



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

Nov '15- Jan '16

FROM THE OUT-GOING PRESIDENT

The Meridian MS fly in was fantastic! Check out the pics at "goflyyournavion.com". The turnout was somewhere in the neighborhood of 18 to 20 (I'm sure Susan has the official number) Navions on the beautiful grass field. There is just something about Navions on a grass landing strip that warms the heart. There were so many great things this weekend but, for me the highlight was flying the flight simulators at Key Field on Friday night. Watching everyone try their hand at flying the jet simulator and of course watching some try to land on the aircraft carrier was super. Of course Burt made it look easy. Not so much for the rest of us.

Saturday lunch was burgers and dawgs at the airport. I'm not sure who cooked but I'm sure Bill and Charles supervised. For some reason food just tastes better at the airport. The afternoon flying games, balloon chasing and diving for the spot landing were entertaining as always. I have discovered a new method for increasing my odds of popping balloons. Kevin Dominique quickly figured out what I was doing but even with my newly discovered method I was unable to place in the balloon contest. Suffice to say, if I was a fighter pilot we would have lost the war. I'm just happy that Steven Jennings didn't use that strange looking new Navion of his in the contests- He would have won it all. (Ed. note: Steve is the proud new owner of a beautiful Robinson R-44 helicopter) Thanks again to Bill, Burt, Charles and all of their helpers for another great SNAG fly in.

I have been a member of SNAG for many years, much more than some, much less than others. For much of my life I was a workaholic with no hobbies, but in 1992 while looking for an airplane to purchase I spotted a bunch of airplanes in a grass field in Jennings Louisiana and stopped in to investigate. I was intrigued by these old planes and even more so by the people flying them. The first people I encountered were Jody Meaux and Jackie Rayburn. If you ever met these two you would understand how I ended up buying a Navion. Jody quickly introduced me to her husband Chris who began to inquire about my flying experience and airplane needs. Chris quickly deduced that a large engine Navion would suit my purpose nicely. After a wonderful afternoon with these people I was convinced that I should buy one.

Monday morning I began looking for my Navion. After a quick trip to New Orleans and another to Mountain Home Arkansas I was a little discouraged, but while sitting at my desk a couple of days later I received a phone call from a fellow named Herb in Boca Raton, FL saying that he had one of the nicest Navions in the country and that if I was really interested he would bring it to me at his expense for a pre-buy and test flight. To make a long story short, he did and I sent him home on a Delta flight. After getting my 10 hours for the insurance company, I began to get used to flying this thing. What you have to understand is that I knew very little about airplanes and nothing at all about Navions. Soon after the purchase I had the opportunity to fly my new acquisition to a SNAG event in central Mississippi. As Ginger and I taxied up to the parking area, I noticed a mob of people walking toward us. I turned to her and said, "I don't know what I did but it must have been bad for this many people to be headed out here". As we slowly exited the aircraft I noticed that the people were less interested in us and more interested in the airplane. Realizing that the people were not hostile and with a sigh of relief I stepped off of the wing and engaged the crowd.

People began to say things like, "It has Cleveland brakes". I said, "Is that good?" Yes they said. Then, "It has a super sloped windshield". Is that good I asked? Yes, they said. Then one older gentleman said, "Hey, it has a geared engine, I think it's a

GO435". Another said, "No, it's a GO480". Wow you don't see many of those. Of course I was a bit overwhelmed. Clearly I had no idea what I had just bought or why these people were so interested in it. After arriving home I began to study the log books and the history of this plane. Where it had been, who had owned it and what modifications had been done to it over the years.

After spending a wonderful weekend meeting people, flying and talking about Navions, I realized that purely by accident or maybe by divine intervention something wonderful had happened. Looking back after 23 years of Navion people and events, I have come to realize how life changing it has been. Dick McSpadden often says that SNAG has given him much more than he will ever be able to give back. That is a profound statement from a man that has done so much, but as a longtime and very active member of SNAG I understand completely. I have been the president of SNAG multiple times and I have hosted many fly-ins and it has always been a rewarding experience. As my most recent term as SNAG president has come to an end I will always cherish the many years of memories that I have of attending SNAG events. We have so many pictures of our children as they grew up sitting under the wing of our Navion at various airports around the US and pictures of people who became wonderful friends over the years.

