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TEAM ORACLE 2015 MEDIA KIT



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SEAN D. TUCKER

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For Media Flights, Interviews, Images and Video

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Sean D. Tucker

"Sean D. Tucker reveals to us what determination, refined skill and pure passion can accomplish – not just through his awe-inspiring performances, but in the way he leads his life. He embodies the very same qualities that have driven Oracle, making Sean a natural ambassador for the company and our collective goals."
– Judith Sim, Chief Marketing Officer, Oracle

Sean D. Tucker is more than a remarkable aviator and industry leading aerobatic pilot. He's **celebrated by his peers, adored by his fans** and recognized by Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum as a **Living Legend of Flight**.

With a full-throttle attitude, he shares his passion for aviation, **inspiring others to pursue their dreams, conquer their fears and refine their skills**. His enthusiasm is contagious. It's evident in his ground-breaking, one-of-a-kind aerobatic maneuvers that make millions of jaws drop each year. It's also evident in the way he undertakes any challenge; with gusto and fervor.

Airshow Beginnings

Tucker's life is marked by a search for excellence and a drive to overcome. What started as a quest to conquer a fear of flying has evolved into the art of precision, performance and perfected skill.

The level of professionalism and discipline in Tucker's airshows is no coincidence. **He practices his air show routine three times every day**. To endure the extreme physical demands of each routine, Tucker maintains a rigorous physical training schedule, **working out more than 340 days per year**.

Tucker has been thrilling air show audiences since he first took to the skies as an aerobatic pilot in 1976. Since then, he has **won dozens of aerobatic competitions**, flown more than **1,225 performances** at nearly **500 airshows** in front of more than **125 million fans**.

Legendary Aviator Inspires the Next Generation

Tucker was selected as one of **25 Living Legends of Flight** by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (2003). As a Legend, Tucker is part of an **elite group of aviators and astronauts** that includes General 'Chuck' Yeager, Bob Hoover, Gene Cernan and John Glenn.

Tucker has been inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame and the 2001 USAF Gathering of Eagles. He is a recipient of both the Crystal Eagle Award and the **General Charles E. Yeager International Aeronautical Achievement Award**.

Tucker is the founder and president of the California-based, non-profit Every Kid Can Fly that **facilitates transformative life experiences in education and aviation for at-risk and underprivileged teenagers**. Every Kid Can Fly empowers teens to cultivate skills necessary to thrive in a modern world, inspires teens to pursue education and careers in STEM programs and recalibrates teens' perceptions of what they are capable of achieving.

In 2013, the Experimental Aircraft Association named Tucker as the **chairman of aviation's flagship program to introduce children to flight, Young Eagles**. Tucker has assumed the responsibility with great commitment, engaging kids in aviation and recognizing the more than 45,000 volunteer pilots who have flown approximately 1.9 million Young Eagles since the program began.

Dynamic Media Resource

Tucker's enthusiasm for aviation is apparent during media interviews. He is an **articulate and engaging resource** for print, broadcast and online interviews. His comments are thought-provoking and authentic. He has been tapped for his expertise by The Weather Channel, The Discovery Channel, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, countless local news programs, and dozens of aviation magazines and newspapers.





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Adventurer, Mentor and Patriot

Whether it is climbing the highest peaks in the world, heli-skiing, cave SCUBA diving or flying his one-of-a-kind dream machine, Tucker's list of accomplishments would fill pages. To start, Tucker has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa twice (2012 and 2013). In 2014, he summited Aconcagua in Argentina and Mt. Elbrus in Russia.

When not flying, climbing, diving or skiing Tucker is **actively involved in his hometown and aviation communities**. In 1997, he established Sean D. Tucker's Tutima Academy of Aviation Safety to set the standard for aviation and aerobatic safety. With cutting-edge programs focusing on aerobatics and confidence training, the academy's world-class instructors employ cutting-edge programs to help students improve techniques and exceed their goals.

He is extremely passionate about every aspect of the Team Oracle program. His self-proclaimed goal is to "share the magic of flight with airshow and Team Oracle's guests by inspiring and thrilling them. I want them to go away saying that the airshow was one of the most engaging days of their lives." This energy is infectious; guests talk about feeling a rekindled enthusiasm for their own passions in life.

Tucker is a **patriotic American who often expresses his gratitude for the men and women who serve this county**. His signature closing statement during airshows and conversations is "God Bless America."

Tucker resides in Salinas, Calif., with his wife of more than 30 years, Colleen. His son Eric D. Tucker and daughter Tara Tucker Hess are also active in the aviation community.

