

News From The



EAA AIRVENTURE MUSEUM

April 2004

Museum Admission Now FREE For EAA Members!

An exciting new policy means that annual admission to the EAA AirVenture Museum is now included with an EAA Membership. This means that as exhibits change throughout the year and a growing number of special events occur, EAA members can visit the museum as many times as they wish without having to pay admission. They just need to remember to bring their membership card.

“We made the change as a way to thank EAA members for their support in making our world-class museum possible,” explains EAA Museum Director Adam Smith. “It also encourages members to bring family and friends to enjoy the facility more often, and adds a significant new EAA member benefit.”

Current EAA members are encouraged to consider upgrading their individual \$40 membership to a \$50 family membership. For just a \$10 addition, the benefit

of free admission can be extended to all immediate family members. What a deal! The upgrade can be made at the Museum’s admissions counter.



Celebrating the Life of Steve Wittman

In early April, the EAA AirVenture Museum plans to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of a true aviation legend—S.J. “Steve” Wittman. During his lifetime as a champion air racer, noted airplane designer and builder, airport manager, and flight instructor, Steve Wittman provided inspiration to thousands of people throughout the EAA family and the entire world of aviation.

The Wittman Hangar at Pioneer Airport was built and dedicated in his memory, and will be specially opened each day for guided tours on April 3-5 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. There will also be a new temporary display of rare Wittman artifacts drawn from the Museum’s collection.

On Monday, April 5th at 6:00 p.m.—exactly 100 years to the day since Steve Wittman was born—we will present a special evening program in the Eagle Hangar entitled “Memories of Steve”. A number of Wittman’s closest friends will be on hand to share their memories, including his biographer Aaron King, EAA founder Paul H. Poberezny, fellow air racer Bill Porter, and airplane designer John Monnett. Come prepared to share your own “Memories of Steve” too. In addition, we have searched deep into EAA’s archives of Steve Wittman video, and the best selections will be shown during the evening.

The event is free to attend, but a collection will be held “on the night” in support of a project that will sustain the memory of Steve Wittman. To reserve your seats, please contact 920-426-6880 or email museum@eaa.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 4/3-5 | Wittman Hangar Tours at Pioneer | Saturday – Monday | 11:00 and 2:00 |
| 4/5 | Memories of Steve Wittman | Monday | 6:00 |
| 5/1 | Operation Aviation: Family Mission | Saturday | 10:00 - 1:00 |
| 5/1-2 | Pioneer Airport Opening Weekend | Saturday | 8:30 - 5:00 |
| | | Sunday | 10:00 - 5:00 |
| 5/5 | Jim Koepnick photo exhibit unveiling | Wednesday | 6:30 |
| 5/15 | KidVenture Gallery Grand Opening | Saturday | 8:30 - 5:00 |
| 5/15 | Meet Jimmy Neutron | Saturday | 10:00 - 2:00 |

Exciting New Exhibit: KidVenture Gallery



Museum staff conducts regular visitor surveys, and in recent years we have consistently asked the question "What new exhibits would you like to see at the Museum?" Naturally this generates a wide range of responses, but three have occurred very regularly:

"More for families and kids"

"More hands-on, interactive exhibits"

"More flight simulators"

Our major new attraction for 2004 - the KidVenture Gallery - was designed as a definitive answer to these requests. The gallery contains over 16 new interactive exhibits designed to convey the excitement and fun of aviation. The new gallery will open Saturday, May 15. Highlights include:



- **Hot air balloon simulator**

Step inside a real balloon basket, operate the controls and launch on a gentle cross-country balloon flight!

- **Hang-glider simulator**

Sit in a real hang-glider harness, and use your body weight to guide your aircraft to a controlled landing. See how close to the target you can get!

- **Make your own rocket fuel!**

Make hydrogen and oxygen from water, mix the two gases together, create a spark and... BOOM!



- **Pedal plane**

Can you create enough energy to power an airplane? The faster you pedal, the quicker the propeller turns, and the more power you will create!



- **Sounding stairs**

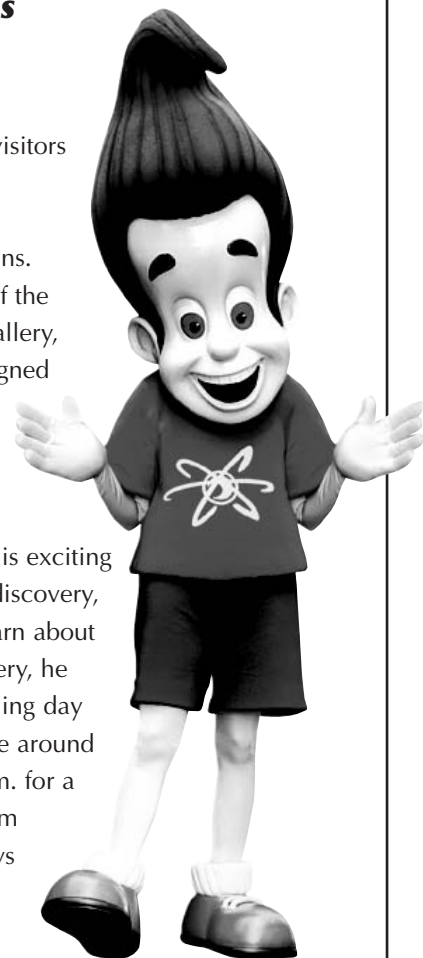
Every step you take will trigger a different aviation sound!

