DIRECTOR’S UPDATE
Looking Ahead to 2006

Member participation is what makes EAA Warbirds of America such a fantastic organization.

Bill Fischer
Executive Director, EAA Warbirds of America

As we look ahead to 2006, let’s take a minute to reflect back on 2005. EAA Warbirds of America had a very busy schedule and agenda. Many of our members attended the National Warbird Operator Conference in Seattle, Washington, back in February. By all accounts, it was one of the best ever! We’ll never forget the Me-262 demonstration and special evening at Seattle’s Museum of Flight.

In April, many of us headed south for the Sun ‘n Fun Fly-In. It was a great chance to see old friends and enjoy some of that southern hospitality.

Spring and summer had many of us busy with local squadron activities, fly-ins, and just flying for fun.

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2005 was a huge success with great weather and nearly 400 warbird aircraft in attendance. Our October issue highlighted a number of the volunteer groups. Without the volunteers, the show would not go on. Hats off to all the volunteers, pilots, and supporters who made EAA AirVenture 2005 an event to remember.

This upcoming year, 2006, brings many challenges—ones we’re ready to face head-on. Coming up in January some of the top FAA officials will come to EAA headquarters in Oshkosh for a “summit meeting” to discuss issues that are important to our members. This is an excellent opportunity for open communication and dialog. We’ll be there on your behalf, protecting our privileges to “keep ’em flying.”

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The 2006 National Warbird Operator Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, February 23-26 at the Holiday Inn—Universal. If you haven’t signed up yet, please do so at the conference website: www.warbirdconference.org. The conference will cover topics such as engines, safety, aero-medical issues, insurance, FAA updates, and much more. The various type groups will also meet in break-out sessions to talk about issues specific to their aircraft.

Many of our members will be attending the Sun ‘n Fun Fly-In, April 4-10, 2006, in Lakeland, Florida. We strongly encourage all to attend and fill the ramp with warbirds!

Let’s get out and have some fun! Our host hotel is the Holiday Inn—Winter Haven, Florida. See the hotel reservation form in this issue of Warbirds. You can preregister your aircraft on our website: www.warbirds-eaa.org. Hope to see you there!

We’re already making plans for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2006. Several aircraft groups are hoping for big numbers this year. We’ve heard that the T-34 Association is encouraging their group to attend and “blacken the sky over Oshkosh and populate the warbird show line with T-34s.” We’d love to see the Mentors back in force!

The Classic Jet Aircraft Association is also looking to fill the jet show line. Several members of the CJAA will meet with us in OSH in a few weeks to help set the stage for a spectacular EAA AirVenture 2006.

Over the winter, the flight-line volunteers will meet in Oshkosh to review operations and get ready for July. These folks really take their job seriously—keeping safety above all else.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish you all the best in 2006. Whatever you do, we encourage you to be an active member of EAA Warbirds of America—be a participant—get involved—have fun! Keep ’em flying!