



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

September 2018

MILLEDGEVILLE, GA REPORT

The Milledgeville, GA/Baldwin Co. Airport fly-in is now in the books. Our connection for this fly-in was host James Herrington whose in-laws (Melissa's fam) live on the spectacular local Lake Sinclair. Special thanks to Melissa's mom & dad who cooked up a fantastic spread for the Sunday night awards dinner! Arrivals throughout Friday saw us reach 15 aircraft with a couple more coming in Saturday for a total of 17 Navions. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the hotel's hospitality room, anchored by Bruce's famous prime rib roast!

As we arrived Saturday morning, we were treated to numerous locals arriving to watch the "Navy" airplanes. The local paper ran a story on us Thursday and Friday (front page) inviting the locals to the airport open house. This was easily the best local attended fly-in we've ever done. By the time we took off, the paper estimated there were about 500 people at the airport watching us! Parking overflowed the parking lot and into a large mowed field and then a ½ mile down the street.

In attendance were: James & Melissa Herrington w/gaggle, Bobby Herrington, Steve & Lita Ware, Bruce Herrington & Rebecca, Paul & Ginger Wright, Carl Jenkins, Casey Shukoi, Dick & Ann McSpadden, Wayne & Ellen Whittaker, Jeff Davis, Lee & Susan Holmes, Bud & Sylvia Brown, Woody & Jean Woodfin, Art & Anne Hutchison, Alan & Melinda Hovas, Josh & Jamie Heath with JD, Katie & Bradley Blaylock (friends of Heaths), Rusty & Wanda Herrington, Blake, Line, Evan & Camille Fleming, Scott & Ginger Gronholm, new owner Karl Lambert and Joe & Smokey Doll.

James briefed up our Saturday dawn patrol which had 14 aircraft who all (mostly) checked-in on freq, on time and in order! We departed Baldwin Co. to the NW in beautiful near cloudless skies and cruised up the lake, treating scores of boaters to the throaty sounds of our awesome motors. We continued NE to Greensboro's Greene Co. Regional Airport next to the Oconee National Forest, where we did a low approach/fly-over, greatly impressing the local bird and cow population w/nary a human in sight. We returned via reverse routing as activity on the spectacular lake was really heating up. Arriving back at KMLJ, we found a partying flotilla took up residence off the approach end of runway 10 and we enjoyed them all day during our reindeer games. Local thermals also created a haven for the local vulture population and we spent the day dodging close calls with spiraling buzzards. After a brief break for fuel, we briefed up the balloon-busting competition and put up (a record?) 17 pilots for a highly competitive event which saw a 4-way tie requiring a pop-off to settle the score. James presented custom made "military challenge" coins to each pilot, generously donated by Rusty Herrington using James' design. We broke for lunch and enjoyed great local BBQ before heading back for the next series of events. Folks must have worn themselves out in the morning since we only had 12 flyers for the bomb-drop and spot landing competitions. While we were flying, the wives enjoyed an afternoon of local shopping (yeah, I know- shocking?!?) in the local shops and a trolley tour through historic downtown. They also got a great tour of a local historical building. The locals braved the heat and were treated to a great day of Navion flying. The local news station interviewed several of our members and we were featured on the evening news. Check out the coverage at:

https://www.facebook.com/2176388072583164/videos/216262865914159/?ref=gs&dti=238713569575194&hc_location=group&fb_dtsg_ag=Ady-n5D_9z9Uk3qndoBkaWPHG9mUV71uSJaV2TvTETNy3A%3AAadwpYn5esc6HbuTXvfz

[RBRrXPmntuBb5GfbzOPZOo-zy4Q](https://www.google.com/search?q=RBRrXPmntuBb5GfbzOPZOo-zy4Q&rlz=1C1G5_9444CN1129R0_1000000113) (or just Google: Milledgeville, GA Navion flying news)

Speaking of media coverage: If you aren't a member of our SNAG Facebook page, you really should join. The coverage, social information and frequency of posts really adds to the sense of SNAG family-hood at a level well-past what we can provide in a periodic newsletter. Just search for SNAG in the Facebook search bar. If you're a current dues-paid member, Susan will approve your membership quickly and you can enjoy an enhanced level of connection!

