

The Pea Patch Post



**EAA CHAPTER 172
AUGUSTA, GA**

PRESIDENT

SHEILA CONNELL

1544 Stevens Creek Drive
North Augusta, SC 29860
803-279-7250

EMAIL: con16356@comcast.net

**VICE-PRESIDENT
FREEMAN NEWMAN**

8 Mooney Court
Trenton, SC 29847
803-232-0314

EMAIL: freebuns@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY

JOHN MAGNAN

1616 Mosley Chapel Rd.
Wrens, GA 30833-3905
706-547-3607

EMAIL: jcm2@earthlink.net

TREASURER

DON BUSH

3076 Old Waynesboro Rd.
Hephzibah, GA 30815
706-554-5618

EMAIL: donr.bush@yahoo.com

TECH COUNSELOR/EDITOR

ALDINE PATTON

2407 Williams St.
Augusta, GA 30904
706-738-2228

EMAIL: aldinepatton@bellsouth.net

YOUNG EAGLES COORDINATOR

SID BROWN

1447 Paradise Rd.
Wrens, GA 30833
706-833-9508

EMAIL: sbrown@catg.com

FLYING START

DENNIS ALLEN

706-790-0511

EMAIL: dennispilot@bellsouth.net

LOGISTICS DIRECTOR

STEVE THOMPSON

706-860-8655

EMAIL: N8175B@bellsouth.net

SPECIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR

FAY ALLEN

706-790-0511

EMAIL: rfallen44@bellsouth.net

SOCIAL COORDINATOR

SHIRLEY HARDEN

706-855-1553

EMAIL: geecheeboat@comcast.net

LIBRARIAN

JOE MILES

706-733-8376

RESIDENT ACE

Lt. Col. PHIL COLMAN

706-736-4352

PEA PATCH & CLUBHOUSE

61GA 122.7 mhz

4511 Boulineau Rd.
Blythe, GA 30805-3605
706-592-7244

EAA172, Inc. WEBSITE
<http://jcmsservices.net/ea172.htm>



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March 2009 PREZ SEZ

Sheila Connell

Welcome to new members - Bruce Hitt, Robbie McMillan and Jerry & Dorothy Crawford! Bruce is following in his dad's footsteps of membership and, at his very first meeting of attendance, happened to be the lucky recipient of our FIRST raffle-drawn give-away - a good omen, ya think? Robbie came to our last meeting as a "guest" of Ralph Powell and left as a new member. He's much in common with February's Member of the Month, Pierre Smith, as he shares the trade of crop-dusting. Jerry & Dorothy Crawford are relatively new Twin Lakes residents. They came to us from the Sunshine State of Florida, where Jerry "retired" and NOW is gainfully employed at Fort Gordon. Jerry is already a member of the national EAA and flies a Cardinal RG. Again, we look forward to your membership and welcome you with FLYING colors!

Thanks to all the members (and a few guests) who showed up for last month's meeting in spite of foul weather. While the skies precluded the presence of any aircraft, they failed to dampen the spirits of the aviation-minded attendees. The expectation of hearing guest speaker Tom Reilly was surely the big draw, and the aroma of the bratwursts, peppers & onions being grilled by Steve Thompson & Greg Connell (many thanks, Guys!) gave the affirmation that this WAS the place to be! Tom and his lovely wife, Sue, drove 3 hours one way to be with us on Saturday, and even the non-aviators benefitted from his presentation and question-and-answer session. He even donated the gas money we offered for his trip back to the club to be used to support the Young Eagles. After assessing the size and condition of our airstrip, Tom says he can make a trip up in his B25. Won't THAT be great?! Tom also invited us all to a Fly-In & Pancake Breakfast at the Douglas Municipal Airport from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, March 7th. As a show of our gratitude for his visit with us, we plan to have an EAA172 fly-out for that event and will gather at the Pea Patch & Twin Lakes for departure. If you can participate in that, please see or call Charlie Connell at 706-832-2066, so that he can coordinate times of departure and relay expected attendance to the host.

Other members to thank for contributing to the success of our Valentine's Day meeting include: Mary Hembree, Fay Allen, Maureen Rhodes (decorations were lovely, Ladies!), Don Bush, George & Frances Weiss, Ben Covington, Charlie Connell, Al Patton, Bruce Cameron, Blythe Dant, Phil Colman, John Magnan, and Ginger Connell (and, or course all who brought side dishes). We appreciate all support - could not do it without YOU!

This month's meeting should bring the crowd out, as we will be having our annual fish fry. Pierre Smith will, again, acquire the fish and Steve Thompson will, once again, be the designated Head Chef. Steve will, of course, expect assistance from the regulars (hear ye, Ron, Gary, Dennis, Everett, etc?). Sides will be brought by other members. Our guest speaker will be none other than Bob Young, former Mayor of Augusta (1999-2005), who was subsequently appointed by President George Bush to the US Department of Housing & Urban Development. He also featured an interesting article in the Augusta Chronicle on February 15th entitled "A Case for Downtown Greenspace". Bob will share with us some of his recent experiences as well as some of his aviation background. Frank Christian is also expected to be on hand to get a current snapshot of EAA172 members. The date is Saturday, March 14, 12:30 p.m. Work Day will be Thursday, March 12, 10:00 a.m., for those of you who can make it! Hope to see you then!



Call me if you have any questions.

Sheila Connell

