

BIOGRAPHY

**Greg Herrick, National Air Tour 2003 Spokesperson
President, Aviation Foundation of America**



With head tilted back looking toward the clouds, a young Greg Herrick would watch for hours as vintage airplanes would fly over his childhood home near the headquarters of the Antique Airplane Association in Ottumwa, Iowa. While his first airplane ride was at the historic Rutgers Lodge in Bemidji, Minn., his second ride was in a Ford Tri-motor at an Antique Airplane Association fly-in. Herrick's zeal for antique airplanes and living history has remained with him throughout his illustrious career.

Herrick, a **recognized leader** and well-respected individual in the antique airplane and general aviation community, is an **expert on the subject of the National Air Tours**. He has spent the last two years researching the Tours including its various routes, airplanes, people and pilots who made the Tours the most successful aviation events of the '20s and '30s.

Herrick is a **sought-after resource and spokesperson**. He and his collection of more than 35 Golden Age airplanes have been the subject of numerous articles including features in *Forbes* and *Air & Space Magazine*. He is well-spoken and has appeared numerous times in local and national television stories including HGTV.

A resident of Jackson, Wyo., Herrick houses his collection of Golden Age aircraft across the country. His main hangar, located at the Anoka County Airport (ANE) in Blaine, Minn., accommodates one-of-a-kind airplanes including the first diesel powered airplane, American Airlines oldest surviving airliner, the oldest surviving Ford tri-motor and a 1927 Avro Avian he used along with pilot Carlene Mendieta to **re-create Amelia Earhart's 1928 record-setting flight across America** in Sept. 2001 (www.AmeliaFlight.com). With the mission to raise awareness of Earhart's contributions to aviation before her disappearance over the Pacific, Herrick, Mendieta and the flight were the subject of more than 500 television stories and 700 newspaper articles. While Herrick's airplanes are part of the Golden Wings Museum, they are kept in flying condition and are frequently flown by a group of experienced aviators, including Herrick himself.

Prior to his flying career, Herrick's entrepreneurial spirit drove him to establish several businesses including the personal computer manufacturer, ZEOS International. In 1995, ZEOS was sold to Micron Technology, Inc. in a reverse merger with their PC and contract manufacturing divisions. Following the reverse merger, Herrick bought and still owns SkyMedia, LLC. Among its various divisions, SkyMedia operates a direct marketing business in Minneapolis including mail order catalogs, Historic Aviation and Historic Rail.

Today, Herrick is president of the Aviation Foundation of America. In his new role, he and the foundation seek to preserve and promote America's aviation heritage at a grassroots level through initiatives such as historic flight re-creations, airport preservation projects and educational programs.

When not working at the foundation, Herrick enjoys researching aviation history and sharing his airplanes with people across the country at fly-ins and aviation events.

Memberships: Lifetime EAA; Lifetime Antique Airplane Association member; Aircraft Owner and Pilots Association (AOPA); and, numerous other aviation and conservation related organizations.

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To schedule an interview with Greg Herrick, please contact Suzanne Fedoruk at 612-861-7807, cell: 612-247-3079, or sfedoruk@mn.rr.com.