

\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\*

## EAA's COUNTDOWN TO KITTY HAWK PAVILION OPENS FOR FIRST FLIGHT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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*Educational, Interactive Exhibits by Ford Motor Company, Microsoft Flight Simulator & Eclipse Aviation Highlight Wright Brothers' Spirit of Innovation*

### WHO:

The Experimental Aircraft Association will unveil its Countdown to Kitty pavilion presented by Ford Motor Company, which includes the world's most accurate 1903 Wright flyer reproduction, at the First Flight Centennial Celebration at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, N.C., on Friday, Dec. 12.

Speakers at an opening ceremony for Countdown to Kitty Hawk at 9:30 a.m. EST on Dec. 12 include:

- Randal Dietrich, executive director – EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk
- Jill Fannon of Ford Motor Company
- Andrew Broom of Eclipse Aviation
- Bruce Williams of Microsoft Flight Simulator

### WHAT:

The world's most accurate **1903 Wright flyer** will be the centerpiece of the First Flight Centennial Celebration in Kill Devil Hills, N.C. The flyer is part of Countdown to Kitty Hawk, which is led by EAA, presented by Ford Motor Company and supported by Microsoft Flight Simulator, Eclipse Aviation and Northrop Grumman Corp.

EAA's 1903 Wright flyer has traveled more than 11,000 miles this year visiting seven cities where more than 350,000 visitors have viewed the flyer's intricate detail first-hand. After attempting to fly on Dec. 17, 2003, the 100-year anniversary – at the exact date, time and place where the Wright brothers enacted their first flight, the flyer will go to Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich., where it will join the Wright brothers' home and bicycle shop, which were relocated there from Dayton, Ohio, by Henry Ford for his Greenfield Village.

Along with the flyer, the Countdown to Kitty Hawk pavilion display includes exhibits focusing on aviation, innovations and heroes including:

- **A look at the future of aviation, including the Eclipse 500** a six-passenger, twin turbine jet which is less than \$1 million.
- **Digital reproductions of Wright brothers' documents** from the Library of Congress archives.
- Interactive exhibits, including **Eclipse Aviation's "Greatest Aviation Innovations of the First 100 Years."**
- **"Microsoft Flight Simulator" virtual cradles of the 1903 Wright Flyer**, which allow visitors to use their hands, hips and heads to attempt to relive the Wright brothers' first flight.
- A theatre and live presentation area where actors will assume the roles of the Wright brothers in a specially written "What's Wright With Flight."

### WHEN:

9:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 12

### WHERE:

First Flight Centennial Celebration at Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

### VISUALS:

EAA's 1903 Wright flyer reproduction, Microsoft Flight Simulator's virtual 1903 Wright flyer cradles, pedal plane Wright flyers for kids, museum-quality exhibits & video b-roll

### CONTACTS:

Jonathan Rhudy – Countdown to Kitty Hawk  
(804) 852-8392  
[jrhudy@crtpr.com](mailto:jrhudy@crtpr.com)

Brian Ellis – Countdown to Kitty Hawk  
(804) 512-4797  
[bellis@crtpr.com](mailto:bellis@crtpr.com)