

Martin Jetpack Adventure at AirVenture

Most of you reading this know me, and some of you have met my cousin Jim Ruff. He bought and flew my old Quicksilver MX after I got my 2 seater. Our mothers are sisters and there maiden name was Wild, so we have a legitimate claim to being "Half-Wild." We've flown together, ridden Harleys together, and each year try to spend a couple of days together at AirVenture. One of the mornings starts with an O-dark thirty shower and by daylight we are at Aeroshell Square for photo-ops before the crowd arrives. Wednesday, July 30th, got off to just such a start. We were examining the rocket racing plane, when we hear 2 stroke noise from the aerobatic plane tie down area. At first I thought the Honda Pavilion was upgrading their landscaping,

but to our astonishment the crew from Martin Jetpack, one of NBC's Today Show crews with Jeanna Wolf, and a CNN crew were preparing to do live feeds from AirVenture featuring the reporters doing short ground controlled flights of the Jetpack. Our first reaction was "Get some pictures before we're told to leave!" One of the TV directors gave us the eye for a few seconds before deciding that we were harmless, despite all appearances. A gentleman bearing a strong resemblance to the actor Chevy Chase came over and introduced himself as the legal council for Martin Jetpack. He was very excited over the media coverage and answered all our questions about the Jetpack. He explained the extensive use of Kevlar and carbon fiber in

the ducted fan, landing cushion device, and V-4 liquid cooled 2 stroke engine. At 132 pounds it's rated at 200 horse power! About this time the reporters had finished with their broadcasts and more people were gathering. I slid into the controls of the display unit and asked Jim to take my picture, which he did and then changed places with me for his photo, while "Chevy" is holding our extra camera gear and giving us a big thumbs up! These people are way too trusting. We chatted shortly with designer Glenn Martin and his lovely wife before moving on to more Adventures at AirVenture for "Two Half-Wild and Crazy Guys"

Jim Cote and Jim Ruff



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