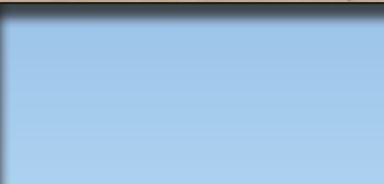
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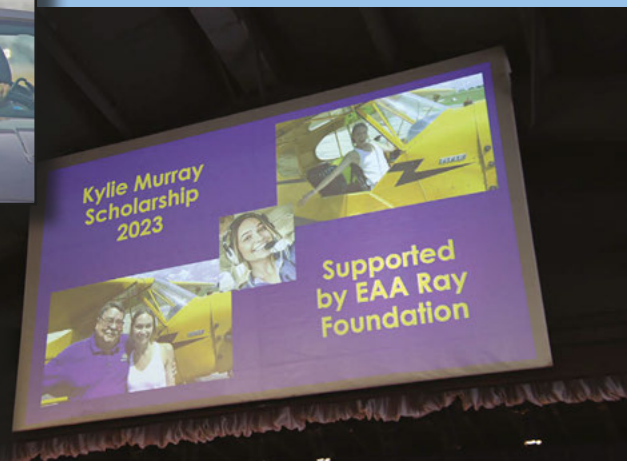
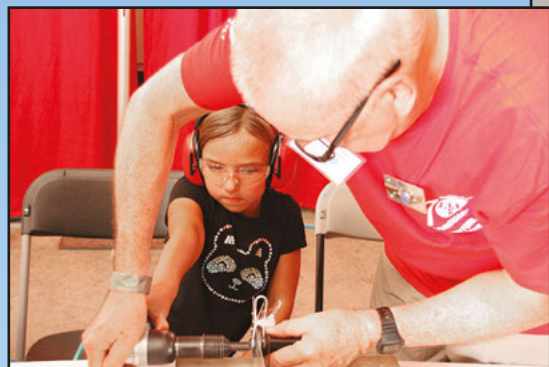
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# PROP TO TAIL

## AirVenture Did Not Disappoint



Tim Hartong

Hello all you fellow pilots! I hope everyone is doing well. I wanted to report back on my trip AirVenture. We had an awesome trip and great flight into Oshkosh (KOSH). There is nothing quite as thrilling as being told to land your airplane on the yellow, red or purple dot! If you have ever flown in to KOSH during AirVenture you will know what I'm talking about, it's amazing. When you

are leaving KOSH you are lined up beside another airplane and they will have both of you departing together. You just hope and pray the pilot departing with you is just as good as you or a better pilot! Again, just as thrilling as landing there. Who needs amusement parks when you can get this thrill?

Last year after AirVenture they announced record breaking numbers. This year was even bigger, AirVenture 2023 had a record year of 655,000 attendees. Tons of airplanes came in from all over the country. I was able to meet a lot of cool people from all over. I love going to AirVenture every year to meet new friends and to also to see the new aircraft. I have been to AirVenture every

year for so many years, I don't remember my first time. I know I have been attending for over 30 years. But every year I go it's like a kid in an aviation candy store, with something new each year. The air shows every day were so well planned and choreographed. The Wednesday night show with all the aircraft flying with attention grabbing led lights on them was the best. The fireworks were also nice to see.

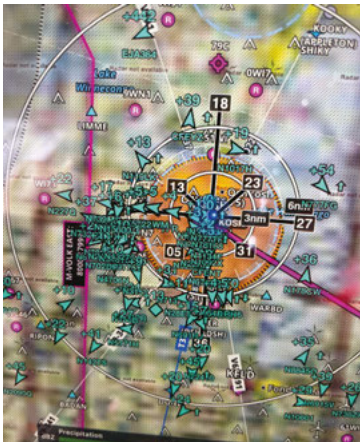
Every night different vendors hosted great parties, I was able to meet lots of interesting pilots from all over the world. I

also got to talk to some of our existing advertisers and hopefully some future ones, too! I enjoyed visiting with everyone at the Flight Outfitters booth, they are an amazing company. Their product line is constantly expanding. Visit their website: [www.FlightOutFitters.com](http://www.FlightOutFitters.com). They sent me a UPF long sleeve white shirt, that I could use for my many

sunny destinations I travel to. I took it with me on my Barbados trip, I will share photos of that next month.

