



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

JUNE 2011

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

For those of you who were unable to make it to Bowling Green, Kentucky on Memorial Day Weekend, you missed a great place for a SNAG fly-in. Eighteen planes flew in and several more members drove in. Our hosts, Judy and Mel Sorton, obviously put a lot of time and effort into the planning and preparation and we thank them very much.

The weather improved each day and Saturday morning's fog burned off before the Dawn Patrol. Several locals, including Hotel receptionist Katie and her father caught a ride and enjoyed it. Early afternoon crosswinds made for some interesting flying activities. Duncan Hines of the Chamber of Commerce and a Spanish exchange student, Ina flew with Gregg Young and Lee Holmes for an education in balloon popping. I thank the improved forward visibility of the crabbed approach to the spot landing for my first decent showing. Way to go Bill Thornburg. Lots of fun flying.

Sunday morning eleven Navions flew out to early breakfast at Rough River State Park. Rusty led the advance party in order to ensure safety in landing and back taxiing the second wave of 9 Navions. Several commented on the beauty of the place, so if you are ever in the area, stop by Rough River. After breakfast, we returned to Bowling Green for a tour of the Corvette museum. They have at least one of every year it seemed, and each found their favorite. I'll take the '67 Stingray. Some took the River Cave boat tour, some played golf, and some went to see the outdoor Aviation Heritage Museum, where local hero, Dan Cherry's MIG killing F-4 is on display. The Museum curator was our guide, and Blake Fleming showed us where he loaded the bombs and missiles. This museum is another fine tribute to the Armed Forces the we honor on Memorial Day.

All in all, lots of good flying and friendship. Thanks to everyone who made it a good time. Thanks also to those whose trip was long, such as the Texans, your dedication is appreciated.

Your next opportunity to join us will be Labor Day weekend at Country Air, just outside Little Rock's Class C airspace to the northeast as Steve and Lita Ware host SNAG. More information will follow.

I hope we see you there!

- Robert Gaines

CONTEST WINNERS

Balloon Bust

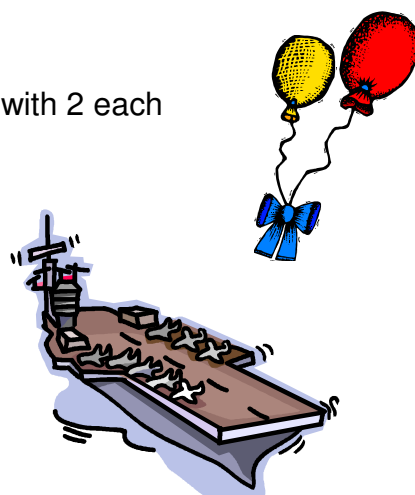
- 1st Greg Young with 3 balloons
- 2nd Tie between Bill Thornburg and Robert Gaines with 2 each

Spot Landing

- 1st Bill Thornburg at 13.5 feet
- 2nd Robert Gaines at 21 feet
- Honorable mention Greg Young at 40.5 feet

Bean Bag Bombing

- 1st Bill Thornburg at 18 feet
- 2nd Greg Young at 19.5 feet
- Honorable mention Shaun Bailey at 36 feet



RUSTY'S REPORT

Friday morning saw cloudy skies over Bowling Green, Kentucky at 1200 overcast with lower ceilings up north and across parts of north Georgia. The weather was forecast to improve. Wanda and I filed IFR and headed north from Statesboro. Enroute we heard Art Hutchinson check in with Atlanta approach 1000 feet above us and slightly ahead. Enroute ATC had us flying "as slow as possible" and had Ross Earnest and Art holding for a departing ExecJet. Art flew the approach into Bowling Green followed by us and then Ross. I do not recall ever hearing 3 Navions in the hold at the same airport at the same time.

Our hosts Mel and Judy Sorton arranged for a suite on the 7th floor overlooking the airport so we could watch for late arrivals while our gang gathered for fellowship. The weather did improve and by Friday evening we had thirteen Navions parked on the ramp at KBWG. Another five arrived on Saturday for a total on 18 Navions. A few of our members had to drive to Bowling Green due to Friday's weather or due to aircraft being down for maintenance or restoration. At least 23 Navions were present or represented at this event. SNAG fly in events are a good example of more truly being better.

Saturday morning broke with early fog followed by excellent weather for the rest of the weekend. We had twelve Navions participate in Dawn Patrol on Saturday morning which as usual departed about brunch. I am sure the golfers next door were impressed when all of us lined up on the runway in staggered formation and departed in sequence. We departed over town and the Corvette Museum before turning east to Barren River Lake which we followed south before returning to Bowling Green. The scenery in this part of our great country is exquisite!

Many thanks to Paul Wright who helped with ground operations and judging of the flying contests at Bowling Green on Saturday afternoon. Things went very smoothly with his help. Participants in the events included Tony Russell, Shaun Bailey, Robert Gaines, Wayne Whitaker, Bill Thornburg, Blake Fleming, Greg Young, and Lee Holmes. We flew the events in two flights. Each flight of Navions flew the balloon bust followed by bean bag bombing and then spot landing.

At first I was embarrassed when the first flight of four did not break a single balloon out of 3 attempts each, and they missed with spectators watching! The second flight redeemed our group by each breaking a balloon on the first attempt. Greg Young may have been sharpening his skills as he did not miss any balloons. Top honors went to Greg.

As usual, bean bag bombing found the safest place on the airport to be the target and that is where I and Paul took refuge. Our president, Robert Gaines, had the best grouping of all of the bombers. Unfortunately for Robert all three of his bombs were the furthest from the target. Much to Paul's disappointment Robert did not break Paul and Ginger's record set last Memorial Day at New Braunfels, Texas.

Our spot landing skills have improved! Only one Navion landed in the "spud locker" and competition was close in that event.

