Media Release

Aspen Avionics Awards Hundreds of Merit Badges in AirVenture’s North 40

Campers get special recognition on completion of a good deed

Albuquerque, NM, August 2, 2011: As four-time corporate sponsors of the North 40 Aircraft Parking and Camping area during EAA AirVenture, Aspen Avionics wanted to recognize the intrepid citizens of Oshkosh’s North 40 with Aspen’s first North 40 Camping Merit Badge.

“For those of us who spend our AirVenture nights in air conditioned hotel rooms or view the torrents of rain from a summer thunderstorm from the dry side of the window, we can at least recognize those whose wet sleeping bags hang off the wings of their airplanes drying in the morning sun,” says Aspen Avionics’ Vice President of Marketing Brad Hayden.

This is a merit badge, however, which must be earned so recipients were asked to enter into a book the reason why they deserve a North 40 Camping Merit Badge.

Campers of all ages were awarded a badge. One child wrote, “I camped in the rain and still smiled,” while another child wrote, “I did dishes.” At the other end of the age spectrum, one gentleman wrote, “I am 80 years old and have been to Oshkosh many times.”

Additional acts recorded in the 2011 “Merit Badge Book of Deeds” include:

• “I drove people around and helped cook breakfast for 40 - 50 people.”
• “Picked up trash.”
• “Reassured neighbors that three small children would not be a bother.”
• “Helped our neighbor put his cover on his plane.”
• “I flew my son to Oshkosh.”
• “I wore a plastic bag in the rain.”

Veteran AirVenture participants are known to say that you have not really had the Oshkosh experience until you have camped with your airplane in EAA’s North 40. One man who now has that experience is an international visitor who wrote, “I traveled [from] Finland and got acquainted with American people who adopted me to be one of the great aviators of Oshkosh. Thanks a lot.”

“With our Aspen Avionics North 40 Camping Merit Badge, we recognize the North 40 community and all of the ‘great aviators of Oshkosh’ – who make this event like no other,” adds Hayden.

**About Aspen Avionics, Inc.**
Aspen Avionics specializes in bringing the most advanced technology and capability into general aviation cockpits—and budgets. Our products increase situational awareness and reduce pilot workload, making it easier and safer to fly in both VFR and IFR conditions. The way we look at it, getting the latest avionics technology shouldn’t always mean spending a lot of money—on equipment or installation. At Aspen Avionics, we design products to be affordable, easy to install, and easy to own.