

A Great Way to End the Week

And a new look for this magazine

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Thanks to the generosity of my buddy, Joe Norris, who works in EAA Aviation Services, I had a great ending to my workweek a few Friday nights ago. It was a beautiful early summer evening, and Joe decided his Waco UPF-7 needed some exercise, and it needed a passenger in the front seat. Twist my arm!

We met at Joe's hangar, climbed into the Waco, warmed up its big radial engine, and were off. First we headed south to fly over Joe and Jeri's house, then we turned northwest to check out Munsil Williams' strip. Munsil was mowing the strip in preparation for the Saturday morning donut gathering, so we did a tight turn around a point—that being Munsil—but he was so busy cutting grass he didn't see us.

From Munsil's we flew west toward Omro to see what was happening at Glen Wilke's strip, where Timm Bogenhagen hangars his MiniMax. Amazingly, no one seemed to be flying there, and Joe and I agreed they were wasting a beautiful evening. From Omro we headed northeast to Brennand Field just west of Neenah. Then, it was time to head back to the hangar.

You don't put a beautiful Waco like Joe's back in the hangar without cleaning off the bugs on all the leading edges and struts. That's the price of the ride; you have to help clean off bugs.

It was an evening of peace and tranquility. Joe and I barely talked while we were flying; there wasn't any reason to break the quiet with idle chatter. It was just enough to listen to the

radial engine purr and enjoy the view and the cool evening air. What a great way to end a day and a workweek!

We lucky people who have airplanes...or friends with airplanes... may lose sight of the fact that many people have never known the tranquility of a ride in a small plane. They may only know flying as the hectic procedures involved in getting through security at a major airport.

EAA has decided to make a major effort to reach out to those folks...especially those who harbor a desire to learn to fly. As part of that outreach effort, EAA has produced a new publication called *Reach for the Sky*, which explains the process of learning to fly; from finding an instructor to moving along the training continuum to the checkride. This booklet also includes a quick guide to all of the currently available special light-sport aircraft (S-LSA).

"...Many people have never known the tranquility of a ride in a small plane."


Reach for the Sky will be available at the Learn-To-Fly Center at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2007, across from the EAA Member Village, and also at the EAA Chapter House, and it's available online at www.EAA.org. We're telling you about it so that you can

share a copy with your friends who might be interested in learning to fly. The jargon of flying and airport fences...and an attitude of exclusivity sometimes exhibited by pilots...combine to make learning to fly intimidating. *Reach for the Sky* is an effort to take away those intimidating factors and let more people know they can do it, too.

We need to share the air and let more people know the value that flying adds to our way of life...and our individual lives. Everybody needs to experience a ride in a small plane on a cool summer evening! Pass it on.

A New Look

You may have noticed this magazine has a new look this issue. Art director Phil Norton has been tweaking the graphic elements of the magazine for the past few months in between his work to get this magazine...and *Sport Aerobatics*...out the door on time. And now we're ready to roll out the new look.

The first thing you might notice is the cover logo is different. We decided to highlight the "Light-Sport Aircraft" part of our title to emphasize the importance of that category of aircraft. We hope you're noticing a cleaner, more stylish "feel." The purpose of good graphic design is to make reading the magazine easier and more inviting for you...and we hope that's what you're noticing this month. Tell us what you think ... and if you see Phil at AirVenture 2007, thank him for his hard work. 

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