



EAA AirVenture Oshkosh

The future

Tom Poberezny, President

“Oshkosh” is one of the world’s premier aviation events. Greatness can be measured in many ways, but one way to be sure your event is successful is to meet the needs of our members. For EAAers and others, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is the annual gathering of the aviation community. For the aviation industry, Oshkosh offers the opportunity to unveil innovative new products and meet with customers... an extremely knowledgeable audience...in an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation.

Oshkosh embodies the spirit of aviation...people helping people, furthering innovation, and sharing the love of flying, no matter what the aircraft. Oshkosh represents what EAAers accomplish as an organization 365 days a year. Members and their families plan their annual pilgrimage, spend a week, and go home with their batteries recharged. I want to personally invite you, your family, and friends to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2008, set for July 29 to August 3. Your staff and dedicated volunteers have been working diligently on programs and activities to make this year’s event another outstanding week. I can assure you that you won’t be disappointed. To keep up-to-date on what’s being planned, visit the AirVenture website, www.AirVenture.org, often.

Your organization turns 55 this month. EAA’s annual convention began in 1953 in Milwaukee, moving to Rockford, Illinois, in the 1960s

and ultimately to Oshkosh in 1970. Over time, AirVenture has grown in both size and scope, not necessarily by design but rather by meeting the needs and desires of members, their families, and guests. I’ve served as chairman of Oshkosh since 1977. During that time, a multitude of decisions have been made, none with the idea of the event getting bigger, but rather getting better.

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Still, some members have expressed to me that Oshkosh is becoming too large, too commercial. My question is, whom do we tell not to come? People and companies come to Oshkosh because it adds value to their life or their business. As EAA continues to meet those needs, the expectations of members naturally increase. Our responsibility is to address issues so we can meet those rising expectations, while preserving the culture of this event that is so important to EAA and all of aviation.

To assure the continued success of Oshkosh, I’ve commissioned an

EAA AirVenture Task Force to address site improvements that will provide additional value for members and their families, as well as exhibitors and partners. We will address the wide variety of interests and needs within the EAA membership. We will upgrade the campground and address site transportation as well as consider other enhancements that will add to the unique experience that is Oshkosh. We’ve considered your responses to our surveys and focus groups. Your input will be important in our planning.

EAA staff, volunteers, and members have a special relationship with AirVenture Oshkosh. They feel a pride of ownership. This event is important to everyone. For EAA, it’s an opportunity to enhance our member recruitment and advocacy efforts and promote affordable access to aviation for all who share the dream. Oshkosh’s impact on the growth and development of aviation’s future is also significant. It’s where the aviation world comes to do business. As we work to make AirVenture Oshkosh better, we’ll keep that pride of ownership in mind. You can expect frequent updates on the improvements that will be implemented over the next few years.

It’s an exciting time as we move forward to grow the ranks of aviation enthusiasts and assure that AirVenture Oshkosh continues to meet the needs and desires of our members. Join us in Oshkosh in July! 