

MEMBERS/CHAPTERS IN ACTION

MEMBER CENTRAL

CHAPTER DOUBLES MEMBERSHIP

Partnership creates opportunities for A&P students

IF YOUR CHAPTER IS LOOKING for ways to increase members and attract younger members, look no further than Chapter 850 in Marquette, Michigan. Last summer, the chapter had 32 members. By the end of October it had more than 65!

How did they double their membership? It was simple: They contacted the local university and invited the students in the aviation program to become members.

Chapter Vice President Keith Norton, EAA 516096, is an assistant professor at Northern Michigan University (NMU) and invited the 42 aviation maintenance students to take advantage of EAA's free six-month trial membership for students. Thirty-three students joined. As the trial memberships end, many students said they plan to become regular paying EAA members.

Two of those students, Brandi Flinn, EAA 1039595, and Russell Armock, EAA 1039544, accompanied Keith to a recent Chapter Leaders Academy weekend, where they networked with members from all over the country and had the opportunity to speak with EAA Founder Paul Poberezny about the Baby Ace project he's currently working on.

Brandi said some of the benefits of membership are being connected to a larger community and learning what's going on in aviation, as well as the opportunity to work on projects. Russell said, "The stuff that we're interested in, the members have been there and done it."

Keith noted the partnership is a natural extension of both the chapter and the school. The students can gain real-world experience by providing assistance to members building or restoring an aircraft, and the chapter itself benefits from the students teaching what they know to other members. Brandi and



Russell are working on rebuilding an engine for Chapter President Greg Durand's Cessna 120 project, as well as restoring an NMU Ercoupe.

"On a recent visit to EAA's Skiplane Fly-In and AirVenture Museum with some of our NMU student chapter members, I experienced something priceless: watching these young people, so excited about what they were seeing and experiencing, hearing them talk about this whole new world of EAA," said Greg, EAA 740859.

The chapter has set up a Kermit Weeks Hangar volunteer weekend to come to Oshkosh to help restore and maintain EAA aircraft. It also has plans to bring the young members to EAA Oshkosh AirVenture 2011 to volunteer.

With aviation programs at schools all over the country, the free six-month student membership is a great way to reach out to younger members and continue to build EAA and the aviation community.

RAY STITS AWARDED

Longtime aviator honored

RAY STITS, EAA LIFETIME 136, inventor of Poly-Fiber aircraft covering and designer and builder of 15 airplanes, received three FAA awards: the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, and the FAA Aviation Safety Award in recognition of more than 50 years of safe flying.

Since receiving his A&E mechanic certificate in 1943 and his private pilot certificate in 1945, Ray has earned commercial pilot, single- and multiengine land and sea, single- and multiengine instrument, helicopter, gyroplane, and glider ratings. In the late 1940s, Ray built the world's smallest airplane, the Stits Junior, then later an even smaller plane, the Stits Sky Baby. He went on to design the Stits Playboy, Flut-R-Bug, Skycoupe, and Playmate, among others.

In 1953, Ray started the first EAA chapter at Flabob Airport in Riverside, California.



WELCOME, NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

Louis Adam, EAA 866131, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Ellis Bailey, EAA 38153, Yorba Linda, California

Jim Elliott, EAA 773138, Florence, Alabama

Dale Ellis, EAA 632088, Greer, South Carolina

Matthias Gottmann, EAA 832283, Sunnyvale, California

Bryan Greenawalt, EAA 884473, Chicago, Illinois

Dennis McGuire, EAA 439381, Erie, Pennsylvania

Scott Newman, EAA 350973, Lafayette, California

David Pitcairn, EAA 502943, Essington, Pennsylvania

James Slattery, EAA 1021734, San Diego, California

Wayne Wood, EAA 130738, Little Canada, Minnesota