

Greater Huntsville Section at AirVenture 2018

by

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Images by Susan Mallett & Lisa Philippart

Members of the Greater Huntsville Section attended the world's largest aviation gathering, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin from July 22 - 29. Section members met during the week for pictures and socializing while enjoying all that AirVenture offered.

Section members hatched the plan to meet at Oshkosh last fall while working the section booth at the Moontown Airport (3M5) Fly-In. Several members were already planning to attend AirVenture 2018 so decided to get together during the week.

Over 600,000 people attended AirVenture 2018 and the record-breaking crowd enjoyed sunny weather with temperatures in the upper 70s for most of the week.

Over 10,000 aircraft ranging from operational military aircraft, home built, vintage warbirds, antique general aviation (GA) aircraft, ultralights, unmanned aerial vehicles and powered parachutes converged on Whitman Field for the annual celebration of all things aviation. Daily airshows included military flybys, aerobatics, vintage warbird formations, World War II reenactments, wing walking, drone shows, parachuting teams and commemoration of events such as the 80th anniversary of the legendary T-6 trainer, the Year of the Tanker and the 100th anniversary of the



Section members Ken & Lisa Philippart and Andy & Julie Wayne at AirVenture's iconic Brown Arch.



Greater Huntsville Section members & guests enjoy dinner at the historic Roxy Supper Club.

Royal Air Force. Two evening airshows capped the performances with aircraft equipped with LEDs and fireworks dispensers and a drone show

followed by a traditional fireworks show culminating in AirVenture's unique Wall of Fire display.

Historical talks were held by aviation legends like renowned designer Dick Rutan, triple Ace Col Bud Anderson, and aerobatics legend Patty Wagstaff.

Section members tried their hands at homebuilding skills during hands-on build sessions by pulling rivets and practicing welding among other on sessions such as TIG welding, sheet metal forming, and fabric covering of aircraft.

There is no shortage of things to do at AirVenture but Greater Huntsville members made time for a group photo and dining together at Oshkosh's historic Roxy Supper



Gary Powers, son of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, talks with Ken & Lisa Philippart.



Airpower at Oshkosh: An F-22 Raptor next to stablemate F-35 Lightning II.

Teacher of the Year, the founder of the *CAVU Flight Academy* Civil Air Patrol officers and Gary Powers, son of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers who was shot down over the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The stories and passion for flight from this eclectic group of aviation experts made for an enjoyable evening befitting AirVenture's moniker as an "aviation family reunion."

The Greater Huntsville Section enjoyed its first-ever group AirVenture adventure. Section members are already making plans to return in 2019. See you in Oshkosh!

Club. Section member Susan Mallett arranged for Greater Huntsville members to dine with a diverse group of aviation enthusiasts including a retired Army helicopter pilot, an aerospace engineer, an EAA chapter president, GA pilots and certified flight instructors, the Air Force Association



Sport aviation on display at Oshkosh.