

Lex and Aaron Cralley Receive EAA's Silver Wrench Award



Lex Cralley and his son, Aaron received a Silver Wrench award for their outstanding work on a Boeing PT-13D Stearman owned by Matt Quay of Rosemount, Minnesota. The aircraft is painted in a unique paint scheme meant to honor those missing in action from US wars. Matt plans to take his aircraft to airshows around the country and offer rides to veterans.

A gloss black base paint was selected for the design. When the recovered parts arrived at the hangar, Lex realized some extra work would be required with the tapes to make the paint job look good. Lex and his son, Aaron spent hundreds of hours priming, sanding and then painting the gloss back paint. Lex decided to use PPG paint and products, which he had been using for years and filed a form 337.

Lex and Aaron spent additional many hours carefully applying the unique paint scheme onto the aircraft. Initially the Minnesota CAF Wing won a Silver Wrench at Air Venture for the work they did on the restoration. After the oversight was brought to the proper people at EAA, Lex and Aaron received the well deserved award of a lifetime.

