

# News Briefs

## Melville Honored At OSH



**MIKE MELVILLE**

Mike Melville, longtime test pilot for Burt Rutan's Scaled Composites, Inc., was presented the Society of Experimental Test Pilots' "Spirit of Flight Award" at EAA AirVenture '99 in Oshkosh, Wisc.

The presentation was made by Rutan at an awards ceremony held July 31st at the EAA's Theatre in the Woods. SCI, Ru-

tan's Mojave, Calif.-based company, sponsored this year's award.

Proving he was indeed the right choice for the award, Melville flew to Oshkosh in the Proteus, the adjustable-wing, high-altitude surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft designed by Rutan. It was Melville who piloted the Proteus on its maiden flight exactly one year ago.

On the trip to Oshkosh, Melville flew at FL500, a typical altitude for the Proteus, which was designed to loiter at that altitude for up to 18 hours. The flight was not without incident, however.

"When we descended, we went from an outside air temperature of -74°F to almost 100°F," Melville said. "The airplane fogged up inside and we logged a little IMC right inside the airplane."