



## **Southern Navion Air Group**

Newsletter

September 2015

### **LABOR DAY FLY-IN**

Our 2015 Labor Day fly in is now history.

This year our event was hosted at Bourland Field at Cresson, Texas. Bourland Air Estates is a fly in community that is filled with fine homes and finer people. The whole community turned out to help and have fun with us. We were chauffeured to and from the hotel by Texans with smiling faces. We began arriving on Friday afternoon with our hosts expecting six Navions, but by evening the parking area behind Ron's home was full of Navions. Ron and Denise Hanselman opened their beautiful home to all of us for the weekend. We had fifteen Navions attending and three SNAG members whose Navions are down for overhaul. Friday night we feasted on pizza in the hangar at the Hanselman's home and visited beneath the stars.

In attendance were our fantastic hosts, Ron & Denise Hanselman, Rusty & Wanda Herrington, Paul Wright, Dick & Ann McSpadden, Steve & Lita Ware, Lee & Susan Holmes + Andrew on Saturday night, Jim & DeEdra Carter, Chuck & Peggy Fisher, Greg Young with Kevin Domingue as co-pilot, Dick & Cookie Bihler, Grant Gerondale, Greg Gerondale, Carl Jenkins, Jeff Davis, Wayne Whittaker, Bruce Herrington, Bobby Herrington and Robert Gaines who drove in from Nashville.

Saturday morning began with the usual event euphemistically called "Dawn Patrol". Fourteen Navions lined up and departed 50F and flew over to Lancaster where the CAF was holding an event of their own. After a low pass down the runway at KLNC we returned to Bourland for our Navion games. Ron and his friends had a nice highly visible target and tents set up for the spectators and judges. We had bean bag bombing and spot landing on Saturday. The black runway surface really made the flour spot landing mark easy to see, but that did not keep the "spud locker" empty. Carl Jenkins was awarded first place in spot landing after the judges decided that Rusty Herrington was one inch short. Rusty did win the bean bag bombing at seven paces.

Dinner was catered BBQ with all the fixins at the hangar. Folks had a great time visiting in the air conditioned house and on the back lawn which was filled with Navions. The local neighborhood joined us and the SNAG folks were able to thank them for chauffeuring us everywhere.

Sunday morning opened with balloon busting. The balloons cooperated for the most part and we finished in a three way tie between Carl Jenkins, Bruce Herrington, and Lee Holmes. Lee won the tie breaker by busting a third balloon and took top honors. The joy in Lee's voice was unmistakable after winning. Sunday afternoon some of our attendees flew out for lunch and visited one of the aviation museums in the area. That evening we feasted at a local establishment complete with children dancing the Hokey Poky and family style meals.

On Monday we departed for home. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time thanks to our wonderful hosts at Bourland Air Estates.

-- Rusty

Flying Contest Winners in Brief...

**Bomb Drop**

3rd - Lee Holmes (9 paces)  
2nd - Greg Young (8 paces)  
1st - Rusty Herrington (7 paces)

Paul Wright who was supervising the spot landing area wants folks to know there were NO effects of wind & inertia even though everyone flew off center to account for that. (As someone who nearly got bombed from the spectator area, the editor of this newsletter agrees!) Bruce blamed the crosswind at the beginning of the bomb runs. Two beanbags were lost to the trees and MANY others were gratefully collected from the next county by a Bourland local.

**Spot Landing**

Spud locker gang included Rusty, Dick, Bobby, Wayne, Lee,  
3rd – Steve Ware at 72 feet  
2nd – Dick Bihler at 64 feet  
1st – Carl Jenkins at 59 feet

**Balloon Bust**

3rd - Carl tied with Bruce  
2nd - Bruce who bought his 2<sup>nd</sup> place win since Robert wasn't able to properly manage a coin toss  
1st - Lee with a spotty radio in the 3 way tie breaker and with a great balloon releaser who didn't listen when Lee called "release".

**THE LIGHTER SIDE**

As always, the ladies enjoyed themselves although we had a much smaller group than normal. On Saturday Ann, Wanda, DeEdra, Cookie & Lita enjoyed the day walking in downtown Granbury and supporting the local economy. Peggy Fisher enjoyed her time flying with and photographing the planes. Susan, who arrived just as the "dawn" patrol was headed out stayed at the field and enjoyed the flying games for the first time ever. There was quite a crowd of locals who enjoyed "judging" the efforts of the participants. Quite the lively jesting but they also marveled at the beauty and diversity of the planes. They were fascinated by the multitude of individual modifications done to the planes over the years. Sunday, we ladies enjoyed a leisurely breakfast & visit at the hotel before being chauffeured to the airport. From there we met up with the guys, Peggy again flew with the guys while the rest of us headed out to a really cool Mexican BBQ joint in the middle of nowhere with our husbands and Ron. After stuffing ourselves, the Bihler's & McSpaddens headed off to Granbury to enjoy a community theater show while the Herringtons & the Holmeses headed back to the airport. I gotta say, there was no dieting with all the great food over the weekend.

