

Garland Wadsworth

1924 - 2004

Garland Wadsworth Founder  
Chapter 83 Terre Haute, IN



EAA Chapter 83 wishes to bid farewell and Godspeed to one of its finest, Garland Wadsworth. Garland's love for aviation, especially recreational aviation, was evident to all who crossed his path. Garland was perhaps most responsible for the existence of EAA Chapter 83. He was among four individuals who sent letters to area pilots inviting them to attend an organizational meeting to form a chapter in the new Experimental Aircraft Association. Approximately 75 people attended this first meeting in early 1960. Only a few homebuilt aircraft plans and almost no kits were available at the time, but in spite of this, EAA Chapter 83 was chartered on March 1, 1960, with Garland as one of the 10 original charter members. During its formative months, attendance dropped as pilots joined with others and formed partnerships, flying clubs, and bought used aircraft. Three additional meetings were held before Chapter activity ceased.

In March of 1970, Garland again mailed notices to all area pilots and others interested in reorganizing Chapter 83. They met in his shop on Sunday afternoon, March 8, 1970. A list of those interested and the minutes of the meeting were sent to the EAA office in June, and the Chapter received its reissued charter on June 24, 1970. For many years following, Chapter 83 meetings were held at Garland's shop on South 7th Street with regular membership numbering around 24. Even after Garland could no longer fly, he still attended chapter meetings. He was happy to see his legacy carried on by a new generation of pilots.

I would like to thank EAA Chapter 83 and all the fine folks who made Garland Wadsworth (Dad) proud to be a member of your Chapter. Dad liked to fly and talk about flying. He has influenced and/or infected a lot of people with the aviation bug. I am the oldest of 5 brothers who all have their Private Pilot Certificates. Harley and Van also have instrument ratings. Between us, we currently have 6 airplanes, not counting Dad's Ecoupe and the Volksplane project. I also have 3 sisters (none of whom fly) but Sister Joyce has been a promoter of aviation though, along with your help. She is a science teacher at Honey Creek Middle School and has provided a lot of the kids for the Young Eagles flights that Chapter 83 has been so faithful in doing every year. I believe the world would be a better place to live in if every kid "believed he could fly." We grew up expecting to fly and I don't think Dad made any of us do it. In fact, I remember having to be pretty persistent about wanting to fly in order to get to do it. I think Dad was afraid I was going to wear out his Champ, and I tried too! When I was a teenager, I remember flying places in it with Dad. He always did the flying when he was in the airplane. While at the destination though, Dad would be on the ground talking to people and I would be out shooting landings.

