

History of the Long-EZ Rutan Aircraft Factory

Founded 1967

Last Homebuilt Plans sold 1985



Oshkosh 2010

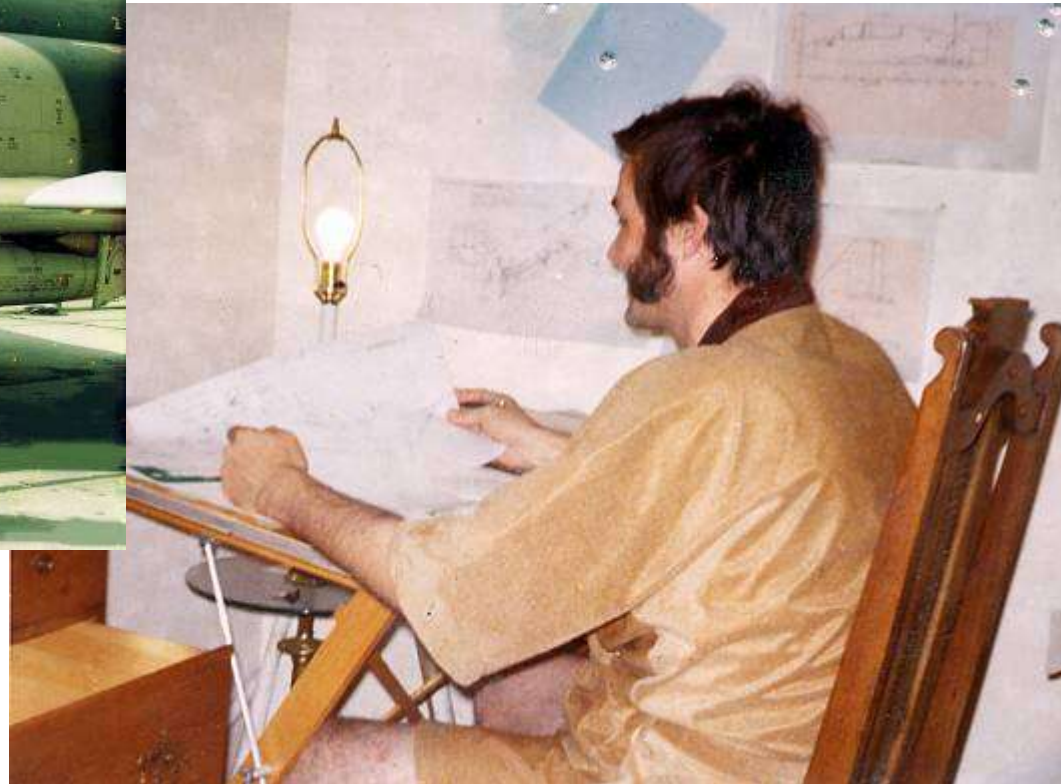
By burt Rutan

The Rutan Aircraft Factory Fleet 1967 to 1985



RAF as a full-time job

The big jump down: USAF Flight Test Engineer to Entrepreneur 1972



