

Thirty-fourth Annual
COPPERSTATE Regional EAA Fly-In
October 26-29, Casa Grande Municipal Airport, Casa Grande AZ

For Immediate Release:

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**COPPERSTATE 2006 IN CASA GRANDE ARIZONA
CELEBRATES IN COOL OCTOBER WEATHER**

The Thirty-fourth Annual COPPERSTATE Regional EAA Fly-In held October 26 through 29 at the Casa Grande Municipal Airport (CGZ) brought visitors, aircraft, and vendors together for a celebration of general aviation. Visitors to COPPERSTATE were rewarded with the pleasant late October weather that only Arizona can provide. Temperatures ranged from cool mornings at 60 degrees to daytime highs in the 80's, supporting the wisdom of moving the event dates from early October to late October.

Vendors of new aircraft, avionics, powerplant technology, and aircraft maintenance support products were pleased with the consolidation of activity onto the expanded ramp area. Visitors pleasantly browsed the entire event in a very clean environment. Especially popular was the workshop and forum area with its own campus located next to the ramp for easy access from the exhibitor and show plane area. Youth programs, including rib building, Young Eagles, Explorer Scouts, Civil Air Patrol and high school aviation educational programs, occupied their own space in the main exhibit tent.

Campers at COPPERSTATE in 2006 regaled the great weather. The unique to COPPERSTATE, portable, clean and bright shower facility again was the recipient of praise from those enjoying the bright sunshine and starlit nights on the airport. Aircraft campers, tent campers, and RV campers enjoyed easy access to this luxury.

Aircraft attendance and gate attendance for the 2006 COPPERSTATE event benefited from the excellent weather and timing of the event. Show plane areas were well populated by the start of the event and remained so throughout. The show plane parking areas were deemed full at noon on Friday. The well-managed aircraft parking volunteers, working with the volunteer tower controllers, made ground movements simple as aircraft moved to show plane areas and overflow parking areas. All aircraft movements were accomplished on hard surfaced areas. Similarly, local Police Explorer Scouts routed arriving pedestrian traffic to designated parking areas.

The annual Saturday evening COPPERSTATE Awards Banquet included the presentation of the traditional COPPERSTATE awards plaques. The Grand Champion honor was garnered by Glenn Smith with a great RV-8. Reserve Grand Champion honors went to Mel Bina with a Velocity. The complete list of fantastic winning aircraft may be found on the website, www.copperstate.org.

The COPPERSTATE Regional EAA Fly-in is sponsored by the Arizona Council of EAA Chapters, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of general aviation through the education of participants and the public. Programs include scholarships, forums and workshops at the annual fly-in. Access to this educational venue is provided for local and federal agencies to improve all aspects of aviation and aviation safety.

Next event: October 25-28, 2007. For more information, visit www.copperstate.org.