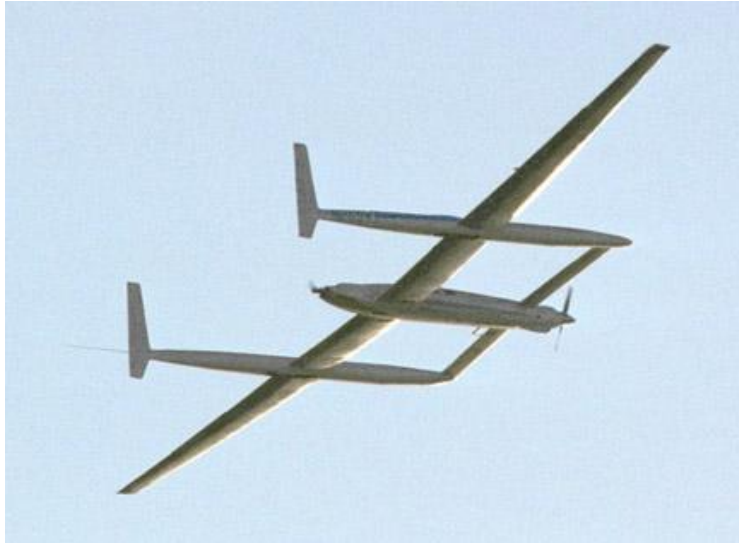


After Action Report – December 17, 2011 – Plane Crazy Saturday Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Epic Round-the-World, non-stop and un-refueled Voyager Flight!



Twenty-five years ago, a unique and incredibly qualified group of people came together to realize an impossible dream - a dream of non-stop, unrefueled world flight.

Dick Rutan has said many times that if any one of the Voyager Volunteers didn't show up when they did, this flight could never have happened.

December 14, 1986, Voyager aircraft, with Command Pilot Dick Rutan and Co-pilot Jeana Yeager lifted off from Edwards Air Force Base and into the annals of aviation history as they endured a harrowing trip around the world in nine

days, three-minutes and forty-four seconds, ending the intrepid journey with a landing on Dec. 23, 1986, right where they had begun, on the dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base.

The Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation invited all Rutan designed aircraft to participate in this significant anniversary.

The weather wasn't cooperating, so many of the pilots elected to drive over instead of fly and the parking lots were full!



Matt Stinemetze brought his LongEZ out for display and Mike and Sally Melvill flew their LongEZ in from Tehachapi.

This is the LongEZ that participated in the EAA Round the World Friendship Tour in 1997. Dick Rutan flew his LongEZ 'Ole Blue' and Mike flew this LongEZ. They had built their EZ's side by side many years before. They visited fourteen countries, departed Mojave on April 4, 1997 and returned June 24th.





Burt Rutan was surrounded by fans who wanted an autograph or their photo taken with him.

World War II WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) Flora Belle Reece, Rosemary Jensen-Coonrod are shown here with Burt Rutan and Mike Melvill, the only other person to have ever flown the Voyager aircraft.



Voyager Command Pilot Dick Rutan was not able to attend Plane Crazy on Saturday as he was participating in his brother-in-law Rich Crosley's Memorial Service in Lancaster. He did display his beautifully painted Berkut on the flightline and attended the 25th Anniversary

Voyager Dinner on Saturday evening.

Aircraft from Mojave, Rosamond, W.J. Fox Field in Lancaster, Tehachapi and from as far away as Reno, NV and Phoenix, AZ came to celebrate the Voyager flight anniversary.

Voyager Volunteers came from all over



the country and the one who traveled the furthest was Manley Butler (Butler Parachute Company) from Roanoke, VA.

