

IAC AIRVENTURE

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PITTS SPECIAL
FALL 2025 REPORT



Jordan Ashley
AirVenture Chairman

OVERVIEW

2025 marked my 30th AirVenture, 18th AirVenture volunteering for the IAC, 16th in AirVenture leadership and 4th as your board-appointed AirVenture Convention Chairman. I would like to begin my report by thanking the BoD for the confidence in me to organize and lead the IAC's presence at EAA AirVenture once again for what was my final AirVenture as Chairman. Overall, I am pleased to report that AirVenture 2025 was what I would consider a resounding success! This year we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Pitts and partnered with Aviat Aircraft to generate Pitts-related merchandise, forums and aircraft. All of this could not have been done without a fantastic group of key volunteers. I would like to personally thank all of them for their service this year, including Todd Ashcraft, Convention Co-Chair; Michael Church, Forums Co-Chair; Sara Arnold, Pavilion Experience/Meet and Greet; Nina Stewart, Collegiate Ambassador. I'd also like to thank our staff members Taylor Mershon, who handled media and design, and Tim Dahnke, who managed the IAC Aerobatic Center and store.

SUMMARY

By the numbers, AirVenture was one of our most successful years to date across all avenues, including forum attendance, aircraft attendance and finances. We added a third sponsor this year, so I am pleased to report that AirVenture was cashflow positive and surpassed 2024 sales. Additional information on other areas of AirVenture can be found in the Editor's, Executive Director's and Merchandise Committee's reports.



IAC PARKING



For 2025, Todd Ashcraft returned as Convention Co-Chairman, taking the lead in organizing the Pitts that we displayed for the 80th anniversary, sponsor aircraft, and other display aircraft around the building. We also hosted Steve Thorne and his RV-14, which served as an excellent connection point for the organization.

IAC AMBASSADORS + WELCOMING PARTY



Nina Stewart led the collegiate teams and served as the IAC's welcoming party throughout the week during AirVenture. The teams welcomed pilots who flew in, interviewed some of them and served as general help for AirVenture attendees who wandered into our area and building during the week.





AIRVENTURE RADIO

For the first time in many years, we hosted EAA AirVenture Radio on the pavillion patio where we were able to broadcast the message of the IAC throughout the AirVenture grounds and Winnebago County. Collegiate Program Chair Nina Stewart and board members Nate Reudy, Phillip Gragg and Jordan Ashley participated in the broadcast. We are looking forward to EAA Radio returning to us in 2026.



IAC AIRVENTURE AWARDS

We once again presented awards to volunteers this year at the annual members dinner on Friday night. The recipients were all well deserving of their awards for their contributions to the organization and AirVenture.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

I am pleased to see how the organization's presence at AirVenture has grown during my tenure of leadership and appreciate the groundwork of Jim and Jean Taylor who came before me. While I am retiring from the Chairmanship, I would be honored to serve as a member of the AirVenture KGV Group if future chairs find my input valuable. With my retirement, I recommend the Board of Directors appoint 2025 Convention Co-Chair and long-time Parking Chair Todd Ashcraft to replace me for AirVenture 2026. Thank you to the Board of Directors, the organization, and membership who have trusted me with AirVenture for these many years.

With gratitude,

Jordan