- Rusty Herrington

ROSTER ENCLOSED

Included in this month's newsletter is a member roster. Thanks to those who suggested the idea!! We hope that you find this helpful. Please take a minute to verify that your contact information is correct. You can email changes to me at ***susaneholmes@sbcglobal.net*** or call me at 254-780-6039.

- Susan Holmes

WHO'S WHO

Rusty mentioned that 23 Navions were represented. Lee & I arrived about 5:30 and the party had already started. I am pretty sure there was no one in that party room Friday evening watching for late comers at the airport for two reasons; 1. They were all busy eating & drinking and 2. the cloud cover was very low. We broke out of the clouds right at the outer marker.

When we arrived at the hotel the party included Charlie Allen & Cecil Austin along with grandson Larry Austin, Robert & Sandy Beaty, Ross Ernest, Blake and Line Fleming with kids Evan & Camille, Myra (Abbott) & Paul Dunn, Robert Gaines, Bob Hale, Rusty & Wanda Herrington with Melissa & grandbaby, Abigail, Art Hutchinson & Ann Bormolini, Dick & Ann McSpadden, the entire Russell gang - Tony, Janice, Jason & Shannon, Joe & Vivian Shea, Dan Smith, Mel & Judy Sorton, Vernon & Christine Walls and Greg Young.

At some point, Wayne & Ellen Whitaker along with son, Brian arrived. Rolling in after Lee & I were Paul & Ginger Wright. Saturday brought Bill Thornburg who flew in to play then went home - not even gracing us with dinner. Shaun & Jennifer Bailey also arrived on Saturday along with their two darlings.

While the adults were catching up on the latest news with one another, Larry Austin, Evan and Camille got to know one another and hung out. Of course, Evan managed to "snag" a girlfriend at the hotel! Much to his mom's chagrin, a young lady from another group at the hotel thought Evan was quite the catch. She invited him to meet her parents AND attend a dance being held for the other group. Line put the kibosh on that but we are glad to know that Evan probably won't be lonely at future SNAG events.

HAPPENINGS AWAY FROM THE AIRPORT

As usual, not everyone spent the weekend at the airport. Saturday & Sunday morning both Anns played golf right next to the airport taxiway before venturing into town. Melissa, Wanda & Abigail went shopping at the mall Saturday. Little Abigail needed grandma to buy her several outfits. Of course, shoes were needed too! The rest of the non-airport ladies took the hotel shuttle into downtown Bowling Green where we perused the shops on the town square before having a fantastic lunch at a local eatery named Mariah's. On the way back to the hotel, our shuttle driver graciously drove us to a local chocolate shop for some yummy treats.

Saturday night, we had 38 folks for dinner. We walked the 2 blocks or so to Montana Joe's Steakhouse. The food and company were quite enjoyable. There was some debate about making an ice cream run - where we would probably get lost again - but there were still plenty of treats in the hospitality room to keep us off the roads.

Breakfast Sunday was lots of fun! I have never participated in any weekend flying activities, but it was pretty cool to watch the gentlemen get organized and off the ground for our brief trip. We had 11 planes with 23 folks participate. Rusty was the master organizer at getting our planes all safely parked on the tiny ramp at Rough Neck State Park. Although we had to walk a ways to the restaurant, the view there made the hike worth it.

The Corvette Museum was very educational and we all had a great time touring. If you have not been, it alone is well worth the trip. We didn't get to tour the plant because they are only open on workdays, but I bet between the two facilities you could spend an entire day. As it was, Lee Holmes, Dick McSpadden & Art Hutchinson probably would have been content if we had left them at the museum. Lee & I can NEVER go back, especially not to tour the plant. I am pretty sure I would be driving home in a new 'Vette while Lee flew the plane home. *(Oh wait, Lee would still be in Bowling Green with the plane because he couldn't afford the gas to get home!!!)*

Sunday evening we had dinner at the hotel. They don't usually offer a dinner option but opened up for us and we had a great evening. The usual tall tales were told and awards were presented. This particular dinner was special because a unique presentation was made to Dick McSpadden. Rusty presented Dick with a fantastic pilot bag to store all his flying goodies in. It was amazing that Rusty was able to find a bag that so closely resembled his old one. Yes, folks, once again our dear friend left his bag somewhere and once again someone in the group picked up after him. It's a good thing that Dick not only has Ann to keep him in line, but he has such wonderful buddies who help him keep up with his stuff.

- Susan Holmes

AVIATION HERITAGE MUSEUM

If you need another reason to visit Bowling Green, check out the Aviation Heritage Park. www.aviationheritagepark.com

We were fortunate to meet Dan Cherry at the airport Sunday morning and chat with him about his experiences in the USAF and as the man behind the museum project. He has written a book about his experience shooting down an enemy MIG and then meeting the pilot years later. All the proceeds from the book go to support the museum. The book is titled: MY ENEMY MY FRIEND by Brigadier General Dan Cherry, USAF (Ret). You can purchase a book or make a contribution to the museum by contacting Dan at dancherry@insightbb.com

MEMBER NEWS

John & Jane Davis have some exciting news! Their daughter, Amy, graduated from the US Naval Academy. She has been chosen to serve as a Naval Pilot and will be on her way to Pensacola in September to begin flight training.

Congratulations to John, Jane & of course, Amy!

2011 SNAG FLY-IN SCHEDULE

- June 26th-July 1st: ANS Convention in Cody, WY
- Labor Day just outside Little Rock, AR hosted by Steve & Lita Ware
- 3rd weekend in October - 54J in Florida hosted by Wayne & Ellen Whittaker

Mark your calendars now for the last two SNAG fly-ins of the season! More intel in the July newsletter!

KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!

SNAG NEWSLETTER/JUNE 2011

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