

News From The



EAA AIRVENTURE MUSEUM

March 2005

Air Show Performer Julie Clark-Live!

Celebrate International Women's Month in the company of one of the most famous female flyers in the world today—air show pilot Julie Clark.

When Julie was eight years old, a gunman entered the cockpit of the passenger airplane her father was flying and killed him. She became determined to follow in her father's footsteps, and as soon as she was able, learned to fly.

A pilot for more than 31 years and retired Northwest Airlines Captain, Julie has logged more than 27,000 accident-free hours in more than 65 types of aircraft. After 25 years as an aerobatic air show performer, she has earned a long list of awards and honors, and the admiration of fans everywhere. She is well known to EAA Members as a regular attraction at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh.

Restoration fans will appreciate that Julie bought her Beechcraft T-34 in 1977, "sight unseen" at a government surplus auction, in Anchorage, Alaska. She flew the airplane, dubbed *Free Spirit*, 2,900 miles to her home in California. Julie then personally spent four years on the painstaking process of restoring the hand-polished, aluminum airplane inside and out.

Julie will share memories of her inspirational life story at a presentation beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Eagle Hangar of the EAA AirVenture Museum on Saturday, March 19. All are welcome and no advance reservations are required. Julie's presentation is included with Museum admission and is free to EAA Members.



Remembering Steve Wittman

On the 101st anniversary of the birth of aviation legend Steve Wittman, EAA will be joined by Dr. Aaron King, who will give a presentation covering the life story of a man who had enormous impact on the history of Oshkosh, EAA, and the world of aviation. Dr. King has researched Wittman for more than 30 years, and is author of the definitive biography—an extensive article entitled "Steve Wittman—World's Greatest Race Pilot" contained in the book *The Golden Age of Air Racing*. Dr. King, joining us in Oshkosh from his home in Georgia, is currently working on a full-length book about Wittman. The talk begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Vette Theater on Tuesday, April 5. No advance reservations are required and admission is free.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| 3/19 | Air Show Performer Julie Clark |
| | Saturday 1:00 - 3:00 |
| 4/5 | Remembering Steve Wittman |
| | Tuesday 6:30 p.m. |
| 4/9-10 | Model Weekend |
| | Saturday 10:00 - 5:00 |
| | Sunday 10:00 - 5:00 |
| 4/16 | "What's Behind that Door?" |
| | Saturday 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. |
| 5/1 | Pioneer Airport opens & Fly-in |
| | Saturday 10:00 - 5:00 |
| | Sunday 10:00 - 5:00 |
| 5/14 | Hops & Props |
| | Saturday 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. |

Pitcairn Autogiro is Museum's Newest Acquisition

An aircraft considered revolutionary in its time will soon be a part of the EAA AirVenture Museum's permanent collection in Oshkosh. Stephen Pitcairn has informed EAA that he will donate his airworthy Pitcairn PCA-2 autogiro *Miss Champion* (NC 11609), to take its place alongside EAA's restored and airworthy Pitcairn Mailwing and PA-39 autogiro in the Pitcairn Aviation Hangar at the Museum's historic Pioneer Airport.

Pitcairn's father, Harold, built the first PCA-2 in 1930 through a licensing agreement with inventor of the autogiro, Spanish aviation pioneer Juan de la Cierva. The PCA-2 (for Pitcairn Cierva Autogiro, Model 2) was the first commercially licensed autogiro in the United States. A total of 20 were built.

The Champion Spark Plug Company purchased *Miss Champion* new in 1931, and led that year's Ford National Air Tour with it. In September 1932, *Miss Champion* set an autogiro altitude record of 21,500 feet, breaking the previous mark held by Amelia Earhart. Soon after, *Miss Champion* was "retired" to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry where it was displayed until after World War II, when it was sold to a private New Jersey museum. Steve Pitcairn acquired the aircraft in the early 1980s and had it restored to airworthy condition.



