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## **THE WORLD OF FLIGHT RETURNS TO OSHKOSH! EAA AIRVENTURE 2009 IS JULY 27-AUG. 2, 2009**

*WhiteKnightTwo, Concorde reunion, Jeff Dunham concert among scheduled highlights*

EAA AVIATION CENTER, OSHKOSH, Wis. — (Oct. 27, 2008) — Each year, the spirit, enthusiasm and innovation within aviation come together in one place, known simply as “Oshkosh.” Preparations for the 57th annual edition of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh – The World’s Greatest Aviation Celebration – are already underway, getting ready for the event at Wittman Regional Airport on July 27-August 2, 2009.

Each year, more than 10,000 airplanes migrate to the Oshkosh area to participate in the event. Whether these aviation enthusiasts fly their own airplanes and camp along the flight line, or pitch a tent in the adjacent Camp Scholler, or find their own accommodations in area hotels, dormitories or private housing, they come to AirVenture to share the joy and excitement of flight.

“At EAA AirVenture, we often see and hear about the big events, such as the one-of-a-kind aircraft or the new innovations in flying,” said Tom Poberezny, EAA president and AirVenture chairman. “But more important, in one week this is where the whole, true spirit of aviation comes together to celebrate the world of flight. That means the heritage, the pride and the vision of aviation. Each person who attends has an individual flying story. Oshkosh is the one place where all those stories come together to create a celebration that is unmatched anywhere around the world.”

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Among some of the scheduled highlights already announced for EAA AirVenture 2009 are an expected visit from WhiteKnightTwo, the carrier ship for the new SpaceShipTwo space tourism vehicle; a reunion of participants from the five visits of British Airways' Concorde to Oshkosh in the 1980s and 1990s; and special recognition of aviation's humanitarian role around the world. Special programs saluting international aviation anniversaries and homebuilt aircraft are also being developed.

In addition, comedian/ventriloquist Jeff Dunham – one of the nation's hottest comedy concert draws, who is also an experienced helicopter builder and pilot – will be returning to EAA AirVenture for a concert appearance on Saturday, August 1, presented once again by RotorWay International. Dunham's appearance at Oshkosh in 2008 drew an estimated 10,000 people.

In 2008, EAA AirVenture included more than 2,500 showplanes, 800 exhibitors, and nearly 1,000 forums and seminars. It also featured the introduction of dozens of new aviation products, including several new aircraft. Oshkosh is also a one-of-a-kind locale for government aviation officials to meet and hear their constituents, whose input at Oshkosh helps shape national aviation policy.

Over the next nine months, look for added features to the already extensive video and audio presentations and interactive sections at the [www.airventure.org](http://www.airventure.org) website. The website also includes everything you need to plan and get the most out of a visit to AirVenture 2009, That features essential updates on admission rates, housing, forum presenters, special attractions, and more.

“EAA AirVenture is one of aviation's most important events for business, government and education,” Poberezny said. “What makes this event unique, however, is the fact that it is also aviation's annual family reunion. If you're asked to explain what EAA AirVenture is, there's only one good answer – ‘You've gotta be there!’”

The schedule of events and confirmed lineup of aircraft will be announced as those items are finalized. EAA members enjoy the lowest AirVenture admission rates for themselves, their families and their guests, as well as access to camping in aircraft areas and in Camp Scholler adjacent to the flight line. Advance ticket sales are expected to begin on November 1, 2008.

EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH is The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration and EAA's yearly convention that embodies the membership's spirit of aviation. For more information on EAA and its programs, call 1-800-JOIN-EAA (1-800-564-6322) or [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org). EAA AirVenture information is also available through the World Wide Web at [www.airventure.org](http://www.airventure.org).