



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

APRIL 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, despite a little rain on Saturday and a lot of rain on Sunday morning the shade tree fly in was a great success. Intrepid aviators started arriving at Shade Tree early on Friday. Al Butler stopped by my house to help with the ice chests and as soon as we got everything loaded we were on the way. Ginger and Barbara Butler set up the hospitality suite and started warming up the food at about four o'clock and people started arriving at the hospitality room shortly after. Brisket and beans, ginger's jambalaya and Barbara's corn and shrimp soup made for a great Friday evening get together. As always a good time was had by all.

In attendance were Burt Zeller, Charles Wiggins, new comers Missy & Mike Weyenberg plus kiddos, Pim & Tienke Sierks, Paul & Ginger Wright along with Nick, Nick Kanakis who "flew in low level" on wheels, Scott & Tracey Burling along with Kameron, Rusty & Wanda Herrington, James & Melissa Herrington along with Abigail & Charlie, Barbara & Al Butler, Ellen & Wayne Whitaker, Robert Gaines, Mitch Midyett, Greg Young, Susan & Lee Holmes, Bill Ross, Art & Ann Hutchinson, David Morgan, Paul Deason & Bruce Herrington.

Saturday morning started with the dawn patrol. The Navions followed Danny Miller in the T6 and soon afterward we started the games. A lot of the local folks had arrived by then and they were really thrilled to see the old Navions in such a fantastic display of airmanship. We at snag are used to seeing old airplanes doing these things but it is a rare treat for most other people. With a little luck we were able to complete the games. Thanks to Mitch Midyett, event chairman and assistant Nick Sheppard and others for their hard work.

Saturday night at Lookout 49 was great. The food was good and the company was even better. Back at the hospitality room we concluded our business with awards and announcements. In an unusual turn of events awards were handed out to a husband and wife team, Susan Holmes, snag person of the year for 2013 and Lee Holmes who received the not so coveted tractor seat award for an unfortunate event involving his canopy. A few people had to leave on Saturday evening due to weather and on Sunday more people departed. Some had to stay a while longer but that just gives you time for a little more fun, right?

A special thanks to Al Butler for hauling ice chests and people around all weekend and Mitch Midyett for driving the van, Barbara Butler for making the corn and shrimp soup, ginger for shopping, cooking and setting up, breaking down and cleaning and to all who showed up despite the inclement weather.

Well, I should probably close for now so, fly carefully and fly often, and if you fly through my neighborhood stop in and visit.

See Ya Soon - Elmo Hebert

THE NAVION GAMES: COMPETITION AT SHADE TREE

Saturday morning was wet at Shade Tree. But not too wet for the SNAG bunch intent on popping balloons and trying to hit the judges with bean bags. Now, Sunday morning was REALLY WET, but that's a whole different story.

So on Saturday morning, shortly after the dawn patrol, Nick Sheppard, Dave Morgan and I took a van full of helium filled balloons out to the runway. We had a light quartering south-easterly breeze with an occasional swirly gust. Some balloons went up nicely as they crossed the runway, and a few headed straight for the trees on the west side of the runway. First group to launch had Greg Young in the lead followed by Bert Zeller and Mike Weyenberg. Group two included James Herrington, Rusty Herrington, Paul Wright and Lee Holmes. The third and final group for the balloon bust was Wayne Whitaker, Robert Gaines and Scott Burling. The Line Judge deemed either the first or second balloon for both Robert and Scott to be unfairly treated by the wind, and each were awarded another try. Didn't help Scott... he still missed. Missed them all. He was in good company, Rusty Herrington, Paul Wright, and Wayne Whittaker also failed to connect with a single balloon.

The rookie, Mike Weyenberg, aced all three balloons! Got them all! Only Navion crew to achieve this goal. First Place! Greg Young, Bert Zeller, and Robert Gaines each got two balloons, so we had a three-way tie for second place. Since Bert was a no-show for the award ceremony, Robert and Greg held a coin toss for the award. Greg went home with another plaque! He's gonna need a bigger wall soon to hold all the awards!