AirVenture 2023 was another amazing show, if you missed it make your plans NOW to attend next year. The dates for next year are July 22 - 28, 2024.

Until the next issue, safe flying.



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“Mace” from page 3

middle east, as well as seeing combat in Afghanistan. Then she became an instructor pilot. In 2015, Poland asked the Air Force to send them an instructor pilot and Michelle was sent there. She found cultural barriers. The older generation of Polish pilots mainly ignored her, but the younger welcomed her and she eventually found the assignment most rewarding.

In 2019 she began flying with the Thunderbirds. No pressure, but her first public event was the flyover at the Atlanta Superbowl. In the beginning she flew far left in their formations. When she progressed

to solo maneuvers (like vertical rolls) she'd fly at 600 mph, 100 ft above ground. The maneuvers might pull 8 to 9 G's and rise to an altitude of 15,000 ft. In their Delta formation, there may be only 18" separation between Thunderbird wingtips. Michelle gave particular credit to the ~130 support people behind the scenes for the Thunderbirds.

Michelle met her husband on the Bumble website. She'd noted that she was a pilot. His response was "Hey, what do you fly?". She replied "F16s". His response: "Huh - I prefer A10s myself." He was a Marine pilot, and they've been married now for four years.

After her military service, she wrote the children's book "Upside Down Dreams" and does a lot of public speaking. She has a major goal of getting more involved in general aviation. She

abashedly claims almost no experience flying "small planes"!

She left the mainly female audience with the thought that there IS a place for you in aviation if you have the courage

to start, say YES to opportunities and learn along the way. The very appreciative audience gave her a standing ovation.



Michelle MACE Curran with her Thunderbird team

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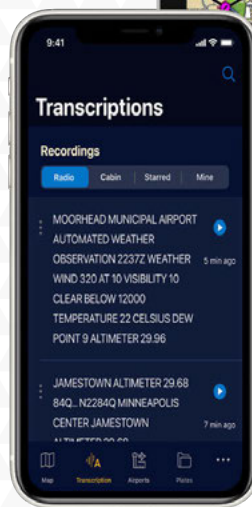
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"It's" from page 2

ily. His wife Carolyn, always attends the seminars and events aimed at women in aviation and does a guest column for us. His sons and grandkids help bring the magic of AirVenture to you through their amazing photographic skills. I would be remiss to not mention that Bill Hayes

himself is a very talented photographer and contributes more to this publication than you will ever know.

The publication this month is dedicated to you and your family. I cannot thank you all enough for making this happen.



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# EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH 2023

## FACTS AND FIGURES FOR A RECORD-SETTING YEAR

*Comment from EAA CEO and Chairman Jack Pelton:*

“There was so much going on during the week that encompassed the entire world of flight, from the presence of the U.S. Air Force Training Command and NASA, to magnificent aircraft restorations and exciting new flying technol-

ogy. Oshkosh was again the place that brought the aviation world together.”

**Attendance:** Approximately 677,000 – A record total (previous mark: 650,000 in 2022).

*Comment from Pelton:*

“We had record-setting totals of campers, exhibitors, volunteers, and more.

It was also a challenging year at times with weather, logistics, and other factors, which makes me even more proud of the efforts by our volunteers and staff to organize an outstanding event.”

**Total aircraft:** More than 10,000 aircraft arrived at Wittman Regional Airport in

Oshkosh and other airports in east-central Wisconsin. At Wittman alone, there were 21,883 aircraft operations in the 11-day period from July 20-30, which is an average of approximately 148 takeoffs/landings per hour when the airport is open.

**Total showplanes:** 3,365

including: A record 1,497 registered in vintage aircraft parking, plus 1,067 homebuilt aircraft, 380 warbirds (up 3 percent from '22), 194 ultralights, 134 seaplanes and amphibians, 52 aerobatic aircraft, and 41 rotorcraft.

