

## VOLUNTEERS REPLACE COZY CANOPY

A GROUP OF THREE VOLUNTEERS had the unique experience of visiting Oshkosh June 28-30 to replace the canopy on EAA's prototype Cozy, which was damaged after the airplane was flipped on its back in a gust of wind years ago.

Alex Becker of Charlotte, North Carolina, met EAA's Director of Chapters and Communities and Homebuilt Community Manager Charlie Becker, of no relation, at Sun 'n Fun 2016. Upon learning that Alex had previously built his own Cozy, Charlie asked if he would be interested in assembling a team to come work on EAA's airplane.

Alex invited homebuilders Walter Gee and Curtis Martin, who have each built their own Long-EZ, to take on the task with him, and the group was able to complete the project in three days, being careful not to damage the frame in which the canopy is embedded.

"To get [the original canopy] out without breaking anything off the outside edge was the challenge," Martin said. "A heat gun and some pry bars, those things allowed us to work our way around and slowly but surely pull it all out without damaging it any further, which was a big deal."

The group said they were guided through the project with the help of an article published by one of their mentors.

"Mike Melvill had broken his canopy about 40 years ago, and he wrote a good article on how he replaced the Plexiglas in the canopy frame," Gee said. "So we printed that out and brought it up with us, and that was our guide."

Alex said the opportunity to visit Oshkosh outside of AirVenture time was one to remember.

"It was nice to actually meet people that we read about or who are way too busy during AirVenture," Alex said. "Jack Pelton stopped out here for an hour, and Charlie Becker took us by his home yesterday to look at his projects. It was nice to get that one-on-one and meet the people that are all behind this."



Gee was equally enthusiastic. "We feel like we're participants when we fly our experimental planes in for AirVenture, but to do something like this, it just kind of takes it up to the next level," he said.

## SIXTY CONVENTIONS IN A ROW

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL to have EAA members who have attended EAA's fly-in and convention for two, three, or even four decades.

But it is unusual to have two members make it to 60 consecutive fly-ins and conventions. Even more unusual is the fact that these two have been married for nearly 62 years.

In 1955, Marvin Hoppenworth attended his first EAA air show and fly-in, staying only one day since he and his wife, Cathy, had just returned from vacation. "It was \$10 to join or \$1 to register," he recalled. "I joined," he added, proudly noting that he is EAA 2519.

However, 2016 marks 60 consecutive years that both Hoppenworths have attended the convention. "We went to Milwaukee, Rockford, and Oshkosh," Cathy said. "Since we live in Cedar Rapids, it was easy to make all three sites."

Marvin was a private pilot and A&P mechanic, and Cathy said she likes doing things with him. The first year they camped at the fly-in, they put a tarp over the back of their pickup truck and slept there. They next moved up to a 9-by-9 tent, and when they started having children, moved up to two tents and eventually a camper.

Marvin said their chapter started the emergency repair tent at Rockford, and he served as its chairman for three years. "We used to say that Marshall Turner and I were the father and mother of the tent. He had the ideas, and I had the tools," Marvin said.

Working at the emergency repair tent also had some rewards, like allowing him to meet Bob Hoover. "Bob Hoover actually asked for my autograph," Marvin said. "He had people working on his Mustang, but none were licensed mechanics, and he needed someone to sign off on the work. I told him the only way I'd consider it if I was there while the work was being done, and he said that was even better."