After a wonderful lunch and a bit of rain, I set out during a light shower with Danny's line-making-machine to put a stripe across the runway for the spot landing contest. My shoes got all squishy from the wet turf and my attitude toward this whole judging thing deteriorated. As head judge, I instituted a new rule: Any pilot who mentioned the fact that the line was not quite straight was immediately disqualified.

After a few more rain showers, and some lower clouds drifting in, we launched Navions. The first group was led by Rusty Herrington, followed by Paul Wright and Robert Gaines. The second group included James Herrington, Greg Young and Lee Holmes. Nobody disappeared in the clouds during their downwind runs, even though I heard rumors that it was a close thing. The light rain showers continued, but visibility below the clouds was still good.

You'd think a B-52 combat crew member could ace a target from about a hundred feet high from a slow-moving Navion. But NO, Lee Holmes put his first bean bag in the next county. But Lee is a quick study, got the range and wound up putting his third bean bag at second place distance of sixteen feet from the target. Robert Gaines edged Lee by about three feet to claim first place in the bomb toss.

I think most of our hot-stick pilots got over confident in the spot landing event. Over half the pilots, Paul Wright, Robert Gaines, James Herrington, and Greg Young, landed short and wound up in the spud locker. Or maybe it was an illusion caused by the crooked line? Didn't matter, they were disqualified. Robert Gaines nailed down first place at something close to sixty feet, and Lee Holmes made second place with a landing at about eight-four feet past the line.

CANON CREEK FLY-IN REPORT

The hospitality at Canon Creek continued with warm welcomes despite poor weather. On Thursday a few of us were able to fly down to 15FL aka Canon Creek Airpark and begin our Canon Creek/Sun N Fun celebration early. Wanda and I arrived Thursday evening to find Dick's beloved 5318K already tied down at the home of Ann Bormolini and Art Hutchinson. The usual helicopter activities were under way so I tied down in the back yard of Jack and Shirley Gordon who were pleased to find us there when they returned home. Gene and Bonnie Ruder were already there staying with Jack and Shirley. Ron Judy and ANS President Gary Rankin arrived in Tampa and drove up on Friday, staying with Woody Woodfin and Jean Norton. John Yohey rode his motorcycle down from Pennsylvania and Dan Smith drove up from the Tampa area. ANS Vice-President Jim Waldron drove down from his now permanent home at Saint Simons Island, GA.

A frontal system was moving through from the west and prevented SNAG members from flying in on Friday and Saturday. On Friday evening we enjoyed a party at Ann's

and Art's home with many of the Canon Creek residents attending. The weather on Saturday prevented us from flying so we toured Jack Well's magnificent motorcycle collection, and Jack and Judie hosted a Saturday evening Barbeque in their hangar/home. Jack has added a balcony in his hangar to properly display his collection of mostly BMW motorcycles and a beautiful spiral staircase to allow visitors to access his collection.

On Sunday morning three SNAG Navions piloted by Art Hutchinson, Dick McSpadden and Rusty Herrington departed Canon Creek for Lakeland, Florida and Sun N Fun Fly In.

SUN N FUN REPORT

Sunday morning we were greeted by the staff at Sun N Fun and parked together on runway 5 while the ground was allowed to dry out from the weekend rains. Those of you who have not had the pleasure of attending this wonderful event may not know that our Navions have a special place at Sun N Fun. We have our own assigned Navion parking area which happens to be the driest ground at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport. We eventually parked all of our Navions together and had the largest group of a single type parked at Sun N Fun.

We promptly set up our tents and began enjoying ourselves. ANS Vick-President Jim Waldron, Ross Ernest, and Woody Woodfin camped out during the week while the rest of us camped at the Hampton Inn. On Thursday evening the McSpadden boys, Cliff, Richard, and Grant arrived in Jeff Davis Navion and camped at the airport with the others. The weather at Lakeland was perfect all week with warm dry days and cool clear nights.