Other exhibits include an enormous, colorful flight mural; a radio control model simulator; helicopter control demonstrator; flight simulator cockpits; practical experiments in aerodynamics; and activities designed for the under five-year-olds.

EAA gives grateful thanks to the Emil Buehler Trust for their generous funding of the KidVenture Gallery.

Meet Nickelodeon's Jimmy Neutron!

The Museum's younger visitors will certainly want to mark Saturday, May 15th in their calendars, for two big reasons. First, it's the opening date of the exciting new KidVenture Gallery, a permanent attraction designed specially for families and kids. Second, the Museum has invited a very special guest Nickelodeon's Jimmy Neutron. Well known for his exciting adventures in science and discovery, Jimmy was so excited to learn about EAA's new KidVenture Gallery, he wanted to be there on opening day to see it for himself. He'll be around from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a meet and greet with Museum visitors—with free giveaways on hand for the first 250 kid visitors!



World of Flight Photo Exhibit: A Jim Koepnick retrospective

Jim Koepnick's name is familiar to most EAA members. As EAA's chief photographer for 20 years, he is responsible for photo coverage of major events such as EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, and much of the beautiful air-to-air photography that appears in EAA's publications, including EAA Sport Aviation. Jim's photography has also been printed in prestigious magazines such as Life, Time, Flying, Town and Country, Men's Journal and Popular Mechanics. To mark his 20th anniversary as an EAA employee, the Museum staff invited Jim to select his favorite images from the hundreds of thousands he has shot over the years. These will be displayed through the summer as an exhibit in our photo gallery. All are invited to attend the opening night of the exhibit on Wednesday, May 5th at 6:30 p.m. Jim will begin with a slide show presentation of his work in the Vette Theater, sharing some personal reminiscences and, for photo enthusiasts, some expert tips on how to accomplish great aviation photography. Following the talk, we will transition to the gallery to see the new exhibit.



Operation Aviation Family Mission

Operation Aviation is now available to the general public: Form a flight team and take part in one of the most unusual museum programs in the country on May 1, at 10:00 a.m.! Operation Aviation is a three-hour experience that uses flight simulation and role-playing to fly a disaster relief mission into earthquake-ravaged Los Angeles. The cost is \$25 per team of 3 or 4 people (this also includes Museum admission). The program is suitable for everyone ages 10 years and above. Contact Nicole Grundtner at 920-426-6135 for more information and booking. These missions sell out fast, so act now to reserve your place!

Pioneer Airport Opening Weekend



Pioneer Airport is a wonderful place to savor the sights and sounds of vintage flying machines in their "natural habitat". Join us on the first weekend in May as we open Pioneer Airport for another season celebrating the "living history" of aviation! We will be unveiling some new hangar layouts, and the first public appearance of EAA's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor's fabulous new paint scheme (both inside and out). As usual, flights will be offered in various historic aircraft and free Young Eagles flights for kids ages 8-17 will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Opening Weekend also features a number of visiting antique airplanes, including club outings from Midwest-based Ercoupe and Piper Cub clubs. The Airport will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through the months of May, September, October and daily from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Volunteer Opportunities at Pioneer Airport

As we look ahead to another exciting season at Pioneer Airport, once again the call is being made for volunteers to assist with the operation of our unique living history attraction. This year we are particularly looking for individuals who can spare time during summer weekdays, when Pioneer Airport is a seven-day a week attraction. Areas of need include tram driving, ticket sales, and ground crews to assist with flight operations. A welcome and training session for new volunteers is planned for Wednesday, May 12th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., with lunch provided. If you are interested in joining our dedicated and friendly team, please sign up with Lynn Curtis at lcurtis@eaa.org or call 920-426-4877.

NEWS IN BRIEF



- ★ **Attention Teachers!** The Museum's annual "Aviation Days" takes place May 17-21. It features a variety of education programs designed especially for schools, and this year will include the exciting new KidVenture Gallery attraction. Contact 920-426-6880 or museum@eaa.org for more details.
- ★ **Advance Notice: D-Day Event.** We are planning a celebration of the 60th anniversary of D-Day. This includes a hangar dance on the evening of June 4 with guest speaker (TBA) and music from the Neenah Ambassadors. Tickets priced \$25 per person, dinner included, are available. To reserve your seats contact 920-426-6880 or museum@eaa.org. Over the weekend June 5-6 there will be an L-Bird fly-in at Pioneer Airport, living history demonstrations, speakers and a new D-Day exhibit in the Eagle Hangar. More details will be announced in the next newsletter.
- ★ **E-newsletter.** Get "News From the EAA AirVenture Museum" delivered straight into your email inbox! This newsletter is now available in email format. You can sign up by clicking on the link on the left hand side of the home page, www.airventuremuseum.org.
- ★ **New Young Eagles Chairman Looks Forward to Oshkosh Visit.** March 8th was an exciting day for the EAA Young Eagles program, when actor Harrison Ford accepted the role as its new national chairman. An instrument rated pilot and EAA member since 1996, Ford has been an enthusiastic participant as a Young Eagles flight leader, and will "lead the charge" as the program enters its next phase of development. During the press conference activities, Mr. Ford shared memories of having taken his first flying lessons in Wisconsin while a student at Ripon College in the 1960s. He also looks forward to paying his first visit to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh this coming summer. The trip will perhaps provide him with an opportunity to renew acquaintances with the Ford Tri-Motor, which he last flew in the movie *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom!*