



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS FLY IN UPDATE

The last SNAG fly in of the 2011 season is now history. Everyone had a good time visiting and talking Navions. The accommodations at the Best Western were very nice, but this hotel is the first one I have seen where each room has a front and back door!

Many thanks to our hosts Wayne and Ellen Whitaker. This fly in is the second that they have hosted for SNAG, and the weather has been excellent for each. Wayne was appointed SNAG Director of Weather which is a lifetime appointment as long as it does not rain at a SNAG fly in.

Wanda, Melissa, Abigail, and I arrived early Friday afternoon to find many SNAG members already there. Paul and Ginger Wright flew in on Thursday and beat the crowd. Wayne and Ellen Whitaker, Mitch Midyett, Steve and Lita Ware, Art Hutchinson and Ann Bormolini, Vernon and Christine Walls, and Dick and Ann McSpadden were already parked when we arrived. Charlie Allen and Bob Swanzy arrived shortly afterward flying over in formation. Robert Gaines followed by Scott Burling and Tracy arrived shortly afterward. John and Cindy Lovell drove in from North Georgia to round out the attendees. We had a very nice lunch at a local establishment in down town DeFuniak Springs.

Aaron Hagan flew over on Saturday for the festivities but was unable to stay for Saturday night dinner and meeting. In all we had 13 Navions arrive at 54J during the weekend.

Due to unforeseen issues with the local airport manager flying events were limited to dawn patrol and a trip to Evergreen, Alabama where there was an EAA fly in on Saturday.

The ladies drove on down to Destin for a day of shopping and sightseeing and Lunch at the Hard Rock Café.

We met at the Best Western on Saturday evening for dinner consisting of prime rib and fried shrimp among other entrees. Afterward we held our business meeting as this fly in is when we elect officers for the next two years.

During the meeting a couple of special SNAG awards were announced. Since the recipients of the awards were not present to defend themselves the prizes will be shipped or flown in by Navion.

Long time SNAG member **Cecil Austin** was announced as **SNAG Member Of The Year**. Congratulations to Cecil who really deserves this award!

The other award is the coveted "**Tractor Seat**" award also known as the "Pucker Factor" award. This award is awarded to the SNAG member pilot who, in the opinion of the officers, has produced the most hair raising flying experience of the previous year. This year the Tractor Seat award is given to **Lee Holmes** whose experience flying to the Loanoke, Arkansas fly in is explicitly detailed in the last SNAG newsletter.

Before elections we held an auction of Navion and assorted parts conducted by Wayne Whitaker. I acquired a very nice saddle cover and a book titled "Bury Us Upside Down. Scott Burling acquired some needed parts along with two jars of Kelli Herrington's special homemade salsa. Afterward we held elections with President Robert Gaines officiating as his last official duty as president of SNAG. **Susan Holmes** was elected in absentia to continue as secretary/treasurer. **Rusty Herrington** was promoted (?) to president. **Paul Wright** was elected Vice President, or is it president of vice?

On Sunday morning everyone departed for home. En route home three of us flew up to Eufala, Alabama for a very good lunch at the airport restaurant.

- Rusty Herrington

ROBERT'S REPORT

David Morgan did fly in Saturday morning after Dawn patrol and went to lunch with us, then had to leave at 2pm, so that makes 14 Navions for a brief period of time.

For the record, Rusty was nominated by Dick and Vernon seconded, then Dick moved nominations closed and again Vernon seconded so quickly it made my head spin. I guess there is no sense wasting time. Rusty nominated Paul Wright for VP and Dick seconded, and boom it was over. Rusty nominated Susan Holmes for reelection as Treasurer/Newsletter editor, which I seconded. All votes were unanimous.

Instead of the flying activities we changed out a main landing gear scissors before we headed over to the EAA SERFI in Evergreen for an hour or so. I think Aaron Hagan's daughter enjoyed that. The parts auction made \$500.00 for SNAG and was enjoyable. Thanks to all who donated stuff.

I know it won't look as good on the shelf as the SNAG Member of the Year, I hope Lee enjoys the Tractor Seat Award.