**Camping:** More than 13,000 sites in aircraft and drive-in camping accounted for an estimated 40,000 visitors.

**Volunteers:** More than 5,500 contributing in excess of 250,000 hours.

**Commercial exhibitors:** 848 (record number).

**Forums, Workshops, and Presentations:** More than 1,400 sessions hosted throughout the week.

**Social Media, Internet and Mobile:** More than 18.3 million people were reached by EAA's social media channels during AirVenture (up 78 percent over 2022), with engagement of 1.9 million; More than 189,000 hours of viewing EAA video clips online also occurred during the event (more than double the 2022 total).

**International guests:** International visitors returned in a big way in 2023,

*See “Facts” on page 19*



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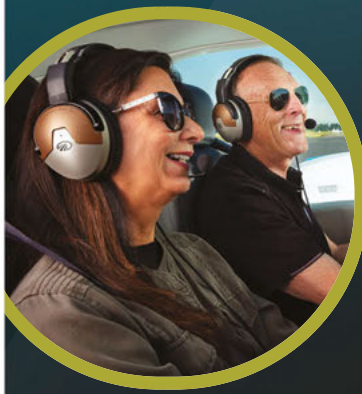
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“2023” from page 2

early 2000's. The Connie is owned by Air Legends Foundation. Its arrival was not without some drama. The Connie was scheduled to arrive on Monday, the opening of the show. It was parked in Madison WI to ensure a timely arrival but they didn't plan on three-day engine repair. They were able to fly the Connie in on Thursday and it was worth the wait. It made one fly-by pass and a short base to final for landing. It too was displayed in Boeing Square.

Wednesday's daytime airshow was limited due to the poor visibility but

it did not affect the night airshow. As usual Mat Younkin amazed everyone with his night Beech 18 aerobatics. The Aeroshell team was perfect and amazing at the same time. Randy Ball was there to prove that a Mig-17C has the longest afterburner tail in aviation.

The fireworks display went off perfectly and it seemed that this year the music and fireworks were exceptionally well choreographed. This was not the case on Saturday night's show, there were many technical problems with the fireworks. It was still a great show, only EAA's

can enjoy technical difficulties.

This year the newly appointed, acting FAA Administrator, Polly Trottenberg, attended AirVenture on Monday and Tuesday and met with EAA and other industry leaders. This was her first visit to AirVenture. Ms. Trottenberg, had served as the Deputy Transportation Secretary, and was a former New York City transportation commissioner.

Ms. Trottenberg did not attend the Meet the Administrator forum scheduled on Thursday at 11:30. In her absence, officials See "Aviation" on page 22

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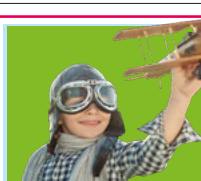
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# PILOTS CALENDAR

**PLEASE CHECK WITH CONTACTS FOR THESE EVENTS FIRST. IN CASE EVENTS ARE CANCELED AND POSTPONED AGAIN.**

NOTE: IN AN EFFORT TO HAVE SPACE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE WHO WISHES TO LIST THEIR EVENT IN THIS COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE, ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

WHO: ABC CLUB  
WHAT: AIR SHOW/CHILI DINNER  
WHEN: DECEMBER 1-2  
TIME: 1 PM TO 7 PM  
WHERE: PORTAGE METRO (INCLUDE IDENTIFIER)  
CONTACT: JANE DOE (000)000-0000

EMAIL TO:  
PLANEANDPILOTNEWS@GMAIL.COM  
SUBJECT: PILOTS CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 - OCT 1, 2023**  
- OZARK, AR. ARKANSTOL OZARK BACKWOODS CHALLENGE - HTTP://WWW.ARKANSTOL.COM, BYRD'S ADVENTURE CENTER (51AR) WE'RE NOW LESS THAN 2 WEEKS AWAY FROM THE ARKANSTOL OZARK BACKWOODS CHALLENGE! LOCATED ALONG THE SCENIC MULBERRY RIVER, BYRD'S ADVENTURE CENTER IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS IS THE PLACE TO WITNESS SOME OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE BACKCOUNTRY FLYING YOU CAN FIND ANYWHERE IN THE LOWER 48. WATCH +40 TALENTED PILOTS APPLY THEIR BACKCOUNTRY FLYING TECHNIQUES WHILE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER IN A TEST OF SKILL AND JUDGMENT. SPECTATORS AND PILOTS ALIKE CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE, DISCIPLINE, AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED IN BACKCOUNTRY FLYING FROM MANY ON-SITE VENDORS AND A MULTITUDE OF OTHER PILOTS IN ATTENDANCE. COME LISTEN TO PRESENTATIONS BY TOP-TIER AVIATION ORGANIZATIONS, COMPANIES AND YOUR FAA/FAAST

