



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2011

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Those who attended this year had an excellent time at Shade Tree. Danny and Janet Miller and crew and Barbara and Al Butler are such great hosts. The weather and runway were beautiful, and I am sure that if you had been able to make it, you would have had fun too. Mitch said it was probably the most fun yet, and I would agree. Right off, I got a ride in Danny and Janet's new Stearman. All I said was, "Danny, you need to fly that Stearman" to which he replied, "Come on." What a blast! Sixteen Navions arrived Friday and Bert showed up Saturday morning to make seventeen, good showing.

Barbara and Al cooked up a delicious dinner of boiled shrimp, gumbo, beef tenderloin, spaghetti (which I hear is not supposed to go under gumbo), and the ladies brought desserts galore. Thank you for all your hard work. Of course, with all that food in the hospitality room there was a lot of good conversation with fellow Navion aficionados. An early morning Dawn Patrol was proposed with a follow on mid-morning flight for those who objected too much. The next morning almost everyone was up by 6:30, to my surprise. Danny's Mom made her trademark biscuits and the crew had coffee ready by the time we arrived. As is typical, despite the early rising, our flight departed about 9:00am. Lee Holmes led the flight of 10 Navions, thank you sir, and we seemed to stay fairly well together, good job gentlemen. Of notable mention was that all 10 checked in on radio very well each time, congratulations all. Upon returning we found the Miller's and crew working on grilling up lunch for all their guests. They filled us up with red beans and rice, beef brisket, ribs, hot dogs and all the fixins.

After lunch we held our flying events with a dozen participants, and some outstanding performances, including my winning bombardier, local pilot Ronald Taglieri, who might just be looking for a Navion as his next plane. Afterward, there was just enough time to ride as safety pilot with Lee Holmes as he donned the foggles for 3 instrument approaches to KGPT before we made our way to the awards banquet and last supper at the Golden Palm Bar and Grill. It was a memorable evening. Of course sitting across from Barbara, Al, Paul and Ginger always makes me laugh until my sides split, thankfully Doc Rusty was right there to stitch me up.

Back to the hospitality room for more lively conversation, not so early to bed and a beautiful Sunday in store for departure. Everyone had a great time this year at Shade Tree and Danny and Janet invited us back again next year, so we set the date already for the same weekend in March 2012. (9th-11th) Thanks Danny and Janet and all the local pilots and friends that pitched in to help with the weekend. The people are great and the place is 80 acres of heaven on earth. Thanks again also goes to Barbara and Al Butler for hosting the fly-in, and cooking and all the effort that was put into the preparations.

Hope to see you soon!

- Robert Gaines

LOST & FOUND - SHADE TREE

Janet Miller reports that a black Columbia jacket was left in the club house. If it is yours contact Janet at shadetreeairport@gmail.com

MEMBER UPDATES

Greg Young reports that his engine is back together after overhaul and running well. Congratulations Greg!

RUSTY'S REPORT FROM SHADE TREE & SUN N FUN

I failed to write down who placed in each of the flying events and am so traumatized by Sun N Fun that I can't recall exact placement.

The balloon bust competition was close requiring a second round tiebreaker between 3 pilots. The balloons were uncooperative with some of them refusing to rise high enough to be chased. Bert Zeller took top honors. Bean bag bombing was also close but the safest place on the airport was the middle of the target. I am happy to say than no one broke Paul and Ginger Wright's record set last May in Texas. The spot landing event left a lot of room for improvement as the majority of our participants landed in the "spud locker". For a while I was worried there would be no winner in that event, but a few of you finally landed long enough to place in the event.

In attendance this year were **Charlie Allen, Cecil Austin, Scott & Tracy Burling, Al & Barbara Butler, Robert Gaines, David & Josh Heath, Wanda & I, Lee & Susan Holmes, Ann Bormolini & Art Hutchinson, Stephen & Laura Jennings, Mitch Midyett & Loretta, Bill Ross, Pim & Tineke Sierks, Gen Bob Swanzy, Vernon Walls, Steve & Lita Ware, Wayne & Ellen Whitaker, Charles Wiggins, Paul & Ginger Wright, and Burt Zeller.**

SUN N FUN: All the SNAG Navions attending Sun N Fun have arrived home safely. Our only total losses were a few tents and my old EZ-Up canopy which failed long before the tornado on Thursday morning. A few of our aircraft suffered minor dings but remain airworthy. No SNAG members were injured during the event.

(Editor's note: From Lee's trophies, I can tell you that he won the Spot Landing and he took 2nd in the Bomb Drop.)

- Rusty Herrington

THE LADIES AT SHADE TREE

...had an excellent time too. Some ladies, Loretta, Ginger, Tracy and Wanda, were real troupers and spent Saturday out at the field participating in the flying events. The rest of us, Barbara, Ellen, Lita, Ann B, Laura, & I, spent our day checking out the Premier Outlet Mall in Gulfport and having a lovely Mexican lunch. We all figured there was no way that our shopping would compare to what the men folk spend on the planes and it was our duty to stimulate the economy. Some of us napped after our lunch and some went right back to the mall for more shopping. As always, the conversations in the hospitality room both nights were quite entertaining!

