



News From The EAA AIRVENTURE MUSEUM

June 2004

Membership Initiative a Great Success

The Museum's new policy of allowing unlimited free access to EAA members has been met with a fantastic response. Many existing EAA members have written and commented positively on the change. In addition the policy has already resulted in several hundred people joining EAA for the first time. To those people receiving their first News From the EAA AirVenture Museum ...welcome to the EAA family!

The most popular option has been an EAA family membership. For only \$50, the whole family can get FREE, unlimited visits to the Museum and Pioneer Airport, special Museum events, plus the all-new KidVenture Gallery, which opened on May 15. Featuring 16 hands-on aviation activities, the gallery is a great summertime activity for all ages—a totally interactive flight experience.

An individual \$40 EAA membership can be extended to the entire family for just \$10 at the Museum admission counter. In addition to unlimited Museum admission, the family will receive invites to Members-only activities, 12 monthly magazines, and up to 40 percent discount on admission to the world's greatest aviation event—EAA AirVenture Oshkosh!



"The First 20 Years..."



A retrospective photography exhibit by EAA's chief photographer, Jim Koepnick, is now on display in the Museum's Hansen photo gallery. Visit and see the best images Jim has taken over his last twenty years with EAA. Pictured above, is Jim with his mother, Phyllis Basler, on the opening night of his exhibit.



UPCOMING EVENTS

6/4	Spitfire—Flying Legend Exhibit Opening	Friday	8:30 - 5:00
6/4	Hangar Dance	Friday	6:00 - 10:00
6/5-6	D-Day Weekend activities	Saturday	8:30 - 5:00
		Sunday	10:00 - 5:00
6/19	Ultralight Day	Saturday	8:30 - 5:00
6/26	Spitfire Day	Saturday	1:00 - 4:00
7/10	Wings on Strings	Saturday	8:30 - 5:00
8/21	British Wings and Wheels	Saturday	8:30 - 5:00

**See inside for week-long
D-Day celebration events...**

D-Day Celebration

To mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day, EAA has planned a weekend-long series of events to remember a crucial turning point in the battle for freedom during World War II.

Friday June 4—Hangar Dance—The weekend will begin with a WWII-style banquet and dance on Friday, June 4. Our special guest and speaker for the evening is Milo Flaten, an infantryman from Wisconsin who took part in the first-wave assault on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. Milo doesn't exactly claim to be the first American soldier to set foot on the beach that fateful morning, but does state, "I know there was nobody in front of

me!" A hangar dance among the WWII airplanes of the Eagle Hangar will conclude the evening, which will feature the wonderful big band music of The Neenah Ambassadors. Tickets are \$25/ person including dinner, and reservations can be made at 920-426-6880 or email museum@eaa.org. Period dress is not required but certainly welcome!

Weekend-long activities—June 5 & 6—Throughout the weekend, many other D-Day themed activities will take place:

- An L-Bird fly-in at Pioneer Airport will allow visitors to see a variety of observation planes that were used to support the Normandy invasion.
- A WWII paratrooper living history group will set up camp on the Museum grounds for the weekend. Visitors will witness an authentic re-enactment of preparations being made for a parachute drop into Normandy on D-Day under the wing of EAA's C-47.
- A Higgins Boat, loaned by the Oshkosh Military Veteran's Museum, will be displayed on the Museum grounds. This was a key weapon of D-Day. General Eisenhower once said that but for the Higgins Boat, "...the whole strategy of the war would have been different."
- A Mk. IX Supermarine Spitfire that actually participated in the Normandy invasion will be unveiled and displayed in the Eagle Hangar, along with a supporting exhibit.



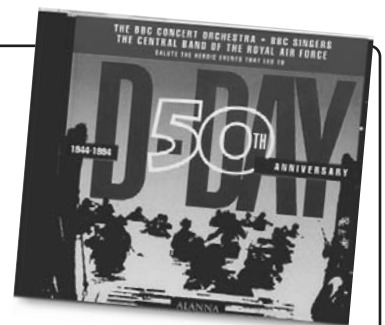
- Throughout the weekend there will be various presentations and movie showings related to the history of D-Day, including video oral histories from Wisconsin's D-Day veterans.

All activities are included in regular Museum admission and are free for EAA Members.

Sunday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m., —A patriotic ceremony in the Eagle Hangar will feature area veteran groups and call attention to the sacrifices made by men and women during World War II. The ceremony will be concluded by a P-51 Mustang fly-by.

Featured Store Item

This issue's featured item from the Museum gift store is a CD that was produced to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day. Featuring The BBC Concert Orchestra, The BBC Singers, and The Central Band of the Royal Air Force, it is a tribute in moods and music to the Allied Armed Forces. The CD was awarded the prestigious "Music Retailer Award for Excellence" in England. It's available from the Museum priced \$16.99, or via the on-line store at www.eaa.org.





Spitfire-Flying Legend

Under an innovative loan arrangement, a significant “swap” recently took place between the EAA AirVenture Museum and Seattle’s Museum of Flight. It allows one of the greatest aircraft in aviation history to be displayed in Oshkosh for a period of two years.