After wrapping up the bombing and spot landing comps, we headed to a local pizza dive for a nice group dinner- fun evening if not fancy food. Like Dick says: This group can have fun changing a tire!

We got up Sunday and headed out to the airport (remember, it was a 3-day holiday weekend). Day #2 allowed events we don't usually have: Rusty briefed and coached the local SNAG pilots on how to fly the ANS Annual Proficiency Competition. This three-leg (see: triangle) course pits pilots' knowledge of their plane's performance in speed and fuel consumption, against their ability to fly their pre-flight calculated time (over a known distance) and fuel used. This was a great chance for members who haven't been able to make an ANS Annual to fly one of the main competitions flown at the national annual fly-in. The contest was made even more interesting by a substantial cloud presence from 3,000' bases to alternating 5-6K tops, so pilots flew anywhere from 2,000' to 9,500' MSL. It was a great event and also our last formal flying event. Afterwards, several pilots took locals up flying (actually both days) in appreciation of their support for our fly-in. We enjoyed a very good late lunch at the local Mexican food joint where most of the pilots grounded themselves with excellent Margaritas or beer. Pilots then headed back to the airfield for a safety presentation and video covering fuel system management presented by James Herrington (See AOPA Air Safety Institute Safety Spotlight on Fuel Mgmt). Then everyone moseyed to a large and immaculate hangar for the aforementioned awesome dinner with perfectly seasoned boiled shrimp, BBQ ribs plus a number of excellent sides. Following dinner, Bruce presented the competition awards. The winners walked away with highly unique laser engraved coin-holder boxes to house the great new SNAG coins created and donated by Rusty Herrington. Special recognition was given to Evan Fleming as our newest fully licensed pilot and the youngest pilot ever to fly in a SNAG competition! Evan has just started his freshman year at Auburn and is enrolled in AFROTC.

Competition winners were:

Balloon Bust: After the aforementioned 4-way tie (3 of 3 in round 1), the pop-off produced 1st place winner Bruce Herrington with 5 of 5 and in 2nd place was Lee Holmes (flying Greg Young's plane) with 4 of 5.

Bombing: The infamous blue tarp was placed immediately in front of the van and Dick McSpadden again taunted the field with his bet of \$100 for anyone who could hit the center of the target (spoiler alert... Dick still has his \$100). Close but no cigar recognition went to Josh and Greg who both bounced bags off the roof of the van. 2nd place went to Rusty Herrington at 10' and taking 1st was Josh Heath assisted by newest SNAG member Bradley Blaylock hitting just 3' from the target.

Spot Landing: Once again there were all kinds of conspiracy theories going on about the spot landings and if you belong to SNAG's Facebook group you can see the photos and why it was so hard to make the call. Without pretending to have any added insight to accuracy, we report here only that the awards were officially given to 2nd place finisher Jeff Davis at 36' and 1st place went to Josh "tail skid" Health who dragged his tail behind the line but put his mains (allegedly) in front of the line. Doesn't get much closer than that... or does it? New pilot Evan and Blake Fleming have a reasonable claim with a photo that appears to have the mains landing exactly on the line, however there are some flakes of dirt in the air about 1' in front of the line which led to a call that they were in the spud locker. Still- outstanding performance in a very tight competition.

Proficiency: Seven aircraft took part in the proficiency competition. This unique competition is a staple at the ANS annual convention, but SNAG does it very rarely, so

a real treat to get to sample this test of how well you know your plane and can execute your flight-planning. Of course, those with MVP-50s or digital fuel use systems have a leg up in this one, but it can be won with analog gauges if you know your fuel burn and can do some math. This 120-mile course was slightly shorter than at the Annual, but Rusty plotted it and judged it exactly the same as at ANS. In this competition, a lower score is better with a zero being a theoretical "perfect score". Proving that flying high might not have been the best option, Alan Hovis flying at 9,500' was DFL (use your imagination) scoring 3400 then in ascending order was: Bobby 1975, Josh 965, Steve 820 and Bruce 650. Winning 2nd place with a very respectable score of 500 was Jeff Davis w/1st officer Dick McSpadden while taking 1st place with a score of 375 was Greg Young assisted by Lee Holmes. After the awards were all handed out, we retreated from the hangar to the hotel meeting room for a bit more visiting. Monday (Labor Day) morning arrived with some very sporty weather forecasts, so everyone got out pretty early. The Sagg'in Wagon (G. Young's plane) had to divert in heavy thunderstorms and landed in Marksville, LA where we called the free shuttle to the Paragon (Indian) Casino and waited out the storms in the all-you-can-eat buffet. Highly recommended if you're ever cruising southern Louisiana! At of this writing, North and South Carolina are getting pounded by Hurricane Florence. Hopefully Georgetown will be OK- we should know shortly if that fly-in will be a go. Look forward to seeing everyone at either Georgetown or Beaumont.

