

District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

The future of aviation is the youth of today. I'm sure you have pondered how can we get today's youth interested in aviation.

Ed Waske, recently put his words into action by creating an event to attract today's youth to aviation. Ed began his model aviation journey at a young age with Free Flight, Control Line (CL), and eventually RC. His model aviation path led to a career in aviation. Ed is chief operating officer and co-owner of Engines & Airframe Solutions Worldwide. Ed's company, based in Bridgeport, West Virginia, services aircraft around the world.

Ed knows firsthand of the shortage of technicians, pilots, engineers, etc., in today's aircraft industry. In early 2020, Ed had an idea of putting together an event to attract youth to aviation by utilizing his own model aviation experience. An event of this magnitude requires volunteers and, of course, money.

Ed pitched his idea to the news media and various aviation industries in the area and the city and many companies donated money. The Flying Wing Nutz of St. Marys offered personnel to support the event along with help from the people at Brodak Manufacturing for CL activities. As Ed's plan came together, things got very interesting. By coincidence I was contacted by Ron Ogren of New York, a former West Virginia modeler, that indicated he belonged to the first model airplane club in West Virginia, created by Carl Hopkins.



Ron indicated Carl formed the club in 1928 to interest youth in aviation. Carl's club held model airplane competitions at the airport in Clarksburg,

West Virginia, the same airport where Ed's event was planned. I confirmed Ron's information with the National Model Aviation Museum in Muncie, Indiana, which indeed had the original newspaper article about Carl Hopkins, dated July 4, 1947.

Carl's and Ed's goals aligned, and Ed named his event The Carl Hopkins Youth Aviation Expo. The event was held on August 20-21, 2021, and featured CL demonstrations, RC buddy boxing, rocket launches, and more. AMA sent Education



RC buddy boxing was very popular, flying more than 200 kids and adults.



Carl Hopkins' daughters attended the event. (Front row, L-R) Diane, granddaughter Lisa, and Mary Jo. (Back row, L-R), Ron Cochran (airport operations), Ed and Pat Waske (event organizers), Mark Radcliff, and Kyle Jaracz.



Thank you to Kyle, Mary, Caleb, and Wyatt Jaracz for managing the AMA Flight Simulators.

Director Kyle Jaracz with the AMA Flight Simulator. West Virginia University displayed and launched model rockets. Ed had balsa gliders and prizes that the kids could win, including a ready-to-fly Apprentice RC airplane.

More than 800 youth and adults participated. Congratulations Ed! I believe your dream event met your goal of introducing young men and women to the world of aviation. The entire community benefited from your event, and I am sure Carl Hopkins is looking down and smiling seeing his dream carried forward.

Until next month, stay safe and fly safely.



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