

# News From The EAA AIRVENTURE MUSEUM

3000 POBEREZNY ROAD OSHKOSH, WI

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[www.airventuremuseum.org](http://www.airventuremuseum.org)

## Fall Color Flights

**October 23-24, 2004**

Our popular Fall Color Flights return in 2004, offering the chance for an extended-length flight in EAA's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor as its successful 75th anniversary year draws to a close. Passengers will see the city of Oshkosh and the surrounding area ablaze in the colors of the season, while experiencing a unique and memorable flight experience! The cost for a 25 minute flight is just \$50 for adults and \$40 for children ages 17 and under. Flights depart every 30 minutes throughout the day from the EAA AirVenture Museum's Pioneer Airport, beginning at 9:00am on Saturday, October 23 and at 10:00am on Sunday, October 24. Pre-bookings are strongly recommended. Call 920-426-6880 or register online at [www.flytheford.org](http://www.flytheford.org). Pioneer Airport gift certificates are valid on Fall Color Flights.



## The Haunted Hangar!

**October 29-30, 2004**



Dare you enter the Haunted Hangar? On October 29 and 30 from 5:30pm to 9:00pm, all the lights will be turned off in the EAA AirVenture Museum for a very special Halloween event! Visitors are led on a flashlight tour through the Haunted Hangar, which is filled with ghosts of aviation history and all kinds of Halloween spooks, surprises and treats (and the airplanes look pretty neat under flashlights too!) People of all ages are invited to come and join the fun and Halloween costumes are encouraged. Pre-registered admission is just \$5 per person, and children 7 and under are free. (Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult). Tours leave from the front lobby frequently. Call 920-426-6880 or register at [www.airventuremuseum.org](http://www.airventuremuseum.org) to reserve your place for an exciting Halloween adventure!

## 'Snapshots of Wisconsin Aviation History'

**November 3, 2004**

You are warmly invited to attend a presentation about Wisconsin's Aviation History by John and Rose Dorcey on Wednesday, November 3, in the Museum's Vette Theater at 6:30pm. The husband and wife team are both officers in the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, and share a passion to record, preserve and present the fascinating aviation history of Wisconsin - from World War I aviators like Billy Mitchell and early aircraft manufacturers like Alfred Lawson, to World War II military heroes such as Dick Bong and civilian flyers like Art Scholl.

John and Rose will present an assortment of entertaining stories about Wisconsin's early aviators, including several stories of noteworthy, if not unusual, aviation firsts. Admission to the program is free of charge and all are welcome.

## Family Weekend:

**November 13-14, 2004**

### Paper Airplanes and Jay-Jay the Jet Plane



A family-focused weekend of activities takes place November 13-14, combining our annual Paper Airplane Weekend activity with a visit to the museum by TV star Jay-Jay the Jet Plane. These activities are included with regular admission and are free to EAA members.

The current Paper Airplane World Record Holder, EAA member Ken

Blackburn, will be with us once again to lead a weekend of paper airplane fun and competitions in the Eagle Hangar. Ken is the author of several books about paper airplanes including *Aviation Legends Paper Airplane Book* and *Kid's Paper Airplane Book* and he speaks to thousands of children each year. Paper airplane distance, accuracy and flight duration challenges will be set for visitors, and daily prizes offered at different age levels. Ken will be happy to help visitors build a winning paper airplane, and will even demonstrate how to fold the design that won him a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. Plus, meet everyone's favorite airplane!

We recently wrote to PBS cartoon character Jay-Jay the Jet Plane and told him all about the amazing interactive exhibits in the Museum's new KidVenture Gallery. Jay-Jay was so excited to hear about the gallery that he decided to take time out of his busy schedule to check it out for himself. Jay-Jay will be flying from his home in Tarrytown to spend the entire weekend in Oshkosh. He's hoping to meet as many local kids as possible during his visit to the Museum from 11:00am 3:00pm both days.



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## Fantasy Flight Camp

**December 3-5, 2004**

Hurry! Spots are filling up fast for the B-17's Fantasy Flight Camp being held December 3-5. This camp involves an exciting weekend at the famed EAA Air Academy, a detailed study of the famous airplane, capped off by an incredible 'once in a lifetime' flight experience in the B-17 *Fuddy Duddy* that is being operated by EAA while repairs are completed to the B-17 *Aluminum Overcast*. Further details, prices, and booking arrangements are available online at [www.fantasyflightcamp.org](http://www.fantasyflightcamp.org) or by calling 920-426-6820.

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## Pearl Harbor - Was Admiral Kimmel to Blame?

**December 7, 2004**

This gathering marks the 63rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor with a fascinating presentation about Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, the Commander-in-Chief of U.S. naval forces in the Pacific on December 7, 1941. Admiral Kimmel was relieved of duty ten days later and became fixed in the public eye as the main culprit for the Pearl Harbor disaster. The first official investigation of the tragedy declared that he had been 'derelict in his duty' and 'solely responsible for the success of the Japanese attack.' Admiral Kimmel fought to clear his name until his death in 1968, and his sons and grandson continued the battle. Retired FBI Special Agent Thomas K. Kimmel, the admiral's grandson, will join us on the evening of December 7, at 6:30pm in the Eagle Hangar to present his grandfather's case. He will tell of his own personal endeavors to clear the family name, resulting in a notable victory in 2000 when the U.S. Congress debated the issue. Admission to the talk is free of charge and all are welcome to attend the Museum's annual effort to 'Remember Pearl Harbor.'

