

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

**EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION TO ANNOUNCE TWO PILOTS TO RECREATE HISTORY ON THE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF POWERED FLIGHT**

--

***Countdown to Kitty Hawk Less than Five Months Away***

**WHEN:**

**Press conference at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 29, 2003** (*The 51<sup>st</sup> annual fly-in convention, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, will be held July 29-Aug. 4.*)

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

The **Experimental Aircraft Association's Countdown to Kitty Hawk presented by Ford Motor Company** will announce **two "Pilots of the Century"** to fly the world's most accurate 1903 Wright Flyer reproduction on the centennial of flight – 100 years to the minute at 10:35 a.m. on Dec. 17, 2003 near Kitty Hawk, N.C.

For the past year, four pilots have been training under the direction of renowned test pilot instructor and aviation legend Scott Crossfield, who made aeronautical history on Nov. 20, 1953, as the first person to reach Mach 2, twice the speed of sound. Under his direction, testing has included practice in a 1902 glider much like the one Wilbur and Orville Wright used, and also practice in virtual simulators. Based on skill, training results and input from program organizers, two of the candidates will be selected for the roles of either Orville or Wilbur Wright at the First Flight Centennial celebration on Dec. 17, 2003. The four pilot candidates are:

- **Ken Hyde** of Warrenton, Va., retired American Airlines pilot, president and founder of The Wright Experience – the company contracted by EAA to exactly reproduce the 1903 Wright flyer;
- **Terry Queijo** of Trappe, Md., co-pilot of the historic, first all-female flight crew for American Airlines and captain of Boeing 767 and 757's out of Washington, D.C.;
- **Chris Johnson** of Manassas, Va., major for the U.S. Air Force Reserves and American Airlines pilot; and,
- **Dr. Kevin Kochersberger**, Honeoye Falls, N.Y., associate professor of mechanical engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology and pilot with more than 1,400 hours.

The flyer reproduction will be on display at **EAA's AirVenture Oshkosh**, the world's largest aviation event, where an estimated 750,000 visitors will be able to see the flyer as the **centerpiece of EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk's 20,000-square-foot pavilion** dedicated to the past 100 years and the future of aviation.

Visitors also will be able to test their skills in a **1903 Wright Flyer simulator cradle** featuring the soon-to-be released "**Microsoft Flight Simulator 2004: A Century of Flight**" software. Virtual pilots can try their hand at flying the "first" powered airplane as well as 23 other historic and modern aircraft. The pavilion also features the **Greatest Aviation Innovations presented by Eclipse Aviation**, historical perspectives, interactive displays and the limited Lincoln Aviator Kitty Hawk Edition, which honors the Wright brothers. Additional details are accessible at [www.countdowntokittyhawk.org](http://www.countdowntokittyhawk.org).

**WHERE:**

**EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk Pavilion at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wis.**

**ADDITIONAL VISUALS:**

- B-roll and high-resolution photos of the pavilion; the flyer reproduction being built, tested and unveiled.
- More than 10,000 aircraft – including homebuilts, certificated airplanes, ultralights and light-sport aircraft

**CONTACTS:**

Jonathan Rhudy – Countdown to Kitty Hawk  
Office (804) 675-8132 – Cell (804) 852-8392  
[jrhudy@crtp.com](mailto:jrhudy@crtp.com)

Brian Ellis – Countdown to Kitty Hawk  
Office (804) 675-8140 – Cell (804) 512-4797  
[bellis@crtp.com](mailto:bellis@crtp.com)