



## **Southern Navion Air Group**

Newsletter

JULY 2011

### **FROM THE SECRETARY**

I can't believe it's already the end of summer for us education types. I don't know where the time goes! I want to apologize for the tardiness of this newsletter. I have been a busy bee over my vacation. For years, I have taught Sunday school (CCD for us Catholic types) and this past year, I taught 45 (yes, really) ninth graders as they prepare to confirm their faith. It's a two year process and in between the youth go on retreat for 2.5 days. Guess who plans the retreat...yep, the teacher. So since May, I have been working with 20 Senior Youth and 4 other adults to plan our summer retreat. It's been like herding cats, but then end result was so fantastic. We had 65 youth & adults participate in our retreat last weekend. After a week of recovery, I am now catching up on all my other summer projects...including the newsletter. Better late than never! See you guys in Arkansas.

- Susan Holmes

### **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

This year at the 51st American Navion Society Convention in beautiful Cody Wyoming, more than 20 SNAG members joined fellow Navion owners from around the country for a week of sightseeing, mingling, and yes, business. Rusty and Wanda Herrington, Dick and Ann McSpadden, Paul and Ginger Wright, Bobby Herrington, Mel and Judy Sorton, JT and Ora Dell McMahon, Greg Young, and Mitch Midyett, who brought the newest SNAG member, Jeff Davis, met up in Broken Bow, NE on Friday and flew on in to Cody on Saturday. Charles Allen flew lead with Stephen Jennings and I rode with Cecil Austin to Broken Bow Saturday and arrived in Cody Sunday afternoon. Ron and Margy Natalie flew in just after us and Larry Woodfin and Jean Norton came out on a Harley for some serious riding.

The week kicked off with a welcoming pizza party Sunday. Then a bunch of us went to see Cody Nights Rodeo, where the clown and his young sidekick stole the show, at least from the bull and bronc riders. The calf roping and barrel racing events were very entertaining. So the first day in Cody ended with a real Western feel ... and smell.

Monday morning started off peaceful enough with an excellent Welcoming Breakfast at the VFW. Then it was off to the airport for the locally guided gaggle flight through Yellowstone. The local Navion pilots had picked out a good route west to Yellowstone Lake and on to Montana. The weather was perfect for such a flight with little wind and clear skies. Fourteen Navions and one Lancair took off and lead made a large right climbing turn to climb through the pass and over the dam. During that slow climb out, Bill, the pilot of the high performance Lancair, peeled off and the Navion gaggle climbed westward.(good call Bill) It was not a speed race and not really a slow race, but... let's just say some positions were changed. We flew over some beautiful, rugged terrain and took in all we dared while ensuring safe separation. We passed West Yellowstone and Quake Lake and turned right into the valley in which Three Forks sits. The valley gets wider as you go and has snow covered peaks all around. They told us that the winter average temperature is in the 40's but the unmelted snow drifts suggested a possible alternate version of winter in Three Forks. After a sufficient time for refueling, eating, and relaxing, we departed singly for the most part. Some continued on around the north, some south to the Tetons. Greg took us back the same course for a leisurely look at the park and big rocks. They say that all good things must come to an end, but I rest assured that a gaggle flight at ANS Convention will never happen again.

Tuesday's Speed Contest went off without a hitch, except for the authorities requiring a climb to specified altitude before turning on course. There was at least one extremely close finish. The local paper reporter interviewed several of the pilots and took pictures of the planes. Wednesday was filled with a tour of the park. More than forty rode the tour bus and from all descriptions, the guide is a talking encyclopedia of park knowledge. Rusty's brother Bobby and his two friends went trout fishing on Yellowstone lake and brought back eight 3+ pound Browns which we cooked outside Choice Aviation on Friday. Man that was good eating. Thursday's Efficiency Contest took us to the north where we saw some more beautiful country. That evening at the Cody Cattle Co. we enjoyed live music by Everywhere West, a trio of highly talented musicians who did the best cover of Here Comes the Sun, I've ever heard.

Friday was a busy day beginning with the final flying event, the Proficiency Contest, the tech session by Ron Judy, the safety seminar by Rollie Zavada, or for some of us, the aforementioned lake trout cooking/eating. The awards Dinner concluded the week and as always was fun. Jim Waldron is an excellent MC. Be proud of the Georgia contingent, SNAG's own Ann McSpadden was awarded the Nancy Judy Award! Congratulations Ann McSpadden! Due to the excellent participation of SNAG members, I have had the privilege of bringing home the Chapter Challenge Cup. Thanks to all who were able to attend. Special commendation goes to Rusty Herrington for his effort in putting on the briefings prior to the flying contests. Also, on behalf of SNAG, I extend Thanks to Alyce Rankin for her work in organizing the convention activities.

Next year's ANS convention is in Byrdstown KY, just outside Louisville. But next up for SNAG, just outside Little Rock Arkansas, Steve and Lita Ware are hosting SNAG at 1AR9 Country Air Estates Lonoke AR Sept 2-5 See you there!

