

September 19, 2007
For immediate release

Georgia aviation celebration scheduled for McKinnon

A celebration of the 100th anniversary of Georgia's first airplane flight will take place at McKinnon St. Simons Island Airport on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 4 to 9 p.m. The free family event, "Adventures in Aviation: A celebration of 100 years of flight in Georgia," is sponsored by the Glynn County Airport Commission.

The event will feature food, exhibits, displays of vintage aircraft, activities for children, bouncy walk, tethered hot air balloon rides, and a movie. Some of the festivities will be inside hangars, so rain shouldn't be a problem.

A highlight of the event is the appearance of Ken Blackburn, famous for holding the Guinness record for time aloft for paper airplanes. Blackburn will demonstrate the art of making successful paper airplanes, give a demonstration, and hold a contest for longest time aloft. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

The event will conclude with a free 7 p.m. showing of the Disney movie, "The Flight of the Navigator." The cinema-quality movie will be shown in a large hangar, and families are invited to bring their own beach chairs. Free Coca-Cola and popcorn will be available.

The first powered flight in Georgia took place in 1907, when bicycle shop owner Ben Epps flew his own aircraft in a cow pasture near Athens. Early pilots in Glynn County used the St. Simons Island beach as a landing strip.

"Although the event is being held at McKinnon, this is a county-wide celebration," said Commission Chair Marie Dodd. She noted that the McKinnon airport, which dates back to 1938, was the first commercial airport in Glynn County.

#

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Jett and Leslie Lamkin
912.638.9053