Building the VariViggen 1968 to 1971



An Old-fashioned Drawing Board 1978



~1985



Teaching the World to build Moldless Composite Airplanes 1976 to 1978



The RAF Saturday Demos Mojave, 1976 to 1982



RAF gets solar water heat

1978



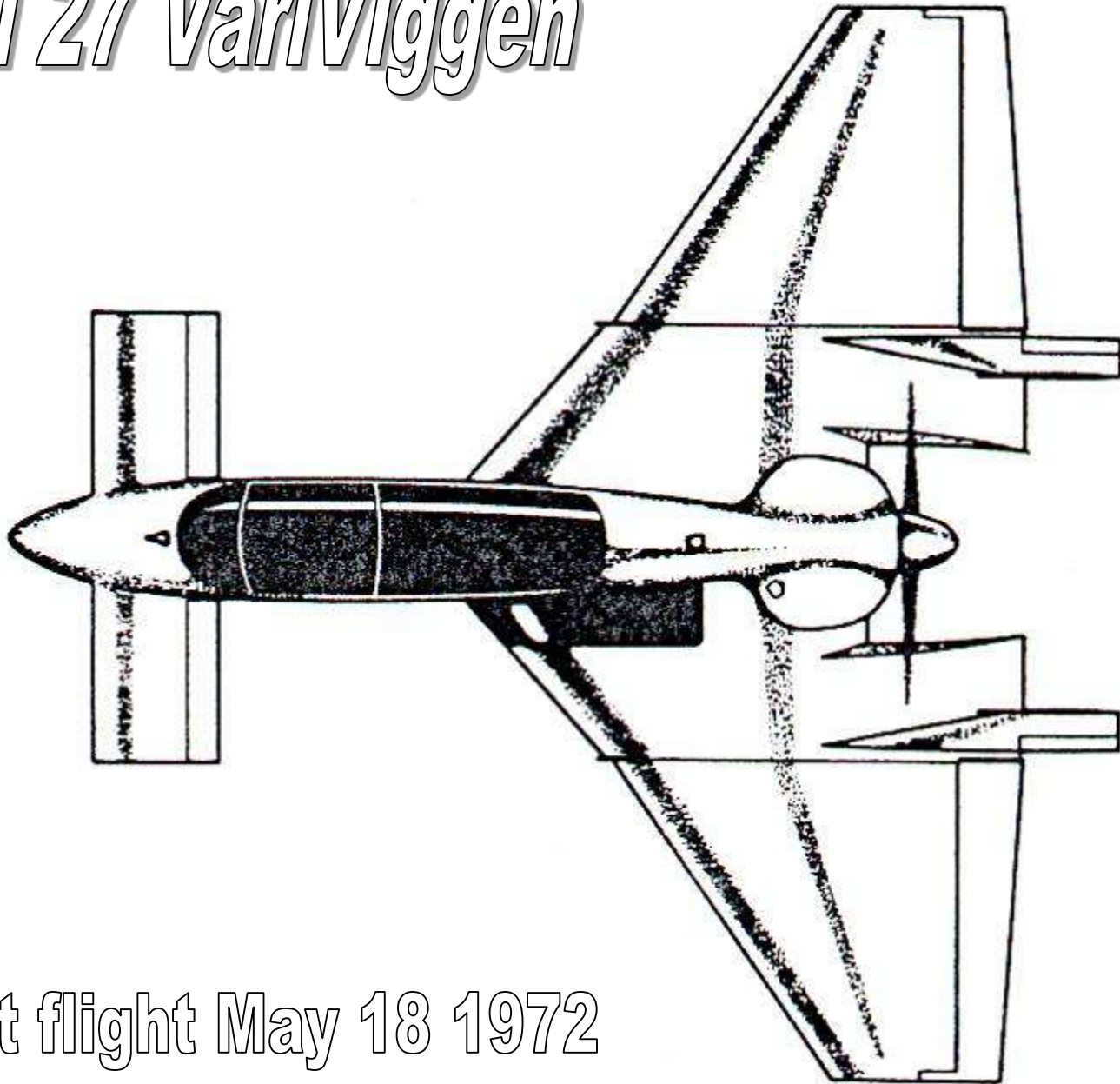
VariEze fly-in at Mojave ~ 1979



