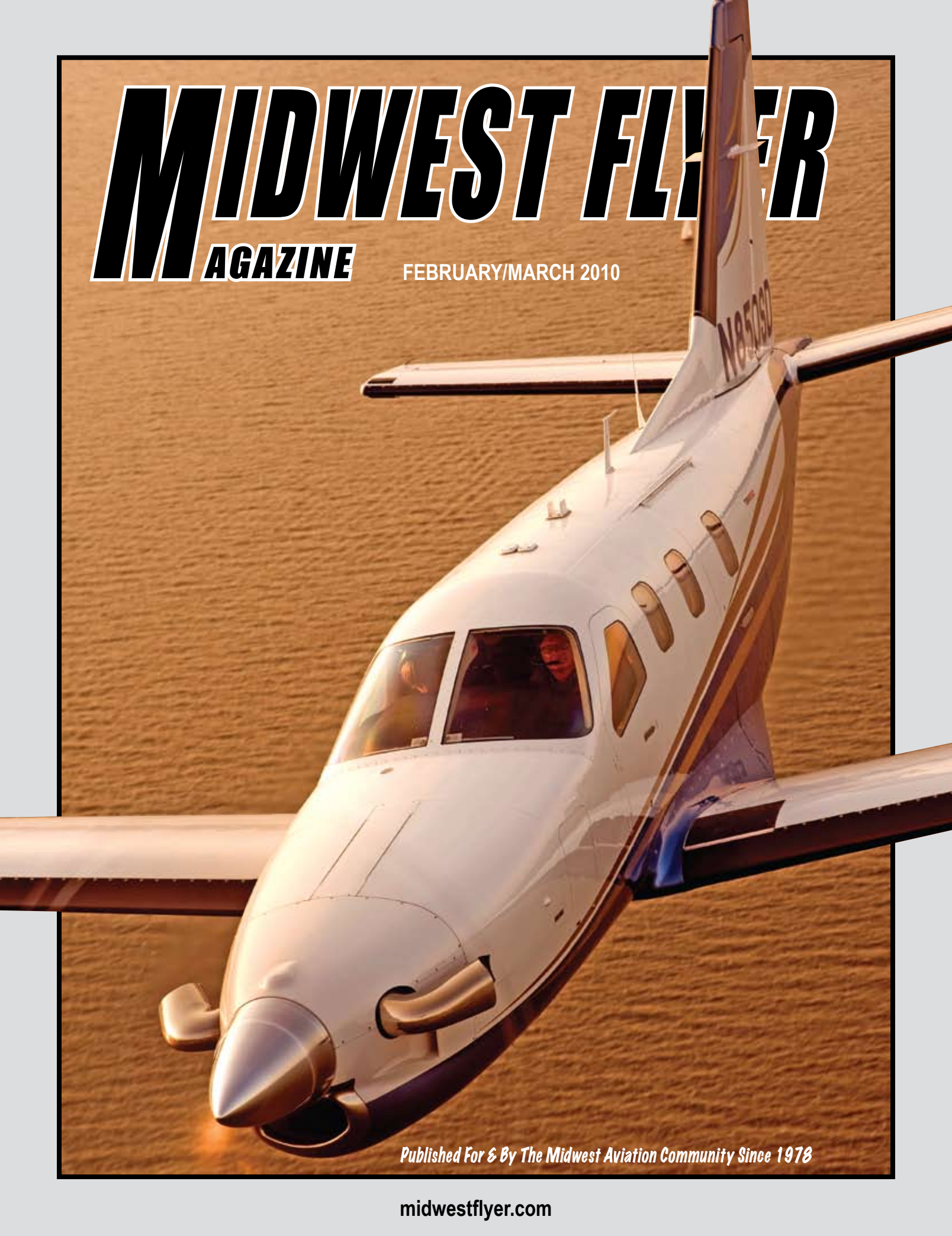


# MIDWEST FLYER

**MAGAZINE**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010



*Published For & By The Midwest Aviation Community Since 1978*

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Dick Knapinski

## **Knapinski Named EAA Communications Director**

OSHKOSH, WIS. – Dick Knapinski has been named EAA Director of Communications, after serving as a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association’s Public Relations/Marketing staff since 1992. His responsibilities include overall communications strategy and execution for the 160,000-member aviation organization, as well as serving as chief liaison with media representatives who report on

EAA and EAA Aviation Foundation activities throughout the year. These activities include EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, which has an annual attendance of more than 500,000 and draws 10,000 airplanes and nearly 1,000 members of the international media to Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

“There are hundreds of great stories about what EAA members, chapters, and the organization are

doing to encourage and increase aviation participation,” said Knapinski. “It’s a mission that all of us in aviation must embrace, and EAA is in a unique position to tell those stories and welcome people to aviation in many different ways.”

