

Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

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WAHF Celebrates Wisconsin's "First Great Year of Flight" Statewide events highlight first flight centennials in several cities

OSHKOSH, WI. September 1, 2011 – The Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame (WAHF) has scheduled several events this fall, working with historical and aviation groups, to celebrate 100 years of aviation in Wisconsin cities where first flights occurred in 1911. WAHF Board Members Michael Goc, Frederick Beseler, Tom Thomas, and John and Rose Dorcey will make the presentations. All events are free and open to the public.

Manitowoc: EAA Chapter 383 will host WAHF's John and Rose Dorcey on Wednesday, September 14 as they discuss Beckwith Havens and Manitowoc's early aviation history. The talk begins at 6:30 p.m. Location: Manitowoc County Airport (MTW), look for the EAA Chapter hangar. Visit www.EAAChapter383.org for more information.

Menomonie: WAHF's Michael Goc will be featured in the Heritage Speaker Series at the Dunn County Historical Museum at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 18 at the Heritage Museum, 1820 Wakanda Street, Menomonie. His subject will be "From France to Menomonie, The Airplane Arrives in Dunn County, 1911." Visit www.DunnHistory.org/events.html for more information.

Chippewa Valley Museum: Tuesday, September 20 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Chippewa Valley Museum, located in Eau Claire's scenic Carson Park. See local aviation artifacts and hear Michael Goc present, "The Airplane Comes to the Chippewa Valley." Admission into the Chippewa Valley Museum is free. For more information, contact Ashley Dziuk: 715-834-7871 or email a.dziuk@cvmuseum.com.

Chippewa Valley Regional Airport: Michael Goc will present the history of aviation in the Chippewa Valley on Saturday, September 24 at Heartland Aviation, located at Chippewa Valley Regional Airport (EAU). In addition, EAA Chapter 509 will provide a chili lunch and Young Eagles rides. Antique aircraft and cars will be on display. The event runs from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, call 715-839-6241 or email cvra@clearwire.net.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:

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Antigo Airport Fly-in: Saturday, September 24. WAHF's Tom Thomas will make a presentation on John Schwister, Wisconsin's first homebuilder, at the Langlade County Airport (AIG). Call Tom at 608-332-0490 or email jth4371795@aol.com.

Tomahawk Historical Society: Michael Goc will speak at the Tomahawk Historical Society's Annual Appreciation Day in the afternoon of September 29. His subject will be "John Kaminski, Reider Olsen, and the History of Aviation in Tomahawk." Time and location to be determined, contact Michael at newpast@live.com or call 608-547-2309.

Sheboygan: WAHF's John and Rose Dorcey will present the story of Sheboygan's first flight at the Aviation Heritage Center of Wisconsin, located at Sheboygan County Memorial Airport (SBM), on Friday, September 30. Time and additional details to be announced. Call John or Rose at 920-385-1483 for more information, or visit www.ahcw.org.

La Crosse: WAHF's Frederick Beseler will present "The Centennial of Powered Flight in La Crosse" on Sunday, October 30 at 2 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame and the La Crosse County Historical Society, Fred will describe in words and photographs the flight of aviation pioneer Hugh Robinson who, in October 1911, attempted to fly from Minneapolis down the Mississippi River to New Orleans in a 1911 Curtiss Hydroaeroplane—stopping in La Crosse along the way. Free and open to the public. Location is at the main auditorium of the library at 8th and Main Streets.

History Museum at the Castle in Appleton: Michael Goc will speak on "Cal Rodgers, the Vin Fiz, and the First Airplane to Fly in Appleton" at the History Museum at the Castle, 330 E. College Avenue in Appleton on Saturday, November 19 at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.MyHistoryMuseum.org.

Additional presentations may be added to the schedule, visit the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame website at www.AviationHallofFameWisconsin.com for updates.

The Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame has inducted more than 100 men and women since it organized in 1985. Its mission is to collect and preserve the history of aviation in Wisconsin, recognize those who made that history, inform others of it, and promote aviation education to future generations.

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