I encourage all of you that have pictures, particularly people that have older pictures from fly-ins 15 or 25 years ago, or even older, to send them or scan them and send them to our great webmaster, Dr. Rusty Herrington (2015 SNAG member of the year) so he can put them on our SNAG website, "goflyyournavion.com". It is the efforts of many people like Rusty Herrington, Dick McSpadden, Al Butler, Cecil Austin, Charlie Allen, Ron Judy, Bill Ross, Burt Zeller, Bob Brame and so many more over the years and the many wives that have contributed their time and efforts to SNAG that have made it such a fun and wonderful organization to be associated with. You may notice that some of the names that I mentioned are of people that are no longer with us or that we haven't seen in a while. The list could have gone on for a couple of pages, but I had to stop somewhere.

Congratulations to our new SNAG president Wayne Whitaker. Wayne has been a longtime and very active member of SNAG, attending many fly-ins and also hosting several fly-ins with his wife Ellen. For those of you who don't know Wayne he also owns a company that manufactures and sells aircraft lifts that make it possible to fit more airplanes in your hanger.

As SNAG ages and as SNAG members age and as new younger members join and get involved, it is my sincere hope that SNAG will endure as a place where people can come together to enjoy these old planes and the camaraderie and fellowship that my family and I have enjoyed over all these years.

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' at Shade Tree – Paul

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Another great year for the SNAG group! The last fly-in at Topton Estates outside Meridian, MS was a very successful event that was highlighted with 21 Navions, an opportunity to actually fly a Navy T-45 simulator (thanks the Bert Zeller), helicopter rides for the spectators (thanks to Steve Jennings) and attendance by some folks we haven't seen at a fly-in for too long a time, namely John "Blackjack" Blum and Bob "6 Star General" Swanzy. I was elected/appointed to the president's slot and I am very proud to say Steve Ware accepted the vice president. Steve wasn't there to say "no" but I did ask over the phone to get his concurrence. He was heading up a local fly-in at his home airpark. Susan Holmes will continue to count our money and do the newsletters and Rusty Herrington will continue with the website – thanks to both.

Next year, we start off at Shade Tree (MS82) in late February, then Mid-May Day (May 27-30) hosted by Jon Byrd at KRMG in Rome, GA., Cannon Creek (prep for Sun 'n Fun), the National Convention at Ruidoso NM in June, Labor Day in Mashall, TX hosted

by the Wares and finally, at Apalachicola, KAAF, (Ed. note: mid-central Florida panhandle on the coast between Panama City and Tallahassee) at the end of October, or the first part of November. My plan is to try to have the fly-ins dispersed around the SNAG area to hopefully provide more chances for the group to get together. If you live in the west, fly east, if you live in the east, fly west – the same is true for the north/south members. Please consider becoming a host if you haven't done one yet, typical instructions are found in the "goflyournavion" website and on the SNAG Facebook page.

