



## **Southern Navion Air Group**

---

Newsletter

APRIL 2012

### **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

SNAG and ANS were well represented at Sun N Fun 2012. The weather this year was perfect. We all had a great time during the week. Our SNAG flight of four were among the first to arrive on Sunday. Wanda and I lead the group with Paul and Ginger Wright, Dick and Ann McSpadden, and Art Hutchinson and Ann Bormolini following. Tony Russell and Jim Waldron arrived later on Sunday.

Dick McSpadden flew Jeff Davis' Navion down so that Richard McSpadden could bring 18K down later in the week with Dick's grandson Grant. Richard and Grant camped at the airport along with Jim Waldron. Long time SNAG member Darrell James arrived early in the week with his 225 powered Navion. Another early arrival was Charles Stites who stayed the entire week.

There were at least 18 Navions at Lakeland during the week at Sun N Fun 2012 whose owners include Tony Russell, Paul Wright, Art Hutchinson, Jeff Davis, Dick McSpadden, Rusty Herrington, Blake Flemming, Beth Pontif, Jim Waldron, Charles Stites, Kevin Woodside, Josh Woodside, Darrel James, Greg Farah, Tajh Krause & Mary Wellendorf, Ray Rousey and another Canadian. Ray stopped in Lakeland enroute to the Caribbean. The CAF L-17 was proudly tied down on a prominent location on the main warbird ramp along with a Bearcat, Corsair, a couple of Mustangs, and T-28's.

John Damgard flew into Plant City and drove over to Lakeland with Jeff Davis as passenger. Dean Sanborn also drove up from his Florida home. Ron Judy, Gary Rankin, and JT McMahon all flew into Tampa via airlines. Ross Ernest was forced to leave his Navion at home and arrived in the Pilatus. John Yohey drove from his summer palace at Venice having arrived there in a brand "B" airplane. Jack Wells drove down from Lake City and visited with us for a while and new SNAG member Nick Kanakis drove down from Savannah. Nick stayed with our friends Buck and Patsy Maxwell who finally joined SNAG this week. Nick had originally planned to lead a flight of four helicopters down from Hunter Army Airfield.

On Thursday the USAF Thunderbirds arrived and flew shows over the weekend. Sun N Fun is our first chance of the season so see all of the new gadgets available for our Navions. I was able to visit with many of the vendors during the week including Electronics International, PS Engineering, Lightspeed, Andair and ECI. All of those folks are happy to answer questions and get feedback on their products. Wanda also let me go shopping at the tool vendors. Stars and Stripes Tools had a good selection of hard to find items many of which are made here in the USA. Snap On Tools also had a booth selling tools directly to everyone.

On Wednesday night instead of going to "Catfish Country" we went to the "Oaks Bar and Grill" a locally owned mom & pop restaruant known by SNAG members as the "Walking Eagle Club". Everyone enjoyed the good food and fellowship there. Another local SNAG favorite is the "Shrimp Boat Grill". I think more than one of us gained a few pounds during the week.

Ann McSpadden, Ann Bormolini, and Wanda Herrington played golf several days during the week and came to the airport in the afternoon to catch up on the activities. We were all able to watch the night airshow together on Friday evening. This year was the first

time many of us had seen the night airshow. For those of you who have never attended this event I encourage you to make plans to be there with us next year on April 9th to 14th.

-- Rusty Herrington

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Did you check the membership roster that was mailed out recently? The roster is only as accurate as we are about sending in our changes. You are encouraged to send any changes or updates via email to [susaneholmes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susaneholmes@sbcglobal.net) or by calling me at 254-780-6039.

***How do you know if your dues are paid?*** Check your mailing label. At the bottom right there's a Membership line. If it says "Owe Dues", you can send me a check. For you email newsletter recipients...I sent an email out to those who owe dues.

Remember, dues are \$20.00 and your check should be made out to SNAG. You can send them to Susan Holmes at 151 Autumn Circle, Belton, TX 76513.

-- Susan Holmes

## ANS CONVENTION JUNE 24-JUNE 29 BARDSTOWN, KY

Once a year the ANS, Ltd. has a National Convention the last week in June or the first week of July. In order to give all of our members the opportunity to attend, we rotate the convention sites around the country. BARDSTOWN, KY has been chosen as the site of this year's convention.

Why do we have a convention? For fun, camaraderie and to share the joy our Navions bring us. We hope you can join us.

We have reserved the entire Best Western General Nelson Hotel for the week, which is less than 2 miles from the airport. There are 46 rooms and when those are filled, we have made arrangements for rooms in the Parkview which is a short distance from the BW. Get your reservations in soon so you can be where all the action is.

The week's schedule includes...

