

Jack Cox

1934 - 2011

**JACK COX EAA 14286  
LIFETIME LOVER OF AVIATION**



Jack Cox, EAA Lifetime 14286, who influenced generations of aviators as the long-time editor-in-chief of EAA Sport Aviation magazine, passed away Sunday, March 6, 2011.

Jack was born in Seagrove, North Carolina in January 1934 and grew up enamored with aviation, building model airplanes and reading everything available on aviation. The first, of many, airplane rides he recalled was in a Ford Tri Motor at Asheboro in the late 1930s. Jack began taking flight instruction and soloed a J-3 Cub at Air Harbor in Greensboro, North Carolina, in April 1956. Following a tour of active duty in the U.S. Navy, Jack returned to North Carolina and met Golda in the summer of 1958. They were married the following December.

Jack joined EAA in December 1961 and later EAA Vintage Aircraft Association Chapter 3 and became an active participant in its activities, with Jack becoming the newsletter editor in June 1966. It was through their efforts on the newsletter that Jack and Golda came to the attention of EAA President Paul Poberezny. In 1968 Jack was made a member of the EAA's antique airplane judging committee at Rockford, and the following year he served as chairman of that committee. In that capacity, he led the first effort to formalize judging standards and set up permanent vintage aircraft judging categories for EAA.

Jack joined the EAA staff in 1970 at the invitation of Paul Poberezny. In 1972, Jack was named editor-in-chief of Sport Aviation, a position he held until his retirement in 1999. During his tenure, Golda was his partner on the magazine serving in the role of managing editor.

Jack was instrumental in the formation of EAA's Antique/Classic Division (EAA Vintage Airplane Association), which included his new Classic category for post-war aircraft, then the largest unaffiliated entity in aviation. Jack created the Division's new monthly publication, The Vintage Airplane, and served as its first editor. In 1981 Jack and Golda began publishing Sportsman Pilot, a quarterly aviation magazine that again permitted them to travel and meet people of their interests. This publication continued until his passing.

Jack was known as "the" spokesman for the homebuilt aircraft and sport aviation communities. His articles and features highlighted the remarkable growth and innovation of amateur-built for three decades. As a private pilot, Jack logged more than 3,350 flying hours in a total of 137 different makes and models of aircraft.

Jack was the recipient of many awards, among them induction into the EAA Vintage Aircraft Association Hall of Fame and the EAA Homebuilder's Hall of Fame. In 1986 he received a prestigious award from the Aviation/Space Writers Association for his article on the around-the-world flight of the Voyager.

Upon retirement, Jack and Golda returned to Asheboro and remained active in aviation. Jack was a lifetime member of EAA, a member of AOPA, a director of the EAA/VAA Chapter 3, and a member of the Asheboro Airport Authority. He was also a member of the voting panel of the Motorsports Hall of Fame.