TEAM IN THE AOPA PRESENTATION TENT. MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER BY SEP 19TH FOR FRI SAT DINNERS WWW.ARKANSTOL.COM. THEN KICK BACK AND LISTEN TO SOME GREAT ARKANSAS BLUEGRASS MUSIC BY THE GRAVELYARD. ARKANSTOL IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING A FUN GATHERING FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN AVIATION AND THE OUTDOORS AND HAVING A GREAT TIME. BRING ANYTHING WITH WINGS OR WHEELS, AN RV OR TENT, BANJO OR HARMONICA, AND CERTAINLY A GOOD APPE-TITE. SEE Y'ALL THERE!

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023** - ELIZABETH, WV. HALES LANDING, 2WV3, FREE BBQ FLY-IN. HALES LANDING (2WV3) HALES LANDING, 2WV3 FREE BBQ FLY-IN, 10:30AM, 30 SEP 23, YOU'RE INVITED! OPEN HOUSE, FREE BBQ COURTESY OF STEVE PETERS' FAMOUS BOAT HOUSE BBQ, DONATIONS ACCEPTED. ALSO HANGARS LOTS FOR SALE. FREQ 122.9, ELEV 650' MSL, RWY 07-25, 3100' GRASS. \* GET MORE DETAILS!

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023** - MOUNTAIN VIEW, MO. 33RD ANNUAL PIONEER DAYS FESTIVAL OF MOUNTAIN VIEW, MISSOURI. MOUNTAIN VIEW AIRPORT (MNF) 33RD ANNUAL PIONEER DAYS FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN VIEW, MISSOURI ONLY A SHORT 200 YARD WALK FROM THE AIRPORT RAMP.

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023** - NOBLE, IL. CHILI FLY-IN, DRIVE-IN. OLNEY-NOBLE AIRPORT (KOLY) CHILI FLY-IN, DRIVE-IN 11:00AM-2:00PM. CHILI, HOT DOGS, HOMEMADE PIE AND DRINKS

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023** - SPRINGFIELD, IL. WINGS AND WHEELS - HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EAAWINGSWHEELS, ABRAHAM LIN-

COLN CAPITAL AIRPORT (KSPI) BENEFITING EAA AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS. **OCTOBER 1, 2023** - WATERVLIT, MI. CHILI-HOP. WATERVLIT AIRPORT (40C) COME TRY DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHILIES, CORN BREAD, DESSERT AND FRESH CIDER. NOON - 3PM

**OCTOBER 7 AND 8, 2023**, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 10 AM. TO 5 PM. VENANGO REGIONAL AIRPORT HOSTING APPLEFEST FLY-IN AT VENANGO REGIONAL AIRPORT (FKL), FREE COFFEE, DONUTS AND SHUTTLE SERVICE TO APPLEFEST, IN FRANKLIN, PA. FOR APPLEFEST EVENTS/INFO: WWW.FRANKLINAPPLEFEST.COM, VENANGO REGIONAL AIRPORT INFORMATION: WWW.CO.VENANGO.PA.US/AIRPORT OR CALL: (814) 432-5333, LINE 5 - JUDY

**OCTOBER 8, 2023** - MARYSVILLE, OH. OKTOBERFEST FLY-IN - HTTPS://WWW.UNIONCOUNTYOHIO.GOV/AIRPORTNEWS, UNION COUNTY AIRPORT KMRT (KMRT) OKTOBERFEST FLY-IN. 11AM - 3:30PM AT THE UNION COUNTY AIRPORT, MARYSVILLE OHIO 760 CLYMER RD, MARYSVILLE, OH 43040. COME CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST PILOT STYLE BY FLYING INTO THE UNION COUNTY AIRPORT IN MARYSVILLE, OHIO FOR SOME AUTHENTIC GERMAN TRADITIONS SCHNITZEL, BRATWURST, CURRY WURST, HAMBURGERS, FRANKFURTERS, POTATO PANCAKES, PRETZEL BITES, SAUERKRAUT, POTATO SALAD AND DESERTS, SERVED UP BY A CUT ABOVE SCHNITZEL FOOD TRUCK. THE BUCKEYE WING OF THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE WILL HAVE THEIR 1943 WWII FAIRCHILD PT-26, 1973 RAF SCOTTISH AVIATION BULLDOG AND 1960S CHINESE NANCHANG ON STATIC DISPLAY AND

