



## **Southern Navion Air Group**

Newsletter

MAY/JUNE 2016

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Despite all the bad weather in the news lately, the weekend of 13-15 May in Lagrange, Georgia was the stuff fly-ins were made for! Add to that a fantastic turnout of Navions, great hosting by Bruce “Keys” Herrington and Rusty Herrington, friendly people and great site support group at KLGK airport and you have made a very good time for all.

I was very glad to see JT McMahon and Ora Dell again at a fly-in, along with new Navion owners Alan and Melissa Hoven from Ackerman, Mrs. Brenda Zeller and Carol Wiggins came representing the better half of the Meridian group, and we had David and Beverly from Murfreesburg, TN. We had 16 Navions in total. Those in attendance included Bruce Herrington, Bobby Herrington, Wanda & Rusty Herrington, James & Melissa Herrington with the kiddos, Paul & Ginger Wright, Stephen & Laura Jennings, Melinda & Alan Hovas, Dan Smith, Kevin & Phyllis Domingue who rode with Greg Young, Ellen & Wayne Whittaker, Susan & Lee Holmes who rode with JT & Ora Dell McMahon, Bert & Brenda Zeller, Charles & Carol Wiggins, Robert Gaines, Dave & Beverly Swindler, Carl Jenkins, Bud Brown who joined us Saturday. Friends of the Holmes’s, Ron & Julie Clifton joined us Friday and Saturday morning with their son Gage & daughter Sydney, and Margaret & Jimmy Marshall who are looking for a Navion.

The “Keys” Herrington comment is worth a separate story by itself, but to summarize, Bruce had rented a van for local transportation. We were preparing for the balloon bust competition (see below), had the van “loaded” if you can do that with helium filled balloons, and needed to move the van to the launch point. All well and good so far—however Bruce was in the first flight and after searching for the van keys, it was determined that the keys were in Bruce’s pocket, who was orbiting the field waiting for balloon release. This is not good, so Bruce lands, while rolling out, he throws the keys on the runway and accelerated again for another takeoff. CJ Jenkins, ranking Marine pilot at site, invoked an old military tradition of naming someone who did something of perceived notoriety (good or bad) to be named or “handled” – thus “Keys” Herrington was tapped at the evening dinner. I expect to see it painted under the cockpit rail at the next fly-in.

The “normal” SNAG games were held, with the balloon bust taking two starts when we had 7 ties and needed more balloons (this time with keys in the van, who says Navion drivers don’t learn?). After the fly-offs, Bobby Herrington won it with 3 out of 3 attempts, Lee Holmes got 2 in 1EW and Kevin got 1 in N5221K for a tie. Then we had an “open” bust using the extra balloons with two large releases, one of which resulted in Rusty Herrington nailing 3 in one pass for a total of 8 for the day.

It seems the bean bag droppers are getting pretty good. Robert Gaines won it again with 6 feet from the target van, Kevin Dominique tied with Robert but was a bit further out for a second drop and Alan Hoven hit 8 feet. The rest of the droppers varied from 20 feet to next week, but it was fun and good times.

Spot landings or better known as land on the line had the normal spread of distances from very close to way out there. Robert Gaines has his usual 8 feet, Alan Hoven had 10 feet and Bert Zeller hit it at 15 feet.

We had more ladies at this fly-in than I have seen before but I have no idea what they did off airport. I'm sure someone will tell us about it.

The next event is the BIG ONE in Ruidoso NM and I hope we can continue our line as outstanding regions in ANS. Yes, it is a long way for some, not so long for others but that is true even at our local level with folks coming from Texas to Georgia and folks from Florida going to Texas. The next SNAG event is at Marshall Texas, hosted by Steve and Lita Ware in September. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces at both events.

Fly safe and enjoy your Navion - Wayne

## “KEYS” HERRINGTON

As I remember the saga, it went kinda like this. During the second (flyoff) round of balloon busting competition at the SNAG May fly-in at LaGrange, the first flight of 3 aircraft comprised of Bruce Harrington, Greg 'Big Dog' Young and your humble story teller. This all, of course, after filling up 120 large red balloons for the afternoon festivities. The take off and climb to racetrack pattern over the field took place without incident. We circled and circled waiting for the balloon filled van to arrive at midfield so the judging could commence....and circled and circled till on unicom freq, Bruce inquired why the balloon filled van and judges were not in position??? The reply from below, (could have been anyone from JT to Robert to Wayne) was, "We can't find the keys!" Silence on the airwaves, then a voice from behind the control column of the flying machine known as "Jack's are Wild" (flown by Bruce) said, and I quote, "They're in my pocket".... uh oh... again, more silence, then another voice on the radio, well we gotta have 'em to drive the van, I told him to do a flyby and drop 'em like a beanbag, He elected to land and hand them to Robert. At which point the competition resumed to the delight of all the lovely ladies in attendance watching the manly men doing manly things. When the flying was over and the dauntless airdales were back in the ready room congratulating each other on their greatness, a call went out that a new call sign was borne that day. For it is a fortunate aviator that can in later life say that his callsign was born while defying death in a heavier than air vehicle. For call signs are a sacred honor to be worn without pride or prejudice, for they last forever, and forever will Bruce be known as Keys Harrington. The Bruce is gone, Long live Keys Harrington. This newly bestowed honor of course allows Keys to adorn his aircraft with said call sign. These events are recounted to the best of my ability and limited memory of the so called Keys incident.

