

# 100 years of Aviation

## The Wright Experience

**Aerlines Magazine honours our great heroes who made our dreams a reality nowadays with this report the author, who is student assistant at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Aviation Institute.**

By Beth Flynn

Kitty Hawk, NC – A cloudy, rainy day began a Centennial of Flight Celebration in Kitty Hawk, known as Kill Devil Hills since 1953.

However, this weather didn't dampen the spirits of those who ventured out to Kitty Hawk, NC for the Centennial of Flight Celebration. It was just 100 years ago that Orville and Wilbur Wright changed history forever.

Vehicles from Alaska, Canada, Georgia, Nevada, and New York, among others, travelled to join in honouring the Wright brothers and their work.

As the rain continued to pour down, there were appearances by Hollywood actor and pilot, John Travolta; the first

men on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin; the pilot who broke the sound barrier, Chuck Yeager; and the first American to orbit the Earth, John Glenn. Also attending the celebration were United States President George W. Bush, and two descendants of the Wright brothers, Amanda and Stephen Wright.

Two flights were scheduled for the replica Wright flier. The first was originally scheduled to fly at 10:35 a.m., Eastern Time, exactly 100 years after the Wright brothers flew their flier. However, due to weather conditions, lack of wind and the rain, the flight was delayed. Instead there was a moment of silence to honour the brothers and their accomplishments.

The second attempt was scheduled for 2:30 p.m., Eastern Time.

However, at approximately 12:30 p.m., the winds picked up and the rain turned into a mist, the flier was rolled out to the track on a dolly. Kevin Kochersberger won the coin toss to attempt the first flight. Suspense built as it took numerous attempts to start the engine. Cheers immersed from the crowds as the engine finally started and the flier started down the rail.

The cheers quickly turned ones of sympathy and disappointment as the flight was unsuccessful and the right wing flopped onto the ground, then replaced with cheers of congratulations to Kochersberger's attempts.

The flier was rolled back into the hangar and put on display for everyone to see, until the next attempt.

Between attempts, various types of aircraft were flown over the field. Some of which were carrying various students who earned their co-pilot positions through a competition of hard work and good grades in school. Aircraft that flew over ranged from a Cessna 172 to Air Force One.

The next attempt was scheduled for 2:30 p.m., however, like the first one, it was delayed. Finally attempting it again in late afternoon, this flight too was unsuccessful.

Numerous people, of all ages, experienced a taste of flying the Wright flier with a Wright Brothers flier simulator. Various students from local schools attended this event as a field trip. Outside the historical site, buses lined the streets.

Although the replica Wright flier was unsuccessful twice, it was actually being at Kitty Hawk exactly 100 years after the historic flight of the Wright Brothers that made the experience complete



*Replica of the Wright flier at Cleveland, Ohio, USA, 31 August 2003  
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