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# TEAM ORACLE 2016 MEDIA KIT

# SEAN D. TUCKER

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

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Suzanne Herrick, Fedoruk & Associates, Inc.,  
612-247-3079 [suzanne@fedorukinc.com](mailto:suzanne@fedorukinc.com)



# FAST FACTS ABOUT SEAN D. TUCKER

## AIRSHOWS AND TRAINING

- Tucker has been thrilling airshow audiences since 1976.
- He has flown more than 1,250 performances at upwards of 515 airshows in front of over 130 million fans.
- During airshow season, Tucker practices his airshow routine as many as three times every day.
- To endure the extreme physical demands of each routine and remain g-tolerant, Tucker maintains a rigorous physical training schedule, working out more than 340 days per year.
- His cross training includes mountaineering, cave SCUBA diving, mountain biking and heli-skiing.
- Tucker has summited four of the legendary Seven Summits: Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa twice (2012 and 2013); Aconcagua in Argentina in 2014; Mt. Elbrus in Russia in 2014; and, most recently Puncak Jaya (Carstensz Pyramid) in Indonesia in 2016.

## HELPING KIDS AND THE INDUSTRY SOAR

- He has been called the “Ambassador of Aerobatics” by the National Aviation Hall of Fame.
- In 1997, he established Sean D. Tucker’s Tutima Academy of Aviation Safety.
- Tucker is recognized by Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum as a Living Legend of Flight.
- He has won dozens of aerobatic competitions and is the recipient of the industry’s top awards.
- He was awarded 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.
- In 2013, the Experimental Aircraft Association named Tucker as the chairman of aviation’s flagship program to introduce children to flight, Young Eagles.
- Young Eagles is fast approaching a huge milestone – flying the 2 millionth Young Eagle since 1992. There is no other aviation group or program that has inspired as many kids about aviation.

## SOARING WITH THE SKY DANCE

- More than half of Tucker’s aerobatic maneuvers are unique and have never been duplicated by other pilots, making Tucker’s performance an unforgettable, awe-inspiring experience.
- During the 13-minute Sky Dance performance, Tucker will pull more than nine positive g-forces and more than seven negative g-forces.







“With a full-throttle attitude, Sean D. Tucker shares his passion for aviation, inspiring others to pursue their dreams, conquer their fears and refine their skills. In fact, Sean's values embody the very same qualities that have driven Oracle, making him 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**. He is advancing flight safety, inspiring countless pilots and makes millions of jaws drop each year with his ground-breaking, one-of-a-kind aerobatic performances.

## LEGENDARY AVIATOR & INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

“I've been given a lot of gifts in my life – being able to live a dream and be successful at it,” says Tucker. “**It's my time to pay back** and I really enjoy paying it back.”

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 nearly two million Young Eagles since the program began.

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 and Gene Cernan. He has been inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the International Aerobatics Hall of Fame and the 2001 USAF Gathering of Eagles. Among many industry honors, he is a recipient of both the Crystal Eagle Award and the **General Charles E. Yeager International Aeronautical Achievement Award**.

## 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 CNN, The Weather Channel, The Discovery Channel, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, countless local news programs, dozens of aviation magazines and newspapers.



## ADVENTURER, MENTOR AND PATRIOT

Whether 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 summited four of the legendary Seven Summits.

When not flying, climbing, diving or skiing Tucker is **actively involved in his hometown and aviation communities**. He has been called the "Ambassador of Aerobatics" by the National Aviation Hall of Fame. 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 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." His enthusiasm is contagious. It's evident in the way he undertakes any challenge – with gusto and fervor.



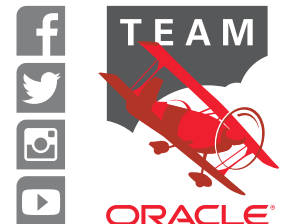
Tucker is a **patriotic American who often expresses his gratitude for the men and women who serve this country**. His signature closing statement during airshows and conversations is "God Bless America."

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.

Sean D. Tucker is **presented by Oracle**. With more than 420,000 customers and deployments in more than 145 countries, Oracle offers a comprehensive and fully integrated stack of cloud applications, platform services and engineered systems. More at [www.Oracle.com](http://www.Oracle.com).