-- Robert Gaines

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks for your vote of confidence. I am happy to continue serving as the secretary/treasurer. I try to have the newsletter out by the 15th of each month and do apologize when I fall short of that goal. As far as the treasury goes; we have money. Our costs each fiscal year tend to run...

Income

Membership @ about 125 families = \$2500.00 income

Expenses

Newsletters (supplies, copying & stamps) = \$1275.00 annually

ANS Convention Costs = \$600.00

Some fly-ins we lose money & some we break even so the rest of our dues covers those fly-ins where we lose a bit of money. Fundraisers like the parts auction provide a bit of cushion in the account so that we can cover costs when fly-in attendance is low due to weather and such.

2012 DUES ARE DUE

Our "fiscal year" has always ended in October. It's hard to believe that another year has passed and we are closing out the year. Send your 2012 dues to Susan Holmes, 151 Autumn Circle, Belton, TX, 76513. Dues are \$20.00 per family.

-- Susan Holmes

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Please help us keep updated. I want to send out an updated membership roster to every member in January! I have had several requests for a complete membership roster, so you need to make sure all your information is current.

Since almost all of us owe dues anyway, please drop a note to me when you send in your dues. You are also welcome to send any changes or updates via email to susaneholmes@sbcglobal.net.

The membership roster includes the following information:

- Name – first, last & nick name
- Spouse's name
- Current mailing address
- Current email address (if you have one)
- Navion tail number (if you have one)
- Home phone number
- Cellular phone number



-- Susan Holmes

MEMBER NEWS

Lee is back up and flying. We had a whirlwind trip on Friday to Shreveport & back. The Barksdale AFB leaders was invited to attend a reunion of the 98th Bomb Squadron Association which was hosted at Barksdale this year. This group includes the gentlemen who flew in the WWII raid on the Ploesti Mine Fields. Lee's squadron, the 343rd Bombardment Squadron, was a part of the 98th Bomb Squadron during WW II. It was an honor to meet the gentlemen who came before Lee & his fellow fliers. A brief history:

The most famous mission the 98th BG flew was the low-level (200' or lower altitude over target) bombing raid to the Ploesti oil refineries in Rumania on August 1, 1943, exactly one year after flying its first combat mission. The Ploesti refineries were selected as a primary target as it supplied one-third of the AXIS oil supply in Europe.

Code named "Operation: Tidal Wave", of the 46 B-24s from the 98th BG (out of a total of 178 total Liberators involved) that were involved in the action, only twenty-one (21) completed the mission and returned to friendly airfields, most with damage to aircraft and/or crew. Six (6) planes aborted before reaching the target due to mechanical failure or crew sickness. Nineteen (19) aircraft went down in enemy territory over the target or while attempting to return, two seen going down at sea. A total of 184-188 crewmen were killed in action or as a result, and there were a total of 12 casualties (including several men from the 389th who were attached to participating squadrons as part of this mission).

The plane performed beautifully and it was pretty cool to meet my handsome hubby at the airport as he stood on the wing of the plane in his dress uniform. I was in a retro 1960s style cocktail dress complete with high heels. It was a bit interesting getting in & out of the plane in the dress & heels, but well worth the effort!

-- Susan Holmes

One of the best parts about SNAG fly-ins are the stories we swap. Do you have an interesting story to share about a trip, a repair, rebuilding stories, or anything involving your Navion? Send it in to the secretary, so she will quit writing crazy stories about her husband's exploits!

Coming in December's newsletter... "Lessons Learned from a Tractor Seat Winner" by M. Lee Holmes.

SHADE TREE FLY-IN SHADE TREE AIRPORT (MS82) MARCH 2012

Shade Tree is located 2 miles west of Lyman, MS. Make those reservations now! Ramada Inn at 228-868-8200. Tell them you are with SNAG. If you have not been to a Shade Tree fly-in you are in for a treat. Danny Miller sure knows how to roll out the red carpet for our Navions! Check out Shade Tree's website, there are lots of Navion pictures and we are on their calendar of events... www.shadetreeairport.com.

If you have any questions or want to talk about plans, contact the Butlers...
home: 601-798-5755, Barbara cell: 228-342-2489, Al cell: 228-342-5573.

PHOTOS FROM DEFUNIAK



KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!

SNAG NEWSLETTER/NOVEMBER 2011
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