

# Huntsville Executive Airport Open House 2018

by  
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The Greater Huntsville Section participated in the Huntsville Executive Airport (MDQ) Open House on June 2, 2018. Greater Huntsville staffed an exhibit booth to promote AIAA within the Huntsville aviation community. This was the section's second time exhibiting at this annual 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.

The day was packed full of aviation. Numerous aircraft were on static display including a UH-1C Huey, O-2 Skymaster, T-28 Trojan and Yak-52. Some AIAA members, including past treasurer Lauren Badia, took flights in the Huey. Others took advantage of the EAA Young Eagles program to get their children orientation flights. Joseph Strickland, son of Senior Member Matt Strickland and runner up in last year's First Flight Commemoration Essay Contest, received his first flight in a light aircraft.



The T-28 Trojan "Taz" on the flightline.



Kathy Brewer and Amelia and Wayne McCain from the Athens State Student Branch staff the booth.

AIAA was one of 14 exhibitors during the event. Section members networked with other aviation organizations such as the North Alabama Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and the 99s. Several members had the opportunity to talk with Brigadier General (retired) Bob Stewart, the first US Army astronaut, about his experiences as a test and combat pilot as well as his experiences on the Space Shuttle.

Eleven section members staffed the exhibit throughout the day. The revitalized Athens State Student Branch came out in force to help staff the section's table and network with professional members. The section's youngest student member, 8-year old Amelia McCain, pitched in and

worked the table to publicize AIAA to the next generation of engineers. AIAA member Brian Delaney drove up from Auburn to help.

The section's exhibit included the always-popular UAV course quadcopter, membership brochures, career guidebooks and assorted AIAA giveaways. Members handed out foam gliders and finger rockets to stimulate interest in the aerospace profession among the younger visitors.

A big thank you to our volunteers who gave up part of their Saturday to promote AIAA within the Huntsville aviation community. Thank you to Kathy Brewer, Wayne and Amelia McCain, Brian Delaney, Alix and Erin Villaneuva, Arloe Mayne, Joe Huwaldt and Ken and Lisa Philippart for volunteering to staff our booth and publicize the benefits of belonging to AIAA.



Lauren Badia flies in the UH-1, her first helicopter flight.

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, giving us coupons for free lunch and shaved ice (especially appreciated on such a hot day) 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. We'll see you there!