



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2019

TULSA/POGUE-SAND SPRINGS FLY-IN REPORT

We had a strong turn-out for our late summer fly-in hosted by Grant Gerondale. We last flew into KOWP in 2008, and in eleven years, you guessed it, nothing much has changed. They have a great field with a 5,800' runway and Grant had us as featured flyers in a sort of mini-airshow he planned for his community called the "Taco Truck Fly-in". Saturday we woke to low ceilings and scattered rain showers. By around 11am the ceilings started lifting and planes started landing. The guest of honor, an F4U Corsair was unable to attend due to the pilot becoming ill, but a visiting group of 4 T-6 Texans flew in along with a Nanchang CJ-6 doing some nice formation work. There was also a Sukhoi 26 and a Pitts S2 who both put on great aerobatic demonstrations. In addition to the featured performers, about 25 visiting aircraft flew in to enjoy the day. The local populace came out in strength (200+) and we spent most of the day showing off our planes and PR'ing flying to the locals, but did very little actual flying. Kudos to Grant for putting on a great event showing off his airport to the locals, many of whom had lived in Sand Springs for many years but had never been to the airport even once. Later in the day we did have a couple of formation flights go up and a few planes took up locals for first flights.

Sunday was our competition day following a fairly short 9am dawn patrol around Keystone Lake and back. Ron Hanselman was our illustrious judge and has a contest report following this article. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner afterwards in downtown Tulsa and everyone blasted off early Monday to try and avoid hurricane Dorian's outer bands.

Having a great time at Sand Springs were: Grant Gerondale, brother Greg Gerondale, Joe and Amy Cavet, Kevin and Phyllis Domingue w/friends Mike and Michelle Alleman, Bruce Herrington, Rusty & Wanda Herrington, Dave and Monica Knesek, Ron Hanselman flying in with his chauffer Greg Young, Joe Doll and his brother Smokey Doll, Dan Smith, Dan Bray of Tulsa, Bud and Susie Raymond from Atlanta in their Rangemaster, Alan Judy in Ron's beautiful Plane, JT and Ora Dell McMahon and Lee and Susan Holmes in Lee's "temporary" Rangemaster 2556T, newly nick-named "Woody", but which Susan wants renamed to "sold"... I'm trying Honey, really!

Look forward to seeing everyone at our next fly-in in Gadsden, AL hosted by James Herrington and Nick Kanakis on Oct. 25-27th. That will be our final event of 2019 and after his 2-year term will also be the final event for President Bruce Herrington so we'll have our annual business meeting and elections.

Fly safe! -Lee

REINDEER GAMES AT POGUE

Twas the night before "Reindeer Games" and all through the Hotel, you could feel the tension as everyone was wondering... Who's the best Pilot!

Well it wasn't long before it was clear but there were must boasting and bravado from the participants as the night and next morning went on...

There were offers of Bribe's and Favor's offered to the Judge. Boasting of "Maverick" and "Ice" like pilot Skills when in reality most were just a "Goose" with cool airplanes and sunglasses!

The line up was clear, it would be...

In Flight number one:

Flight Leader - "Two Weeks" Keven Domingue (IO-550B)

Right Wing - "Rusty" James Herrington(IO-550R)

Left Wing ' "Buff Boy (I wish I could be a Fighter Pilot)" Lee Holmes (Lil o'l IO-520...)

In Flight Number Two:

Flight Leader "Big Dawg" Greg Young (IO-550B)

Right Wing - "Gear Head" Alan Judy (IO-550B)

Left Wing - Bubblehead "Ron" Bruce Herrington(IO-550B)

As the events progressed, it would soon be clear that One of our courageous Pilots was indeed the Best Pilot!

As always the Balloon Pop would be first. This is where our courageous hero's would test there skill, wit's and fighter pilot like reflexes to actually destroy the enemies Balloon Drone Army Air Force.

After many passes and opportunities we had 3 Aces with more balloons popped in a Row that I've personally have seen...

