

Among Top 5 in U.S.

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Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Blackhawk Flying Club can tick off a pretty impressive list of accomplishments in its decade of progress.

—Blackhawk is the largest member-owned non-profit flying club in the Midwest and one of the top five in the United States.

—Membership has grown from the seven who founded the club in 1953 to 75 today.

—More than 15 per cent of all registered fliers in Winnebago County are members, according to club officers.

—From the original two-place, side-by-side Aeronca Chief, the club's fleet has increased to five planes, including three four-place and two two-place craft.

—A sixth plane, larger and faster than those in the present fleet, will be added next spring.

—Blackhawk maintains its own clubroom, named for the late Earl Warner, a member who contributed much time and effort to support of the club.

To mark its 10th anniversary, Blackhawk will hold open house in the Earl Warner clubroom at Greater Rockford Airport Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Club aircraft will be available for free flights for prospective members. There'll be free coffee and refreshments also.

Blackhawk was founded primarily to promote private flying. It's been successful because the club has been able to keep flying costs geared to the pocketbook of the average private pilot.

A novice joining Blackhawk can learn to fly and win his private pilot's certificate for \$395, and some members have accomplished this in 90 days. For a Class I membership, which applies to the two-place training-type planes, initiation fee is \$175. For Class II membership, covering all planes, the fee is \$295. Dues are \$5 a

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month to cover fixed overhead costs such as insurance, license fees, and hangar rent.

Membership is now open, although the rolls are closed from time to time so all members can have a fair chance to use the planes.

Blackhawk operates out of both Machesney and Greater Rockford Airports. Its planes are the two-place Piper J-3 Cub for training; two-place Piper Colt for training and short business trips; and three Cessna 172s, all-metal four-place planes used for training, business and pleasure trips, and long cross-country flights.

Club membership is a pretty good cross-section of the community. There are factory workers, doctors, lawyers, salesmen, insurance men, business owners, and other categories. Incidentally, there is an active ladies auxiliary which makes its influence felt by the club.

To reserve a plane, the member may call a telephone answering service, day or night, and give his name, date and time he wants to pick up the plane, and length of time he'll need it. Planes go out on a first come, first served basis — except that student pilots get priority when an instructor has been engaged. Blackhawk welcomes students, incidentally, and has instructors available.

Blackhawk's directors operate the club. They include Don Furland, president; Al Mera, past president; Phil Walden, secretary; Marv Schultheiss, treasurer; Max Matthews, operations officer; Everett Beachtel, social director, and Bruno Peters, safety director.

Directors meet the second Mon-

day each month in the clubroom at Greater Rockford. Meetings are open to the public, as well as to members.

Blackhawk has sponsored a March of Dimes airlift the past two years. Social activities have included the annual Rockford Aviation Dance in the spring, club picnic in the summer, and fall banquet and election.

Members regularly share long flights, such as weekend fishing trips to the north woods and to various one-day or half-day fly-in breakfasts throughout the Midwest.

That VIII-UHF automatic direction finding equipment apparently will actually be installed at Greater Rockford Airport.

It's been rumored for months, but now the Federal Aviation Agency has definitely programmed it. Tentative installation date set by FFA is June of 1964.

It's primarily for providing confused pilots with a heading toward an airport. No additional radio equipment is needed in the cockpit, since the pilot will watch the same needle he uses for the omni-range.

Chamber To Elect Nov. 19

Rockford Chamber of Commerce officers will be elected during an annual directors' meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the Faust Hotel.

Directors named during the Nov. 14 annual membership meeting will join those whose terms are unexpired in naming their officers, according to Russell C. Gibson, chamber president. Awards will be presented directors whose terms have expired, as well as to 1963 committee chairmen.