Birthday Party at Mojave
A surprise, every 5 years
This one is 1988



Model 27 VariViggen



First flight May 18 1972

Development

1967



Promotion

Carolyn 1973

Fun With

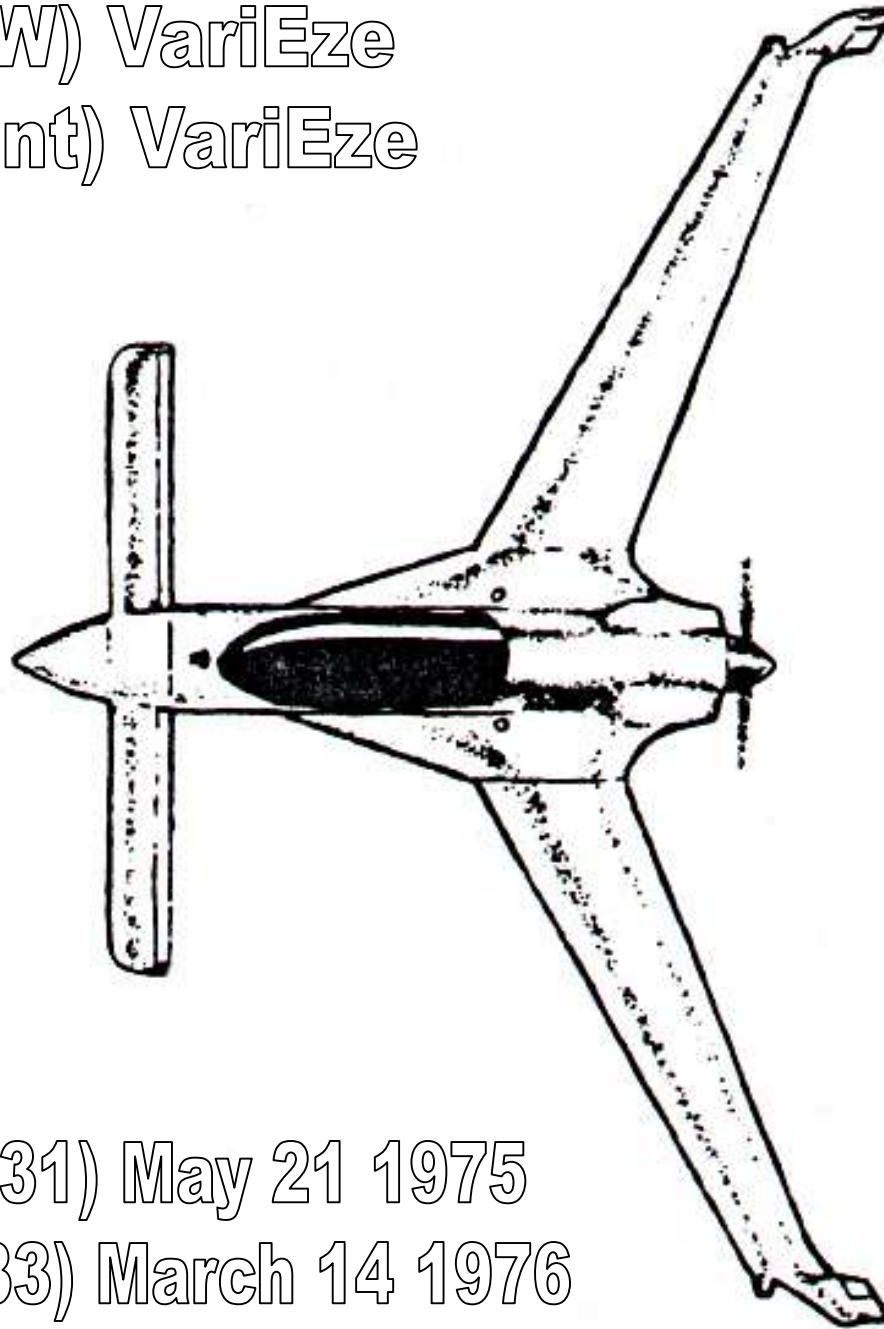
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Death Race 2000
Filmed in 1974