This is an exciting enhancement to the Museum's collection and EAA is extremely honored that Steve considers our facilities an appropriate final destination for this important aviation artifact. The autogiro is expected to arrive sometime in late spring or early summer.

And one more thing to look forward to: Steve Pitcairn will attend EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2005 (July 25-31) and plans to fly *Miss Champion*. Those who attended the 1986 convention will recall that Steve's flight demonstrations were a memorable highlight.

"What's Behind That Door?" -Members Only Tour

Have you ever been curious to see the Museum's storage areas? Now you have an opportunity to see for yourself. On Saturday, April 16, the EAA AirVenture Museum will allow EAA Members on a special "behind the scenes" tour of its major collections storage areas. Led by Curator of Collections, Ron Twellman, the tour will include the archives, small artifact, and large artifact storage areas. Learn the whys and hows of caring for museum collections and get a sneak peek at many special artifacts that haven't yet made it on display. The tours will last about 90 minutes and are free of charge to EAA Members. However, space is limited, so you are encouraged to reserve a place by contacting Mary McKeown at 920-426-6880 or e-mail museum@eaa.org

Model Weekend: Aviation in Smaller Scale

Once again the EAA AirVenture Museum is dedicating a weekend to various facets of the fascinating world of aviation modeling. Join us April 9-10, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a rolling program of displays, demonstrations, and instructional sessions each day. Topics covered will include plastic model kits and dioramas, radio controlled airplanes, and the fast-growing hobby of modeling airplanes in paper. There will be a special focus on the intriguing activity of indoor free flight airplanes. Did you know that some rubber powered indoor models weigh just 1 gram and can stay aloft for nearly an hour? We will be using the large open space of the Eagle Hangar to show what lies behind this incredible form of "ultra-ultralight" flight. As we learned in previous years, it is certainly a compelling hobby.

In conjunction with this event, the Winnebago RC Flyers-Radio Control Model Club will be holding their annual radio control model ground school on Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All are welcome, particularly newcomers to radio control modeling. Reservations are required for the ground school. Contact Nicole Raudabaugh at 920-426-6135 or e-mail museum@eaa.org. Admission to Model Weekend and the RC ground school is free with Museum admission and is free to EAA Members.

Pioneer Airport Opens with Classic Planes Fly-in

Pioneer Airport opens for a new summer season on the weekend of April 30-May 1, 2005. EAA's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor and various other vintage aircraft will be flying, along with EAA Young Eagles flight experience opportunities for young people ages 8-17. (Pioneer Airport volunteers flew more than 1,250 Young Eagles at Pioneer Airport in the 2004 season!)

As an additional attraction, there will be a fly-in hosted by the Wisconsin Wings of the Ecoupe Owners Club, the Piper Cub Club, and the National Aeronca Association. Fly-in organizer Syd Cohen reports there is already a fun rivalry between the three clubs to see who can bring the most planes! For those wishing to fly-in, a registration is required. Syd has organized a whole weekend of activities including an overnight stay in the EAA Air Academy Lodge, and can be contacted at sydlois@charter.net or by calling 715-842-7814.

Volunteer Opportunities at Pioneer Airport

As we look ahead to another exciting season at Pioneer Airport, we'd like to invite new volunteers to assist with the operation of our unique living history attraction. Volunteering at Pioneer Airport is a great way to get involved, meet people from all around the world, and make new friends in aviation. Areas of need include tram drivers, ticket sales, and ground crews to assist with Young Eagles and other flight operations. A welcome and introductory training session for new volunteers is planned for Friday, May 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., with lunch provided. If you are interested in joining our dedicated and friendly team of volunteers, please sign up with Nicole Raudabaugh at 920-426-6135 or e-mail museum@eaa.org.



New Young Eagles Website—Now Online!

