EAA-2017-31

For more information, contact:

Dick Knapinski, EAA Communications

(920) 426-6523

[dknapinski@eaa.org](mailto:dknapinski@eaa.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INTERNATIONAL AEROBATIC CLUB, EAA WELCOME**

**U.S. NATIONAL AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS TO OSHKOSH**

***National champs crowned in competition Sept. 23-29 at Wittman Regional Airport***

EAA AVIATION CENTER, OSHKOSH, Wisconsin — (August 22, 2017) — Some of the nation’s best aerobatic aircraft pilots will gather to compete for national championships on September 23-29 as the [U.S. National Aerobatic Championships](https://www.iac.org/us-national-aerobatic-championships-2017) come to Oshkosh for the first time, hosted by the International Aerobatic Club at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

The event moved to Oshkosh this year after spending most of the past 45 years at Denison, Texas. Approximately 100 pilots will compete in five separate categories during the week, ranging from Primary to Unlimited. In addition, the top finishers in the Advanced (second-highest) category will earn berths on the U.S. team that will compete next year at the world championships in Strejnic, Romania.

“As Oshkosh is regarded worldwide as the home of sport aviation, it was a natural fit to bring the competition here,” said Mike Heuer, IAC president. “Competition aerobatics demands very precise, planned flying that is judged for its precision and excellence. The judging is very similar to that seen in figure skating, as the competitors must execute prescribed maneuvers as part of an overall performance. It places high demands on both the pilot and aircraft to be at their best.”

Competition will begin on Saturday, September 23, in the five categories: Primary, Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, and Unlimited in both power and glider aerobatics. The categories are determined by the complexity of maneuvers and capabilities of the aircraft. Pilots in each category will fly at least three routines:

* Known (where all competitors fly a pre-published set of maneuvers)
* Unknown (the maneuvers to be flown are presented to the pilots just prior to their flights)
* Freestyle (individual pilots can create their own routine based on maneuvers allowed in their category)

A group of judges scores all routines, with the highest scores earning the national championships in each category. Updated results will be maintained on IAC’s website at [www.iac.org](file:///C:\Users\lpenner\AppData\Local\Temp\www.iac.org), as well as IAC’s Facebook page and Twitter account.

While the national championship site and aircraft parking area are closed to the public for safety reasons, there are ample viewing opportunities at the Wittman airport parking lots and other publicly accessible areas.

Some previous U.S. national champions have also flown the in the annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh air shows in July. That includes Rob Holland, who this year will be attempting to win his seventh consecutive Unlimited national title, tying the record held by the late Leo Loudenslager. Competition will end on Saturday, September 29, with awards presented at the closing banquet in the EAA Aviation Museum.

**About the International Aerobatic Club**

The International Aerobatic Club (IAC) was formed in 1970 as a division of the Experimental Aircraft Association. IAC is also a division of the National Aeronautic Association and is responsible for the administration, management and promotion of the sport of aerobatics in the United States under the applicable regulations of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**About EAA**

EAA embodies the spirit of aviation through the world’s most engaged community of aviation enthusiasts. EAA’s 200,000 members and 1,000 local chapters enjoy the fun and camaraderie of sharing their passion for flying, building and restoring recreational aircraft. For more information on EAA and its programs, call 800-JOIN-EAA (800-564-6322) or go to [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org). For continual news updates, connect with [www.twitter.com/EAA](http://www.twitter.com/EAA).

-30-

EDITOR’S NOTE: Media wishing to cover the competition must secure credentials in advance by contacting Lorrie Penner or Dick Knapinski.

Contacts:

Lorrie Penner

Executive Director, IAC

920-426-6574

[execdir@iac.org](mailto:execdir@iac.org)

Dick Knapinski

Director of Communications, EAA

920-426-6523

[dknapinski@eaa.org](mailto:dknapinski@eaa.org)