

World's Largest Biplane to Appear in Clovis, NM

On July 19, the Vimy Aircraft Project's replica Vickers Vimy biplane will be making an appearance in Clovis, NM. Around midday, the Vimy will land at **Clovis Municipal Airport**, where it will remain on display for the remainder of the day. Other planned events include a reception, dinner, and Vimy Q&A session. The Vimy will depart early on July 20 to Liberal, KS.

The Vimy's visit to Clovis is sponsored by **EAA Chapter 969, Allsup's Convenience Stores, Clovis New Car Dealers, First Bank, Citizen's Bank, Western Bank, and Allan Haynes Jr MD**, and a number of other local organizations and individuals.

While on display, Vimy pilot Mark Rebholz will answer questions about his upcoming re-enactment of the first nonstop Transatlantic flight. Other Vimy Aircraft Project pilots and volunteers will be selling t-shirts and hats and accepting donations to help support the Project.

The Vimy, which is the world's largest airworthy biplane, is on its way from Novato, CA, to the EAA's Airventure air show in Oshkosh, WI, where it will be one of the main attractions.

About the Vimy Aircraft Project

The Vimy Aircraft Project is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the pioneers of tomorrow by providing a vivid reminder that only the brave and imaginative bring about progress—not the critics and skeptics! The Project is spreading this message by re-enacting the three "first" flights made by Vickers Vimy biplanes near the beginning of the 20th century:

- **First nonstop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean** (1919)
- **First flight from England to Australia** (1919)
- **First flight from England to South Africa** (1920)

In 1994, Peter McMillan and Lang Kidby re-enacted the England to Australia flight. Their trip was the cover story of the May 1995 *National Geographic* and was detailed in *The Greatest Flight* book and National Geographic video. In 1999, Mark Rebholz and John LaNoue re-enacted the England to South Africa flight. The trip received extensive coverage in the May 2000 *National Geographic*, as well as the aviation press. Plans are currently underway for a re-enactment of the Transatlantic flight, which is tentatively scheduled for June, 2002.

The Vimy Aircraft Project is made possible through the generous donations of individuals and organizations worldwide. The Vimy's current sponsor list includes David R. Holbrooke, David E. McDowell, Campbell Aero Classics, and *Aeroplane* magazine. Individuals and organizations wishing to become sponsors should contact the project management at 415/332-6744.

You can learn more about the plane and the Project on its Web site, **www.vimy.org**.

About Airventure

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Airventure air show in Oshkosh, WI, is the world's largest air show. Held annually in July, it attracts thousands of pilots and aviation enthusiasts from around the world. You can learn more about Airventure on its Web site, **www.airventure.org**.

For More Information Contact:

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IMPORTANT NOTE:

The dates provided here are subject to change. The Vimy could arrive a day earlier or a day later. Or it may not arrive at all. Unforeseen circumstances, including weather, engine problems, or other events could have a dramatic impact on the Vimy's travel plans. For up-to-date schedule information, call the Vimy Aircraft Project office at 866-THE-VIMY.



Photo of the Vimy in flight over San Francisco Bay by Peter McBride.

Important Notice to Pilots & Members of the Press

The Vimy will be flying from
Novato, CA to Oshkosh, WI
between July 12 and July 23.

The Vimy will not fly in formation with any aircraft,
including news helicopters, unless a formation flying
briefing is held on the ground before the flight.

There are no exceptions to this rule.

To arrange for a preflight briefing,
contact Maria Langer, Media Coordinator,
at webmaster@vimy.org or 520-231-0196.