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**OCTOBER 14, 2023** - FT WAYNE, IN. EAA CHAPTER 2 CHILI LUNCH FLY-IN/ DRIVE-IN - HTTPS://WWW.EAA2.ORG/, SMITH FIELD (KSMD) FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN CHILI LUNCH. FREE WILL OFFERING SUPPORTS EAA2 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND. 11 AM - 2 PM

**OCTOBER 14, 2023** - LA PORTE, IN. TRICK OR TREAT AT THE SCAIRPORT - HTTPS://LAPORTEAIRPORT.COM/ EVENTS/TRICK-OR-TREAT-AT-THE-SCAIRPORT-4/, LA PORTE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (KPPO) JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL TRICK OR TREAT AT THE SCAIRPORT! THIS FUN EVENT IS LIKE TRUNK OR TREAT, BUT WITH AIRPLANES! PILOTS CAN FLY OUT WITH THEIR FAMILIES, AND HAND OUT CANDY FROM 1-3PM CENTRAL. THEIR CHILDREN ARE ALSO WELCOME TO TRICK OR TREAT! WE SERVE A FREE LUNCH AT NOON TO PILOTS AND CREWS WHO HAND OUT CANDY. PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO EXPECT. PILOT AND FAMILY REGISTRATION LINKS CAN BE FOUND AT HTTPS://LAPORTEAIRPORT.COM/ EVENTS/TRICK-OR-TREAT-AT-THE-SCAIRPORT-4/

**OCTOBER 14, 2023** - NORTH CLAR- ENDON, VT. EAA 968 LEAF PEEPER

FLY-IN BREAKFAST/LUNCH - HTTPS://CHAPTERS.EAA.ORG/EAA968, RUTLAND REGIONAL AIRPORT (KRUT) OUR LEAF-PEEPER FLY-IN BREAKFAST/LUNCH WILL NOW HAVE EXTENDED HOURS. 8 TO 1 OR 2 THIS WILL ALLOW FOR WEATHER RELATED DELAYED STARTS AS WELL AS FOR THOSE THAT CHOOSE NOT TO GET UP BEFORE THE SUN. MENU WILL BE PANCAKE EGGS TRANSITIONING INTO LUNCH AS THE DAY ROLLS ON.

**OCTOBER 14, 2023** - READING, PA. FLYING HUDSON RIVER SEMINAR. READING REGIONAL AIRPORT/CARL A SPAATZ FIELD (KRDG) EAA CHAPTER 321 SEMINAR, FLYING HUDSON RIVER SPECIAL FLIGHT RULES AREA SFRA, ON OCTOBER 14, 2023 AT 10:00AM, IN THE READING AIRPORT TERMINAL, LIGHT REFRESHMENT

**OCTOBER 14, 2023** - WEEDSPORT, NY. FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN FALL FESTIVAL. WHITFORD'S AIRPORT (B16) FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN FALL FEST OCT 14 12:00 PM TILL 4:00 PM. WHITFORD'S AIRPORT B16. 3043 DITMAR RD. WEEDSPORT NY 13166. LIVE MUSIC BY TRANSPORT. BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR. CHOICE OF HAMBURGER - HOTDOG - SAUSAGE PLUS DRINKS. ADULTS \$25 CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$10 CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE. **OCTOBER 20, 2023** - CLINTON, IA. CLINTON MUNI AIRPORT 3RD ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT AND CANDY DROP - HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CLINTONFLYING, CLINTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (KCWI) OCTOBER 22ND 4PM-3RD ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT AND CANDY DROP. AIRPLANE RIDES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE \*

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“Facts” from page 11

with 2,372 attendees registering the International Visitors Tent from a record-tying 93 countries outside the U.S. Adding a signifi-

cant number of international visitors who do not register at the tent when they arrive, the actual total is much higher.

