

2008 update from Aviation Explorer Post 352 Mesa, AZ.

This update is from Harold Bliss Advisor of Aviation Explorer Post 352, Charter Commemorative Air Force Wing of Falcon Field, Mesa AZ. We are now up to thirty seven members including, Three Airline Transport Pilot {ATP} flight instructors, who teach our ground school. Our Maintenance staff includes four Aircraft & Power Plant {A/P's} Mechanics, one Inspection Authorization {I/A} and 16 committee members, who are involved in teaching our hands on Aircraft & Helicopter Maintenance. All the Maintenance performed on our newly acquired Piper Cherokee 180D is done by our A/P students under close supervision of our Certified A/P Staff. Technical updates supplied to us by Aircraft Technical Publishers {ATP}, located in California help us maintain our Airplane in airworthy condition in accordance with FAA regulations. Sponsors like ATP, Genuine Aircraft Hardware Co. and others in their special fields, have facilitated in maintaining our Piper Cherokee 180D aircraft. This could not have been achieved without support from all our sponsors. We also receive great support for our aircraft parts and supplies from Varga Enterprises Inc. facilities in Chandler AZ. Our newest supporter for our OH-58A Helicopter, arriving soon is Bob Mace of Falcon Field Mesa AZ.

Our Aviation Explorer Post 352 completed about ninety five percent of all Marshalling at the largest Copper State Air Show in Southern Arizona for the year of 2007 also our fourth year. The show staff were great people to work with. They supplied Transportation on airport & three meals a day for us. Our Explorers performed flawlessly at Copper State air show thanks to the experience obtained in training from the staff at the Oshkosh Explorer Base Camp. Oshkosh is the biggest air show in the World. All 116 plus Aviation Explorers who attend Oshkosh Explorer Base Camp receive an experience of a life time. They receive training in marshalling & people control on taxi ways by working four hours each day. This is our sixth year attending Explorer Base Camp at Oshkosh and we all love it. We are taking 19 Aviation Explorers to Oshkosh this year. Adele Helmle Whom founded Oshkosh Explorer Base Camp along with her Husband & Daughter Katie a sweetie who works very hard setting things in motion.

Kyle Rowe, age 15, Aviation Explorer Post 352

The Aviation Explorer Post 352 is assisting me in my dream of becoming a naval aviator. I receive ground school, maintenance, and flight training in a structured and well-paced environment. Our ground school and flight training is taught by a pilot that flies for a major airline. Our maintenance activities are led by certified A&P mechanics. These professionals allow the Explorers to receive excellent instruction by these dedicated volunteers. I'm learning how to fly and maintain airplanes. This is not only a lot of fun, but also assists me in realizing my career goals. The staff and instructors have been great. You can tell that they really care about assisting the Explorers. The instructors relate well with teenagers and communicate that honesty and hard work are critical to future success. I love the Aviation Explorers. It is now a big part of my life. I look forward to attending the meetings and continuing the friendships that I've made in the Post. It is a wonderful program that gives the Explorer a safe and fun environment to pursue their dreams.

Eric Horton, Age 16, Scottsdale AZ., Aviation Explorer Post 352

Aviation explorer Post 352 is a place to learn to safely fly airplanes and perform maintenance on aircraft. This is my third year participating as a member of the Post. We visit many places that I would not have been able to normally visit. We visited the new control tower that was being constructed at Sky Harbor in Phoenix, AZ. We got a tour of the tower and even got to go in the TRACON building. The post gives me opportunities to work with airplanes and go to air shows. Our post does nearly all of the aircraft marshalling at the Copper-State Fly-in at Casa Grande municipal airport every year. We also travel to Oshkosh, WI each year to volunteer for the week at EAA Air venture. I was able to go for the first time in 2007 and it was an amazing experience that I will look forward to every year. Currently I am working toward a Private Pilots license, my goal being to get it next year. After I get my Private License I would like to train for an IFR rating. I have almost 25 hours of flight time and am about to go on my first cross-country flight. I hope to have soloed by the end of the year. Our post maintains our own airplane, and I have several dozen hours performing maintenance on our plane. I also have many hours working on a Sikorsky H-19 helicopter that

our post has been allowed to restore. The post instructors are generous with their time and supplying anything we need and are extremely knowledgeable about aviation. They love aviation and are willing to help whenever it is needed. Aviation Exploring is a chance for me to learn to fly and maintain aircraft when I normally would not be able to have that opportunity. It gives me the chance to fly airplanes and many opportunities I wouldn't normally have. Aviation Exploring has let me experience aviation with other people my age who share my love of aviation and I am hoping that it will be a path toward future career opportunities in the field of aviation.



Adele Helmle checking our Work Area



Our Group 2008 Barbecue



Piper Cherokee 180D



Blessing the Cake