Other SNAG members flying to Lakeland include Greg Young, Robert Gaines, Heath Fleming, Line Fleming, Evan Fleming, John Troleman, Tony Russell, Ginger and Paul Wright, Charles Stites, Sylvia and Bud Brown, Roye Ann and Robert Dickson, and Debbie and Dave Carpenter. Patsy and Buck Maxwell, Nick Kanakis, John Yohey, and Ron Judy arrived by non-Navion transportation. ANS President Gary Rankin was there with us all week and presided over the ANS Board of Directors meeting on Monday.

Impressive performances were made by the US Navy Blue Angels in their F/A-18 "Super Hornets" and a US Air Force F-22 "Raptor" as well as many other performers including Gene Soucy, and Matt Younkin.

Our evenings were filled with excellent meals at places like "Jessie's Prime Rib and Steak" and "Keith's Oaks Bar and Grille". The Prime Rib at Jessie's is worth the trek.

I want to express special thanks to Patsy and Buck Maxwell who ferried our large tent, lawn chairs and coolers to Lakeland to make our time at the fly in more enjoyable.

OTHER FLY-IN DATES:

June 29-July 4, 2014: 2014 Annual ANS Convention in Natchez, MS.

Aug 29-Sept 1, 2014: Labor Day TBD – call or email Paul Wright if interested in hosting.

Paul's contact information – email: blbarron@bellsouth.net, phone: 985 882-7016

ANS NATIONAL CONVENTION

The ANS Nationals will be right in our back yard this summer. We have won the participation trophy for many years now – even when the event was all the waaaay out in California last year. Let's show the rest of the Navion folks how awesome our SNAG family is. Please mark your calendars for the event & get hotel reservations now. The ANS hotel is the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. The toll free number is 1-800-315-2621. ANS has 50 rooms blocked until May 30th.

-- Susan Holmes

2014 DUES ARE DUE

Please make sure you check your address label **before** sending if dues. As usual, one or two have now paid twice. When that happens, I usually apply the 2nd check to the following year. Don't get me wrong, I will happily deposit your money.

Annual dues are \$20.00 per family. These cover the cost of the monthly newsletter (over 75% still prefer an actual paper newsletter via snail mail), access to our Facebook page and help pay for fly-ins with low attendance due to weather.

Please send your check to: SNAG c/o Susan Holmes, 151 Autumn Circle, Belton, TX 76513. Please, please, please make the check out to **SNAG**, otherwise I might spend it on shoes. ☺

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE

Our web site has been completely redesigned for a new look. There you will find photos, slideshows, and videos of our gatherings as well as an archive of our past newsletters. Over the last 3 months I have updated the site while keeping much of the old site available within the new format. John Blum who designed our original site has been a great help to me in getting the site into a pleasant and easy to use format.

There is an updated the EVENTS page with current information on our upcoming fly in activities complete with dates and hotel information as well as a spouses page where recipes, activities, and other things of special interest to our spouses can be posted.

Our URL or web address remains www.goflyyournavion.com

- Rusty Herrington, webmaster

**Memorial Day Fly-In
Lebanon, TN
M54**

The Lebanon airport M54 is about 20 east of Nashville right on I-40. I spoke with the airport manager today and he said they have a new ramp open on the west side of the runway and we could set up on it and tie down over there. Good hotels and restaurants and convenient access to Nashville shopping. Rob & Sandy Beatty will co-host.

HOTEL:

Hampton Inn
1065 Franklin Rd, Lebanon, TN 37090-4094
Phone: 615-444-3445

Rooms 2 queens or 1 king \$94.00 + tax or King suite \$104.00 + tax

Be sure to ask for the SNAG rate.

KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!**SNAG NEWSLETTER/APRIL 2014**

Susan Holmes
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