## ACCOLADES AND HONORS

- Honorary Thunderbird, Blue Angel, Canadian Snowbird, Brazilian Smoke Squadron and Golden Knight
- 2015: International Aerobatics Hall of Fame
- 2014: Wings Over the Rockies, Spreading Wings Award
- 2013: President and Founder of Every Kid Can Fly
- 2013: Named International Chairman of EAA Young Eagles
- 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





"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

## THE SKY DANCE

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

For a thrilling 13 minutes Tucker expertly performs one-of-a-kind and precision maneuvers with intriguing names such as **The Centrifuge, Double Hammerhead, Alley Oop, Forward Flip, The 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**.

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**. Finally, Tucker inverts the airplane and cuts the third ribbon. It is truly a unique experience to behold.

## 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:

**The 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 – it is the smallest in the industry.

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

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

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

**The 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 appearing to stand on its tail. He rapidly uses all of the flight controls to maintain this precision balancing act.

**The Triple Ribbon Cut:** With audience help, Tucker races the 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. It is truly a unique experience to behold.



## ORACLE CHALLENGER III:

# Soaring with the Sky Dance Dream Machine

The striking red and white Oracle Challenger III is one of the most recognizable aerobatic airplanes in the sky. The **custom-built** airplane utilizes the latest technology from aerobatics, drag racing and sailing, along with five different aircraft so Tucker can **turn aerobatic flying into art**.



## ORACLE CHALLENGER III FACTS

- A revolutionary set of wings on the Oracle Challenger III features **eight ailerons instead of four**, allowing Tucker to make precise aerobatic movements.
- It features a **400+ horsepower**, custom-built Lycoming engine that turns a composite Hartzell three-blade propeller.
- **'The Claw' propeller** is the only certified advanced composite propeller available for aerobatic use. It is made of a **unique combination of carbon fiber and Kevlar™**, with an **electroformed nickel leading edge erosion shield**. It is co-molded on an integral stainless steel shank that accommodates bolt-on counterweights needed for aerobatic performances.
- 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 steel frame and special fabric skin from the cockpit back to the tail. The vertical fin is covered in carbon graphite while the rudder is covered in aluminum fabric.
- The airplane wings hold **smoke generators, pyrotechnics** and cameras.
- The Oracle Challenger III undergoes **regular inspection** by A&P/IA and A&P **certified specialists** who travel with the airplane as part of Team Oracle.
- Before each airshow season, the Oracle Challenger III is **disassembled, inspected and rebuilt** according to exact specifications. It's a lengthy process that takes months.



## 2016: A MULTI-MILLION MILESTONE YEAR

### Young Eagles Chairman Counts Down to the Flight of the 2 Millionth

Since 1992, a rather silent movement has been underfoot, spirited by the world's largest volunteer air force of 45,000 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 movement, called Young Eagles is expected to fly its 2 millionth child in 2016.

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, and US Airways "Miracle on the Hudson" flight crew Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeff Skiles. Tucker was named chairman in 2013.

### 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 612-247-3079, [suzanne@fedorukinc.com](mailto:suzanne@fedorukinc.com), or call EAA headquarters at 877-806-8902 or (920) 426-4831; [youngeagles@eaa.org](mailto:youngeagles@eaa.org). More at [www.youngeagles.org](http://www.youngeagles.org)

### SOARING TO 2 MILLION!

The initial goal of the Young Eagles 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 80,000 kids to aviation each year.







## BOOK A MEDIA FLIGHT

### Soar in the Skies with Sean D. Tucker

To share the passion for aviation with media audiences, Tucker and his team welcome **credentialed** media for a 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.**

### 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, or join the flight from the Seneca photo airplane.

To schedule a flight or to cover the Young Eagles flight, contact Suzanne Herrick in advance at 612-247-3079 or [suzanne@fedorukinc.com](mailto: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 following the flight.

### WHAT TO BRING

- Cameras with straps to ensure it remains with the videographer/photographer in flight
- A/V line cord
- A flash/thumb drive of 10 GB or higher is recommended

