

By Keith Beveridge

## Velocity service center opens in Florida.

Velocity, Inc., has announced the opening of a new builder service center at its home base in Sebastian, Florida, that will help customers finish their kits faster. Company President Duane Swing says that Velocity builders will now be able to work with company employees who will help them finish their airplanes. The target time is just 60 days. To maintain the "instructional-assistance" aspect of the rules, Swing says "When they leave, we leave," which satisfies FAA guidance that paid help can be provided only if it's instructional.

The 60-day program is called Helping Hand. Velocity will also offer a Head Start program that will provide two weeks of up-front help before builders take their kits home. All six of the company's Velocity models will be supported by the programs, Swing says, including the new Velocity SUV.

The Velocity SUV, which debuted at AirVenture '99, is an entry-level four-place design that uses the four-cylinder 160-hp Lycoming O-320 engine. The fixed-gear airplane incorporates dual-yoke flight controls that allow for an easy transition for pilots trained in yoke-controlled airplanes, Swing says.

The SUV has a range of nearly 1000 miles at an 8000-foot cruise speed of 155 knots. An additional 4 inches of usable interior space and a single gull-wing door are made possible by the elimination of the center keel that is used to house the center stick control system on the other Velocity models.

With a kit cost of \$22,000, the



PHOTO: COURTESY VELOCITY, INC.

**The new four-place Velocity SUV can be built and flown for less than \$50,000, the company says.**

company says that it's possible to build and fly the SUV for less than \$50,000 including the engine, paint, upholstery and avionics. For more information, contact Velocity, Inc., 561/589-1860; [www.velocityaircraft.com](http://www.velocityaircraft.com).

### Golden West Moves North

Organizers of the Golden West fly-in plan to move this year's event from Atwater, California, to Sacramento. The event will be held September 8-10 at Sacramento Executive Airport—located 3 miles south of downtown Sacramento. Fly-in Chairman Bill George says the main reason for moving is the larger population base in Sacramento compared to Atwater, where the fly-in had been held its first two years in '98 and '99.

Golden West will include a daily airshow, homebuilt aircraft fly-bys, aircraft judging and awards, more than 150 aircraft forums and building workshops, kit aircraft displays, an ultralight area, and youth programs including a Young Eagles event that will provide flights for young people age 8-17. For more information, see the Golden West Aviation Association web site: [www.gwfly-in.org](http://www.gwfly-in.org).

### Check the Weight and Balance

The FAA has released a completely re-written *Aircraft Weight and Balance Handbook* that replaces its old Advisory Circular 91-23A. The new book is enlarged and expanded to include color figures and "was prepared in the recognition of the importance of weight and balance technology in conducting safe and efficient flight," according to Aviation Supplies and Academics (ASA)—a company reprinting the handbook for sale.

ASA says that the handbook provides information to aircraft mechanics and homebuilders on how to accurately calculate empty weight and empty-weight c.g. It also furnishes pilots with information on loading and operating the aircraft to ensure its weight is within the allowable limit and the c.g. is within the allowable range. The ASA version of the book is \$12.95. For more information, contact the company at 800/426-8338.

### F-II Gets New Owner

PrecisionTech Aircraft, Inc., of Cartersville, Georgia, is the new manufacturer and distributor of Ferguson kit aircraft. The two-place Ferguson F-II pusher has a useful load of 500 pounds and a cruise speed of 65 mph. It was named "Best New Design" at Sun 'n Fun '91, and the company says that more than 25 of them have been sold. For more information, contact PrecisionTech at 770/607-4009. **KP**