A Supermarine Spitfire Mk. IX, which saw action in World War II, arrived in late March. In return, the Seattle museum received the Nakajima Ki-43IIb “Haybusa” Japanese fighter, which EAA had displayed since the 1960s.

EAA aircraft maintenance staff is reassembling the Spitfire to be unveiled on June 4 as part of our D-Day 60th anniversary activities. Manufactured in late 1943, this particular airplane (serial number MJ772) actually saw action on D-Day under the command of the Free French.

Also, on June 4, a new exhibit titled “Spitfire: Flying Legend” will open in the Telling Gallery, featuring the work of renowned photographer John Dibbs.

Spitfire Day

A special “Spitfire Day” program has been arranged for June 26, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in support of the new “Spitfire: Flying Legend” exhibit.

Beginning at 1:00 p.m. is a screening in the Vette Theater of the classic movie The First of the Few. Described as “England’s most inspirational World War II film,” the movie is an engaging, touching account of R.J. Mitchell’s dedicated efforts to design and build the Spitfire—which in turn helped turn the tide of World War II.

Following the movie, at 3:00 p.m., EAA Museum Director, Adam Smith will give an illustrated talk about the Spitfire. As an Englishman, Adam will share insights about how the Spitfire became a true historic icon for all British people. This program will conclude with an “up close and personal” walk-around tour of the newly displayed Mk. IX Spitfire.

Ultralight Day

Saturday, June 19 (rain date Sunday, June 20) is our annual Ultralight Day at Pioneer Airport. Weather permitting, more than 40 ultralights of all shapes, sizes, and colors will be on display. The event is a great spectator attraction, especially the afternoon competitions which include bean-bag drops onto a target, and the exciting “torpedo run” involving a low level “attack” on a battleship target. Come along and learn about the friendly and affordable side of flying! Ultralight pilots interested in flying-in to the event must call Timm Bogenhagen at 920-426-6831 to make arrangements.



Wings on Strings

For the third consecutive year, EAA plans to host an exciting family kite event. In an effort to have nice, warm weather, the event is being held on July 10 (it was previously held in April). Now you can look forward to a full program of expert kite demonstrations and some pleasant temperatures!

We are thrilled to present the incredible **Chicago Fire** team, widely recognized as the best professional kite demonstration team in the world. Also performing will be the **St. Elmo’s Fire** kite demonstration team; the famous **Mr. Kite** from Minneapolis complete with his amazing 450 ft.-long dragon kite; solo demonstrations from **Jim Wirt** (two-time world champion); **Mike Delfar** (two-time world champion); and **Josh and Zak Gordon** (dual line stunt champion flyers).

In addition, there will be kite-making workshops, and at noon a Grand Launch of more than 300 kites. Also, a FREE kite will be given away to the first 100 kids that sign up to participate in the “Kids’ Mad Dash” at 1:00 p.m.

The EAA AirVenture Museum is grateful to Gift of Wings and the Kite Society of Wisconsin for their outstanding support. All “Wings on Strings” activities are designed for the entire family and are free to attend with Museum admission.

NEWS IN BRIEF



- ★ **The Pride of Oshkosh.** This summer, EAA is participating in a citywide public art project called The Pride of Oshkosh. Thirty fiberglass replicas have been created of the lions that sit in front of Oshkosh Public Library, and are being transformed by local artists. EAA's lion, finished by in-house artist, Susan Zolkowski-Kirk, will be in the Museum's lobby starting Memorial Day weekend. Maps will be available to find the 29 other themed lions in Oshkosh. Until the unveiling, Susan's design is a secret, but rest assured, EAA's lion will be an aviation theme!

- ★ **What do you give the person who has everything?** Face it, there are a few people on everybody's list who are really tough to shop for. For those of you planning to buy gifts over the next few months, consider 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 also to actually experience the thrill of flight! Our flight packages (priced from \$65) include admission for two to the Museum and a special souvenir pin. Shopping is easy! Just visit, or call our gift shop at 920-426-6108 to place your order.

- ★ **New Acquisitions.** As part of an effort to expand into the ultralight collections field, the Museum has recently received a donation of the only ultralight to fly over Mt. McKinley. In 1993 Mike Jacober reached 20,470 feet in his Antares MA30, a Ukrainian-designed, two-place weight shift trike. It has an in-flight mixture control developed by Jacober, instruments, snow skis, a BRS parachute, and total flight time of 9,595 hours. In June 2003 Jacober was posthumously placed in the Ultralight Hall of Fame for his many benchmarks in the field of ultralight flying. Many thanks to Anna Jacober for this very special donation.

- ★ **Heads up: British Wings and Wheels.** More than 200 British cars are going to be on display at this special event on August 21, along with a display of British airplanes from the Museum's collection. This date is also the exact 75th birthday of EAA's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor, which will be a featured attraction. Owners of British built cars and airplanes, please contact 920-426-6880 or email museum@eaa.org if you would like more information about attending.