-- Susan

The back yard view at the Hanselman hacienda -



Check out the website: [goflyyournavion.com](http://goflyyournavion.com) or the SNAG Facebook page for more awesome photos of the weekend.

Meridian, MS  
November 13-15, 2015  
(OMS0)

It is official! The 2015 Fall SNAG Fly In will be held at Meridian Mississippi.  
More details in October.

We have 20 rooms blocked until Oct. 31st at the:  
Hilton Garden Inn  
601-485-3506  
Group Code SNAG

Rooms are \$99 King or double

Meridian Group Hosts:

Bill Ross 601-938-9435  
Bert Zeller 601-917-6724  
Charles Wiggins 601-479-0577



For those of you able to make it in early enough Friday:

Bert has made arrangements to tour the T-45 simulators at Navy Air Station Meridian on Friday Nov. 13th. We will be Leaving Topton at 1730 to arrive at front gate at 1745. You must be in the group of cars approved to go through gate. ***Every individual must have a valid government photo ID of some type like a drivers license. Drivers of vehicles must have Drivers license, registration for vehicle and proof of insurance or rental agreement.***

The annual business meeting and awards ceremony (tractor seat & SNAG member of the year) will take place this weekend. We are due for a new President & Vice so join us to see what's up.

## TREASURER NEWS

Your favorite secretary/treasurer moved over the summer. During the transition (from mid-March to mid-June), SNAG papers were accidentally packed up. Now that we are settled and almost free of boxes, I found all the checks that have not been deposited. That is being rectified right after this newsletter is printed! Please note our NEW mailing address: **6918 Van Etten Street, Houston, TX 77021**. Phone & email have stayed the same.

Nick Kanakis flying down in Honduras. He says, "It's not a Navion but it's still pretty darn fun."



We miss you. Fly safe friend!!

## MAY 2015: LAGRANGE REPORT

The 2015 May SNAG fly in was another big success. Navions began arriving early on Thursday morning for some early golf and good food. Thursday afternoon Ann Bormolini, Art Hutchinson, Ann and Dick McSpadden, and Wanda Herrington played a round of golf at "The Fields". They had so much fun that all but Wanda returned Friday morning for a second round. Thursday evening we dined at a very small and rural place called "The Cart Barn" which really is located at a local driving range. The food is excellent!

On Friday others began arriving and by that evening we had 11 SNAG Navions on the field. A few of our members drove due to mechanical and weather related issues. Friday evening we had barbecue courtesy of LaGrange airport manager Chad Traylor. The weather on Friday remained "marginal VFR" for most of the day, but those beautiful Navions kept arriving. I flew Wanda up to Cobb County so she could drive down with Melissa and her girls. James has been preoccupied on US Air Force business. The team of Lee Holmes and Kevin Domingue flew in from Houston with a fuel stop to visit Bob Swanzy who was busy attending the FBO at Greenwood. Others flying in on Friday include Dan Smith, Bruce & Bruce Jr Herrington, Jeff Davis, Line, Camille, Evan, & Blake Fleming, Bert Zeller, Carl Jenkins, and Richard Buchanan flying his flagship Navion. Those driving included Paul & Ginger Wright, Wayne & Ellen Whitaker, Jon Byrd, and Robert Gaines.

Saturday the weather was beautiful and nine Navions departed LaGrange for "Dawn Patrol". We flew down West Point Lake and the Chatahoochee River and back into LaGrange. While we were preparing for the bean bag drop Richard Epton arrived with his family in a beautiful twin Navion from Peach State Airport. Richard is now a SNAG member. Saturday morning Mary Herrington and her crew drove down from Atlanta as well.

We held the bean bag bombing combined with spot landing in the morning and balloon bust after lunch. Lunch was "on your own", and many visited Charlie Joseph's, a local establishment that serves really good hot dogs and burgers. There were many spectators from the local community who really enjoyed the Navion games. Later Saturday afternoon many of us flew around the area with a stop at Sommerset a private grass runway near Auburn, Alabama.

While we were playing with our Navions the ladies toured the LaGrange area on a tour set up by Wanda Herrington. The ladies had lunch at The Taste of Lemon and toured the Hills and Dales Estate. Then they went shopping at Lafayette Square.

Saturday evening supper was at The Mare Sol Restaurant in downtown LaGrange. The food was good and we had half of the dining room to ourselves. After supper we announced the results of our flying events at the hotel.

Bean Bag Bombing.

First Place. Bruce Herrington  
Second Place. Rusty Herrington

Spot Landing

First Place. Lee Holmes  
Second Place. Blake and Evan Fleming

Balloon Bust

This event ended in a tie between Lee Holmes and Rusty Herrington with two balloons each. The tiebreaker was decided by a game of Rock Paper Scissors in which Lee won in the second round. The balloons seemed to be made of some mysterious material that refused to break, and many competitors had their targets bounce off.

