

MAY | 2021



Aircraft Sales • Insurance • Parts • Maintenance & Satloc

Georgia On Our Mind

by Josh Rittenberry



There's a reason why writers and crooners have romanticized Georgia on paper and in song; from "Gone with the Wind" to "The Night The Lights Went Out In Georgia", the Peach State holds a special place in our country's historical and cultural heritage. But while native Georgians have pride in that heritage, it's all cotton and peanuts for them.

In Georgia, like much of the south, cotton is king and the Dawson Brothers know it.

"Back in the mid-1970's you had to spray cotton twice a week or three to four consecutive days for boll weevils and worms. It would need to be sprayed 15 to 18 times per season," Rodney Dawson recalls.

Rodney, Gary, and their late brother John Dawson established Dawson Brothers Spraying Service in 1975. Though Rodney and Gary are not Ag pilots themselves, the Hawkinsville-based operation has employed only four pilots in the last 45 years, a fact that speaks volumes about their business.

In the early days of business, Dawson Brothers was equipped with a single Cessna Ag Truck. These days they



treat their primary crops which consist of cotton, peanuts, corn, and wheat with their 2017 Turbine Thrush throughout much of Pulaski and adjoining counties in central Georgia. That same Thrush was coincidentally purchased from Mid-Continent after Rodney and pilot Jake Boney met Chris Cobb, Tracey Stokes, and some of our team at the NAAA Convention in Savannah last December.

"Working with Chris, Tracey, and the Mid-Continent team has been a pleasure. I would highly recommend Mid-Continent for all your needs. They are a super organization to work with," says Rodney.

With just one pilot and one loader, Dawson Brothers is a tight-knit operation, which can be a blessing, or it can be a curse when tragedy strikes in the midst of a season. On September 3, 2020, pilot Jake Boney, just the forth pilot in his first season with the operation was flying, hit a tower and crashed. Despite severe injuries, Jake recuperated and three months later was flying again.



"God is good!" Rodney exclaims. "God was with our pilot." Rodney easily finds not curses, but blessings even through tragedy.

When the spray season is not in full swing from June to October, Dawson Brothers has operated Dawson Brothers Farm for over 50 years, where they harvest the usual cotton and peanuts, and more recently, wheat. Rodney and wife Gloria have been married for 47 years and share a son, a daughter, a daughter who has passed, as well as seven grandchildren. Gary and his wife Susan have a son, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

"I foresee the aerial application industry having a bright future. It is a necessary service, and it covers a wider area in a timely fashion," Rodney says of the future of the industry. "Aerial application can carry a heavier load than in the past, and it has become a necessary tool for farmers and the success of their business endeavors."

Owing to the operation's longevity and success, Rodney says, "My motto is, be honest, work hard, and treat people the way you would like to be treated."

Richard "Dick" Reade (1922-2021)



Richard (Dick) Reade was born May 13, 1922 in Scarsdale, New York, and departed this world April 14, 2021 at his home in Carutherville, Missouri. He was 98 years, 11 months, and 1 day of age.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Sydney and Rosalie Goodmen; wife, Dorothy Brower Reade; sister, Joy Simonson; and daughter-in-law, Judy Burge.

Mr. Reade traveled west from his childhood home of Scarsdale, New York, to attend college at Iowa State University, where he would earn a degree in animal science. With every intention to go further west to work his own ranch, his country beckoned for his service at the outset of World War II. Navigating through the clouds of war over the Pacific as a pilot in the United States Air Force, Dick served our nation bravely in the cockpit of a Lockheed P38 Lightning as part of the 28th Photographic

Reconnaissance Squadron. With victory in hand, Dick returned stateside after the war and developed his interest in aviation into a new career. In 1949, with three Stearmans and a

dream, Dick founded Mid-Continent Aircraft Corporation, and as a result, helped lay the foundation of our industry as we know it.

The first President of the National Agricultural Aviation Association, a businessman, an innovator, always with one eye looking forward and another pointed to the skies, Dick lived a life deserving of adulation that was time and again blunted by the silent pride of The Greatest Generation. Duty, fairness, generosity, selflessness, and much more can be attributed to him, but perhaps his shining strength was his humility. Though slight in stature, Dick Reade was a giant to us; our true north, the bond that brought us together. He was not just a gentleman but a gentle man; a man from whose vigor and grace we all benefited.

For us, things will never be the same, but we will, as Dick once said, “keep our feet on the ground and our eyes on the horizon” as we carry on, armed with the guidance and wisdom he willed to us. It is for these things and more that we are ever-grateful. Dick Reade will be missed by all who knew him and respected him.