Model 31, (VW) VariEze
Model 33, (cont) VariEze



First flight (Mod31) May 21 1975
First flight (Mod 33) March 14 1976

VariEze Proof-of-concept Prototype

Model 31

N7EZ

VW1600 Engine

May 1975



Model 31 N7EZ the VW-powered POC



The First-Ever Airplane to use Whitcomb's Winglets





Model 33 Plans-built VariEze

Continental O-200 engine First flight March 1976



Rhino-Rudder Research Control, without Stability

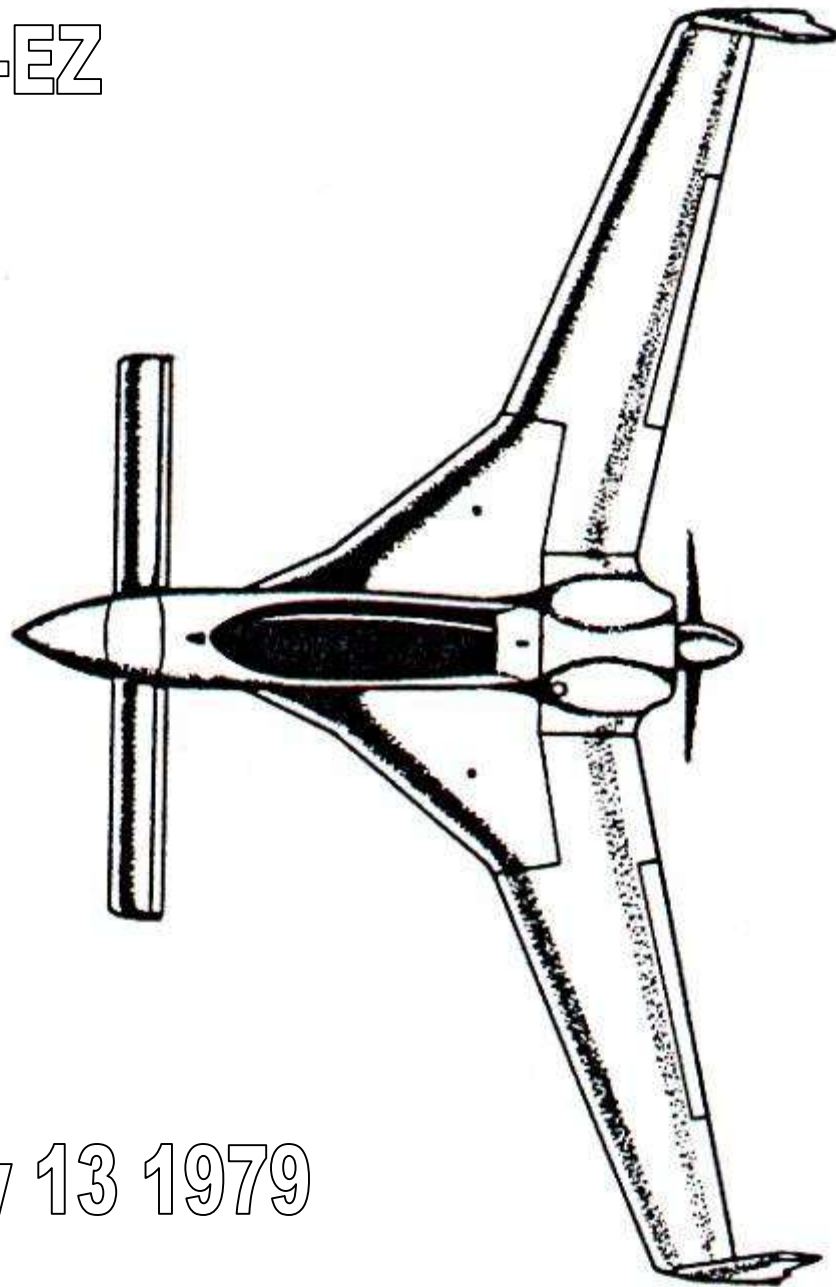


Burt's Final VariEze Model 33 Flight

Before the NASM delivery flight by Doug Shane



Model 61 Long-EZ



First flight July 13 1979

Long-EZ Fun



Mike Melvill's Fleet 1980





LongEZ Deep-Stall Safety Research



Pulse-detonation Long-EZ Thrust provided by noise.....





