

Greater Huntsville Section at AirVenture 2021

by

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Images by Lisa and Ken 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 25 - 31. AirVenture was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic so section members relished the opportunity to return to aviation's largest celebration. This year marked the third year that section members met for pictures and socializing while enjoying all that *AirVenture* offered.



(L to R) Paul Lambertson, Ken & Lisa Philippart and Phillip Gindelberger at AirVenture's iconic Brown Arch.

Over 5,000 aircraft ranging from operational military aircraft, home-builts, vintage warbirds, antique general aviation aircraft, ultralights, unmanned aerial vehicles, sea planes and powered parachutes converged on Whitman Field for the annual celebration of all things aviation. Daily airshows included military flybys, aerobatics, vintage



A P-40 snarls

warbird formations, World War II reenactments, parachuting teams and commemoration of events such as the 75th plus one anniversary of the end of World War 2, the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm and events honoring the US Air Force Special Operations Command. Two evening airshows capped the performances with aircraft equipped with LEDs and fireworks dispensers followed by a fireworks show culminating in *AirVenture's* signature Wall of Fire fireball display.

Aviation legends World War II triple Ace Col Bud Anderson, and Tuskegee Airman Colonel Charles McGee spoke about their experiences, helping aviation history come alive for *AirVenture* attendees. Numerous presentations were given throughout the week including fascinating histories of the Wright Brothers' "Patent War" with Glenn Curtis and lectures on Charles Lindberg and the *Spirit of St Louis* aircraft.



The daily air show



SpaceShip One at the EAA Museum.

Section Members Lisa Philippart and Susan Mallett also participated in *WomenVenture*, the 13th annual celebration of female aviators and aviation enthusiasts at *AirVenture*. The luncheon this year featured Col Allison Black, Vice Commander of the US Air Force 24th Special Operations Wing. Col Black shared her career story and spoke on the importance of teamwork and inspiring others to succeed. Due to pandemic restrictions, the traditional group photo was replaced by a digital montage of images sent in by *WomenVenture* participants taken individually during the week.

Greater Huntsville again arranged for a group photo at the iconic *AirVenture* Brown Arch. Paul Lambertson, Phillip Gindelberger and Ken and Lisa Philippart met for the traditional section picture.

There is an abundance of activities at *AirVenture* but, as always, Greater Huntsville Section members found time to meet for dinner. Educator Associate Susan Mallett arranged for AIAA members to dine at the renowned Haase Supper Club with a diverse group of aviation enthusiasts. The group included: Col (retired) Bob Highley, a former fighter pilot, current seaplane flight instructor and former Sun 'n Fun Vice President; Susan Highley, a-retired teacher and Sun 'n Fun volunteer; Don Anderson, former general counsel for Piper Aircraft and member of the EAA Legal Advisory Council; John



Ultralight flying is every day at OSH.



At the seaplane base on Lake Winnebago

Tomlinson, Vice President with Wells Fargo who built a RV-6 and flew it to AirVenture; Lt Col (retired) Pat Phillips, former Air Force pilot and board certified attorney in aviation law and member of the EAA Legal Advisory Council and EAA Government Hosting Committee; Barbara Walters-Phillips, an elementary school math and science coach, Chair of Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Educators' Workshop, President of EAA Chapter 74 Orlando and recipient of the 2019 National Aeronautic Association Katherine Wright Trophy and Scott Crossfield Teacher of the Year Awardee; and Susan Mallett, Aerospace/STEM Education Outreach Coordinator at Civil Air Patrol National HQ and member of the Air Force Association Board of Directors and Aerospace Ed Council.

The stories and passion for flight shared by this group of aviation enthusiasts made for an enjoyable evening befitting *AirVenture*'s moniker as an "aviation family reunion."

The Greater Huntsville Section enjoyed its third *AirVenture* adventure. Section members are making plans to return next year. See you in Oshkosh!