He leaves the following to cherish his memory:

Wife: Linda Reade of Caruthersville, Missouri;

Son by heart: Chris Cobb and Family of Caruthersville, Missouri;

His Mid-Continent Aircraft Family;

3 stepchildren: Jerry Burge of Sikeston, Missouri;

Amber Bell

Adam and Brittany Howern of Greenbrier, Tennessee;

Grandchildren: Louis (Shannon) Burge of Sikeston, Emma Lynn Howren, Amy Burge, Ella Kate and Ava Claire Bell;

Nieces and Nephews: Donald and Karen Simonson, Christi and Randy Black Miller, Bayley and Tyler Miller.

A memorial service was Saturday, May 1, 2021 at Mid-Continent Aircraft Corporation in Hayti at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Raymond Maurice Redden officiating. Celebration of Life included a flyover followed by full military hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the National Agricultural Aviation Association Museum in Jackson, Mississippi; the Caruthersville Humane Society; or the Caruthersville Public Library.

John W. German Funeral Home of Hayti was in charge of services.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE MEMORIAL SERVICE](#)

IPFS Visits Mid-Continent



Our insurance division welcomed a visit from representatives of long-time premium finance partner IPFS Corporation. John Shine will be retiring after 60 years in the business and handing things off to Kendall Frank. (Pictured L-R: Josh Rittenberry, Kendall Frank, John Shine, Heather Riggs)

PROTECT yourself in order
to protect the ones you

LOVE



MIDCONTINENT
Insurance Division

Josh Rittenberry: josh@midcont.com
Heather Riggs: heather@midcont.com

now licensed in

Life & Health Insurance

Call 800-325-0885
for your no-obligation quote

Mid-Continent Insurance Division

Now Licensed To Provide Pilot Life & Health Insurance

We are proud to announce that Mid-Continent Insurance Division is expanding its offerings to include individual/group life & health insurance for pilots/operators. We are ready and able to provide you with the same level of quality service many that many in the aviation community have come to know and expect. Contact our licensed producers today for more information.

1-800-325-0885 / Josh Rittenberry josh@midcont.com / Heather Riggs heather@midcont.com



John Warner of Kenney, IL sent us this shot of himself in his 1943 Stearman, along with Maureen Collins-Kolb, the wife of his business partner, as they took advantage of some good flying weather.



**Order your new 2021
510P, 510 G or 710P Turbine Thrush today!**



Despite delays, Richter Aviation is now putting their 2021 Turbine Thrush to work in California. The new bird was delivered directly from the Thrush Factory in Albany, GA by Terry Humphrey. Once here, our maintenance crew outfitted it with our specialty Load Hawg, G4 GPS, flow control, and smoker. Nick Richter, who made the long journey from Maxwell, CA to Hayti, was all smiles as he safely piloted this beauty back home.



Contact Mid-Continent for all of your insurance needs!



Are you looking for an insurance agency that is **LARGE ENOUGH** to deliver sophisticated and quality service, yet still **DEDICATED** to providing a caring and personalized connection with your best interest at heart?

Contact us at **800-325-0885** for any and all of your aviation insurance needs.

[Learn More](#)



Kile Haas made a pit stop for some parts, insurance, and to show off his Cessna 188 that he recently brought from snowy North Dakota to much warmer climates in Arkansas.

AIRCRAFT INVENTORY



1996 THRUSH S2R-G1



1998 AYRES S2R-G10



2005 THRUSH S2RHG-T65

N2237D

9688.0.0 A/F TT, Hatfield Bottom Load Fuel, A/C, Vortex Generators, New Satlock Bantam, Flow Control, Stainless Steel Spray System, AFS Check Valves, CP Nozzles, Agrinautics Pump, Lane Electric Brake, Aircraft Radios, Fresh Eddie Current, Spar Caps 3220 of 6,200 Hour Life

[More Info](#)



**1998 Air Tractor AT-802A
N5094H**

12,152.6 A/F TT, 1230 HP, 2000 SPOH, Reabe Digital Hopper, Quantity & Spray Boom Pressure, E-TEC Inc Fast Start System, Comm Radio, Hemisphere G4 GPS, RT Side Boom Shut Off, Smoker, Hydraulic Gate, Air Conditioner, Wipaire Vortex Generators, Wingman Wing Due at 15,823.2, Gear Due at 12,798.2, Eyebolt Stabilizer Due at 14,798.2, 4479.7 Hobbs

[More info](#)



**1996 AYRES-41, S2R-T34
N2243J**

8352.0 A/F TT
850 HP, Satloc M-3 w/ Intelliflow, Lane Electric Fan Brake, Smoker, Cool Seat, Air Conditioner/Heat, Hopper Rinse Tank, Bottom Load Fuel, Stainless Steel Boom

