

# Huntsville Executive Airport Open House 2017

by  
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The Greater Huntsville Section participated in the Huntsville Executive Airport (MDQ) Open House on September 9, 2017. Greater Huntsville staffed an exhibit booth to promote AIAA within the Huntsville aviation community, the first time the section exhibited at this event.

The open house was organized by the Save Our Flying Heritage (SOFH) Museum, a non-profit public educational corporation dedicated to presenting the military aviation story to the American people through narrated, patriotic flying presentations and static displays of the actual aircraft and equipment used by the men and women who served in US Military Aviation.

In previous years, the event was held in June but it was rescheduled to September this year due to logistics issues. The fall date brought perfect weather with scattered clouds, light winds and temperatures in the mid-70s. The flight line was unusually crowded with transient aircraft that had fled north to Huntsville to avoid Hurricane Irma.



Justin Soeung & Ashley Scharfenberg staff the booth.

The day was packed full of aviation. Numerous aircraft were on static display including a L-19A Birddog, UH-1C Huey, O-2 Skymaster, SNJ Texan and even a C-45 from the Museum of Flight in Rome, Georgia. Tours of the C-45 were given by a 92-year old World War II veteran who was a B-29 gunner and provided a first-hand account of his experiences, making history come alive. Some AIAA members took flights in the Huey while others took advantage of the EAA Young Eagles program to get their children orientation flights. Student members networked with industry professional members, discovered job openings and submitted resumes.



Lisa & Ken Philippart, Ashley Scharfenberg, Brittani Searcy, Justin Soeung and Peter Fryburger with Peter's Twin Commanche.

For the section's inaugural showing at the open house, Greater Huntsville's exhibit included the ultimate visual aid, an actual aircraft. Senior Member Peter Fryberger offered to display his Piper Twin Commanche as part of the exhibit, another first.

Besides the Twin Commanche, the exhibit also included the UAV course quadcopter, a calendar of upcoming events, membership brochures, and assorted AIAA giveaways. The section handed out foam gliders to stimulate interest in aviation among the younger visitors.



A big thank you to our volunteers who gave up part of their Saturday to promote AIAA. Thank you to Peter Fryberger for loaning his aircraft and for helping staff our exhibit the entire day. UAH Student Branch Chair Ashley Scharfenberg not only helped with set-up and tear-down of our display, she stayed the entire day and brought other UAH students with her to help. Thank you to Tony Miller, Justin Soeung, Brittani Searcy, Jacob Clark, Anas Alrobai, Ken and Lisa Philippart, Roger Herdy and Robin Osborne for volunteering to staff our booth.

Finally, the Greater Huntsville Section thanks the staffs of the SOFH Museum and Executive Flight Center at MDQ for their outstanding support. From marking our exhibit area, providing power, lending us supplies we forgot to bring, feeding us lunch and checking back frequently to see if we needed anything, your hospitality guaranteed a successful exhibit.

We are looking forward to next year's open house. Mark your calendars for June 9, 2018. We'll see you there!