**The Gathering shines:**

The EAA Aviation Foundation’s annual event to support its aviation education programs attracted more than 1,000 people and raised more than \$2 million dollars that will be focused on EAA’s mission of growing participation in aviation.

**Media:** 863 media representatives on-site, from six continents.

**Economic impact\*:** \$170 million for the five counties in the Oshkosh re-

gion (Winnebago, Outagamie, Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Brown). \* - based on 2017 University of Wisconsin Oshkosh economic impact study

What’s ahead for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2024 (July 22-28, 2024)? *Comment from Pelton:*

“We’ll start planning for EAA AirVenture 2024 a little later in August, but we are already looking at a number of big activities, includ-

ing the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Plenty of ideas have also been forwarded to us from EAA members and others that will be part of the planning for 2024.”

Information updates posted at [www.eaa.org/airventure](http://www.eaa.org/airventure)

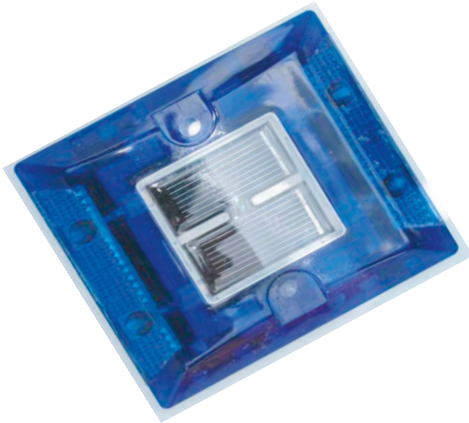
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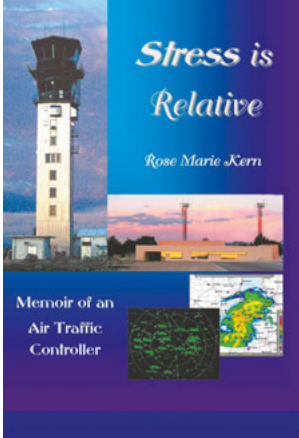


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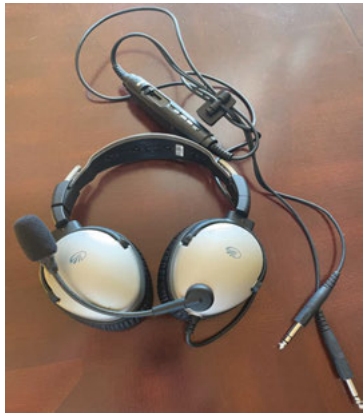
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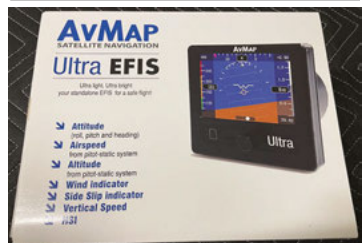
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“Aviation” from page 15

discussed the recently published, Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification (MOSAIC). MOSAIC redefines the light sport aircraft category by removing the current LSA weight limit of 1,320 pounds and replaced it with a “performance-based” measures such as a 54-knot maximum clean stall speed (Vs1). It was suggested that this will include aircraft such as a Cessna 172 when flown with a pilot and one passenger.

The important change here is that these aircraft will be able to be flown by

a Sport Pilot. The medical requirement for a Sport pilot is a valid driver’s License, (without any prior medical disqualification.)

It seems that the FAA was making good on its promise made in 2018, when the then Acting Administrator, Mr. Elwell, spoke to the EAA audience about the declining pilot’s population and promised the FAA would work to improve access to aviation.