- Lee Holmes, VP



SARAH SWANZY HAS FLOWN WEST

Sarah Ford Swanzy, age 82, of Greenwood, MS died Thursday, September 6, 2018 in Greenwood, MS. She was born November 16, 1935 in Yalobusha County, MS to the late John L. and Sarah Evans Ford. Sarah graduated High School in Natchez, MS and earned her Bachelor of Education degree in Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and became a member of Phi Mu. Later she earned her Masters degree in Social Work and was a social worker for the State of Mississippi. For the past 27 years she owned and operated, The Bon-Don where she published a bi-monthly newspaper court report of Leflore County. Sarah had a passion for reading and she always said that her favorite and most rewarding job was teaching Army recruits at Fort Gordon, Ga. She was able to teach them to read & write in a brief amount of time. She was a lifelong bridge player and loved playing cards with her friends. Sarah was an excellent cook and her home was filled with laughter, fellowship and good food. She loved others and had a generous spirit. Sarah treasured her family and grandchildren.

An informal memorial service was held Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 3:00 pm. at Seven Oaks Funeral Home in Water Valley, MS. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001, or to the charity of your choice.

Sarah is survived by her husband, Robert H. "Bob" Swanzy of Greenwood, MS; her daughter, Laura (David) Lowe of Memphis, TN; two sons, Russ (Yvette) McPherson of Leland, MS and Kyle McPherson (DeLeslyn H. Robertson) of Madison, MS; eleven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

GEORGETOWN, SC (KGGE)

Friday Oct. 5 - Sunday Oct. 7
SSAG & SNAG FLY-IN

Hosted by Robert & Roye Ann Dickson

Please email rt dickson1@gmail.com if you can attend for planning purposes!

Runway 5-23 - 6,001' x 100' / Runway 11-29 - 4,700' x 150' / Elevation 39.5'
Unicom 123.0 MYR Approach 127.4 AWOS 118.275 843 527 3851
FBO Barry Brock 843 527 7516 Airport MGR Jim Taylor

There are 2 motels listed below that are across the highway from one another. In trying to book a block of rooms, we found it was a better price for you to check online and book individually.

Hampton Inn Marina 843 545 5000 420 Marina Drive

The manager quoted \$139± Street View \$149± Water View. If you book using Georgetown Airport Customer you get a 9% discount on street view rooms and 8% discount for water view room. Ask about cancellation policy. You may be able to find rooms cheaper by booking online, AAA, etc. Hilton Honors was \$99 as of today.

Quality Inn 843 546 5656 210 Church Street

Their range was \$100 to \$113. Check online for prices that are a little less. Ask about cancellation policy.

Hertz Rental Cars: Call FBO Barry Brock 843 527 7516 to arrange your car rental. A van will be available.

Friday Oct. 5: Arrive! Meet/Greet/Graze in Terminal or Robert's hangar. Last name beginning with A-H bring chips & dip. I-P nuts, fruits, veggies. Q-Z bring sweets. Meat and bread provided by host.

Saturday Oct. 6: Flying & Games at airport Shopping for Ladies Happy Hour Banquet

FLY-IN CALENDAR 2018

- Fall 2018: Beaumont, TX hosted by Chris & Jodie Meaux

LOOKING FOR 2019 FLY-IN LOCATIONS...

On the Facebook page under "files" is a neat checklist from Ann McSpadden with all the instructions anyone needs to host a fly in! What a great way to show off your local airport and part of the US. If you are willing to possibly host a fly-in for the 2019 season, please contact Bruce Herrington!

brucemd@south.com or 229-412-0564

SNAG NEWSLETTER/SEPT 2018

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SNAG