- Carl Jenkins

## ANS CONVENTION 2016 RUIDOSO, NM June 19-25

Sierra Blanca Airport and the Ruidoso Mountain Inn will be our base for the week. Both facilities are eagerly waiting for our arrival. The welcome mat is also waiting in Roswell for us to check for UFO sightings and K-Bob's is offering a nice choice for our welcoming breakfast and awards dinner.

SNAG has won the participation trophy for many years and we look forward to doing it once again! So get registered now. It's a great way to meet new folks, visit with longtime friends, see cool planes, participate in some interesting races and as always – have fun in new & totally cool places!

You can register with the form in your Navioneer.  
Not an ANS member, join today!  
<http://www.navionsociety.org>.



### Convention Activities:

**Sunday:** Arrivals & Welcome party

**Monday:** Ruidoso Downs or the casino & the Board of Director's meeting

**Tuesday:** Speed Contest & dinner at the Flying J "chuck wagon" style

**Wednesday:** Touring Day

**Thursday:** Efficiency Contest, lunch at Spencer Theater, then the Hubbard Museum of the American West

**Friday:** Proficiency Contest, tech session and the annual awards dinner.

### EARLY TRACTOR SEAT AWARD? JUDGE FOR YOURSELF...

I was the scorekeeper for the Lagrange events and ol' Bobby was a bit close to the ground and close to the side of the runway where we had the van. I estimate his prop tips were 8-10 feet up, maybe generously at 15 ft. Paul had the radio and was telling him to go higher - nothing changed. The left wingtip looked like it was over the white stripe on the runway side, but that may be not quite true, but it sure looked like it. Hiding behind the parked van would have been useless as anything going 150 mph and weighs 2500 lbs will knock the daylights out of any van and the folks behind it.

However, no one was hurt, no blood, no bent sheet metal, not much of a foul. I'm sure his older brother had words and I suggest we put this into the hopper for consideration before the Apalachicola final fly-in. I and everyone else have two more opportunities to do something foolish.

### WHAT ARE THE FLY-IN COSTS FOR

Fly-In costs are calculated based on the host's expenses – rental vehicles including fuel, sodas, water, beer, ice, snack items, paper products and airplane game supplies. This amount is then divided by all the adults in attendance, even if that individual comes and goes since everyone eats and drinks. Typically, this runs about \$20-\$30 so we round the amount to the nearest 5 or 10. Over a three day event, costs rise due to the extra day. The most expensive part of this is the rental of vehicles.

Overages in fly-in payments may then used to cover out of pocket costs to hosts when a fly in has poor attendance due to weather. We don't want anyone to get stuck! We also support several ANS Convention activities – some hospitality & the People's Choice Award.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Have you moved? Changed email addresses?

Gotten a new cell number or home phone number? New

tail number? **Call or email me to update your information on the**

**SNAG Member Roster. Susan @ 254-780-9338 or**

**susaneholmes@sbcglobal.net.** The current member roster is on the Facebook page (under documents). Make sure your friends can stay in touch!



If you are sending dues, please make sure you are using my new mailing address. It is 6918 Van Etten Street, Houston, TX 77021.

### NEW NAVION FORUM

SNAG Member Ron "Rat" Hanselman has put together a new Navion forum that is set up in the traditional internet forum style. Check it out at: [www.mynavion.com](http://www.mynavion.com)

**2016 FLY-IN DATES**

- February 26-28<sup>th</sup>: Shadetree, MS *[in the books ☺]*
- April 1-3<sup>rd</sup>: Pre Sun-n-Fun: Cannon Creek *[in the books ☺]*
- May 13-15<sup>th</sup>: LaGrange, GA *[in the books ☺]*
- June 19-25<sup>th</sup>: ANS Convention in Ruidoso, NM
- Sept 2-5<sup>th</sup>: Marshall, Texas
- October 28-30<sup>th</sup>: Apalachicola, FL

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES**



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**SNAG**