- Robert Gaines

## NEWS FROM CODY WYOMING

**SNAG captures ANS participation trophy!** Each year at annual convention the ANS recognizes the regional chapter that accumulates the most points in the flying competition. ANS conducts three flying competition events which are "All Out Speed", "Efficiency", and "Proficiency". Each participant is automatically awarded one point for participation and extra points are awarded to the top performing participants in each class and event. The participants designate which regional chapter is to get their points and SNAG pilots accumulated the most points thus winning the trophy.

The speed event is broken out by horsepower class with the winner in each class competing against each other in a handicap event. In the other events there is no class separation.

Pilots flying for SNAG who placed...**Greg Young** who took Top Honors in the 300hp class as well as Winning the Handicap Speed Event and placing Third in Proficiency. **John Yohey** who placed First in the 285hp class, Second in Proficiency, and Third in Efficiency. **Dick McSpadden** who placed First in the 260hp class. **Mitch Midyett** who placed Second in the 260hp class and Second in Efficiency. **Rusty Herrington** who placed Third in the 285hp class. Other pilots flying for SNAG included **Mel Sorton** and **Bobby Herrington**.

On Friday SNAG members Bobby Herrington, Rusty and Wanda Herrington, Dick and Ann McSpadden, Mitch Midyett accompanied by Jeff Davis, Mel and Judy Sorton, JT and Ora Dell McMahan, and Paul and Ginger Wright met at Broken Bow, Nebraska to overnight and flew on in to Cody, Wyoming on Saturday. Also on Saturday Cecil Austin, Charlie Allen, Steven Jennings, and our President Robert Gaines flew to Broken Bow and on to Cody on Sunday.

Monday morning began with a welcoming breakfast followed by a sightseeing flight over Yellowstone Park to Three Forks Montana for lunch and back to Cody. Paul Wright and I in Paul's powerful Navion accompanied Bobby Herrington southward around the Grand Tetons and over Jackson Hole before crossing the southern part of Yellowstone and back to Cody.

Tuesday morning began with the pilot's briefing for the Speed Event which ended at Worland Wyoming. The Handicap event was conducted on the return flight to Cody.

On Wednesday we spent the day touring Yellowstone and viewing the wildlife and scenery and of course "Old Faithful". All Americans who have not seen this part of our country owes this trip to themselves. The scenery is spectacular.

Thursday opened with the Efficiency event which traveled north into Montana before returning to Cody. In the Efficiency event the pilot flies a measured course that is timed. Fuel consumption is determined by refilling the fuel tank and a formula  $(1000/\text{speed} \times \text{fuel})$  is used to determine the winner. The Efficiency event cannot be won by flying in economy mode which takes too long or best speed which uses too much fuel. That evening we enjoyed the music and food of the Cody Cattle Company.

Friday started with the Proficiency event where each pilot predicts how much fuel will be burned over a course as well as how much time will be needed to fly the course. The pilot who most closely flies the predicted time and uses the predicted fuel wins. Friday night completed with the Awards Banquet.

On Saturday we departed Cody for home. The weather was cooperative for the entire trip.

- Rusty Herrington

From the Cody newspaper during the ANS Convention

## Formation flying



Four Navion aircraft – piloted by Dave Desmon of Washington, George Hewitt of Arizona, Ray Roussy of Canada and Mike Polley of California – fly in formation over Cody near Cedar Mountain on Tuesday evening. The American Navion Society held its annual fly-in at Yellowstone Regional Airport. (Photo by Wendy Hewitt)

## 2011 SNAG FLY-IN SCHEDULE

- Labor Day just outside Little Rock, AR hosted by Steve & Lita Ware
- 3rd weekend in October - 54J in Florida hosted by Wayne & Ellen Whittaker

## SNAG LABOR DAY FLY-IN

### Country Air Estates (1AR9)

### Sep 2-5, 2011

Make your reservations right now! The official hotel is the **Holiday Inn Express** in Lonoke, AR. The telephone number is **501-676-7800**. Make sure you tell them you are with SNAG. The block is under SNA. The cost is \$95.99/night for Queens or \$90.00/night for Double beds. The special pricing closes on August 17th.

Airport information: RWY 18/36, Grass, 3,800'x80', no lights, day VFR Only There is no fuel available at the airpark, but Carlisle (4M3) is 7 miles away. Plan your fuel accordingly.

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)

Steve & Lita are working hard to ensure we have a blast in Arkansas. Make sure you have your reservations and that your plane is in working order.

**ANS NANCY JUDY  
AWARD WINNER!**

***Congratulations Ann!  
We are so glad because  
you are so deserving!***



***KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!***

SNAG NEWSLETTER/JULY 2011  
Susan Holmes  
151 Autumn Circle  
Belton, TX 76513

