



RV Recluse

It seems that no matter where you go today there's a homebuilt designed by Richard VanGrunsven (EAA 3204). Step into the EAA AirVenture Museum's Air Challenger gallery and you'll see the prototype RV-3 (N17RV), which first flew in 1971 and proudly represents the breed's quest for "total performance."

Also in the EAA collection is Van's first two-seater, the prototype RV-4 (N14RV). A bit of a recluse, it ventures forth from its berth in EAA's attic during special occasions like EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. Built in 1979, the RV-4 embodies the RV-3's "total performance" traits of an easy-to-build aerobat-

ic sport plane with good short-field performance and lets the pilot share the fun with a friend.

Unlike the 1,095 RV-4s built and flown to date, which have a one-piece hinged canopy, the prototype has a two-piece system, where the pilot's canopy is on hinges and the rear canopy slides.

EAA has two RV-6As (N6YE and N7YE) that carry on the prototype's aerial adventures by flying Young Eagles and EAA Air Academy campers from Pioneer Airport during the summer flying season.

—Kathleen L. Witman