We could not resist



A RAF Gathering Oshkosh 1982





Oshkosh Late 70s



Oshkosh Flight Line ~ 1980

Oshkosh Tent Talk ~ 1977



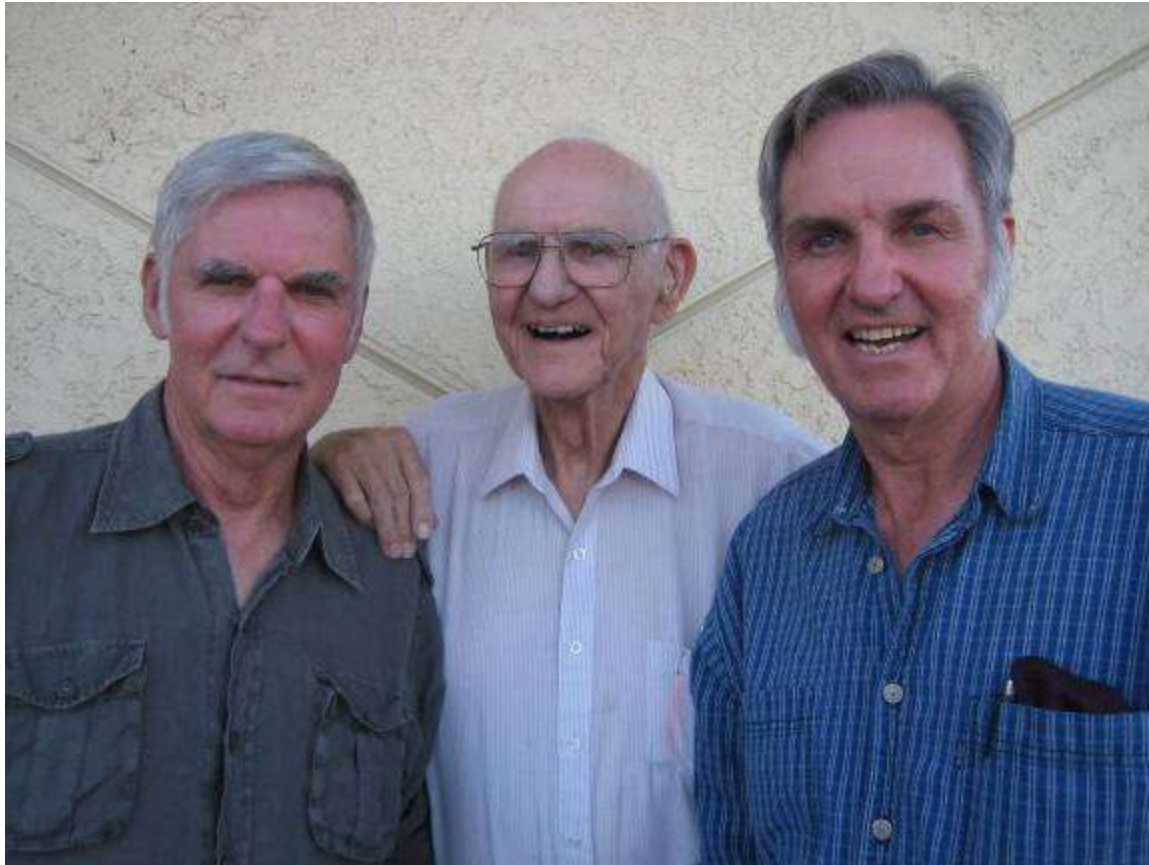
Oshkosh arrival, 1979

Introduction of Long-EZ and Defiant



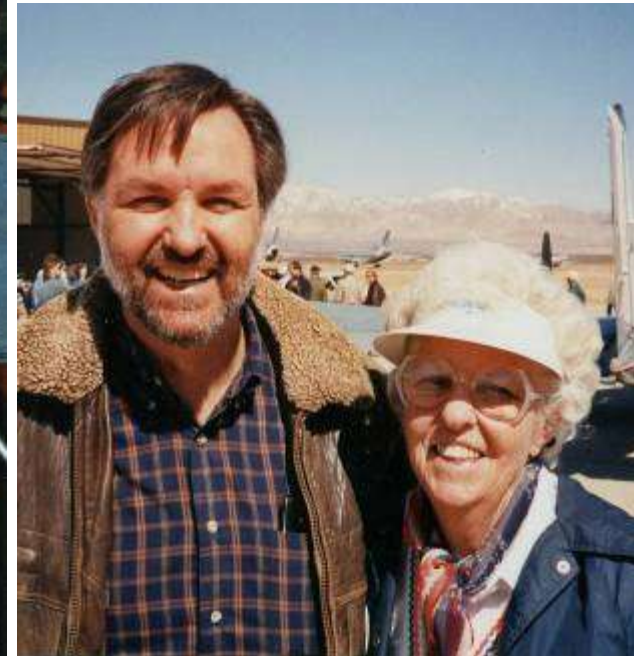
Pop Rutan and His Boys

Pop provided the Funds for RAF Founding



Mom Rutan

Rutan-brothers Cheerleader and Oshkosh EZ-Counter
1938 to 2000



Carolyn Rutan

RAF Manager 1972 to 1978

1975 in VariEze POC



1973 in VariViggen



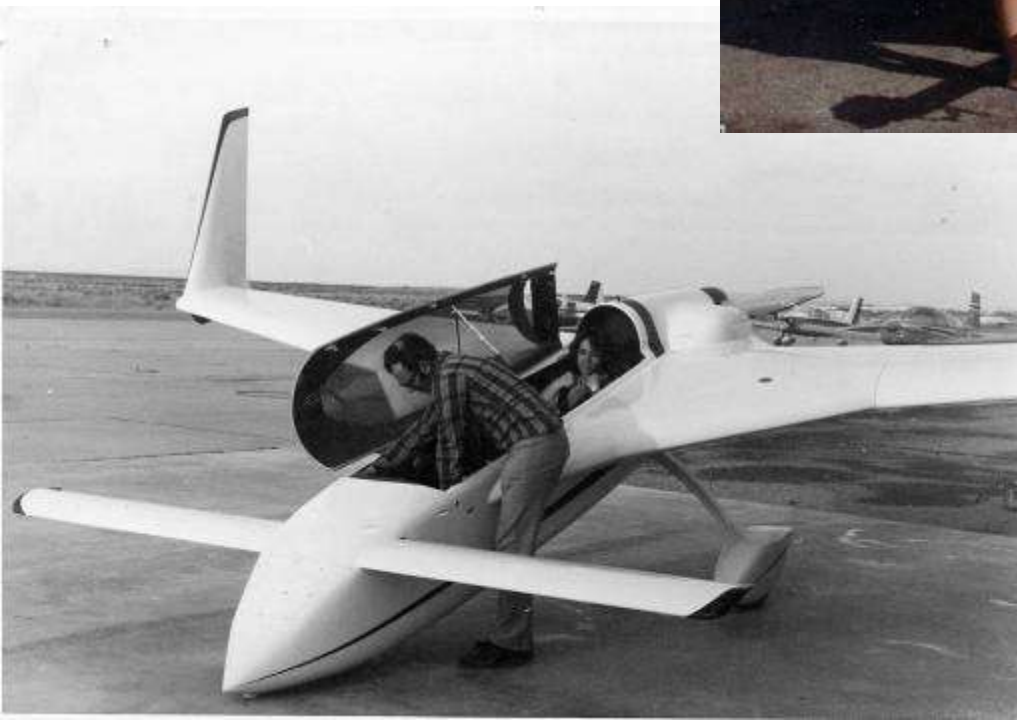
1974 with EAA 'Outstanding New Design Trophy



Sally Melvill
RAF Manager
1978 to 1985



Trish and Sally
Solitaire to Oshkosh
1983



Trish
First LongEz Ride
1981

Tonya Rutan

The RAF Manager
1988-present



***Dick Rutan
RAF Test Pilot
1975 to 1981***



"I'm pretty much a hero pilot, so they came and asked me to fly their airplane," he tells me with a dead-serious demeanor. "There isn't a better pilot around." Rutan pulls up the sleeve of a full-body green flight suit and strokes his arm. "See this right here? This is the velvet arm. It is without equal in the universe."

Dick Rutan, Los Angeles Times, November 12, 2001

Another Birthday Surprise Party 1998



Questions?