Sunday : Registration & Check in all day  
Welcoming Party @ 6:00 PM

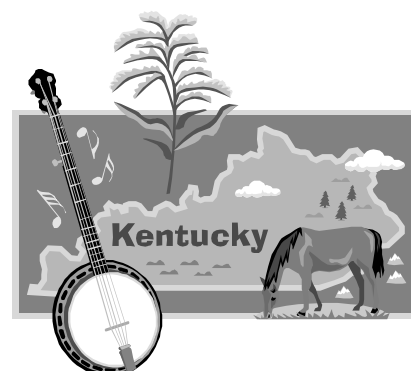
Monday: Heaven Hills Bourbon Heritage & City Tour

Tuesday: Pilot Brief & Speed Contest  
Voting Members Luncheon  
My Old Kentucky Home Tour  
Stephen Foster Story

Wednesday: Tour of Churchill Downs & the Undulta Breeding Farms

Thursday: Pilot Brief & Efficiency Contest  
a Safety or a Technical session  
Kentucky Dinner Train

Friday: Pilot Brief & Proficiency Contest  
a Safety or a Technical session  
Awards Dinner



## MEMORIAL DAY FLY-IN GADSDEN, AL (KGAD) MAY 25-28, 2012

Blake & his brother Heath, a new Navion owner, will be hosting this event and can't wait to show off their home town! Blake reports that they have excellent support from the airport manager and the City of Gadsden for our visit. For more info call Blake at 678-427-7608.

We have a block of rooms reserved at the Hampton Inn for \$79.00 per night. Please give them a call to make your reservation and tell them you are with the SNAG Group:

**Hampton Inn**  
**206 Walker Street, Gadsden, Alabama, USA 35904**  
**Tel: 1-256-538-5222 Fax: 1-256-538-5231**

The hotel is 2-miles from the airport and is located right next to 3 restaurants (Cracker Barrel, Ruby Tuesdays, and Old Mexico) that are an easy walk. Also, next door is the Holiday Inn Express, Fairfield Inn and Comfort Inn.

Possible activities include a flying trip to the International Motorsports Hall of Fame & Museum, golf, a visit to the Noccalula Falls, and fantastic food! More on activities in the April newsletter.

### Airport

This is a non-towered airport so we should have easy access to the field. The airport has 2 large runways... 6/24 is the main runway @ 6800 x 150 feet. The cross runway is 18/36 @ 4800 x 150 feet. The CTAF is 122.8. There is very little traffic at this airport for its size. The Airport Manager is Fred Sington . His cell# is 256-458-4151.

The FBO is a large building with a 2nd level that looks over the ramp. The current gas price is \$5.95 which is full serve. They will offer a discount of \$0.50 per gallon off the current price at the time of the fly in.

### Activities

We are looking at a some good possibilities for activities....here is what we are planning:

**International Motorsports Hall of Fame & Museum:** This is a good opportunity for a fly out. Located directly adjacent to the Talladega Airport (KASN) is the hall of fame, museum and the speedway. In addition to the museum and hall of fame, we can take a guided group tour of the super-speedway itself. Would be a 15 minute flight (or a 40 minute drive) from Gadsden. Check it out at: <http://www.motorsportshalloffame.com/>

**Noccalula Falls** - Located right in Gadsden, this is a 90 foot water fall with a large park that includes a zoo and other attractions. This made national news a few weeks ago when some guys went over it in kayaks (see the video link showing this).

<http://landofgiants.amongstitt.com/2011/12/01/noccalula-falls/>

<http://www.cityofgadsden.com/Default.asp?ID=32>

**Golf** - There are several top golf courses nearby including River Trace and Twin Bridges, both of which play along the Coosa River and offer a unique setting. <http://twinbridgesgolf.com/>

**Top of the River:** This is a destination type restaurant that people come from all over to eat at. It is located directly on the Coosa river and has a deck over the water with a bar. The food is outstanding and we could get our own banquet room if we wanted it. One of my high school friends runs the place. <http://www.topotheriverrestaurant.com/>

There are other local attractions including a **river walk** and **historic downtown area**: <http://gadsden-etowahtourismboard.com/>

Feel free to call me if you have any questions or if we can do anything to help you make plans. We look forward to seeing everyone in Gadsden, AL! -- Blake Fleming

## WHY SHOULD SNAG MEMBERS GO TO THE ANS CONVENTION?

- Think about the serious amount of knowledge that will be attending the convention! What an amazing opportunity to ask questions of our most knowledgeable members.
- In addition, imagine the fun! We have loads of fun at our SNAG fly-ins. Imagine an entire hotel filled with Navion people.
- Kentucky is right in our backyard. The 2013 convention will be in California, so we should go while we don't need to travel as far.
- Did you know that we get points for SNAG when we attend? There is an ANS Participation Trophy and we at SNAG like to win it! The club gets points for members who attend, members who participate in the contests & those who place in the contests. We won last year and want to bring home the trophy again this year.
- Our very own Dick McSpadden & JT McMahon have something special planned. We should support our fellow SNAG members.

So if you haven't made reservations to attend the convention in June, check your calendar and make a reservation now! Registration forms are in the Navioneer or on the ANS website.



***KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!***

**SNAG NEWSLETTER/APRIL 2012**

**Susan Holmes  
151 Autumn Circle  
Belton, TX 76513**

