



Rare Grizzly Sighted

During the winter several of EAA AirVenture Museum's prototypes and one-of-a-kind aircraft hibernate in EAA's Attic. Among them is this one-of-a-kind critter, the Rutan Grizzly Model 72 (N80RA), designed by Burt Rutan. An all-composite bushplane noted for its short takeoff and landing (STOL) capabilities, Griz made its first flight on January 22, 1982. Built strictly as a proof-of-concept research vehicle, the canard features a Fowler-type flap system (a first for a tandem wing aircraft); rounded,

double-wheel landing gear; bubble side windows for good downward visibility; and interconnects that double as torsion braces and fuel tanks. It's muzzled by a Hartzell F7666A-4Q prop and packs a 180-hp Lycoming IO-360B. Empty, the Grizzly weighs 1,473 pounds but has a maximum gross weight of 2,500. Look for the Rutan Grizzly, usually displayed near the Main Admission Gate, at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2004.

—Kathleen L. Witman