

The Pea Patch Post



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AUGUSTA, GA**



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August 2009 PREZ SEZ

Sheila Connell

As I pen this article for publication, extensive preparations are underway in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for finalizing Airventure 2009[®], the world's biggest airshow for experimental aircraft! Some of our folks will attend as spectators, and a couple others as participants. Stuart Hembree, as part of the Civil Air Patrol, will be there for volunteer duty, and Al Patton will be attending to receive a Major Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication to EAA, his local chapter (that's US!), service to the aviation community and personal achievements in aviation. Congratulations to Al, as this is a very special award given out to only a select group! To our knowledge, he is the first one in our chapter to be awarded this honor - in an organization that includes over 1,000 clubs. Two of our young aviators are also expected to be recognized in the EAA Oshkosh Airventure[®] 2009 Young Eagles Yearbook - Blythe Dant and Stuart Hembree - and we offer them congratulations as well. I've asked Al's son Tom to bring us back a copy of the yearbook so that we can see "our boys" in the news!

Last July we mailed individual letters to each of our members informing all that we'd established an Al Patton Scholarship Fund to be awarded to a deserving young person at the Boshears Annual Airshow at Daniel Field in October. Hopeful winners had to prepare an essay as well as be personally interviewed by a panel to win what equates to flying lessons at Augusta Aviation. Last year's winner, Blythe Dant, recently soloed after receiving his training. We are so proud of this achievement that we plan to continue this program. Accordingly this is my solicitation to each of you to take part by mailing your contribution to Treasurer Don Bush or personally delivering it to him at our meetings. Don will be accepting contributions now through October 10.

Those of you who missed July's meeting missed a real treat! Harley Drew, radio personality from WGAC Radio Station, was our guest of honor and enlightened us with some of his aviation adventures as well as his broadcasting career. Entering radio at a very early age, Harley has been listened to by a large majority of us for many years (earlier at WBBQ). How nice it was to finally meet the man behind the voice! We greatly appreciated his time with us, and on Monday morning he gave us some free "advertisement" by discussing ON AIR the great time he'd had at the Pea Patch on Saturday. Thanks to all who welcomed him to our place and, again, thanks to all you "workers" who brought it all together!

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, August 8th, and work day will be the Thursday prior to that - Augusta 6. Menu for meeting day will be *SURPRISE*, so you side-dish preparers bring whatever you do well. Our guest speaker will be Russ Appleton, Chief Pilot for AIR MED. Weather permitting, he plans to show up in his "work machine". We are excited that he has agreed to join us, so ya'll come on out and join us for some good food and camaraderie! And, again, we appreciate anyone who can show up around 10:00 a.m. on work day!

Call me if you have any questions.

Sheila Connell