More to come, fly safely - Wayne

TOPTON ATTENDEES & EVENT WINNERS

Awesome weather and a central location led to strong attendance at our final 2015 fly-in at Meridian, MS. which counted 21 Navions and one rotary-type aerospace vehicle as participants. Topton Air Estates is just north of Meridian so we were surrounded by Navy/Marine trainers, pilots and students. Special thanks to our hosts Bert & Brenda Zeller, Bill & Anita Jo Ross and Charles & Carol Wiggins for a great time! A note of appreciation to Bert's colleagues on the staff of the NAS Meridian simulator building who helped out so several SNAG members could test their ability to land (crash?) jets on a simulated carrier- apparently a bit more challenging than our spot landing contests! A final "thank you" to new member Boyd Williams who provided us the use of his spectacular Hummer full-stretch limousine Saturday for dinner and post dinner fun-runs. (He's going to try and get it down to Shade-Tree as well, TBD!). In addition to our hosts, we enjoyed the company of: Dave Morgan, Tim & Becky Hill, Sir Pim & Tineke Sierks, Lee & Susan Holmes, Greg Young, Carl Jenkins, Wayne and Ellen Whitaker, Lawrence Austin, John 'Blackjack' Blum, Dennis Jennings, Art & Ann Hutchinson, Paul & Ginger Wright, Dan Smith, Kevin Domingue, Robert Gaines, Steven & Laura Jennings, Boyd Williams w/guest Bobbi Partridge, Waylen Harris, Bill Thornburg, Gen. Bob Swanzy, Butch Adkins & Sherry George, Andy Holliday, Gary Bright, Chris Kyler and Herringtons: Bobby, Bruce, Rusty & Wanda, James & Melissa w/posse.

Our usual not-so-dawn patrol included fifteen planes, although one fell out after take-off due to a gear retraction problem and we enjoyed our tour of the Mississippi lakes and rivers with several low passes at adjacent airfields. The competitions were cut short due to the bean bags missing their departure flight, so no bomb-comp. The squirrely winds made the balloon busting quite challenging, to include the loss of several balloons who made a mass-exodus from the van when the door was opened a hair too much. This led to Bert having to "audible" the use of un-popped balloons for subsequent passes...definitely some interesting flying and umm, "non-standard" radio calls. After all the hilarity was behind us, the winners were- Balloon bust: 1st was Carl Jenkins with 3, then a four-way tie for 2nd with two each included Blackjack Blum, Boyd Williams, Lee Holmes and Greg Young. The spot landing included a textbook 50' obstacle clearance approach with Waylen Harris 1st at 2', then Blackjack 2nd at 17'. The annual Tractor-seat award was not awarded for 2015 since no one fessed up to having done anything worthy of this prestigious award. The 2015 SNAG member of the year trophy was awarded to Dr. Rusty Herrington for his outstanding efforts on the renewed SNAG web site which we've greatly enjoyed.

TREASURER NEWS

Dues are due – again! Please note our NEW mailing address: **6918 Van Etten Street, Houston, TX 77021**. Phone: 254-780-6039, email: susaneholmes@sbcglobal.net. Remember to make your checks out to "SNAG". All checks made out to Susan Holmes will be used for fabulous shoes. ☺

Pretty please take 5 minutes of your time to complete the membership roster update form and mail it to me (with your dues preferably). I have had MANY requests from members to

Shade Tree Fly-In Details

Feb 26 - 28, 2016.

The arrangements have been finalized and everything is ready to go! Shade Tree is the best place ever to have a fly in, so we will have our spring fly-in there on the 26th, 27th and 28th of February. By now everyone should know the drill, but for those few that have not been there the info is as follows:

Hotel Info:

Hampton Inn & Suites
(228) 539-0601

15580 Daniel Blvd.
Gulfport, MS 39503

When you call and make your reservation, tell them you are with SNAG. King Standard \$109.00 per night plus tax or Queen Standard \$109.00 per night plus tax.

Complimentary breakfast is available in the hotel dining area. 10 kings and 10 queens will be held until 2/12/16 at these rates so call early to make your reservations.

Festivities will be as usual with food and snacks at the hotel on Friday night. Drinking and lying are encouraged. Saturday morning dawn (brunch) patrol, lunch at the airport and then games. For those that prefer ribs and pulled pork, "The Shed" bar-b-que place is right down the road from the airport. Saturday evening we will be dining at the lookout restaurant, (same place as last year). The food and service is great, then back to the hotel for business, cocktails etc. Sunday fly away home.

