

The Pea Patch Post



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NAME

THAT

PLANE

September 2009 PREZ SEZ

Sheila Connell

Where, oh where, has our summer gone? The more I "mature", the faster time FLIES! It's hard to believe our young ones have been back in school for 3+ weeks!

Rumor has it that Oshkosh's AirVenture 2009 was a success - wish I "coulda" been there! With attendance of several of our members, I WAS there in spirit! I have been able to enjoy some video viewings and articles re the show. And, I was particularly excited that our Al Patton was able to make the trip to accept his Major Achievement Award and shake hands with Paul Poberezny, THE Father of EAA. Al made the trip by land with two sons and a daughter-in-law, which made the deal even better. And, the plaque signifying the honor bestowed on him is absolutely awesome!

Russ Appleton, Chief Pilot for Air Med, and guest speaker for our August meeting, arrived in his bright red helicopter - what a beauty! His talk was very enlightening and, as he stated, none of us really want to be a passenger on THAT aircraft. However, it sure is nice to know of its accessibility in the event of its need. Other related aircraft arrived on the scene during his talk, and we all made it outside to view a brief flyover by them. We greatly appreciated the education on the program and hope to see more of Russ and his "better half" on a "non-professional" basis!

One of our own, Sam Hart, was involved in an airplane crash the very next day, August 9th, which resulted in immediate surgery. Humorously, Sam recalled seeing THAT bright red helicopter overhead and telling "ambulance workers" not to let that flying machine get him. He knew he didn't want to go there. Fortunately Sam's injuries were not deemed life-threatening and for that we are grateful. A visit to Sam in the hospital a week later found him pretty well "beat" up, with more surgery ahead. However, he was in good spirits, relaying appreciation to all who'd expressed their concern. He specifically mentioned EAA172 member Doug Johnson. Doug is a medical professional who happens to work at MCG, where Sam is hospitalized. According to Sam, Doug's concern and willingness to do whatever is extremely appreciated. Prayers for Sam's speedy recovery are ongoing, and we stand ready to help in any way we can. Of course, we'll also remember Pam, Sam's better half, a school principal who'll also be playing nurse for a while!

Condolences are again extended to member Wade Hammer and family over the unexpected death of wife/mother, Betty. Betty was an active, pleasant aerospace, always wearing a smile, and we will miss her very much.

While finalizing this write-up, I got word that member John Lacher is recuperating from back surgery and Al Newman, Sr. is hospitalized due to a severe dizziness attack. Al had to be wheeled out of church on Sunday and taken by ambulance to the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery are with both you guys (and Sally and Joyce!)

Our meeting this month, Saturday the 12th, will begin with lunch of grilled/BBQ chicken from Country Boys. Members, of course, are requested to bring sides/desserts. We have a bit of business to take care of, so please try to make it. Initially, we'll be providing a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the annual Boshears Skyfest, scheduled for October 17-18. We'll also need T-shirt sizes for our wonderful workers. One of our own, Allen Nordorf, will present us with a synopsis of his aviation background, etc. We will also be taking donations for the Al Patton aviation scholarship fund to be given away next month. If you've not yet donated, please contribute to this worthy cause. If you've donated already and can afford a bit more, that's great!

Work day this month will be Thursday, September 10th, from 10 a.m. until. All help will be appreciated. Thanks to Steve Thompson for accepting the responsibility for food trailer repairs. And, again, thanks to all you members who so graciously donate your time for making our meeting/functions a success! We couldn't do it without YOU!

Call me if you have any questions.

Sheila Connell

