

Hello classmates,

I just had the pleasure of talking with Russell Shampine on the phone. I am sure that many of you remember that he was the band director at Paxon Jr High. How in the world he put up with music students at that age for so long, I will never know! Of course I am not referring to myself in that statement.

Anyway, he remembered every one of you that I mentioned during our conversation. In fact, he remembered many things about his students that I didn't recall until he brought them up. He said that he remembers all of his students ... I don't think that he meant that he was having reoccurring nightmares about all of his students!

Anyway, he will be 78 years young this coming September, 2009 and he still flies a Cessna 172 airplane for fun & relaxation. He was telling me that just a couple of years ago he was still executing stunts, spins and stalls in his plane. I guess I need to wait a few more years until I grow up before I get into the stunt pilot phase of my life.

Back in the mid 70's he traveled to Germany and took a cab into East Berlin when it was still controlled by the communist and not really open to many travelers. He traveled to Russia in 1976 and I think that he said that he taught there for about a year but don't hold me to that detail. He may have said that it was Germany that he taught in for a while. (Remembering details weren't and still aren't my strong suite.)

Russell still teaches on Saturdays at First Coast Music in the Cedar Hills Shopping Center. He said that he teaches all different instruments from 9:30 to 5:00.

He asked me about what I was doing now days and I told him a little about where my brother and I had worked since high school. He said that he really wasn't interested in where we had worked. I suppose that he meant that he was more concerned with me answering the question that he had asked about what I was doing currently and not what I chose to change the subject to!

I guess that would fall under the subject of reading comprehension or would it be audio comprehension? Anyway, I changed the subject again and I probably talked his ears off. I wonder if that's how he remembered that I always talked too much during band classes.

Well he did say that he enjoyed hearing from me and he said for me to say hello to any of his other students that I ran into or spoke with. Little did he know that I had a pipeline to all of the smartest Paxon graduates here at our super charged "Paxon 65" website!

I am sure that he would like to hear from all of his former students so if you care to call or drop a card in the mail some time or anytime, here are the details while I can still remember them!

Russell Shampine, 7617 Leuders Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32208 Home 904-765-6261

I hope to see you all at our get together at Jax Beach this coming August 22nd, 2009.

Sincerely, Marvin Green cmgreen820@simflex.com H 252-235-4059