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## December 17 Event with Pioneer Astronaut Mike Melvill

**December 17, 2004**

Following the great success of last year's Centennial of Flight Celebration banquet, many attendees requested a similar activity every December 17, as an annual tribute to the historic achievements of the Wright Brothers. We are delighted to announce that astronaut and test pilot Mike Melvill (EAA #53387) has accepted an invitation to be our keynote speaker at the 2004 banquet. As Vice President of Scaled Composites, Mike has had some incredible recent experiences as the pilot of Burt Rutan's rocket plane 'SpaceShipOne'. On June 21, 2004, Mike became the world's first civilian astronaut, piloting the first non-governmental flight to leave the earth's atmosphere to an altitude of over 62 miles. This was a true landmark flight in aviation history, demonstrating that space travel is now within the reach of private enterprise.



On September 29, 2004, Mike also piloted the first of two space flights that claimed the \$10 million Ansari X Prize. Using words, pictures and video Mike plans to share his experiences as a pioneer astronaut. Included will be reflections on his 19-year career as an experimental test pilot. He has conducted test flight programs in numerous of Burt Rutan's innovative designs - including the Voyager, Starship, Proteus, Grizzly, Solitaire, Ares, Catbird, Predator, Raptor and Boomerang.

Join us for an exciting evening of great food, excellent company and the rare opportunity to hear a true aviation legend tell his story first-hand. The event will be held in the wonderfully atmospheric setting of the Eagle Hangar and tickets, including dinner catered by the Hilton Garden Inn, are just \$30 per person. A cash bar will be available and reservations can be made at 920-426-6880 or online at [www.airventuremuseum.org](http://www.airventuremuseum.org).

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## Swallow Success



EAA's Pioneer Airport celebrated the latest addition to its stable of vintage aircraft on September 2 when a 1927 Swallow flew for the first time following a three-year restoration effort. After being declared airworthy, longtime EAAer and test pilot Buck Hilbert flew the Swallow from EAA's Kermit Weeks Hangar. Buck returned with a very positive report of its flying qualities. The Swallow then made its

public debut at Pioneer Airport's Good Ol' Days weekend where it recreated its original role as an airmail plane by flying sacks of letters created by museum visitors. The aircraft now joins the fleet of antique aircraft at Pioneer Airport, where it will be used to support the airport's mission to preserve and share the pioneering spirit of the Golden Age of Aviation.

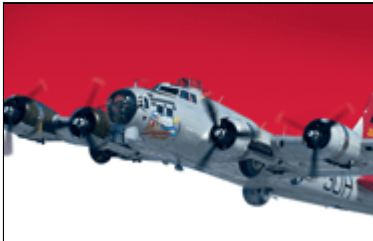
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## Featured Store Item

Published by the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, *Forward in Flight, The History of Aviation in Wisconsin* by Michael J. Goc was the result of years of painstaking research, interviews and writing. The book received an Award of Merit from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1999. The book's limited edition printing of 5000 copies included over 3500 that were distributed to libraries across Wisconsin. Only a very few of these fine historical treasures remain, and are on sale in the Museum's gift shop priced at \$45 (hardcover).



## Aluminum Overcast Returns Home



The Museum's B-17 Flying Fortress *Aluminum Overcast* finally returned home to Oshkosh on Friday September 24 following its unfortunate gear collapse at Van Nuys, California on May 5. Over the summer months EAA staff and volunteers covered tens of thousands of miles hauling the airplane's engines and propellers to and from maintenance shops, and on various other repair expeditions in preparation for the ferry flight home. The *Aluminum Overcast* will be grounded for approximately eight months to allow for a combination of detailed repairs arising from the gear collapse

and previously planned spar maintenance, which involves removing both wings. The next newsletter will contain details of a public opportunity to visit EAA's Weeks Hangar and see the B-17 restoration in progress.

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## Women with Wings Exhibit

In recent weeks, the Museum's exhibits team has been working on a permanent upgrade to the long-running 'Women with Wings' exhibit, which focuses on the impressive contribution made by women to aviation development. An array of historic artifacts and clothing items worn by female aviators has been added to supplement and improve the existing video wall display. Examples include a complete costume worn by an early female barnstormer, uniforms worn by an original 'Rosie the Riveter' and a WASP pilot during World War II, and a flight suit worn by U.S. Aerobatic Champion Patty Wagstaff.

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## Pioneer Airport Webcam

Ever wonder how the weather is in Oshkosh? Or what's flying today at EAA's Pioneer Airport? With the help of the new Pioneer Airport webcam, you can find the answers from the comfort of your own home or office! This latest addition to the Museum website allows visitors from around the world to see real-time operations on EAA's



famous grass strip. A fully interactive camera has been mounted on the roof of the museum and web visitors can actually take control of zoom, pan, tilt, and image capture functions of the camera. Try it out today at [www.airventuremuseum.org](http://www.airventuremuseum.org).

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We welcome your comments and suggestions to [museum@eaa.org](mailto:museum@eaa.org).

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