Knapinski continued: “Communication has grown increasingly complex over the past decade and it is an intriguing challenge to reach all of the possible outlets. We want to reach aviation enthusiasts with the knowledge and information that best serves them, regardless of the format.”

Prior to joining the EAA staff, Knapinski worked for a number of broadcast and print media outlets throughout Wisconsin with assignments in both news and sports. Among his assignments were coverage of the Super Bowl and the NCAA basketball tournament. He continues to contribute occasional features for newspapers and magazines, including a number of aviation publications.

A Wisconsin native, Knapinski holds a Private Pilot SEL Certificate and currently flies a 1967 Piper Cherokee 140. He also has logged flight hours in an RV-6A and various other aircraft. □

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Doolittle Raiders Planning Reunion At Air Force Museum**

DAYTON, OHIO – The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders are in the final stages of planning their 68<sup>th</sup> reunion at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, April 16-18. The reunion will include a free public autograph session, educational event and memorial service at the museum, as well as a dinner (for a charge).

In addition, a free public concert honoring the Raiders will take place at Wright State University’s Nutter Center. Of the nine living Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, five are currently able to travel and plan to be on-hand for the reunion events.

As a possible special tribute to the Raiders during the reunion, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association, Inc. is hoping to secure enough sponsorship funding to fly in and land 25 B-25 Mitchell Bombers on the

runway behind the museum. If their efforts are successful, this aviation event would be the largest gathering

of B-25s since WWII.

Those interested in helping to make this flight of B-25 bombers possible should contact Tom Casey with the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association, Inc. at (941) 921-7361 or by email at: tomcat911@comcast.net. (*Federal endorsement is not implied.*)

More information on the reunion, including instructions on how to purchase dinner tickets, will be made available closer to the date of the event. The National Museum of the United States Air Force is located on Springfield Street, six miles northeast of downtown Dayton. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day). Admission and parking are free. □





## DC-3s Flocking To Join AirVenture Birthday Bash

OSHKOSH, WIS. – They're coming from everywhere; some three dozen DC-3 and C-47 aircraft have already shown interest in participating in "The Last Time..." the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the aircraft at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2010 to be held July 26-August 1 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The list of potential aircraft that will be participating in the DC-3 mass arrival is still being finalized, but many of the participants listed at [www.TheLastTime.org](http://www.TheLastTime.org) website are committed to participating in the formation arrival coming to Oshkosh.

Fewer than 100 of the aircraft remain airworthy in the United States, meaning that nearly half of the current fleet could be present at AirVenture 2010. The weeklong festivities at Oshkosh will also include historical and technical forums/presentations, fly-bys and a special evening DC-3 commemorative program at Theater in the Woods.

One of the details being solved currently is parking for this many aircraft. It's anticipated that AeroShell Square,



A line-up of DC-3s at EAA – a sampling of what we will see at EAA AirVenture-Oshkosh 2010.

along with the Warbirds and Vintage Aircraft parking areas, will be fully engaged to showcase these venerable airplanes.

DC-3 and C-47 aircraft owners are encouraged to sign up with Adam Smith at EAA headquarters at [asmith@eaa.org](mailto:asmith@eaa.org) ([www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org)).

## 2010 Marks 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Powered Flight In Iowa

The state of Iowa celebrates 100 years of powered flight in 2010. In 1910, just seven years after the Wright Brothers first flew at Kitty Hawk, the first powered airplane flights took place in Iowa. Several men flew in Iowa in that year, but the first documented flight occurred on June 10, 1910 from the old Burlington Country Club in Southeast Iowa.

Since that time, we have witnessed the development of a mature air transportation system throughout Iowa and around the globe. From the development of airports and aviation services to the introduction of modern aircraft, Iowa has experienced significant increases in the utilization and safety of the air transportation system throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and into the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Several key aviation events are expected to be held in Iowa to commemorate the anniversary.

As one way to commemorate 100 years of flight in Iowa, the Iowa



DOT has developed a logo for groups or individuals to use to increase awareness of this important milestone in Iowa history. Development of the logo was a recommendation to the Iowa DOT Office of Aviation by the Iowa Aviation Advisory Council. To receive a high resolution copy of this logo, email [Michelle.McEnany@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:Michelle.McEnany@dot.iowa.gov).



