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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

**31 Hours for Tango 31:
Cannonball Run Honors *Airplane Repo* Star Kevin Lacey
Raising Funds for Youth Aviation Nonprofit
St. Augustine, FL / McKinney, TX / San Diego, CA**



West Covina, CA -- Kevin Lacey, Discovery Channel's larger-than-life star of *Airplane Repo*, was more than a television personality. A professional pilot and FAA-certified A&P mechanic, Lacey built a career in aircraft repossession, but his true passion was mentoring the next generation of aviators.

That passion became reality through Tango 31 Aero Clube, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth aviation organization Lacey founded at Aero Country Airport in McKinney, Texas. The organization introduces high school students ages 15–19 to the aviation industry through hands-on aircraft restoration, flight training, and technical education—offering participants a pathway toward earning pilot certificates and A&P licenses, and ultimately careers in aviation maintenance, operations, and flight.

Kevin Lacey's unexpected passing in 2025 deeply impacted the aviation community and created significant financial challenges for Tango 31 Aero Clube. Despite its all-volunteer staff and continued student participation, the organization now urgently needs funding to maintain operations and preserve its role as a critical access point for young people seeking an alternative path to success.

To secure Lacey's legacy, longtime friends Chris Holder of Concorde Battery Corporation, and Charlie Duffie are undertaking an ambitious fundraising challenge known as "31 Hours for Tango 31."



Beginning May 1, Holder and Duffie will attempt a nonstop, 31-hour Cannonball-style run from Patty Wagstaff's Aerobatic School at St. Augustine Airport (Florida) to San Diego, California—racing the clock to raise awareness and funds for Tango 31 Aero Clube. The cross-country drive will be completed in a Factory Five Daytona powered by a Coyote engine, symbolizing the same determination and technical excellence Kevin Lacey championed. The team will meet up with the Tango 31 Aero

Clube in McKinney, Texas, and race against Tango 31's aircraft out of the state.

Meet the Drivers at SUN 'n FUN

Aviation supporters can meet Chris Holder and Charlie Duffie in person at SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo throughout the week. The duo will appear at the Concorde Battery Corporation Booth B050, signing free posters, meeting fans, and appearing alongside the aerobatic stars of SUN 'n FUN's world-class airshows. The car will be on display at the grounds of Sun 'n Fun including at the Goulian Aerospots (April 15) & Titan Fuels Titan Aerobatic Team (April 18) on the Warbird Ramp.



Supporting the Future of Aviation

Tango 31 Aero Clube remains open and active, providing free access to aviation education for students who otherwise may never have the opportunity. From aircraft mechanics and pilots to operators and engineers, the program offers a lifeline to motivated youth through mentorship, discipline, and hands-on experience.

Operating aircraft and maintaining FAA-compliant training environments is costly—but participation remains free to students.

Every dollar raised through “31 Hours for Tango 31” directly supports the continuation of this life-changing program.

Get Involved

Donations, sponsorships, and support opportunities are available now. Help ensure Kevin Lacey’s dream lives on—and that future aviators have the tools, training, and chance to succeed.

Donate today at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/31-hours-for-tango-thirty-one>

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About us:

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