Accolades and Honors

- ▶ International Chairman of EAA Young Eagles
- ▶ Honorary Thunderbird, Blue Angel, Canadian Snowbird, Brazilian Smoke Squadron and Golden Knight
- ▶ 2014: Wings Over the Rockies, Spreading Wings Award
- ▶ 2011: Living Legends of Aviation, Aviation Inspiration & Patriotism Award
- ▶ 2010: General Charles E. Yeager International Aeronautical Achievements Award
- ▶ 2010: EAA's Freedom of Flight Award
- ▶ 2009: International Aviation Air and Space Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ 2008: National Aviation Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ 2007: Living Legend in Aviation Award
- ▶ 2007: International Council of Airshows Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ 2006: National Aeronautics Association Crystal Eagle Award
- ▶ 2003: Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 25 Living Legends of Flight
- ▶ 2001: USAF Gathering of Eagles Inductee
- ▶ 2000: World Airshow Federation Champion
- ▶ 2000: International Council of Airshows Sword of Excellence
- ▶ 1998–2001: Undefeated Champion of the Championship Airshow Pilots Association Challenge
- ▶ 1992: The Art Scholl Memorial Showmanship Award
- ▶ 1992: The Bill Barber Award for Airshow Showmanship
- ▶ 1988: U.S. National Advanced Aerobatic Champion





PHOTOS BY Ron Sellers

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The Sky Dance

"Flying in the Oracle Challenger III has this magical ability to get us to ponder what's possible. With the Sky Dance performance, I hope to inspire others to challenge what they think is possible in their own lives." – Sean D. Tucker

Taking audiences to the **edges of their seats** and limits of their imaginations, Sean D. Tucker and Oracle Challenger III **dance across the sky**, delighting millions of airshow fans each year. More than half of Tucker's Sky Dance maneuvers are unique and **have never been duplicated** by other pilots, making Tucker's performance an awe-inspiring experience.

For a thrilling 13 minutes Tucker expertly performs one-of-a-kind and precision maneuvers with curious names such as **Centrifuge**, **Double Hammerhead**, **Alley Oop**, **Forward Flip**, **Harrier Pass** and the **Triple Ribbon Cut**. Sometimes flying backwards – straight down, tail first – other times catapulting across the skies then descending in a controlled "tumble," the Sky Dance performance is among the best in the world. During the Sky Dance, Tucker will pull more than nine positive g-forces and more than seven negative g-forces.

The Sky Dance begins with a breathtaking three-quarter loop with eight to 10 Snap Rolls in which Tucker reaches speeds up to 280 miles per hour at more than 400 degrees per second and six positive g-forces. Then, after every boundary of flight seems to have been pushed, Tucker and the Oracle Challenger III perform the Triple Ribbon Cut just 20 feet above the ground with ribbon poles placed a mere 750 feet apart. Tucker is the **world's only pilot to perform the Triple Ribbon Cut**.

Signature Maneuvers

With decades of experience, constant training and the custom-built Oracle Challenger III, Tucker is able to perform aerobatic maneuvers that seem impossible:

Alley Oop: Imagine an inside loop in which the airplane canopy is always facing the interior of the circle. Now, make it smaller and you have the Alley Oop – Tucker's smallest inside loop is the smallest in the industry.

The Centrifuge: At speeds up to 230 miles per hour, Tucker dances Oracle Challenger III in eight to 10, controlled, nose-over-tail tumbles and negative seven g-forces.

Double Hammerhead: Beginning with the airplane in a vertical climb, then appearing to "sit" in the air with the nose up, Tucker then rudders Oracle Challenger III over not just once, but twice. This maneuver is often referred to as a "wing over."

Forward Flip: As if doing a nose-over-tail cartwheel, Tucker maneuvers Oracle Challenger III into a forward flip.

Harrier Pass: Tucker duplicates the awesome power and capabilities demonstrated by the U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier. While using only 70% of his available horsepower, Tucker brings the Oracle Challenger III to a perfect hover at show center with the wings generating virtually zero lift and the aircraft standing on its tail. He rapidly uses all of the flight controls to maintain this precision balancing act.

Triple Ribbon Cut: With audience help, Tucker races Oracle Challenger III through three sets of ribbons just 25 feet off the ground. Audience members gleefully volunteer to hold the poles 750 feet apart across the show runway. Tucker decelerates to 210 miles per hour, just 20 feet above the runway and rolls the airplane into right knife-edge flight cutting the first ribbon. Then, he immediately maneuvers 180 degrees left, knife-edge and cuts the second ribbon. Finally, Tucker inverts the airplane and cuts the third ribbon. The Triple Ribbon Cut is truly a unique experience to behold.





PHOTO BY Dennis Biela

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About Oracle Challenger III

THE SKY DANCE DREAM MACHINE

The striking red and white Oracle Challenger III is **custom-built** using the latest technology from aerobatics, drag racing and sailing. The bi-plane utilizes elements from five different aircraft to provide Tucker with the capabilities to turn aerobatic flying into art.

Oracle Challenger III Facts

- ▶ A revolutionary set of wings on Oracle Challengers III features **eight ailerons instead of four**, allowing Tucker to make precise aerobatic movements.
- ▶ 400+ horsepower, custom-built Lycoming AEIO-540-D4B5 engine that turns a composite Hartzell three-blade propeller.
- ▶ The engine features aluminum, **drag racing pistons**, a cold-air induction system and state-of-the art fuel injection.
- ▶ The aircraft weighs 1,129 pounds and can **reach a top speed of 300 miles per hour**.
- ▶ It is a **tube and fabric airplane**, consisting of a durable metal frame and special fabric skin.
- ▶ The airplane wings hold **smoke generators, pyrotechnics** and cameras.





