

A Skeleton of History

For thousands of years we have been obsessed with the idea of human-powered flight. EAAer and engineer Paul MacCready and colleague Peter B.S. Lissaman fulfilled that quest in August 1977 when cyclist Bryan Allen piloted their lightweight Gossamer Condor for 1.15 miles. On June 12, 1979, Allen flew the Condor's successor, the Gossamer Albatross, across the English Channel for 22 miles in a sustained flight of 2 hours and 49 minutes.

That's human-powered flight's reality. Here's the mystery: In the new *Treasures From EAA's Attic* exhibit in the EAA AirVenture Museum there sits the skeleton

of an idea that has never flown. Little is known about this craft. Why was it built? Who constructed it? All that can be said is that it was one of many attempts to defy gravity using human power alone. Although this aircraft was never finished, it's important to remember it is the dreamers who keep us reaching for the limitless sky.

If you have information regarding this rare human-powered airplane, please call Collections Curator Ron Twellman at 920-426-5917.

-Jessie Van Dinter, Volunteer Intern