On Sunday everyone arrived home safely.

-- Rusty

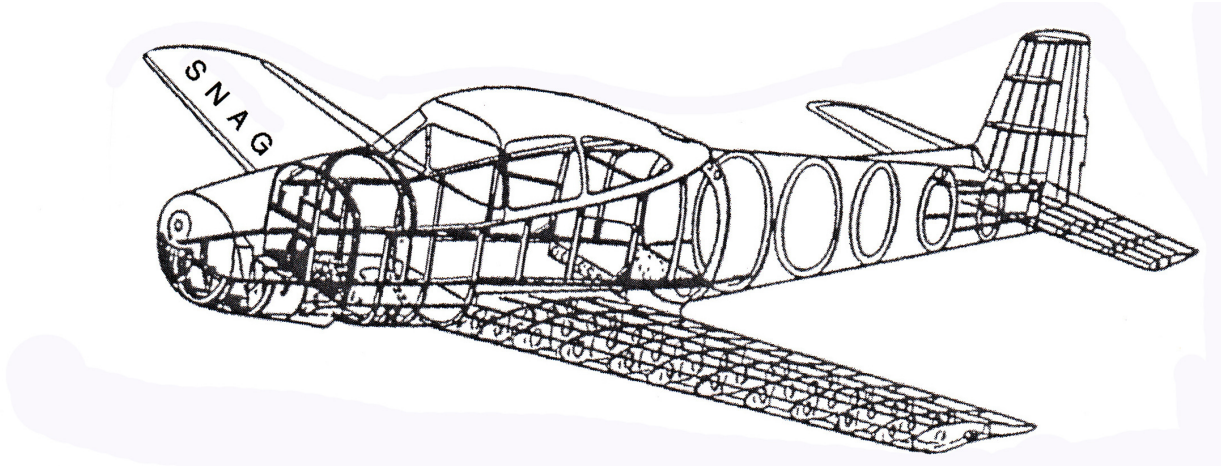
## HOW TO HOST A FLY-IN

Meridian will mark the end of another successful SNAG fly-in season. I am sure our fearless leaders will be looking for 2016 Fly-In hosts. For those of you out there who would like to share your neck of the woods with the group by hosting a fly in, but weren't sure what the planning entailed, I'm publishing the "official" fly-in checklist that was passed to me by Ann McSpadden many years ago. You can also find it on our SNAG Facebook page under the files section.

- Choose a location & airport
  - Confirm arrangements with the airport manager (ensure acceptability of group flying contests)
  - Assure tie-down ability
  - Negotiate a fuel discount
- Choose a hotel (Room block in SNAG name)
  - Discount for rooms (with manager)
  - Room block (aim for 20) & set a cancelation date
  - Secure Hospitality Room (usually "comped")
  - Check for breakfast availability
- Dinner Arrangements
  - Friday night - can be sandwiches & such in the hospitality room (see hospitality section) or grilled burgers, etc
  - Saturday lunch for airport guys
  - Saturday dinner/banquet
    - o Best if there's a party room
    - o Need a reservation to seat about 30 folks.
    - o Can be order off the menu or a set menu of your choosing
- Communication to president & newsletter editor
  - Location & date
    - o Airport information
    - o Identifier
    - o Runway info
    - o Radio freq
  - Hotel information
    - o Name & city
    - o Local telephone #
    - o Block information & cancellation date
- Hospitality
  - Ice down beverages (sodas, beer & water)
  - Paper products for hospitality room
  - Sandwich makings (meat, cheese, condiments, veggies) for Friday night (*or whatever items needed for dinner*)
- Transportation
  - Rent at least 1 large van (15 passenger)
  - Check with SNAG members who live nearby (Some folks near you may choose to have one spouse drive in so we have more cars)
  - Ensure adequate transportation for men & women (Some airports have a courtesy car. If not enough, we may need to rent an additional vehicle.)
- Flying Events
  - Dawn Patrol - arrange a nice morning flight
  - Set up for contests (arrange with someone to judge events)
    - o Spot Landing - no materials needed on asphalt strip
    - o Flour bombing - Check with president about who is bringing the bean bags
    - o Balloon bust - helium quality balloons (red please), 1 or 2 small helium tanks from party store (or Wal-Mart)
  - Trophies
    - o Host can choose – trophy, plaque or etched glasses
    - o Top two for each contest
- Non-Flying Events
  - Shopping, local sites to visit
  - Lunch
- Reimbursement
  - Hang on to all receipts & put your name on them
  - Turn in to the Treasurer or President

For three day events:

- Sunday should include some sort of group trip to a local attraction
- Sunday Dawn patrol can be somewhere nearby for breakfast (must be within walking distance)
- Banquet is on Sunday, so an extra night of dinner plans should be made



***KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!***

**SNAG NEWSLETTER/SEPTEMBER 2015**  
Susan Holmes  
6918 Van Etten Street  
Houston, Texas 77021



**SNAG**