



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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COLUMBIA LAUNCHES UNIQUE DEMONSTRATION TOUR FEATURING SEAN D. TUCKER

March 29, 2006 – (Bend, OR) – Columbia Aircraft announced today that it is launching a second product demonstration of a truly unique nature – the *Columbia Airshow Tour featuring Sean D. Tucker*.

World-renowned aerobatics performer Sean D. Tucker will be flying a Columbia 400SL at major airshows throughout the United States in 2006 performing a routine demonstrating upset recovery techniques. The goal of the tour is to demonstrate the capabilities of the Columbia – the only Utility Category aircraft certified since 1968 - and also to promote Tucker's E-PATS (Executive Pilot Awareness Training School). All maneuvers demonstrated fall within the Columbia's higher G limit load for Utility Category aircraft and some maneuvers are also those used in the E-PATS program.

"E-PATS is Sean D. Tucker's specialized course at the Tutima Academy of Aviation Safety that teaches pilots how to recognize and recover from unusual attitudes," stated Randy S. Bolinger, Vice President of Marketing & Sales at Columbia Aircraft. "Columbia Aircraft's commitment to safety extends beyond the inherent safety features built into every Columbia aircraft. The Company safety philosophy, 'Safety By Design – Not By Default,' permeates all aspects of the business from aircraft structures to manufacturing to operations to training. E-PATS is a tool to help train the pilot to be a safer operator."

"E-PATS is available to pilots of all aircraft types. I selected the Columbia 400 for E-PATS because the Utility Category airframe has the robustness needed to withstand the day-to-day rigors of such advanced training and demanding maneuvers," said Sean D. Tucker. "I'm also very excited to be flying the Columbia in the airshow demonstration to promote the need for ongoing safety and awareness training. The 400 recovers from spins more predictably than many aerobatic aircraft I've flown."

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The *Columbia Airshow Tour* is scheduled to make 24 stops in 2006 beginning at the EAA Sun 'n Fun Fly-In at Lakeland, Florida. Most of the shows attract the world's best performers including the Blue Angels, Thunderbirds, Snow Birds – and, of course, Sean D. Tucker in both his Team Oracle Challenger and Columbia 400SL. The *Columbia Airshow Tour featuring Sean D. Tucker* runs concurrently with Columbia's other national tour – the *Fly Columbia Tour* that is making an additional 30 stops in 2006 at FBOs, trade shows, special events and both regional and local fly-ins. Both Columbia tours provide ample opportunities for qualified aircraft buyers to take a demonstration flight.

The *Columbia Airshow Tour featuring Sean D. Tucker* is sponsored by Teledyne Continental Motors, *FLYING* Magazine, Garmin, Hartzell Propeller, Jeppesen, AeroShell, AirBP, Kelly Aerospace, Mountain High Equipment & Supply, Precise Flight and Oregon Aero.

"We're thrilled that Sean D. Tucker selected the Columbia and that major sponsors have chosen to support this unique demonstration and valuable E-PATS safety training," Bolinger added. "This tour isn't a paid endorsement; it's a real-life product demonstration in the type of aircraft that GA pilots fly everyday. The fact is that aircraft can get into unusual attitudes and pilots must be able to recognize the scenario and understand how to recover. Pilots should be continually training and upset recovery is an important part of advanced flight training."

Columbia Aircraft manufactures a variety of all-composite aircraft including the world's fastest certified piston aircraft – the Columbia 400. The Columbia 350, 350i, 350SL and 350SLX are normally aspirated, four-place aircraft with a cruise speed of 191 knots. The Columbia 400, 400i, 400SL and 400SLX are intercooled, twin-turbocharged, four-place aircraft certified to FL250 with a cruise speed of 235 knots. In addition to providing legendary performance, both models are renowned for their high level of standard equipment, quality and safety features, including dual electrical systems, dual wing spars and Utility Category certification.

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SEAN D. TUCKER