

The Pea Patch Post



EAA CHAPTER 172
AUGUSTA, GA



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THAT

PLANE

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October, 2012

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Al Nodorft

The weather is changing and the flying should get better as the weather cools. Looking forward to that. Fall is also the seasons of fly-ins. There are many within flying distance and three that are supported by our chapter.

I did fly to Triple Tree on the Friday of that fly-in. Weather was not so good with ceilings around 1000 ft. Maybe 20 – 30 planes flew in, but I understand that normally there are more. It is a beautiful place and the people are friendly. I know a few of our members have gone here before and I can recommend it also, but you will have to wait until next year.

We have a fly-in of our own coming up on October 6th at the Wrens airport. The folks at Wrens will host it. I hope that many of you will consider flying in your aircraft for display.

Two weeks after the Wrens event is the Boshears Skyfest on October 20 - 21. Many of you have volunteered to help out there and I appreciate that. Again, I would encourage all who can to fly their aircraft in. We will park as many as we can near to our tent. Two of our own will be flying in the show – Greg Connell and Gary Ward.

Following Boshears will be the fly-in at Millen, November 10th, that we support. This will take the place of our November meeting.

After the fly-in season there will be time for me to start to unwind. At the October meeting Sid Brown was voted in as President and Nandi Shetty as Vice President. Nandi is a new member and excited to be active in our chapter. I plan to stay involved as the contact for Boshears planning.

I have been playing mechanic again. This time I changed out the engine mounts on the Eagle. They had sagged enough that the ring gear on the front of the engine had ground its way through the cowling. As I completed this task I realized what I enjoyed about it. It is the challenge of determining how to do it. The nuts on the bolts were inaccessible to normal tools and each took a creative approach in order to remove and install. I enjoy the problem solving aspect of the job.

Humor

When an air traffic controller asked an aircraft to reduce speed even more than he already had:

Aircraft 1234: "If I reduce any further, I'll fall out of the sky!"

Controller: "Roger. Report leaving altitudes on descent."

October Meeting

No meeting for October, but come to Wrens for breakfast or lunch on October 6th. Bring your plane too, if you can. Hope to see you there!

Daniel Field (DNL), Augusta, Georgia



October 20 - 21, 2012

Fly safe!

Al



Wrens Memorial Airport, Wrens, Ga.

October 5-6, 2012

Minutes of the Meeting for EAA Chapter 172 September 8, 2012

We had some fine weather for this meeting. Before the meeting 31 members, their families, and visitors enjoyed the barbecue meal. The aerospouses set out the side dishes and prepared the serving and meeting room tables. Three planes flew in including a yellow Fisher Horizon 1 flown in by visitor Spence Olson. In addition, two members flew around the field with their aircraft but didn't land. At 12:30 PM Al Newman gave the invocation and everyone ate. Club Vice-President Sid Brown called the first part of the short business meeting to order at 12:57 PM.

Old Business: Steve Thompson moved to accept the minutes for the last meeting. Don Bush seconded the motion and it was approved.

Program: At Sid's request, Rick Revels moved to suspend the business meeting. Don Bush seconded the motion and it was approved. This was done so that we could listen to the very interesting presentation of our guest speaker, Dana Atkins, a former USAF Thunderbirds pilot.

Dana said that he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1972. He wanted to be a doctor but was convinced to become a pilot. After finishing his degree in biology at the University of Portland, Oregon, he earned his Air Force commission and became a pilot. He started in the T-37, then the T-38 and became a flight instructor for a couple years. Then he advanced to being an A-10 demonstration pilot. The [A-10](#) is not a pretty plane -- its nickname is Warthog. However it was and is extremely effective in close ground support for troops and is durable, heavily armored, and is called a "flying gun" and a tankbuster. Dana was an A-10 demonstration pilot in Europe. He applied more than once to become a Thunderbirds pilot and was with that team for two years – 1988 and 1989. Dana answered many questions about his flying with the [Thunderbirds](#). He said that the spacing between wings during their maneuvers was only three feet! Dana also flew out of Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina to practice with an F-16 fighter jet in the Bulldog MOA (Military Operation Area). Several club members live in that MOA including Allene and Sid Brown, Charles Lewis, John Magnan, Rick



Revels, and Pierre Smith. Almost any day of the week they can see the "mock" combat operations overhead down to a few hundred feet above them.

Atkins moved up rapidly in the ranks of the Air Force Command. His last command was as a Lieutenant General (3 star) [Commander of Joint Task Force Alaska](#) where he commanded the 11th Air Force and oversaw the training and readiness of three wings and Air Force installations located throughout Alaska. In late 2011 he was approached by the Augusta Chronicle management and on October 14, 2011 was named [president of The Augusta Chronicle](#). He retired from the U.S. Air Force January 1, 2012. Dana discussed his work at the Augusta Chronicle. He said he is not flying today but wants to get a V-tailed Bonanza just like Sandy Howard's.

New Business: The business meeting resumed at 2:08 PM. Al Nodorft passed around a sign-up list for Boshears. [contact Al right away - eMail: Nodorft@Hotmail.com - if you want to be involved in an activity such as the People Mover, History Tent, EAA 172 desk, Fly-in tent, or Flight Line.]

Virginia Bush said that the next club "Night Out" would be on September 27 at Rae's Coastal Café in Augusta.

We held the election for EAA 172 officers for 2013. Sid Brown was elected President, Nandi Shetty was elected Vice-President, John Magnan was re-elected Secretary, and Don Bush was re-elected Treasurer.

Steve Thompson said that the roofing party would be in two weeks – on September 22 – if the weather was not too hot.

Don Bush moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Thompson and adjourned at 2:20 PM.



Nandi Shetty, our 2013 club Vice-President. He and his wife are both pilots.