CTAF Freq: 122.9

Location

FAA Identifier: MS82
Lat/Long: 30-30-37.7000N / 089-08-50.1510W
30-30.628333N / 089-08.835850W
30.5104722 / -89.1472642

Elevation: 113 ft. / 34 m
Variation: 02E (1985)
Distance From city: 2 miles W of LYMAN, MS

Airport Communications

WX ASOS at GPT (7 nm SE): PHONE 228-867-9937
WX AWOS-3 at HSA (18 nm SW): 118.375 (228-466-9320)

Nearby radio navigation aids

VOR radial/distance	VOR name	Freq	Var
<u>GPT</u> r328/7.2	GULFPORT VORTAC	109.00	02E
<u>PCU</u> r091/30.3	PICAYUNE VOR/DME	112.20	05E

Runway Information

Runway 17/35

Dimensions: 2800 x 100 ft. / 853 x 30 m
Surface: Turf
Runway edge lights: low intensity

RUNWAY 17 RUNWAY 35

Traffic pattern: Left left
Obstructions: None 15 ft. line, marked

That should be enough information for even the "navigationally challenged". For those of you that have never been there, sometimes it can be a little difficult to find.

SNAG Membership Roster Update

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone (if applicable): _____ Cell phone: _____

Email address: _____

Spouse Name: _____ Cell phone: _____

Spouse Email address: _____

Children living at home (w/current age): _____

Aircraft Information

N#: _____ Model: _____ Engine: _____ Year: _____

Aircraft Type (if not a Navion): _____

Home Airport Identifier: _____ City/State: _____

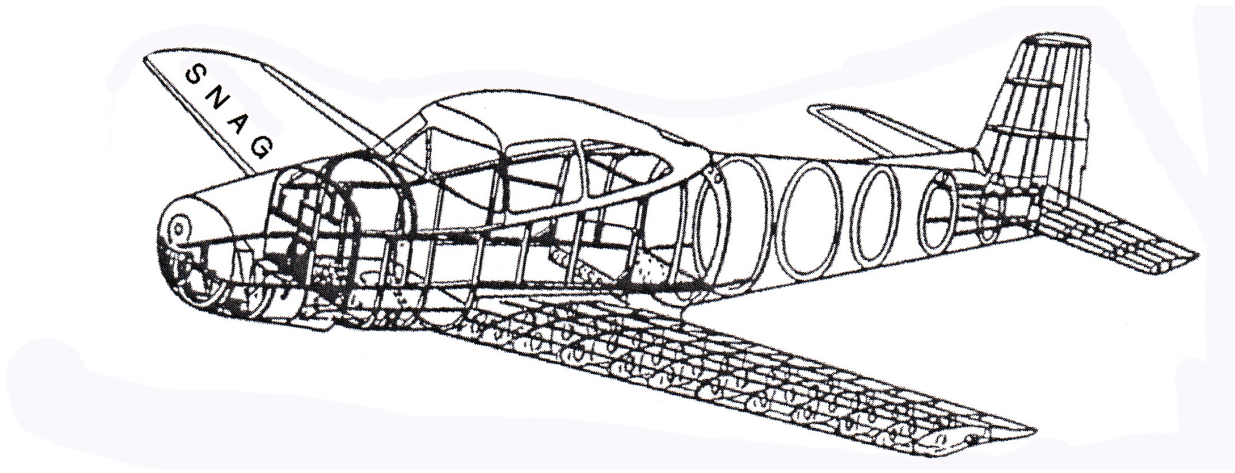
How would you prefer to receive your newsletter? email postal mail

Annual Dues are \$20.00 per family.
Our membership year starts in October.

We currently have our fly-ins: Mid-March
 Pre Sun-n-Fun (early April)
 On or near Memorial Day weekend
 Annual ANS Convention (late June)
 On or near Labor Day weekend
 Fall: October or early November

Please return this page to: Susan Holmes
 SNAG
 6918 Van Etten Street
 Houston, Texas 77021





KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!

SNAG NEWSLETTER/NOV15-JAN16
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