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# Be There!

## EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2007

In just a few months, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2007 will be here. EAA members are proud to say that their annual convention is “The World’s Greatest Aviation Celebration.”

That phrase—which echoes responses from guests and from leaders in the aviation community whom we asked to describe the event—says it all. It goes unchallenged for good reason: The thousands of dedicated and passionate EAA members and volunteers who make AirVenture happen have earned that recognition.

In addition to AirVenture’s size, scope, and attractions, there is a difficult-to-measure but unmistakable energy that makes it worthy of the annual pilgrimage it inspires—that makes it, quite simply, the best.

As chairman of AirVenture since 1976, I have been asked a thousand times to describe AirVenture and explain what it feels like or answer the question: “Why should I attend?” The reality is that you really have to be there to feel and understand its effects on attendees and the emotion it evokes.

That’s why I want to reiterate my invitation for you to attend. An AirVenture experience will surely enrich your enjoyment of aviation, and your presence will enhance the event.

After all, to describe AirVenture Oshkosh attendees is to describe the aviation community. Your passions range from ultralights, powered parachutes, and gliders to homebuilts, warbirds, and the tens of thousands of general aviation aircraft that descend upon Oshkosh each year. Describing our collective passion for flight is difficult, because for each of us it’s very

personal—but for all of us, Oshkosh ignites that flame.

Comments and reactions from all corners of the aviation community reinforce that the essence of Oshkosh is you the member, you the participant, you and your family. Without you here, the event—its energy and impact—is diminished.

Whether you’re nearby or far away, come this year. If you are interested in the latest and greatest aviation innovations, if you want to meet those

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who are making aviation history, if you want to learn from fellow aviators about everything from aircraft construction and restoration to maintenance and piloting techniques, if you want to see the world’s greatest air show performers, if you want to see the entire aviation spectrum at its very best, if you want to bring your family to an event that you will be proud of ... EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is the place for you July 23-29.

With many more announcements to come (check [www.AirVenture.org](http://www.AirVenture.org) for updates), here are the activities, attractions, and celebrations we’ve already confirmed:

- AirVenture will mark the 75th anniversary of Beechcraft and the

60th anniversary of the Beechcraft Bonanza.

- The stellar lineup of Theater in the Woods presentations will include the world’s first female private space explorer, pilots of state-of-the-art aircraft, representatives of the world’s first space tourism company, a famed record-setting adventurer, and even the U.S. Air Force band.

- The EAA Fly-in Theatre presented by Eclipse and Ford Motor Co. will screen outstanding aviation films, including Apollo 13, introduced by astronaut and EAAer Jim Lovell.

- The amazing F-22 Raptors will return this year.

- The U.S. Air Force will celebrate 60 years of service.

- Opening-day attendees will be able to relive a great entertainment experience from last year, or see and hear what they missed: The Beach Boys will return to AeroShell Square on Monday, July 23.

Your convention moved to Oshkosh in 1970. Over the decades we have made various changes and improvements to the site to better serve EAA members and the aviation community.

Expectations of AirVenture have grown and, accordingly, so has the need to upgrade the facility. As I reported to you in the February edition, I’ve appointed the AirVenture Task Force, which has developed a comprehensive site plan. Over the next few years, we will invest significant financial resources into this plan. Join us at AirVenture 2007 to learn more about this effort to make the AirVenture experience even more valuable and rewarding in the future. 