

*News From The*



# EAA AIRVENTURE MUSEUM

May 2003

## **Pioneer Airport Opening Weekend**

Join us May 3rd and 4th as we celebrate the opening of Pioneer Airport for the 2003 season! We will be unveiling our exciting new acquisition - the 1930 New Standard D-25 open cockpit bi-plane – for its first public flights. Nicknamed the “Canvas Cloud” because of its sizable proportions, the New Standard is able to carry a pilot plus four passengers. The airplane gained repute in the 1930s as the “ultimate” barnstorming airplane – a status that has lasted over 70 years.

Opening Weekend also features regular demonstrations of EAA’s fleet of historic vintage airplanes, and there will be visiting antique airplanes including a gaggle of Ercoupes from the local region of the Ercoupe Owners Club. (Antique airplane owners wishing to attend must contact Sean Elliott 920-426-6801 for an arrival briefing).



Other activities include guided tours of Pioneer Airport; free Young Eagles flights for young people ages 8-17; and a “Parade of Flight” each day at 2 p.m., which will include a re-creation of the famous “Pants Races” of the 1930s. To complete the “living history” feel, Pioneer Airport volunteers will be dressed in 1920s-30s era clothing. Best of all – the event is included in your regular Museum admission.

## **Volunteer Opportunities at Pioneer Airport**

As we look ahead to another exciting season at Pioneer Airport, once again the call is being made for volunteers to assist with the operation of our unique living history attraction. This year we are particularly keen to find individuals who can spare time during weekdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, when



Pioneer Airport is a 7 day a week operation. Areas of need include tram driving, ticket sales and ground crews to assist with flight operations. A welcome and training session for new volunteers is planned for Tuesday May 13th from 10am until 3pm, with lunch provided. If you are interested in joining our dedicated and friendly team, please sign up with Kate Phillips 920-426-6869 [kphillips@eaa.org](mailto:kphillips@eaa.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

now-8/4	<b>Dietz Art Exhibit</b>
	Daily 8:30 - 5:00
5/3 - 5/4	<b>Pioneer Airport Opening</b>
	Saturday 8:30 - 5:00
	Sunday 10:00 - 5:00
5/3	<b>Gary Powers Jr</b>
	Saturday 11:00 - 5:00
5/17	<b>C.A.L Collectors'</b>
	Saturday 1:00 - 5:00
5/17	<b>John Miller</b>
	Saturday 8:30 - 5:00
5/19 - 5/24	<b>Wright Brothers Week</b>
	Daily 8:30 - 5:00
6/14	<b>Operation Aviation</b>
	Saturday 1:00 - 4:00

## **Return of Gary Powers Jr.**

Marking the final day of our Gary Powers U-2 exhibit, Francis Gary Powers Jr., (son of U-2 spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers) will speak at the Museum at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 3. His presentation, scheduled just days after the 43rd anniversary of the May 1, 1960 incident, will feature unique insights of the American-Soviet intrigue surrounding the downing of his father's U.S. spy plane. This deals with

## **John Miller to visit the Museum**

Coinciding with the convention of Lindbergh Collectors on May 17, we are delighted to welcome John Miller as a visitor to Oshkosh. A true "living legend" of aviation, John soloed on his 18th birthday – December 15, 1923. He barnstormed his way through the 1920s and 1930s, and was a notable airmail pilot (in autogiros!), record breaker, and test-pilot of the Grumman J2F Duck. Having flown continuously for almost eight decades (yes, that says eight decades!), John will be flying to Oshkosh in his own Beechcraft Bonanza. Of the many reasons we have to welcome him to the Museum, two are outstanding: He was an actual eyewitness of Charles Lindbergh's take off from New York in 1927. He purchased a New Standard D-25 serial # 2 and barnstormed it across the USA – carrying over 60,000 passengers in two years for \$1 a hop.

In the morning John will spend time in the Lindbergh Collectors display. In the mid-afternoon we feel it is only fitting to give flights to our special guest from Pioneer Airport - first in our Spirit of St Louis replica, then in the New Standard!

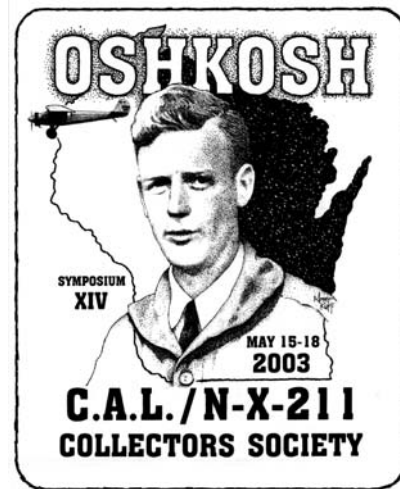


still-unresolved issues such as how Powers survived an ejection from 70,000 feet; whether Powers collaborated with the Soviets; whether his aircraft was sabotaged; and if the American government engaged in a cover-up. This is a reprise of the well-received talk that Gary delivered in the Museum last April, so if you missed it the first time around – this is your last chance!