EAA has recently launched an exciting new website aimed at encouraging greater interest in aviation among young people. Located at www.young eagles.org the new site contains aviation news, events, careers, games, over 1,000 photos, quizzes, competitions, videos and other interactive features, plus comprehensive information about all EAA's youth programs. Other features of the site include:



- **Ask the expert!**—Ask any question about aviation and be guaranteed an expert reply.
- **Aviation blogs**—Follow the day-to-day experiences of young people pursuing aviation careers.
- **Monthly e-newsletter**—Sign up on the website to receive a free monthly e-newsletter full of aviation news and activities for young people.
- **Monthly live webchat**—Each month an aviation celebrity will personally answer your questions—live! Our first guest is legendary air show pilot, and three-time national aerobatic champion Patty Wagstaff. If you have a question for Patty, log on to the site on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 CST—she'll be there to answer it!

Hops and Props

Enjoy all the glorious colors and smells of spring at the EAA AirVenture Museum on Saturday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m., Hops & Props, a fine food and beverage-tasting event coordinated jointly by EAA, The Northwestern, and Fox River Brewing Company. Proceeds from the fund-raising event will jointly benefit EAA's youth education programs and Newspapers in Education sponsored by The Northwestern.

Samples will be provided by microbreweries and distributors from across the region, while great hors d'oeuvres, will provide insight into selecting and pairing complimentary food and beverages. Music will add to the evening's entertainment. Coffee and sweets will end the night amidst the relaxing ambiance of the EAA AirVenture Museum.

You'll also learn about the brewing process and history, and how to become a discerning beverage taster. Hops & Props will offer you an opportunity to meet master brewers and understand the distinguishing characteristics of Ales, Lagers, and hybrid or mixed styles of beers. Wheat beers, fruit beers, stouts, English Bitter, Porter...discover the differences and your preferences.

You must be 21 years of age to attend. Admission price includes food and beverage sample tastes, a commemorative tasting glass, museum entrance, music, and much more.

EAA Members \$30

Advance tickets \$35

Tickets at the door..... \$45

Tickets are available at EAA and many of the food and beverage establishments participating in the event. For information, call 920-426-4816 or visit www.airventuremuseum.org. **Ticket sales will be limited.**

VIP Tasting Event

Join us early at 6:00 p.m. for a premium Beer School experience. Brewmaster Brian Allen of Fox River Brewing Company will host a VIP experience that includes reserved parking, early entrance, specialty glassware, and a unique dining and tasting environment. Learn about the brew process from the expert and, in the company of a small group, sample taste an elite lineup of food and beverage. All this for only \$75.



NEWS IN BRIEF



★ Readers are reminded that entries for the **Young Eagles Art Competition** are due no later than March 25, 2005. This year's challenge is to design a paint scheme for the official Young Eagles airplane! Entrants can win one of three \$100 prizes, and the Grand Champion design will actually be painted on the Young Eagles GlaStar by Gulfstream of Appleton, WI. For more information and entry forms, please contact Mary McKeown at 920-426-6880 or e-mail museum@eaa.org

★ The Museum's main family exhibit for summer 2005 will take visitors back millions of years to the true dawn of aviation. **Dino-Soar—The Pre-History of Flight** will feature a wide variety of fossils, models, artworks, videos and interactive displays—all focused on the very earliest of flying creatures. A highlight for many will be a full size 40-foot wingspan model of the enormous pterosaur Quetzalcoatlus Northropi. This model was used for wind tunnel experiments, and was eventually flown using radio control, by famous airplane designer Paul McCready.

★ In recognition of **Mothers Day**, May 8 has been designated a Free Admission Day for Mothers. Mothers are admitted free with another paid admission of equal or greater value. If you're looking for a Mother's Day treat with a difference, how about a ride in a vintage airplane at Pioneer Airport when you visit?

E-NEWSLETTER — Get "News from the EAA AirVenture Museum" delivered straight into your email inbox! You can sign up to receive this newsletter in email format on the Museum home page, www.airventuremuseum.org.