

VAA 2007 FRIENDS OF THE RED BARN CAMPAIGN

The VAA annual fundraising campaign fuels VAA activities at AirVenture Oshkosh

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For more than three decades, the vintage airplanes and their enthusiasts have had their own special area during the annual EAA convention. Over the years it's been a picturesque scene of the finest restored airplanes seen in this country, a gathering place for aviation people and their magnificent machines to share knowledge and friendships. We've been privileged to see many one-of-a-kind airplanes in our area. Remember the Gee Bee R-1 replica built by Steve Wolf and Delmar Benjamin? How about the lineup of Howards and Cessna 195s? We can't forget the special Type Club parking area, where we host many examples of a particular manufacturer's airplane. More recently we've been the Oshkosh home for the inspiring National Air Tour, the thunderous Tri-Motor reunion, and the American Barnstormers Tour. All of this is possible through the efforts of the nearly 500 VAA volunteers, the volunteer VAA board of directors, and the VAA staff.

Their passion is what makes it a great place to be throughout the week of AirVenture, and why so many visitors and aviation enthusiasts come back year after year to work, relax, and enjoy aviation's premier event, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. It's a place to rekindle old friendships and make new ones. A time to relax and enjoy aviation, learn something new, and rub elbows with our fellow aviators. As you can imagine, it takes some fairly substantial financial resources to underwrite such an event and the Vintage area at EAA AirVenture is no exception.

For the past four years, the Vintage Aircraft Association has, by necessity, elected to underwrite its EAA AirVenture activities with funds other than members' dues. The proceeds from this fund pay for all sorts of volunteer activities and improvements to the VAA area. It serves as working capital for improvements such as the new kitchen for the popular VAA Tall Pines Café, as well as for upkeep of many structures. There's never a shortage of windows that need caulking, doors that need to be replaced, and roofs that need to be repaired. Plus, every year something new must be created to serve the needs of the members and visitors, as well as replace some of our most aged or obsolete

structures. But how does all of this work get funded. To be certain, almost all of the labor involved is performed by our dedicated and talented volunteers, but what about the cost of supplies and hardware?

That's where our Friends of the Red Barn come in – it provides all of us, who wish, the opportunity to assist in the vital financial support of the Red Barn area of EAA AirVenture. It gives us the unique opportunity to be an essential element of an event that has no peer in the entire world, that being the world renowned annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh gathering.

We're most appreciative of the contributions made by hundreds of VAAers who see the tangible benefits of supporting their fellow VAA members in this manner. As a critical part of the VAA budget, the fund pays for such diverse items as VAA awards presented during the annual EAA aircraft awards program, special recognition for our many volunteers, and expenses associated with our special displays, forums, and educational areas such as the VAA Workshop tent and the Type Club tent.

Your annual contribution made in the first half of 2007 will directly benefit this year's convention activities and programs. There are now seven levels of gifts and recognition, including a new Diamond Plus giving level, which entitles you to all benefits plus your choice of a Ken Kotik aviation art print. A portion of Ken's artwork can be viewed on his website at www.KenKotikAviationArt.com.

Please consider actively participating in the 2007 VAA Friends of the Red Barn campaign. Your donation may be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and you can enhance your participation if you work for a matching gift company. You can do so by copying and filling out the form included on these pages, filling out and sending in the form included in the mailing that will arrive in your mailbox soon, or by donating online at www.VintageAircraft.org/programs/redbarn.html. If you desire more information concerning the VAA's Friends of the Red Barn campaign, feel free to give us a call at 920-426-6110. We'd be happy to speak with you!

Many services are provided to vintage aircraft enthusiasts at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. From parking airplanes to feeding people at the Tall Pines Café and Red Barn, more than 400 volunteers do it all. Some may ask, "If volunteers are providing the services, where is the expense?"

Glad you asked. The scooters for the flightline crew need repair and batteries, and the Red Barn needs paint, new windowsills, updated wiring, and other sundry repairs, plus we love to care for our volunteers with special recognition caps and a pizza party. The list really could go on and on, but no matter how many expenses we can point out, the need remains constant. The Friends of the Red Barn fund helps pay for the VAA expenses at EAA AirVenture, and is a crucial part of the Vintage Aircraft Association budget.

Please help the VAA and our 400-plus dedicated volunteers make this an unforgettable experience for our many EAA AirVenture guests. We've made it even more fun to give this year, with more giving levels to fit each person's budget, and more interesting activities for donors to be a part of.

Your contribution now really does make a difference. There are seven levels of gifts and gift recognition. Thank you for whatever you can do.

Here are some of the many activities the Friends of the Red Barn fund underwrites:

- Red Barn Information Desk Supplies
- Participant Plaques and Supplies
- Toni's Red Carpet Express Repairs and Radios
- Caps for VAA Volunteers
- Pizza Party for VAA Volunteers
- Flightline Parking Scooters and Supplies
- Breakfast for Past Grand Champions
- Volunteer Booth Administrative Supplies
- Membership Booth Administrative Supplies
- Signs Throughout the Vintage Area
- Red Barn and Other Buildings' Maintenance
- Tall Pines Cafe Construction
- And More!