[More Info](#)

N2146S

4909.0 A/F TT, New Fuel Spline, Bantam GPS, Lane Electric Brake, Smoker, Fast Start, A/C, No Heat, Stainless Steel Boom, Nozzle CP-09, Comm Radio, Trac TXP with ADS-B Out, New Wing Spar May 2016, Annual 2-21

[More Info](#)



**2013 THRUSH S2R-T34
N3043V**

3,398 A/F TT, Engine 3,398 SNEW, Concord Batter, CP Nozzles, AM-SAFE Seat Belts, GPS, Bird Lights, Stainless Steel Spray Valve

[More Info](#)



**2010 Dream Tundra,
N523MM**

90.0 A/F TT, Aerosport IO375 210 HP, PMA-8000B Switching Panel with 4 Place Intercom and Three Light Markers, Garmin SL-40 Com, Garmin 430 GPS, Garmin GTX-330 Transponder, Garmin 496 GPS (Panel Mounted), Digiflight II Autopilot w/ Altitude Hold, PFD/MFD

[More Info](#)

N40481

4400 A/F TT, -10 Low Time Engine and Prop, 8900 Since Cam Overhaul, 500 Hours Since Hot, Super Clean, Staloc M3 With Flow Control, Spreader, Never Any Dry Fertilizer, Zero Damage History

[More Info](#)



**2012 THRUSH S2R-T34
N986MM**

Very Clean and Well-Maintained! Cascade, MVT-50 Glass Panel, Load Hawg, Bantam GPS, Intelliflow, Leading Edge Lights, Vortex Generators, Smoker, Bottom Load Fuel

[More Info](#)



**1997 Ayres, S2R-G10
N773CC**

6500.0 A/F TT, 400.0 SPOH, Cool Start System, Hatfield Single Point Fueling, ATS-VGs, Ag-Tips-Marburger, Kawak Hydraulic System, Satloc, G4, Load Hawg

[More Info](#)

Ed Huddleston of Oaktown, IN paid a visit to introduce us to two of his ground crew, Tamir Gray and Zack

Belford. The guys are also prospective Ag Pilots looking to make their way in the business. With Ed's guidance, they're already off to a great start!



FULL SERVICE MAINTENANCE CENTER

- Airframe
- Turbine Engine
- Modifications
- Line Services
- Paint
- Extensive Variety of Aircraft Parts

[Learn More](#)



Happy Birthday!

LUBOS HRDINA
May 23



Williams Tames "The Beast"

Chet Williams recently tamed "The Beast", our 510 Thrush with Covington engine and conversion provided by Cascade Aircraft Conversions, and safely delivered it from Grinnell, WA to Hayti, MO.



Thrush Dealer
United States, Canada, Mexico

TURBINE AIRCRAFT
Taking orders for 710 Thrush
w/ -65 or -67

Rugged Construction
Proven Productivity



DISTRIBUTOR
Cascade Pressure Cowl
Air Tractor • Thrush
Saves Fuel, Runs Cooler
Call for Quote

Call 573-359-0500 • 800-325-0885



**SATLOC Level III
Service Center**

SATLOC SYSTEMS

NEW OR USED

Full in house repairs & updates

Solid Green Lightbar Upgrade now available.

Transland's #1 Dealer



STC'd for Thrush & Air Tractor

Efficient & Safe, mechanical loading of solids.
Makes solid work easier!

NOW APPROVED FOR



CONTACT US

573-359-0500 • 800-325-0885

[SALES](#)

[PARTS](#)

[INSURANCE](#)

[MAINTENANCE](#)

[DICK READE, President](#)

[DENNIE STOKES, Vice-President](#)

[CHRIS COBB, Vice-President](#)

[STAN HUNTER, Aircraft Sales](#)

[DANNY HELMS, Aircraft Sales](#)

[CHRIS PATTERSON, GPS Sales/Service](#)

[TOM RUSSELL, Maintenance](#)



OUR MISSION: TO KEEP YOU FLYING

Since 1949, Mid-Continent Aircraft has been the leader in Agricultural Aviation by providing a variety of services that exceed our customers' expectations. We are committed to the advancement of general and agricultural aviation technology.

As we move into each day, we will continue to grow with your business and provide the tools you need to be a success.

Mid-Continent Aircraft Corp. is located in Hayti, Missouri, 80 miles north of Memphis, Tennessee. Although Hayti is not the geographical center of our nation, Mid-Continent is the center for all ag aviation needs. With excellent daily truck freight lines, air freight, Federal Express, and UPS delivery capability, MID-CONTINENT has and will continue to cover the world.