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EAA e-Hotline



TOP STORY ▶

Gateway to Space

First commercial spaceport is here

Scores of enthusiastic future astronauts, celebrities, key government officials, and several EAA leaders were among the hundreds of invited guests on hand Monday to help dedicate Spaceport America, the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport in southern New Mexico. Virgin Galactic Chairman Sir Richard Branson, who along with his children Sam and Holly will be the first commercial passengers on SpaceShipTwo, provided one of the day's highlights when they rappelled from the roof of the gleaming new 114,000-square-foot building proclaiming the terminal as the "Virgin Galactic Gateway to Space."

[Read the story and watch videos](#)



Super-Sized Super Chub

Brandon Jewett, EAA 499233, of Brighton, Colorado, provides a tour of his custom-designed "Super Chub" - a bigger-than-average Super Cub made for, as he calls it, "a person of size." This airplane is featured in the November 2011 issue of *Sport Aviation*, coming to your mailbox soon.

[Watch the video](#)

Other multimedia posted this week:

- [Hints for Homebuilders](#): Balancing Your Propeller
- [Photos](#): Virgin Galactic Spaceport
- [Timeless Voices](#): Steve Hay

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News & Views from EAA

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HARRISON FORD APPEARS WITH SENATE GA CAUCUS IN D.C.



Even the frenzied activity of Congress will stop to listen when a well-informed celebrity has something to say, which showed Tuesday when longtime EAA member, pilot, and former Young Eagles program chairman Harrison Ford talked about the importance of general aviation to the U.S. Senate's GA Caucus. [Read more](#)

SULLY AND SKILES TO FLY DC-7B CHARITY FLIGHT



Miracle on the Hudson pilots and EAA Young Eagles co-chairmen Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeff Skiles reunite next month for a very special charity flight on board the Historical Flight Foundation's meticulously restored 1958 Douglas DC-7B.

work for him. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight, they built two replicas of the 1903 Flyer's engine – a running replica and a dummy engine that was installed in a replica of the Flyer built for the EAA by students at the Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, Wisconsin. Steve Jr. and brother Jim were then contracted to build more of the Wright engines for the Centennial of Aviation celebration in 2003. In addition to his engine building, Steve is perhaps best known to EAAers as the builder and operator of the primitive looking ornithopter that can be seen running up and down Wittman Road during AirVenture. [Watch the video](#)



[In the Loop](#)



[Warbirds Briefing](#)



[Light Plane World](#)

Where Are You Flying This Weekend?

There are **87** fly-ins and events over the next two weekends in the [EAA Events Calendar](#). Find one near you or add your event!

Q & A: I currently fly an E-LSA (an AeroStar SC1). It has an electrical system but no lights. When flying in haze, particularly around the airport, I feel the plane would be much safer if I had a white strobe light mounted on top of the fuselage.

Would it be legal to have this strobe added? Or do you have to have a full light system?

Answer: We agree - a strobe would definitely enhance safety. Since your aircraft has an E-LSA airworthiness certificate, you may add any lighting you wish without permission from anyone, and you may perform the installation yourself. As long as you do not fly at night, navigation lights are not required.

If your aircraft were an S-LSA, you would need permission from the manufacturer and the work would have to be performed by someone approved by the manufacturer as well, usually an A&P or FAA-authorized repair station.

on the Flightline

POWDER PUFF PILOT RELEASES CHILDREN'S AVIATION BOOK

Denver-based publisher Powder Puff Pilot added a new book, *Claire Bear Flies to Oshkosh*, to its series of full-color picture books starring Claire Bear, an aerobatic performer and mentor for young aspiring pilots. In her fourth aviation picture book, author Sue Hughes describes a visit to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, implementing her lyrical rhymes to follow Claire Bear as she flies to "The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration," including rocking her wings and landing on the green dot, and performs in the air show. For more information, [click here](#).

MCFARLANE'S IMPROVED FUEL STRAINER SEALS FOR PIPERS

McFarlane Aviation Products now offers FAA-approved improved fuel strainer seals for Piper aircraft. In addition to Cessna fuel strainer seals, McFarlane now stocks all gaskets, o-rings, and Stat-O-Seals required to re-seal most Piper fuel strainers. Many of the new seals feature fuel-proof fluorocarbon that won't swell or degrade. McFarlane also has FAA approval to replace the copper crush gaskets on Apaches, Aztecs, and Seminoles with stainless steel/fluorocarbon Stat-O-Seals. All upper and lower seals may be purchased separately, or in kits containing both the upper and lower seal for one fuel strainer. For more information, [click here](#).

ECLIPSE JET DONATED TO VETERANS AIRLIFT COMMAND

At NBAA, the Veterans Airlift Command (VAC), based in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, announced the receipt of a donated Eclipse Jet. The VAC provides free air transportation to post-9/11 combat wounded veterans and their families for medical and other compassionate purposes through a national network of volunteer aircraft owners and pilots. As part of the donation, Eclipse Aerospace will match donations made to service the Eclipse aircraft with \$1 of donated parts and services for every \$1 donated to the VAC. For more information on Eclipse Aerospace, [click here](#). For more information on the VAC, [click here](#).

TANIS, BRUCE'S CUSTOM COVERS PARTNER FOR AOG PROTECTION

Tanis Aircraft Products has entered into a business partnership with Bruce's Custom Covers to fabricate Tanis-brand insulated aircraft covers for protection of aircraft in harsh and demanding winter conditions. According to the company, a complete preheat system combined with an insulated cover allow an operator to keep both aircraft and engine warm, thereby minimizing ground time. Covers are available for engine cowling, propeller/spinner, fuselage, cabin/canopy, wings, empennage/tail, and