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COUNTING DOWN TO THE 2 MILLIONTH YOUNG EAGLE FLIGHT

Sean D. Tucker, International Chairman of EAA's Young Eagles

For more than 20 years, a movement has been underfoot, spirited by more than 45,000 volunteer pilots and countless volunteer ground crew. Their mission: to provide a meaningful flight experience – free of charge – in a general aviation aircraft for young people. This rather quiet movement is called Young Eagles and its pilots are expected to fly 2 million Young Eagles by the first quarter of 2016. The countdown is on and leading the charge as its international chairman is Sean D. Tucker.

The program took flight during the 1992 EAA Fly-In Convention in Oshkosh, Wis. EAA President Tom Poberezny and Academy Award winning actor and pilot Cliff Robertson flew the first Young Eagles on July 31, 1992. Robertson served as the program's founding chairman. Past chairmen include Gen. Chuck Yeager, actor Harrison Ford, US Airways flight crew Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeff Skiles. Tucker was named chairman in 2013.

More than 1.9 Million Young Eagles Flown

The initial goal of the program was to fly one million children prior to the 100th anniversary of flight celebration (Dec. 17, 2003). That goal was achieved on November 13, 2003. Currently, more than 1.9 million Young Eagles have been registered. The program introduces approximately 75,000 kids to aviation each year.

Engaging Kids in Aviation: Scholarships and More

In addition to being a meaningful flight experience, a teaching opportunity and encouraging kids to challenge their boundaries, Young Eagles includes aviation scholarship possibilities to prestigious educational institutions such as the University of North Dakota, EAA Air Academy and other accredited aeronautical colleges and universities.

Once a Young Eagle has taken his or her first flight, they are invited to join the Young Eagles community by becoming an EAA Student Member. It includes access to free flight training, online resources, free student membership to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, free access to more than 300 science and technology museums, plus discounts on clothing, books and more.

For more information about the EAA Young Eagles Program, contact Suzanne Herrick at 612-861-7807, suzanne@fedorukinc.com, or call EAA headquarters at 877-806-8902 or 920-426-4831; youngeagles@eaa.org. More at www.youngeagles.org





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Scheduling Media Flights

To share the passion for aviation with media audiences, Tucker and his team welcome **credentialed** media for a once-in-a-lifetime flight with his crew. Availability is dependent upon Tucker, his team and the airshow schedule.

Flights are offered in select airplanes at the discretion of the Team Oracle ground crew. Media flights often occur the Thursday prior to the airshow.

Young Eagle Flight: Witness the Joy of a Child's First Flight

In addition, Tucker will fly a Young Eagle at each airshow. It is an excellent opportunity to capture the magic of a child experiencing his or her first flight. Media are welcome to cover the take-off and return of this monumental moment.

To schedule a flight or to cover the Young Eagles flight, contact Suzanne Herrick in advance at 612-861-7807 or suzanne@fedorukinc.com. Hurry – flights are limited!

What to Expect

Camera Airplane: Three seats are available for videographers and photographers to get prime photos of the Oracle Challenger III over local landmarks from the non-aerobatic Seneca camera airplane.

Oracle Extra 300 L: One seat is available for a reporter to experience aerobatic flight. The flight is recorded via an onboard camera. Footage will be made available to media following the flight.

What to Bring

- ▶ Cameras
- ▶ A/V line cord
- ▶ Thumb drive/flash drive to upload the video from the Oracle Extra 300 L flight





PHOTO BY Dennis Biela



PHOTOS BY Ron Sellers



PHOTO BY John Minchillo

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Interview Topics and Story Ideas

In addition to covering the airshow, an interview with Tucker offers additional angles and story opportunities including:

- ▶ **The Aerobatic Pilot Experience:** Learn first-hand from Tucker what it's like to train and be an aerobatic pilot. Learn about his career, his motivation for becoming a pilot and what he has learned along the way.
- ▶ **The Importance of Airshows and Aviation:** While airshows and airports are fun places and events, the role aviation plays in our community extends far beyond the site or weekend. Tucker can address how aviation and airshows impact the local economy, education and community.
- ▶ **Experiencing the First Flight:** As Young Eagles chairman, Tucker has introduced countless children to their first flight. Tucker can describe the importance of introducing children to flight – from challenging the child's boundaries to introducing them to a career path.
- ▶ **The Importance of Challenging Ourselves:** Tucker took to aviation as a means to challenge himself and overcome a fear. Overcoming fears and pursuing a new experience can open opportunities beyond our wildest expectations. Hear from Tucker the many ways he has overcome obstacles and taken his dreams to new levels.
- ▶ **Flight 101:** For many, the concept of flight is elusive. Demystify flight by learning from a pro about the basics of flight, how an airplane moves through space and the simple physics behind soaring through space.

Much More! Tucker can address these topics and others related to flying, setting goals and pursuing dreams. Tap this incredible resource by contacting Suzanne Herrick at 612-861-7807, suzanne@fedorukinc.com to set up an interview.

