



Tom Poberezny, President

AirVenture Excitement...

...and future planning

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2008 is fast approaching. This is the time of year when excitement begins to build. We now have daily updates on the AirVenture website, www.AirVenture.org, regarding the programs, activities, and interesting aircraft that are scheduled to appear. More complete details may also be found in the Hotline section of this month's magazine.

Those of you who have attended AirVenture before, whether once or several times, know this event is not just about significant aircraft or aviation history makers gathered in one place. It's also aviation's family reunion, where people from all over the world come to share their love of flying. The variety of activities available is unparalleled anywhere. You have to experience AirVenture to believe it. I look forward to welcoming you, your family, and friends to Oshkosh, July 28 through August 3.

I'd also like to share what will be happening behind the scenes on the AirVenture site for the next couple of years. I have been chairman of your convention since the mid-1970s. During that time, "Oshkosh" has grown in terms of quality and size. We have always worked hard to

meet or exceed the expectations of EAA members, families, aviation enthusiasts, and exhibitors who come from all parts of the world.

Over the decades, the AirVenture site has met your needs, but we are at

Force...a group of individuals with a wide variety of knowledge, talent, and experience. We have been meeting for almost a year, conducting surveys, meeting with focus groups, and developing recommendations for AirVenture site changes. Here are our primary goals:

1. Make the event easy to experience and enjoy—including simplifying the arrival process, providing better signage, and developing a better tram system to move people throughout the site.

2. Improve safety, particularly focusing on separating pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

3. Keep the event fun and interesting by expanding evening activities and the ability for social interaction.

4. Improve the quality of food service offerings, camping facilities, restrooms, and shade and relaxation areas.

5. Address the demand for additional exhibit space and upgraded amenities for commercial entities.

6. Preserve the culture and core values of EAA and the event.



a point in time where reality has set in. To continue to meet expectations, change is necessary. Fortunately we had the foresight to acquire the land necessary for expansion years ago. Currently, we are using only 60 to 70 percent of the land available.

We have undertaken significant long-term planning with the goal of continuing to meet the needs of members and AirVenture visitors. Recognizing the enormous scope of what needed to be accomplished, I established an AirVenture Task


I encourage you to visit EAA's Member Village during AirVenture 2008. There you may view displays highlighting the changes. Then, the day after AirVenture 2008 ends, we will start implementing phase one of a four-phase plan.

It's our responsibility to ensure that EAA will continue to offer the best in aviation programs and ac-

and websites with the goal of better meeting your needs. We want to maintain the proper balance of content and information for our diverse membership. Consequently, we will be surveying, via e-mail, thousands of members selected randomly each month. If you receive a survey, I would appreciate your candid response. That will give us the direc-

Preserving those and other core values is a high priority. To that end, we are establishing the Founders' Wing in the EAA AirVenture Museum. This project will highlight EAA's culture of high standards, volunteerism, innovation, and personal development, while also recognizing our founders, Paul and Audrey Poberezny.

To address this challenge, Paul and Audrey have offered their extensive collection of historic artifacts so we can display EAA's history with original memorabilia. This collection represents the culture of an organization that has truly made a difference in aviation.

The Founders' Wing will present EAA's heritage while documenting its legacy and recognizing the people who made a difference. Our founders will be personally involved with this project, ensuring the story is told accurately, based on insights only they can provide. We'll learn how they planted and nourished the seeds that became EAA's culture. Through telling that story, we'll challenge EAA's future leaders to carry that culture and legacy forward. 

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tivities. We believe this major investment in the AirVenture site should do that long into the future.

The convention site isn't the only membership service we want to improve and expand upon. We're also focusing on our publications

and information needed. I'll be reviewing these survey responses personally, along with your publications team.

Member participation and active involvement have been cornerstones of EAA since it was founded in 1953.

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