

# The Pea Patch Post



EAA CHAPTER 172  
AUGUSTA, GA



## NAME THAT PLANE



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**EAA 172 FOUNDER**

Aldine "Al" Patton – "Baldo"  
February 21, 1923 - December 9, 2015

**EAA 172 DOUBLE ACE**

Lt. Col. Philip Eddy Colman  
December 1, 1921 - April 28, 2011

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April, 2016

PREZ SEZ

Andy Lee

Welcome to EAA Chapter 172! I hope that you are enjoying the company of fellow pilots.

Today I would like to talk about the Air Force demo team, the Thunderbirds. I have seen them twice in my life so far and I just love them, so here is a little history about them.

In 1953 the Air Force's official air demonstration team, designated the 3600th Air Demonstration Unit, was activated at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The unit adopted the name "Thunderbirds," influenced in part by the strong Native American culture and folklore from the southwestern United States where Luke Air Force Base is located.

Seven officers and 22 enlisted were selected for the first demonstration team. Major Dick Catledge, a training squadron commander at Luke AFB, was chosen as the team's leader. The team flew and maintained the F-84G Thunderjet. The straight-wing configuration of the F-84G was considered well suited for aerobatic and demonstration maneuvers, though the aircraft could not exceed the speed of sound.

The Thunderbirds started the 1969 training season still in the F-100Ds, but, in the spring of 1969, received the first of the new McDonnell Douglas F-4E Phantom IIs and began the team's conversion. The F-4's conversion included changing paint scheme allowing paint used on the F-4 to resist heat and friction at Mach II speeds. As a result, a white paint base was developed and remains a part of today's Thunderbird aircraft design. In 1974, a spreading fuel crisis inspired a new aircraft for the team, the T-38A Talon. Although the Talon did not fulfill the Thunderbirds tradition of flying front-line jet fighters, it did demonstrate the capabilities of a prominent Air Force aircraft.

Remaining true to its character to showcase the latest advancement in America's fighter technology, the first red, white, and blue F-16A assigned to the Thunderbirds was delivered to Nellis AFB, Nevada on June 22, 1982. Due to the conversion to the new aircraft, there were no official shows flown in 1982. The team flew the F-16 during the 1983 show season; making it the team's ninth aircraft and once again returning to flying a front-line fighter.

Your President,

Andy Lee



For side dishes you might bring appropriate fish side dishes – which could include hushpuppies, an almost required adjunct to a Southern seafood meal, deviled eggs, lemon wedges, sliced cucumbers, blackeyed peas, cole slaw, and other Georgia fish fry garnishings as well as desserts such as fruit salad, jello, lemon meringue or coconut cream pie, fruit cobbler, strawberries, grapes, cookies, or pound cake.

## Minutes of the Meeting for EAA Chapter 172 for March 12, 2016, 12:30 PM

### Winter Soup Party

The weather was quite warm, in the low 80s, with scattered clouds. Before the meeting 33 members, their families, and visitors enjoyed a delicious meal of soup and other delicious entrées with crackers as well as side-dishes and desserts. Six planes flew in. At 12:32 PM club president Andy Lee gave the invocation and everyone enjoyed the excellent soups members had brought in. The soups included chicken soup, 15 Bean soup, and vegetable/minestrone soup, as well as beef stew, ham & lima beans, and chicken & dumplings. The Aerospouses set out the side dishes. President Lee then welcomed the guests and started a brief business meeting at 12:55 PM. He welcomed new members Anne & Bill Sellitto and Marc Wilmoth as well as visitors Terry McCurry and Stan Stockman who came in McCurry's RV-6 from Greenwood, South Carolina.



Pots of delicious soups and entrées.

**Old Business:** Jim Maher moved for the approval of the minutes for the February 13th meeting. Don Bush seconded the motion, which was passed by the members. Andy Lee thanked those who brought their fine soups and entrées to share: Cindy & Joe Britt, Sid & Cathy Brown, Sheila & Charlie Connell, Ron Haley, and George & Frances Weiss, as well as Don & Virginia Bush who brought the salad and Jim Maher & Ronna Hiltz who provided condiments for the meal. [President Lee brought beef stew].

**New Business:** Charles Lewis discussed the need for a third partner so he, member Marc Wilmoth, and the third partner could purchase an RV-6A [*request advertised on the 5th page of this newsletter*]. Charles also talked about the play the Schoolhouse Players are putting on in Bartow, Georgia.

Members discussed the Fish Fry Fly-in and its date. The Sun 'n Fun Airshow and Fly-in is April 5 – 10 so the normally scheduled April meeting date of April 9 would not be appropriate since many go to that fly-in. So the Fish Fry will be April 16. As decided at the January meeting, the donation for the Fish Fry is to be as much as \$10 depending on the cost of the fish. Also Joe and Cindy Britt had said they would pick up the fries and onion rings. Pierre Smith will be able to get the fish. As for the cooks, Gary Harden and Steve Thompson volunteered for that task. Gary will also purchase the oil for frying the fish, fries, and onion rings. Ron Haley had said that he would be able to help cook the fish as he had done in the past.

Virginia Bush said that the next social eat-out would be on March 24, 2016 at Villa Europa, 3044 Deans Bridge Road, Augusta, Georgia.



Sheila Connell talking about the possible EAA 172 historical panel at Augusta Aviation.

Members then discussed the possibility of an EAA 172 historical panel to be put up in a "History Room" on the second floor of the Augusta Aviation FBO building at Daniel Field in Augusta, Georgia. Sheila Connell elaborated on what was planned. There would be a number of panels about aviation in Augusta, Georgia. Several club members including Joe Britt, Sid Brown, Don Bush, Charlie Connell, and John Magnan chimed in with ideas and questions about this project. Our panel would have historical information about EAA 172 starting from its inception in the mid-1960s. It would include text and photographs. There was uncertainty about several factors and any cost to EAA 172. President Andy Lee, vice president Joe Britt, and treasurer Don Bush would meet early the following week at Augusta Aviation to talk with Becky Shealy, the vice-president for business development. [Note: Communications with several people early the next week determined that there will be no cost to EAA 172. The panels being put up in the Augusta Aviation FBO all have corporate sponsors, so the meeting there was called off.]

Don Bush moved to adjourn the meeting. Joe Britt seconded the motion and those present approved the motion unanimously and the business meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