## **C.A.L. / N-X-211 Collectors' Society**

On May 17th, the C.A.L. / N-X-211 Collectors' Society is dedicated to collecting, researching and displaying memorabilia associated with Charles Lindbergh. This year the Museum is hosting the Society's annual convention, and Saturday May 17th has been designated as "public day". Literally

hundreds of items will be laid out on display for Museum visitors, with collectors on hand to explain their individual passions. If you own a Lindbergh collectible, this would be a great event to bring it along for an expert opinion! The event is included in regular Museum admission. In addition, our replica Spirit of St Louis will be flying passenger rides at Pioneer Airport.



## **Operation Aviation Family Mission**

Operation Aviation is now available to the general public - form a flight team and take part in one of the most unusual museum programs in the country! Operation Aviation is a three-hour experience that uses flight simulation and role-playing to fly a disaster relief mission into earthquake-ravaged Los Angeles. The cost is \$25 per team of 3 or 4 people (this also includes Museum admission). The program is suitable for everyone aged 10 years and above. Contact Mason Marsh at 920-426-6846 for more information and booking. The May mission is now SOLD OUT, so act now to reserve your place for the June 14th mission!

## **Dietz Art Exhibit Opens**

On April 9th we welcomed renowned aviation painter Jim Dietz for the opening of his art exhibit in the Museum's Gilbert H. Hansen Gallery. This is the artist's first major exhibit in several years and has been enthusiastically received by Museum staff, docents and visitors alike. Many of the forty-three richly colored paintings came from private collections, Museums and corporations around the world. Jim's latest work "Between Heaven & Hell", commissioned by Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson of New Zealand, is on display. This outstanding exhibit will remain in the museum until August 4. In the meantime, signed copies of Jim's book *Portraits of Combat* and several signed prints are available for purchase through the Museum's gift shop.



## **Wright Brothers Week**

Join us for a special week celebrating the extraordinary achievements of Wilbur and Orville Wright - the inventors of the airplane. Daily activities will include special lectures; films; historical interpretation programs; and hands-on "make & take" workshops. The star attraction is guaranteed to be EAA's Wright Flyer simulators which were unveiled recently at Sun n' Fun (complete with the very latest version of the software we have

developed with Microsoft) and met with great public enthusiasm.

**School Days** – May 19-23 Note: school teachers and home schoolers should contact Kate Phillips at 920.426.6869 for more information and booking.

**Public Day** – Saturday, May 24 (event included in regular Museum admission)

## **Museum News Briefs**

### **Summer Reading Program**

The Museum is delighted to be teaming up with the Winnefox Library System, which has adopted "Flight" as the theme of its Summer Reading Program. This will involve thousands of local kids in aviation reading activities, and will culminate in a special day at the Museum on August 16. The Winnefox Library System covers Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara & Winnebago Counties – if you live in these areas and would like to get involved please visit your local public library.

### **A look ahead: Lindbergh**

Excitement is gathering for the arrival of the most ambitious exhibit we have ever staged at the Museum – and also the largest and most comprehensive exhibit ever to have been put together about the life of Charles Lindbergh. Drawing on his personal collection (which has never before been seen outside of St Louis) the exhibit contains hundreds of stunning artifacts, most of them on public view for the first time in decades. Join us July 12 through October 5.

### **Website news**

The Museum's website has experienced a 600% rise in visitation since its re-launch in November. We have recently added some exciting new interactive areas in "The Virtual Museum", which is designed to deliver an AirVenture Museum experience in the comfort of your own home – and also to take you places that it's not possible to reach during an ordinary Museum visit. For example, it's now possible to examine the interior of our famous XP-51 Mustang as though you were actually sitting in the cockpit. So what are you waiting for? Get online at [www.airventuremuseum.org](http://www.airventuremuseum.org)!

### **Balloon Event?**

We have received many enquiries from people asking if a repeat is planned of the popular Family Flight and Balloon Fest held in June of last year. The answer is that we will not be holding an event in June but are working on plans for a similar-type event in late September, which offers the chance of much better ballooning weather.

# What do you give the person who has **EVERYTHING?**

Face it, there's a few of those people on everybody's list – the guy or gal, son or daughter, mom or dad who's really tough to shop for. For those of you planning difficult birthday, anniversary and Father's Day gifts over the next few months, have you considered a Pioneer Airport Gift Certificate? You can give that "hard-to-buy-for" person a unique opportunity not only to see some of the most colorful airplanes in history, but to actually experience the thrill of flight!



Our flight packages (priced from \$59) include admission for two to the Museum and a special souvenir pin. Shopping is easy! Just visit or call our gift store at 1-920-426-6108 to place your order. Flights are available every weekend from May through October 11, and every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day.