

For Immediate Release



GAMA Hosts Build A Plane Project at AirVenture!

Oshkosh, WI, July 29th, 2008--Students from Frankfort High Aviation Academy in Kentucky traveled to Oshkosh, WI this week to begin restoration on a classic Aeronca 60-TF. Work on this newest Build A Plane project will continue throughout the week at the AirVenture display area for the General Aviation Manufacturers Association.

The Aeronca airframe was donated to the Kentucky school courtesy of the Thomas Wathen Foundation. In 2005, students at the Wathen Foundation completed the restoration of an Aeronca and flew it roundtrip from Historic Flabob Airport in Riverside, CA to Oshkosh. Two more aircraft restoration projects are underway at the Wathen Foundation.

Dr. James Spee, Director of Education Research at the Wathen Foundation, arranged the donation to the Kentucky school after meeting with Dr. Tim Smith from the Frankfort Independent Schools. Smith leads an aggressive aviation program which encourages students to pursue careers in commercial aviation, aerospace engineering, aircraft maintenance, airport management and air traffic control. Participants in the Kentucky program earn dual college and high school credit.

The Aeronca 60-TF on display at the GAMA booth was originally built as a military observation aircraft. Once it is restored to airworthiness, the Aeronca will join the Frankfort High Aviation Academy's Cessna 150 in providing flight instruction.

"The work that Dr. Spee and Dr. Smith have done to make this new Build A Plane project a reality is inspirational," Build A Plane's Lyn Freeman said. "Come by the GAMA display at AirVenture and see just how excited kids can get about aviation."

To learn more about the Frankfort High Aviation Academy, visit their website, econnect.frankfort.k12.ky.us/aviation. The Thomas Wathen Foundation is on line at Flabob.org.

Build A Plane, working in formal partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration, promotes aviation by donating aircraft projects to schools at no charge. Currently there are more than 70 aircraft projects in schools where kids are constructing or restoring real airplanes. The number is expected to rise to more than 100 before the year's end. For more information, visit BuildAPlane.org or call 920-279-3321.

