Two Club members featured in national pilot magazines



John Bosch on the cover of 'The Auto PILOT'.

In December, two Club members were prominently featured in national magazines for pilots. They came into the aviation fields from different directions and with different styles, but ended up making history by using their leadership to preserve aviation's vital legacy in Dayton.

The cover story for The AutoPilot magazine featured John Bosch, owner and President of Commander-Aero, which operates out of the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport south of town. He is known in the Club as chairman of the Barn Gang and as a Fellow and a highly effective former president of the Board of Governors.

In a companion story to the cover feature of The AutoPilot (which uses the tagline, "Lifestyles for the Aviation Enthusiast"), Dayton was featured as a fascinating destination for aviation buffs.

The December issue of AOPA Pilot Magazine, a publication of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, featured in its "Pilots" section **Zoe Dell Nutter**. Ms. Nutter's fascinating life (among other things, she was voted the "most photographed woman in the world" in 1939) was touched on in the Summer 2004 issue of the Engineers Club News when she was given the Deeds-Kettering Award for outstanding service to the Club.

Here's a slice of The AutoPilot's three-page story about John Bosh:

'Get out there with what you've got, because you never know how you'll get to use it.' -Zoe Dell Nutter

"As a maintenance officer in the Air Force and later as a design engineer and manufacturing manager, Bosch knew the value of simplified design – first in the manufacturing process and then for the end user. It was the chief pilot at Pan Am who first issued the challenge to GE, and Bosch specifically, to come up with a solution to the problem of too much visual diversity with instrumentation in the cockpit".

" 'I called on Pan Am for GE' Bosch remembers, 'and the chief pilot said he would like to see all instruments in a similar format. I told him it was not feasible, so he escorted me out the door. I went out with my tail between my legs, but later I called him up and said I had some ideas and can we meet. He reluctantly agreed.'

'In the world of aviation engineering, what happened next was historic. Working together with Pan Am's chief pilot, Bosch and his team at GE developed a design that replaced five different manufacturers' instruments with one format. Except for faceplates and signal conditioning modules, all instruments now had the same look. The story of how Bosch's team at GE solved the engineering challenges, and how they incorporated value engineering into the process to create a competitive bid would make a good book in and of itself, but the bottom line was that GE won the bid that led to implementation on the Boeing 747, which in turn led to a new generation of instruments applied to the DC-10, L1011, A-300 and the B-1."

That's just Bosch's first career with GE. Then Bosch went on to help Bendix's struggling Sheffield Measurement Corp. in Dayton, built up that business and wrote the book, literally, on measurement machines. He bought Commander-Aero as a way to keep busy in retirement, and now that's a cover story success.

Of Ms. Nutter, AOPA Magazine wrote in part:

"Zoe Dell Nutter (nee Lantis)... was a 22-year-old dancer and model chosen to act as a spokesperson for the World's Fair in San Francisco – she was called "a radiator cap girl" in reference to photos of her on the nose of the Douglas DC-3 – to attract Americans to use commercial aviation as passengers..."

"Nutter learned to fly after World War II... (She) moved to Xenia, Ohio, with her late husband, Erv Nutter. An engineer, pilot, and founder of Elano Corp., he designed critical parts for the jet engine. (Mrs.) Nutter directed the promotion of the Small Aircraft Division of the company (one of her nicknames was "Zero Defects") and served as one of its pilots before its purchase by General Electric.

"'Get out there with what you've got, because you never know how you'll get to use it,' says Nutter. She has used that persistence to lobby Congress to place the National Aviation Hall of Fame within the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. And she has succeeded in grand form."

About their local connection with aviation history: Zoe Dell Nutter was the first woman president of the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton and served on its board for a dozen years. John Bosch also serves on the National Aviation Hall of Fame, as Chairman of Wright "B" Flyer Inc., Vice Chairman of the Aviation Heritage Foundation, and on the boards of Air Force Museum Foundation and, as mentioned in the cover story of this issue, the Wright Image Group.

Dennis Nolan

Dennis Nolan, who managed the club from 1987 to 1997, passed away on Dec 12 at the age of 42. He was an avid reader who loved history. Among his civic contributions, he was instrumental in the creation of Operation Food Share in 1990 and was past chairman of the Culinary Extravaganza for the Hungry.