



WaterFlying

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Donations for seaplane rides during Jones Brothers' 10-year anniversary celebration will go to Companions for Courage, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in central Florida. The organization consists of special therapy companion animals and their volunteer handlers who escort child victims of abuse into the courtroom, where the companion sits with the child in the witness box to provide comfort and calm.

C-53 BACK ON FLOATS



The Douglas C-53 based at the Greenville, Maine, Municipal Airport is going back on EDO floats. The airplane, which is the military troop transport version of the civilian DC-3, flew for a number of years on the big EDO 78-29400 amphib until the floats suffered significant damage when a propeller went into beta on landing in Greenville more than a dozen years ago. The restoration project also includes rebuilt engines and props. The airplane likely will not fly until sometime in 2021.

live entertainment while waiting for their flights. The Jones Brothers website (jonesairandsea.com) will have a banner on the home page for advance contributions, or contributions can be made at the event. You do not have to take a ride to contribute to Companions for Courage. All contributions will be entered into the grand prize drawing.

Galloway gives the city of Tavares a lot of credit for Jones Brothers success. "It is an enormous advantage to be in America's Seaplane City," he noted. "It's been a perfect symbiotic relationship. I don't see how we could do it elsewhere."

AERO CLUB COMO OPERATING AGAIN

Flying has resumed at Aero Club Como in Como, Italy. Cesare Baj, former president of the club who still is active, told *Water Flying* that "plenty of pilots from continental Europe" are coming to the historic facility on the north side of beautiful Lake Como in far northern Italy.

SPA had planned to make Aero Club Como the 2020 Member Adventure

trip destination this October, but travel restrictions implemented as a result of the pandemic led to cancellation of this year's trip. Aero Club Como was the first Member Adventure trip SPA organized, and the success of that trip in October 2016 was the reason for a planned return visit. SPA will reschedule the Member Adventure trip when conditions permit.

New additions to Aero Club Como's fleet include a Cessna 172 on amphibious floats that was purchased in 2019 in Toronto, and a Republic Seabee. "Last week I had the chance to take a British photographer from Como to Cala di Volpe, a super-top location in Sardinia," Baj reported in late July. "In other words, we are recovering. Greetings to everybody, with the hope of hosting you and a group of SPA members soon." ■



The Kunlong is the largest amphibious airplane flying today.

CHINESE AMPHIB SEA TRIALS

The Chinese designed and built AG600 Kunlong, the world's largest flying amphibious aircraft, completed its first open-water sea trial in late July, taking off, flying over, and landing on the Yellow Sea just off of Qingdao in East China. The four-engine turboprop, which some say is modeled on Howard Hughes' H-4 Hercules Spruce Goose, made its maiden flight in December 2017 and its first water takeoff and landing in 2018 on an inland reservoir.

The Kunlong is intended to perform forest fighting, marine rescue and other special-mission objectives. In the maritime rescue role it can accommodate up to 50 people. In certain configurations it is able to loiter for up to 12 hours or fly 2,500 miles. The firefighting variant, expected to be operational in 2023, will be capable of carrying 24,000 pounds of water. ■

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