- Susan Holmes

DUES, DUES, DUES

I am still collecting dues for the 2011 season. Please check your label to see if you owe dues. Send your 2011 dues to Susan Holmes, 151 Autumn Circle, Belton, TX, 76513. Dues are \$20.00 per family. The bottom right corner of you newsletter label will say if you still owe dues. **If you get this newsletter electronically and think you owe dues, send me an email to confirm!** Thanks!

- Susan Holmes

SNAG MEMORIAL DAY FLY-IN BOWLING GREEN, KY

MAY 27-30, 2011

Memorial Day is just around the corner and with it comes SNAG's fly-in at Bowling Green, KY. Please note **KENTUCKY**. We have had several folks say they were looking forward to Ohio. Not so!!! KY.

The Holiday Inn has reserved 30 rooms for us until May 1. This promises to be a busy weekend for them so please get your reservations in early. They understand our problems with the weather, etc. Standard cancellation policies apply. For reservations and special rates: (270) 745-0088. Use the code "NAV."

We have a hospitality room for our stay and will have snacks for Friday evening. Please bring (last name beginning in): A-J appetizers/salty foods, K-Z deserts/fruits/cookies etc. (As usual, don't be limited to your category)

Car rental: The Holiday Inn is within an easy walk from the airport and the Inn's van is available. If you want to explore the area and visit some of the other attractions, Enterprise is located near the airport. Contact: (270) 782-7700.

Tours of Corvette Country:

GM has two facilities that got our attention: the Corvette assembly plant and the Corvette Museum.

We plan to tour The National Corvette Museum Sunday afternoon. In its more than 115,000 sq. ft. are "rare prototypes, historical cars, interactive exhibits and more." You can have lunch in the Corvette Café for 50's style dining on burgers and malts. Not only can you look at the cars, there are many interactive exhibits, which promise to be fun for everyone. If you would like more information: www.bowlinggreenassemblyplant.com

The assembly plant will NOT be in operation during the Memorial Day weekend, but you can schedule your own tour on Thursday (or any other day the plant is in operation). For details and to make the required reservation: www.bowlinggreenassemblyplant.com

Extra Attraction:

Some of you folks have expressed an interest in the raceway park near Bowling Green. Beechbend Raceway Park has an active program for the Memorial Day weekend - including NHRA sports national drag racing and stockcar racing. For further information: www.beechbend.com

Golfers can get information about reservations etc. at the room reservation number for the Holiday Inn

The Bowling Green Convention and Visitors Bureau has a great web site www.visitbgky.com or you can wait until you get there and choose from all the options.

We look forward to seeing you in Bowling Green, KY

- Mel and Judy Sorton



CANNON CREEK FLY-IN REPORT

Cannon Creek Pre Sun & Fun Fly-in was blessed with beautiful spring weather again this year as Dick and Ann McSpadden and Rusty and Wanda Herrington flew in on Wednesday. Gene and Bonnie Ruder arrived on Wednesday via automobile from Illinois. Myra and Paul Abbott arrived on Thursday from Indiana via car, as they miss their window of opportunity to fly their Grumman Tiger out of Crawfordville due to weather. Charles Stites, David Bejvan, Jeff Beyer, and Greg Young flew their Navion in on Friday. Arriving by car was Mel and Judy Sorton, Ron Judy, Dan Smith and Gary Rankin. David Morgan was suppose to fly in from Georgia on Saturday but weather kept him in Georgia. Next year David. Bill Ross came with his camper on his way to Sun & Fun. There was several of our Cannon Creek neighbors that joined us also.

The fifth annual cocktail party was held at the home of Ann Bormolini and Art Hutchison Friday night. Good food, good company.

Saturday morning the guys along with Myra flew out to Cedar Key, Cross City and landed at Williston (X60) for lunch. Their fearless leader was Jack Wells. Nine Ladies explored Lake City's quaint shops with Ann B., then off to *Out to Lunch with Mike* for a lovely lunch. Saturday evening took us up to Jack and Judie Wells' hanger for the fifth annual bar-b-que. The guest speaker was a local artist, Duffy Soto. He paints WWII Airplanes. The program was presented with much love and passion for the pilots who flew the planes. His works can be seen at US Naval Museum and US Air Force Museum and Lake City VA Domiciliary

Sunday morning Dick, Hutch, Rusty, David and Charles left 15FL for LAL in their Navions. The sun was still shining at departure but was quickly deteriorating.

Those that had planned to join us but unable due to illness, Ora Dell and JT McMahon, Steve and Leanne Lyle, you were missed. Phil and Sandy Dawes were home waiting for the arrival of their new granddaughter.

- Jack and Shirley Gordon

2011 SNAG FLY-IN SCHEDULE

- Memorial Day in Bowling Green, KY hosted by Mel & Judy Sorton
- June 26th-July 1st: ANS Convention in Cody, WY
- Labor Day just outside Little Rock, AR hosted by Steve & Lita Ware

KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!

SNAG NEWSLETTER/APRIL 2011

Susan Holmes

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