

THE HISTORY OF EAA 172

PART V

(03/29/17)

With e-mails and photos received from Bill Messer, a member in the late 1960s - 1970s.

BILL MESSER IS STILL ALIVE!

Just as with Frank Grose in September of 2015, another long past member of EAA 172 has “come out of the woodwork” and e-mailed us. Note that the EAA 172 newsletter, the *Pea Patch Post*, is read far and wide and is near the top on search engine lists.



Al Patton in 1980.

Bill Messer e-mailed us on March 25, 2017. He wrote that “I was a Chapter 172 member in the old ‘Pea Patch’ in Evans late ‘60s and ‘70s.” In earlier pages of the HISTORY OF EAA 172 we had remarked that Bill Messer had passed away. Fortunately he has not.

He wrote much more: “I have kept all the old photos and even have some video of Ed Flint flying in the Scamp, and several stills of Al Patton’s Pitts. I moved into a garage apartment when I returned to Augusta College post Navy, looked out the back window one day and was amazed to see a guy, Al, working in his garage, next door, on an earlier plane. I had met him and Ed Flint before I went in the Navy, and resumed my EAA membership after college. I had a Cessna 172. N8175B, a raffle prize at the Houston Air Terminal Museum.”

So, it seems that Bill Messer is the one who took all those photos that Al Patton had in his scrapbook, some of which have been reproduced in this History.

Bill is very tech savvy and has posted videos of those early days of the Pea Patch on *YouTube*.

He also is still piloting – very much so, not just with small aircraft:

“I’ve got a collection of pix from the ‘old’ days if you want more.

I’m still active, crewing on the “Spirit of North Carolina” a Douglas A-26, and riding along on charters as a ‘spare’ pilot in a Baron and Cheyenne. That’s me behind the pilot/copilot.”



“I have lots of videos on *YouTube* – Google ‘billzztube’ for more of my videos.

or just **Click on [billzztube](#)**

The plane is for sale. SEE THE *YouTube* ADVERTISEMENT:

[1946 DOUGLAS A-26 FOR SALE](#)

I kept all this old stuff because it was a special place and a special time in my life, and remains one of my favorite memories. There were plenty of wonderful people in the membership.”



EAA 172 meeting in the 1960s at
the old Pea Patch in Evans,
Georgia.

We also asked about the “scruffy guy” in the pages in the History about Sid Harmon, O.B. Brown, and gyrocopters. Bill answered: “Don’t know the ‘scruffy guy’ either.”

“The obit for my demise was for William G. Messer who was my father, from 1993.

If you like the YouTube video I can send you a DVD copy, or you may be able to download it directly.”

Bill Messer is still very active in EAA. See:

[EAA Chapter 297](#)
Stag Air Park ([7NC1](#))
Debose Field (now Stag Air Park, Inc.)
Wilmington/Burgaw, North Carolina

You can contact Bill Messer at: **billmesser@charter.net**

FOR SALE:

Members' Items for Sale

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Contact Charles Lewis at 706-830-3393 or e-mail: [Charles Lewis](mailto:Charles.Lewis@comcast.net)

EAA 172 member Larry Garner sold his Cherokee aircraft. He has many aircraft related items for sale. Larry wrote on February 4, 2016: "Since I sold my Cherokee , been going thru what airplane stuff I've accumulated over the years and this is some of what I have. I am very open to offers, just have to start somewhere. I did research current selling prices."

Larry Garner e-mail: garner49@comcast.net SEE THE LIST AT: [Garner's Airplane Stuff](#)
