



MEDIA RELEASE

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Soaring Expo 2008 at The Museum of Flight Steve Fossett world altitude record glider on view!

SEATTLE, Feb. 25, 2008—Glide in to The Museum of Flight on Saturday March 1 and Sunday March 2 for a weekend full of events celebrating the world of silent flight. At Soaring Expo 2008, visitors to the Museum can meet members of the Seattle Glider Council, watch films about the sport, hear a presentation by test pilot Einar Enevoldson and see the actual glider which Enevoldson and Steve Fossett flew to set a the world altitude record for gliders.

World Record Glider Flight and the Perlan Glider

Wearing NASA spacesuits and flying along the crest of the Andes of Argentina, pilot Steve Fossett and co-pilot Einar Enevoldson flew their “Perlan” high performance research glider to a 50,671 feet on August 29, 2006. The previous record was set 20 years earlier in California. The two pilots had been trying to set the record for 5 years with attempts in New Zealand, USA and Argentina. The Perlan glider is an extensively modified German-built DG-505 sport glider. This unique sailplane will be on view at the Museum all weekend.

Soaring Expo Presentation: Einar Enevoldson

Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2, 2 p.m. in the William M. Allen Theater

Einar Enevoldson, a former civilian test pilot at NASA’s Dryden Flight Research Center, was the co-pilot on the world’s first stratospheric glider flight. During this fascinating presentation, Enevoldson will tell the story of this record-setting flight and what we have learned from it. As a NASA test pilot, Enevoldson flew many exotic research aircraft including the Mach 3 Blackbird and the last NASA rocket plane, the X-24B.

Soaring Expo 2008

Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Museum’s Side Gallery

In an annual rite of spring, the member clubs of the Seattle Glider Council once again present a glimpse into the fascinating world of silent flight at Soaring Expo 2008. See an amazing display of sleek, graceful, full-size sailplanes in the Side Gallery throughout the

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weekend, and take advantage of the opportunity to talk with members of area soaring club who will be on hand to answer questions about the challenges and rewards, the romance and the practicalities of soaring in the Pacific Northwest.

Soaring Expo Film: “A Fine Week of Soaring”

Saturday, March 1, 11 a.m. in the William M. Allen Theater

“A Fine Week of Soaring” gives an exciting insider’s view of the Mifflin, Penn. Regional contest from the back seat of a Duo Discus high performance glider, with 15-time United States national champion Karl Striedieck at the controls. Flying at high speed at treetop level over the Appalachian ridges or climbing under majestic snow showers, viewers get a sense of how a champion plies his craft.

Soaring Expo Film: “Gladiators of the Sky”

Sunday, March 2, 11 a.m. in the William M. Allen Theater

Watch as the world’s top pilots fly through New Zealand’s unforgiving Southern Alps in a new type of glider race—the Grand Prix! For the first time in history, the whole event is filmed live for audiences on the ground and captured for audiences outside of New Zealand in the film “Gladiators of the Sky.” Each pilot flies at the edge of their abilities—and the technical limits of their sophisticated aircraft. At times nudging 300 kilometers an hour, just meters from the black rock and ice, this is the ultimate test of courage and flying skill. World beating graphics, specialist air-to-air helicopter shots and over 30 miniature cameras bring the race to live for the first time ever.

Bank of America Weekend Family Workshop: Gliderama!

Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2, 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

What kind of aircraft can soar high in the sky yet hardly make any noise? A glider! Come on down to the Museum and get the scoop on these amazing aircraft and find out why this type of flying is called the ‘Silent Sport,’ and then make your own high-flying paper glider.

Editors Note: Einar Enevoldson will be available for interviews. Please contact Ted Huetter or Tara Cashman to schedule.

The independent, non-profit Museum of Flight is one of the largest air and space museums in the world. The Museum’s collection includes more than 150 historically significant air- and spacecraft, as well as the Red Barn® — the original manufacturing facility of the Boeing Co. The Museum’s aeronautical library and archival holdings are the largest on the West Coast. More than 100,000 children are served annually by the Museum’s on-site and outreach educational programs — the most extensive museum-based youth aviation and space education program in the country. The Museum is the only aviation museum in Washington State that is both nationally accredited with the American Association of Museums and a Smithsonian affiliate.

The Museum of Flight is located at 9404 E. Marginal Way S., Seattle, Exit 158 off Interstate 5. The Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$13 for seniors 65 and older, \$7.50 for youth 5 to 17, and free for children under 5. Group rates are available. Admission on the first Thursday of the month is free from 5 to 9 p.m. courtesy of Wells Fargo. For general Museum information, please call 206-764-5720 or visit www.museumofflight.org.

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