



*“Rising Above for Education”
“Making Dreams Become A Reality”*

Welcome to our 9th Season of Build A Plane! October 4th kicked off our 9th season of Build A Plane program for youth ages 12—18 years. When we first started our program; the question of the day was where were the students going to come from. Each year the program grew until today we have to cap it at 12—15 students. Any more, we are not able to dedicate time correctly for each student. We have students coming from a 50+ mile radius to join us Tuesday night and every other Saturday.

This season we are concentrating on the Wag Aero Cuby, Cessna 172 and Piper Colt. Those details that take time—as they say in any build, you have 90% complete with another 90% to finish. The last 10% of the build is always the longest and you do not see big “Stuff” going onto the aircraft.

Sending Our Youth Off Over the last three years we have sent off into the world 5 students with a passion in aviation. Four (4) out of the Five (5) we have had for over 5 years of their life. Two of them we now have their brothers in our program.

This is a bittersweet time for us (for me). We get to know these kids, their parents and family. We have been blessed to watch their passions grow in Aviation and other areas of their lives. We wish all of them much success in the future and wait in baited breath to see what accomplishments they will achieve!

Making Dreams Become A Reality!

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Special points of interest

- Wag Aero Cuby Donation
- Cessna 172 at the paint shop
- Flying Club Ups & Downs



Owen Larson



Owen Larson

By Sharon Sandberg

Owen Larson Started with Flight Expo, Inc.'s Build A Plane program when he was 11 years old. He wanted to fly like his Grandma. His Grandma is part of a flying club in Anoka County Airport. Owen at the time lived, ate and breathed hockey. He was on the traveling team, local team. According to sources he was good. About the age of 14 he made a decision that he wanted to pursue a career in Aviation. He resigned from hockey and started flying with John Johnson here in Princeton with Flight Expo, Inc.'s Cessna 150 and continue to be part of Build A Plane. He soloed on his 16th birthday. He applied for the Ray's Scholarship and did receive one from EAA 237. Owen received his wings around his seventeen birthday.

Owen graduated from Princeton High School and from St. Cloud University with his associate degree this Spring. He is now at Mankato University in their aviation program.

Owen's goal is to fly with a major airline.



I wanted to go higher than Rockefeller Center, which was being erected across the street from Saks Fifth Avenue and was going to cut off my view of the sky... Flying got into my soul instantly but the answer as to why must be found some-where back in the mystic maze of my birth and childhood and the circumstances of my earlier life. Whatever I am is elemental and the beginnings of it all have their roots in Sawdust Road. I might have been born in a hovel, but I determined to travel with the wind and stars.

Jacqueline Cochran (1906-1980), Founder & Director of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) and aviation record holder, from The Stars at Noon, 1954.

Kyra Knock

Kyra Knock

By Sharon Sandberg

Krya Knock I received a call last fall (2021) from a young lady who loved to work with her hands. We had already started Build A Plane and were full. Talking with the other board members we made the decision that we would allow her in. Krya lives in Big Lake, (about 30 minutes from us). She works part time at a retail store in Elk River.

Krya has started flying lessons with Kyle Moran in our Cessna 150. She was already to solo the morning that the engine on our aircraft was having issues.

We wish Krya much success in everything she does.

Over the course of our newsletter we will touch base with our youth and let you know how they are progressing in their careers.





Owen Nitz takes flight in Flight Expo, Inc.'s Cessna 150 Flying Club
(One of our Ray Scholarship recipients.)

Flight Expo, Inc.'s Flying Club

By Owen Nitz



Flight Expo, Inc.'s Cessna 150 has been accumulating numerous hours each month with the expansion of our flying club. We still only have the one aircraft, but we have many students and pilots renting the aircraft.

This Spring the total was over 15.

Everything was going perfect for the aircraft and the group, normal maintenance, scheduled flying club clean up etc. Then the first part of August the aircraft oil pressure gage was not working (so we thought). Kyle Moran (the instructor at the time) contacted Duane (our mechanic from Kruse Aviation, Inc.). Duane went up thinking we can just change out the gage, but the aircraft had different ideas.

Well after \$15,000+ we now have a new freshly overhaul engine.

*U*ntil now I have never really lived!

Life on earth is a creeping, crawling business.

It is in the air that one feels the glory of being a man and conquering the elements.

There is an exquisite smoothness of motions and the joy of gliding through space. It is wonderful!

-Gabrielle D'Annunzio

(1863 – 1938), poet & futurist, Italian military & political leader.



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Cub Donation



Duane and his organization made a trip to Wisconsin (twice), and had a small crew disassemble the engine and then re-built the engine with new parts.

Last Thursday was the aircraft first flight. Currently, we are flying off about 10+ hours to “break” the engine in as they say. In other words make sure everything is seeded correctly with short hops.

Kyle Moran (one of our instructors) has now over 500 hours and is applying to other groups to further his career. We wish him the best and thank him for his time.

So, we are looking for new instructors! We have a group of 10+ students needing someone to train them.



Wag Aero Cubby By Sharon Sandberg

February of 2022, Harley Carnes of NJ donated his Wag Aero Cubby and his Commonwealth aircraft into Flight Expo, Inc.’s Build A Plane program.

The Cubby was built by a B-17 gunner who passed away before he could see his Baby Fly. It was always his dream to build and own a Cub.

When we arrived on the field in NJ, the Cub was sitting outside with about 6 inches of snow on her. Cool thing about this field is that this is where Harrison Ford took his tail wheel endorsement.

The maintenance person was extremely nice in letting us move the aircraft into his heated hanger and take it apart to load into the trailer and van.



We had to travel to another airport in NJ to pick up the Common Wealth aircraft. After much juggling, love & patience we were able to load both aircraft into our 24' trailer. The Common Wealth wings went on top of the trailer for the trip home.

Currently the Cubby has been shaken down, cleaned inside (working on the outside), inspected inside of the fuselage. (Found a mouse nest, bees nest and a few other bugs—cleaned them up—but saw no damage).

The wings still need inspection this fall.

Community Out Reach!

Chili Open House: April of this year, we kicked off the Spring season with a Chili Open House event. We sent out over 100 invites, posted on the internet, Facebook, Instagram etc. Cyndi posted the following on Facebook:

Guests will be able to see first hand the work our Build-A-Plane students have been doing on various aircraft as well as the Tsunami Project our Flight Expo, Inc. volunteers have been working on! We will have aircraft and students on hand to share information about the opportunities they have had. Please ask them any questions you may have (we encourage you to!).

This is a great event for anyone interested in learning about what we do and/or how you can help!

Over 50 people came and learned about Flight Expo, Inc. and our programs.



Flight Expo, Inc. at the
Zimmerman Parade/Year End
Spring Event

Here are some photos of
the Zimmerman, MN
Parade, Memorial Week
End, May 2022.

Thank you to Kruse
Aviation, Inc., for helping
us with transportation, all
of the students and
parents that helped out!

Thank you to Matthew
Phillippii
[Aviation - Matthew Phillippi](#)



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THIS FALL.**

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**Making Dreams
Become A
Reality!**