

A Cozy Canard for 2...or 3



Nat Puffer loved everything about the VariEze he built in 1978, except the tandem seating arrangement. He wanted his wife, Shirley, beside him. Itching to build another composite canard in 1979, Nat asked Burt Rutan if he had plans for another design. Burt told him about his then-current project, the Long-EZ. Nat liked what he heard and, against Burt's advice, redesigned the Long-EZ as a versatile three-seater.

Shirley and Nat debuted the "side-by-side Long-EZ" prototype at Oshkosh '82 to a welcoming crowd, including Burt. Powered with a Lycoming O-235-L2C, the craft boasts a cruise speed of 180 mph on 118-hp at 2800 rpm. With a large instrument panel, dual wrist-action control sticks, and a large rear bay for baggage, a third person, or both, the couple could fly their sport plane on cross-country adventures in cozy comfort.

The success of N22CZ led to a plans licensing agreement with Burt that offered Nat a new career. He formed the Co-Z Development Corp., which now includes the four-place design Cozy Mark IV. The couple donated the Cozy Serial #1 to EAA in 1994, and the pusher is often seen parked nose-down at EAA AirVenture.

-Kathleen L. Witman