

Tribune Star

VALLEY VIEWER

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TribStar.com

Sunday, April 19, 2015

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Chapter President **Alan Harder** taxis his 1946 Aeronca "Chief" to its hangar. Harder's father owned the plane in the late '60s before trading it. Later damaged, it didn't fly again for 45 years until Harder re-acquired and restored it.

PILOTS FLY A LEVEL ABOVE

Terre Haute's Chapter 83 of the Experimental Aircraft Association is the Wabash Valley's largest pilot association. Members come from a variety of backgrounds and fly a variety of airplanes. Aircraft range from the very basic, costing about the same as a bass boat, to complex business aircraft that can fly cross-country to enhance economic growth in the Wabash Valley.

While most are pilots, all members share an interest in aviation. Some build their own aircraft, others restore antiques, some enjoy WWII "Warbirds" and still others fly modern certified aircraft. Any-

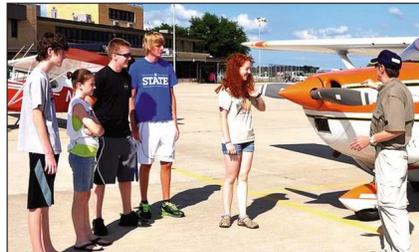
one with an interest in aviation is welcome at their meetings held on the second Saturday of each month or at their Friday lunches at local eateries (www.eaa083.org posts each week's location). Meeting topics cover the many aspects of general aviation.

Foremost among Chapter 83's activities is introducing the fun, enjoyment and possibilities of aviation to the community with its free Young Eagles flights. With safety foremost in their minds, members volunteer their time, skills and aircraft so youngsters eight through seventeen will learn how pilots prepare for flight

on the ground and in the air. After "ground school," it's time to take off! After the unforgettable experience of flight and seeing the local area from the air, each Young Eagle receives a certificate, their own logbook and a free EAA Student Membership. The membership includes valuable free online courses and free admission to many science and technology museums world-wide. Young Eagles who complete the ground school course are eligible to apply for scholarships to complete flight training. For information and dates regarding Chapter 83 or participation in YE's flights go to www.eaa083.org.



At top, temporary "deco" fasteners bristle from Kevin Davidson's aft fuselage, holding parts in perfect alignment. Each "deco" will be replaced with a permanent rivet. Above, **Jeff Wellum** stands beside his assembled Van's RV fuselage.



At top are Young Eagles **Lucas** and **Emily Haan**, **Chase** and **Chandler Stanton** and **Katie Haan** listen to Chapter VP **Jim Fisher** impart aeronautical information before their flight. Above left is EAA pilot **Melanie Able** with Young Eagle **Alyssa Vuilleumier**. At right is Young Eagles **Caitlin** and **Cameron VanGilder** with their ride.



At left is an "Onex" aircraft under construction, and at right is what the finished airplane will look like. Chapter member **Dale Barkley** of Paris, Ill., says he expects to complete the aircraft later this year. The folding wing Onex can be stored in a garage and cruises at 135 mph with fuel economy of 35 mpg.



Chapter members enjoy talking aviation at their standing Friday lunches under their Chapter badge on the wall at **Rollie's Pizza**.



Several Chapter members use their aircraft for business. Here **Nick Mahurin** departs over the city to visit an out-of-state Infracore customer.



Chapter member **JP Mellor** flies a 1949 North American T-6G "Texan." The T-6 (known in its Navy role as an "SNJ") was an advanced single-engine trainer used for pilot instruction during World War II and into the 1950's.