



EAA 172 Winter Soup Party

February 9, 2013, 12:30 PM

Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA), Blythe, Georgia

EAA 172 Fish Fry Fly-in

March 9, 2013, 12:30 PM

Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA), Blythe, Georgia

EAA 172 Breakfast Fly-in

April 13, 2013, 9:00 AM

Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA), Blythe, Georgia

Birthdays

Juan	HILL	02-10		
Sidney	BROWN	02-11		
Dan	SCUKANEC	02-12	Shirley	HARDEN 02-02
Edward	CHRISTIAN	02-16	Coral	BLANCHARD 02-22
Daniel	SILLIMAN	02-17		
Aldine	PATTON	02-21		

Anniversaries

Ron	& Heather	BANNING	02-15
Everett	& Kathryn	PARKS	02-22
Charlie	& Sheila	CONNELL	02-25

EAA 172 Night Out

Thursday, February 28: EAA 172 monthly "get-together" -- Social Meeting 6:30 PM -- This is a monthly non-business social gathering held on the fourth Thursday. This month's location is the **Buca di Beppo** restaurant, 3450 Wrightsboro Rd., Suite 2080, Augusta, GA 30909 (at Augusta Mall). Phone number: 706-733-5475. Website: Buca di Beppo. Map and directions: Buca di Beppo Directions. For questions contact Shirley Harden 706-855-1553 e-mail: ghardensr@comcast.net. On the Web go to nightout.jcmservices.net

CROP DUSTER ATTACKER FACES 20 YEARS IN PRISON

A man entered a guilty plea in federal court January 29 for shooting at (and hitting) a crop-dusting airplane on Feb. 22, 2008, while it was flying near his hunting ranch in Texas. The man, Stephen Paul Riley, 41, will



face sentencing May 21 in Federal court before U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor, according to a release from the U.S. attorney's office in Dallas. Court documents state that Riley shot at the crop duster, striking it numerous times with multiple bullets and nearly severing a rudder cable. Other bullets struck the aircraft's struts and tore a hole through flying surfaces on the aircraft's left side. Riley reportedly threatened the owner of Keeter Aerial Spraying

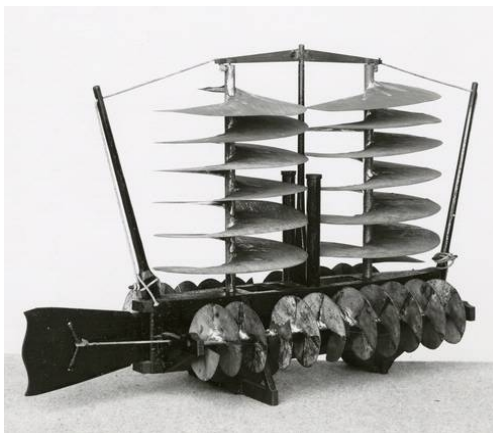


prior to the incident. Local authorities have filed attempted murder charges in connection with the airplane shootings, the *Wichita Falls Times Record* reported. Initial evidence against Riley was found through an unrelated search. A federal indictment charges 41-year-old Stephen Paul Riley with destruction of an aircraft. It took authorities more than two years to gather evidence to charge Riley with the crime. Authorities say he had threatened the crop-dusting company's owner both in person and by phone on several occasions. He was reportedly upset that the planes were disturbing pheasants he kept in pens. Authorities say they also have a video showing Riley shooting at another crop dusting plane in 2007, firing approximately 23 rounds. Palo Pinto County authorities issued a search warrant in 2010 on Riley's property and as a result, two charges of attempted murder and two charges of theft were filed. Riley faces a maximum penalty of 20 years on the federal charges and a \$250-thousand fine.

(Information adapted from multiple sources including the *Wichita Falls Times Record News* 01/30/13, Newschannel6now.com Wichita Falls, TX 01/30/13, [ABC 13, Eyewitness News](http://ABC13.com) 01/30/13)

A CONFEDERATE HELICOPTER

As part of its commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, the National Air and Space Museum has posted drawings from its collection of a [Civil War-era helicopter design](#). The American Civil War brought about great advances in the use of technology in warfare. Balloons, railroads, ironclad ships, and even a submarine were demonstrated throughout the conflict, and new ideas were constantly being thought up and tried on the battlefield. Some ideas were more exotic than others, such as the one thought of by William C. Powers an architectural engineer living in Mobile, Alabama. Powers knew that the Southern states did not have enough ships to break a naval blockade with naval power, and going through the blockade was full of risks. He saw another way to crush the blockade – attack it from the air. Using his engineering skills, Powers began drafting plans for a machine that could lift off and propel itself through the air to attack Union ships. Although balloons were being effectively used for observation, they lacked directional control and could not lift enough weight to make an effective bomber. Powers drew upon the work of other famous engineers, such as Archimedes and da Vinci, and employed Archimedean screws for lift and thrust, all powered by a steam engine. The engine



Three quarter view of the experimental model built by William C. Powers.

was located in the middle of the craft, and used two smokestacks, which can be seen in the drawings. Two Archimedean screws on the sides gave the helicopter forward thrust, similar to how a propeller works on a ship in water, and two mounted vertically in the helicopter gave it lift.

After drafting his plans, Powers set out to make a small model and then a full-size mockup. Although he had some success creating the small model, as can be seen at the left, limited resources and lack of support prevented the idea from ever leaving the drawing board. Family lore also says that fear prevented the idea from getting off the ground. When the drawings were donated to the Museum, family members stated that they were hidden during the war to prevent them from falling into Union hands. It was said that a full size example was never created for fear that it would be captured by the Union, mass produced, and used to rain destruction on the Confederate armies and cities throughout the South.