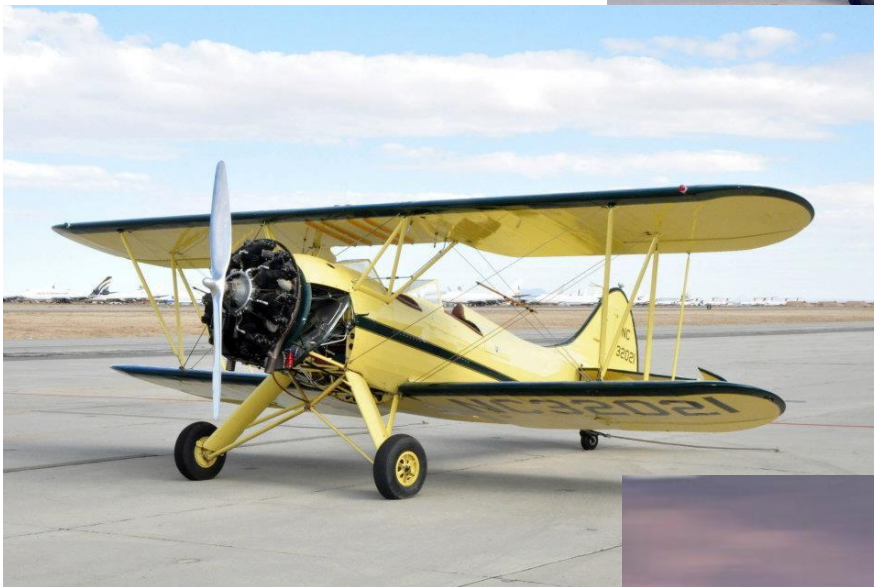
Everyone was thrilled to see Tonya Rutan too! Here she is with Wen Painter in the Voyager Restaurant! Wen signed all of the tax exempt forms for pilots with historical aircraft.





Jere Calef is filling out the sign-in sheet for his gorgeous 'really red' 1948 Cessna 195!

Tom McMurtry, retired NASA pilot, rolled out his classic 1939 J-3 Cub and the 1941 WACO UPF-7 biplane. Scott Schultz warmed the J-3 up by making a few circuits around the pattern, sometimes waving the wings at everyone on the ground!



Even though the cold air drove all of the vendor booths indoors, Mark Street (XCOR Aerospace) couldn't resist trying out the new canopy on his Pitts Special.





Scott Glaser of Rosamond Skypark brought his YAK-52 in to help us celebrate and did a fly-by.

We had a rare treat at 11 a.m. when Burt Rutan said he would give a short talk about Voyager in the EKAD Board Room. WOW!

Posted on Alan Radecki's Facebook page – "Burt's impromptu "short talk" at Plane Crazy Saturday turned into an amazing 2 hour talk about all kinds of interesting details of the Voyager flight...one of those once in a lifetime opportunities!"



There wasn't even standing room once all of the photographers and Rutan fans packed the board room!

Saturday night at the Mariah Country Inn in Mojave was indeed a show stopper!

Alan Radecki also posted this on



Facebook, "Magical moments from the Voyager 25th Anniversary dinner last night...Dick walking up to an out-of-town couple who didn't recognize him initially and saying "Hi, I'm Dick Rutan and I flew around the world"...two rocket engineers (who will remain nameless!) sketching out an idea for a better vacuum chamber on the paper



liner from the dinner roll basket...the Burt and Dick show, which had us laughing at times and almost in tears at times...almost three hours (!) of reminiscences by the flight test and the volunteer teams...Doug Shane's rendition of Dick's request for take-off clearance - "Eddy tower, Voyager 1 requests clearance from Edwards AFB to Edwards AFB the hard way"...a night I won't soon forget!"



Burt Rutan and Mike Melvill shared laughs and tears when describing what it was like to fly out over the ocean in the chase aircraft watching Voyager leave the coast of California and saying goodbye, perhaps for the last time to their best friends and brother.

They also describe the excitement and great relief at the first glimpse of Voyager as she came into view. They couldn't believe the great release of emotion through tears when they realized Dick and Jeana had made it and were finally safe.

Thank you to Kelly Hall for her super attention to every important detail and to all of the Voyager Volunteers who attended this wonderful dinner. What a distinct pleasure to be a part of this epic celebration!

Thank you Bob Rice for your help at the airport on the flightline and to Erika Westawski for her help and support.

All photos by Mike Masee, Shirlee Wilson, and Kelly Hall.

Websites with articles and photos: <http://www.parabolicarc.com/2011/12/18/burt-rutan-recounts-emotional-voyager-flight/> and if you have Facebook, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/messages/?action=read&tid=id.323754990977296#!/media/set/?set=a.10150423692617231.352874.598247230&type=3> and

<https://www.facebook.com/messages/?action=read&tid=id.323754990977296#!/media/set/?set=a.10150427707541135.354778.117423666134&type=3>



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