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Photo by Gilles Aulard

## American Barnstormers Announce Tour Dates For 2010

MIDWEST USA – If you have dreamt of wearing a white scarf and goggles, and flying or at least riding in a vintage biplane, “The American Barnstormers Tour,” might just be your chance to make that dream into reality. The American Barnstormers Tour, a nostalgic salute to the barnstormers who ventured across America during the 1920s seeking fame and fortune in their biplanes, is scheduled to visit Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota on their third biannual tour this summer. Twenty meticulously restored vintage aircraft from the 1920s and 1930s will journey through the northern Great Plains states on a seven-city tour from June 17th through July 5th, 2010. Admission is free and these rare aircraft can be seen at the following cities:

**June 17-19 Mason City, IA**  
Mason City Airport (KMCW)

**June 20-22 Tea, SD**

Marv Skie-Lincoln Airport (Y14)

**June 23 Watertown, SD**

Watertown Regional Airport (KATY)

**June 24-26 Aberdeen, SD**

Aberdeen Regional Airport (KABR)

**June 27-29 Bismarck, ND**

Bismarck Airport (KBIS)

**June 30-July 2 Jamestown, ND**

Jamestown Regional Airport (KJMS)

**July 3-5 Alexandria, MN**

Chandler Field Airport (KAXN)

The American Barnstormers Tour was born under the wing of an antique Travel Air biplane on a grass airfield in Iowa. In the company of friends and vintage biplane pilots, plans were formed to resurrect the barnstorming tours of the 1920s, where many local citizens would see their first airplane up close, or perhaps spend a few dollars for their first flight. Tour organizers Clay Adams and Sarah Wilson saw an opportunity to give visitors from all backgrounds a unique vantage point to connect the past with the present. What started as just a dream has blossomed into a real barnstorming revival!

The first American Barnstormers Tour lifted off in 2006 with 17 airplanes from Kalamazoo, Mich., and traveled through five states to end at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wis. The response was tremendous; it reinforced the belief that people were still excited to see these beautiful aircraft

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and take their first biplane ride. In 2008, the tour flew westward into America's Heartland and grew to 19 aircraft and 45 crewmembers. Organizers estimate more than 20,000 people traveled to see the tour and the tour nearly doubled the number of biplane rides, flying a record 3,590 passengers in 15 days.

Each day the aircraft will take to the skies for the "Barnstormers Parade of Flight" with master of ceremonies, EAA Radio on-air personality, Jeff Montgomery. Montgomery will entertain the crowd with his unique announcing style with tall tales of barnstorming, and describe the history of each biplane as the pilots fly overhead.

Spectators can even experience the thrill of open cockpit

flight for themselves and go barnstorming in a beautifully restored Travel Air, New Standard, or Stearman vintage biplane. Biplane rides will be available daily weather permitting. All barnstormers will participate in recreating the era with period costumes, aircraft signs, historical information, and vintage props.

Tour aircraft will be on display from approximately 10 am to 6 pm (weather permitting). Biplane rides are available for \$60.00 per passenger, no reservations, and Stearman "hands-on flights" for \$200.00, reservations accepted. For more information visit the American Barnstormers web site at [www.americanbarnstormertour.com](http://www.americanbarnstormertour.com) □

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

# Skiles Scores A Perfect Landing At Wright Banquet

OSHKOSH, WIS. - "Let me put you in the jump seat of our Airbus A320 on that fateful day in January," said U.S. Airways First Officer, Jeff Skiles, of Oregon, Wisconsin, who managed to land an Airbus A320 on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, with fellow pilot Chesley Sullenberger, after Canada geese they hit caused both engines to fail. All 155 passengers and crewmembers survived without serious injury.

The featured speaker at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet December 18, Skiles captivated the attention of the 370 attendees, holding them spellbound until Skiles quipped with some of the comical things that occurred that day as well.

He described one passenger who stripped to his underwear, jumped into the frigid waters of the Hudson, then after climbing



EAA President & Chairman Tom Poberezny (right) makes a toast in memory of Orville and Wilbur Wright with (L/R) EAA Young Eagles Cochairman Jeff Skiles (left); Vice President of Membership, Adam Smith (second to left); and Phil and Becky Haupt of Roseville, California (center right). Phil Haupt flew the 1.5 millionth Young Eagle on October 3, 2009.

back onto the wing of the Airbus asked Skiles what to do next, who suggested he get into one of the life rafts where fellow passengers sat on top of him to keep him

warm until ferry boats arrived on the scene 4 minutes later.

Skiles honored the memory of Orville and Wilbur Wright, reminding

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