There was a time when the “Meet the Administrator” session always resulted in an overflow crowd. Over the last cou-

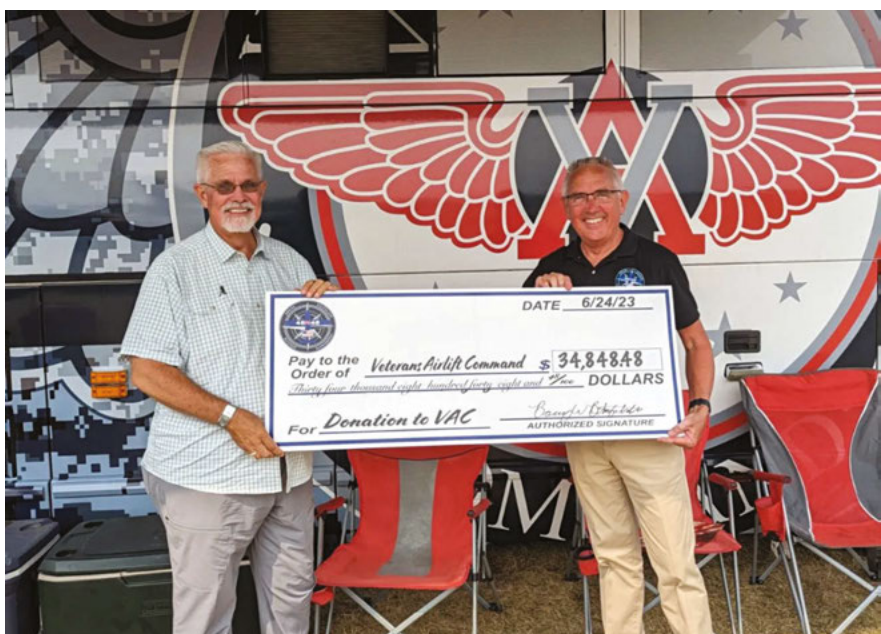
See “Party” on page 23



No one has yet figured out why it is nicknamed the Super Guppy.



The highlight of the show was the Lockheed Constellation arriving on Thursday.



Barry Behnfeldt presents a check to Walt Fricke, the founder of the Veterans Airlift Command, on behalf of the 48N48 organization.



At the Meet the Administrator Program, FAA panelist field questions regarding the new MOSAIC change to the Light Sport Aircraft certification.



“Party” from page 22

ple of years, attendance at the “Meet the Administrator” has substantially declined. Probably this reflects a less adversarial relationship between the FAA and the General Aviation Community.

AirVenture does not operate in a vacuum. The air-

lines were there recruiting as were the aviation orientated universities. Many fine aviation organizations participated in AirVenture.

One of these organizations is Veterans Airlift Command. They serve disables veterans and their families by providing free air transportation for

medical and humanitarian needs. This year two members of the Veterans Airlift Command set a Guinness World Record and National Aeronautic Association record by landing their Piper Saratoga in all 48 states in 48 hours. A part of this effort was to raise funds for the

Veterans Airlift Command. Through their efforts they were able to raise over \$43,000 which was presented to the Veterans Airlift Command at AirVenture.

The actual AirVenture event in Oshkosh was a relatively safe event but sadly there were two fa-

tal accidents. Both occurred on Saturday July 29, 2023. The first was an unexplained crash of a Texan T-6 in Lake Winnebago, resulting in two deaths. The second was a mid-air collision in the ultralight area between a RotorWay Helicopter and a Gyrocopter in the traffic pattern. There were two fatalities and one serious injury. Both accidents are under investigation by the NTSB.

It is tremendously unfair to all the volunteers and hard workers at AirVenture to give the impression that the airshow is the only activity going on on the field. Showcased on Boeing Squair was a C5-A, the Conne, the Flying Guppy, the B-29 bomber among so many unique aircraft. On Wednesday there was Women’s Venture and vendors of all types and educational opportunities beyond comprehension.

Special mention must be given to the efforts at Kids Venture. This program which is located near the EAA Museum must be described as a shining gem in the AirVenture crown. They have set up activities to keep hundreds of children individually, engaged and entertained it. There are lots of fans to keep the area cool and the volunteers are beyond spectacular. You can watch children solve electrical problems, practice becoming an air traffic controller, buck and pop rivets. Everywhere you look there are smiles of happy and engaged children.

To be sure EAA was planning AirVenture 2024 before the last plane left Oshkosh following the closing of AirVenture. Next year’s show will start July 22, 2024 through July 28, 2024. If you go to the EAA AirVenture website the countdown clock is already running.



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