In third place with 6 Balloons Destroyed it was "Rusty" James Herringtonin his IO-550R powered Navion, In second with 7 Balloons destroyed it was Bubblehead "Ron" Bruce Herringtonin his IO-550B powered Navion...and the Winner - With 8 Balloons destroyed in a row, it was "Big Dawg" Greg Young in his IO-550B powered Navion!

Next up was the Bomb Drop. This is where are Warriors simulate a B-52, low and slow and executing what we refer to as TLAR (That Looks About Right!)

This has been one of the closest contest I've seen. It show's that just about anyone can simulate a low and slow B-52!

In third place within 4 paces of the Target, it was "Big Dawg" Greg Young in his IO-550B powered Navion, In second within 2 paces of the Target, it was Bubblehead "Ron" Bruce Herringtonin his IO-550B powered Navion...and the Winner - With a drop that was within 6" (Six Inches) of the Target, it was "Gear Head" Alan Judy for the Win in his IO-550B powered Navion (Rusty get's an honorable mention since he dropped the bomb... Well done Maverick and Goose!)

And finally, the test of all Great Pilot's is how close to the Three Wire we can land. You either Bolter off the far end or Crash into the Fan Tail of the Boat, Ship or whatever the Navy calls it!

Of the Six Participants only 3 would survive. The rest were either off the end or we had to write sympathy letter's to the families of the lost soles that hit the back of the boat...

In third place within 24 paces long of the Fan-Tail it was Bubblehead "Ron" Bruce Herringtonin his IO-550B powered Navion, In second within 22 paces long of the Fan-Tail it was "Two Weeks" Keven Domingue in his IO-550B powered Navion...and the Winner - With a distance of 21 paces long of the Fan-Tail, it was "Big Dawg" Greg Young in his IO-550B powered Navion

So you can see, from all the Lies and Story telling the night and morning prior, in the end we found the answer to "who's the best Pilot?"

It was "Big Dawg" Greg Young in his IO-550B powered Navion with 2 1st Place Win's and one 3rd!

Congrat's to All!

The Judge...

Ron "Rat" Hanselman

Northeast Alabama Regional Airport Gadsden, Alabama (KGAD)

October 25-27, 2019

Final Fly-In of the 2019 Season & our Annual Meeting
Hosted by Nick Kanakis & James Herrington

Hey SNAG family, The Fall Fly-In is all set up for 25-27 October at Gadsden, AL! Hope to see you all there!!

We've got a block of rooms reserved at the Hampton Inn on River Road. The rate is \$82.00 plus tax per night. Call the front desk (256)-546-2337 and ask for the SNAG rate. We've also got a 20¢ discount per gallon at KGAD.



Hotel Info:

Hampton Inn & Suites, 129 River Road, Gadsden, AL
256-546-2337

Complimentary breakfast is available in the hotel dining area.

Festivities will be as usual with food and snacks at the hotel on Friday night. Drinking and lying are encouraged. Saturday morning dawn (brunch) patrol, lunch at the airport and then games. Saturday evening we will be dining together, then back to the hotel for business, cocktails etc. Sunday fly away home.

FUTURE FLY-INS

We are looking for a host to coordinate events on the ground so if you are willing, give Lee Holmes a call or shoot him an email: mleeholmes@sbcglobal.net or cell: 254-780-6038.

ANS PARTS SHOP

All: If you are trying to reach Chuck at the ANS parts warehouse- We recently became aware that Chuck is currently out of the office on an intermittent basis. We don't know exactly when he'll be back in and Gary and Alyce Rankin can't provide anything more specific at this time. Just wanted you to know if you're leaving messages on the answering machine why no one is calling back.



FLY-IN CALENDAR 2020

- Spring 2020: Shadtree Airport, MS
- March 31 - April 5, 2020: Sun-N-Fun, Lakeland, FL
- May 2020 – open
- June 21-27, 2020: ANS Annual Convention, Spearfish, SD
- Oct/Nov 2020 – open

THINKING OF HOSTING A FLY-IN...

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 2020 season, please contact Lee Holmes

mieeholmes@sbcglobal.net or 254-780-6038

SNAG NEWSLETTER/SEPT 2019
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