



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

JUNE 2012

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

GADSDEN FLY IN GREAT SUCCESS! Many thanks to the Flemming family, Blake, Line, Heath and Ami Flemming who were our hosts at Gadsden, Alabama on Memorial Day weekend. Thanks also to Fred Sington and the airport crew at The Northeast Alabama Regional Airport ,KGAD, who gave SNAG the keys to the airport for the weekend. SNAG members enjoyed beautiful weather all weekend so flying was unrestricted. Friday morning Navions began arriving at Gadsden and by Saturday there were **25 (TWENTY-FIVE!) Navions on the ramp**. Friday night the hospitality suite at the Hampton was very crowded with SNAG members as we enjoyed snacks and barbeque while visiting with our friends.

Those attending the Gadsden fly in included, Bill Ross, Charles Wiggins, Bert Zeller, Cecil Austin, Charlie Allen, David and Lana Heath, Mitch Midyett, Lee and Susan Holmes, James, Melissa and Abigail Herrington, Rusty and Wanda Herrington, Paul and Ginger Wright, Bobby Herrington, Steve and Lita Ware, Dick and Ann McSpadden, Bud and Sylvia Brown, Nick Kanakis, Wayne Whitaker, Steven and Laura Jennings, Jeff Davis, Mel and Judy Sorton, Ross and Linda Ernest, Blake and Line Fleming with kids Evan and Camile, Heath and Ami Flemming with kids Ryley and Zack, John Blum, Vernon Walls, Scott and Tracy Burling, Dave Morgan, and Casey Jones. Steve and Alice Courtney of the Midwest Navioneers drove down from Peoria Illinois and also joined in the fun.

On Saturday morning James Herrington held an 8:30 briefing and 21 Navions lined up on the runway and launched for "Dawn Patrol". Later in the morning we began the contests with "bean bag bombing" and "spot landing". Participation and competition were excellent! On the bombing range it looked like some of the pilots mistook the golf cart for the target and too many of our pilots, including a certain Naval Aviator ended up in the spud locker, but everybody had a great time. After lunch we held the "balloon bust" competition. Spectators from the local community arrived to watch the competition and the airport terminal was crowded with people cheering for the pilot every time a balloon would pop. Later that afternoon SNAG pilots toured the International Jets facility that restores L-39 jets at the Gadsden airport and is reported to have an excellent aircraft painting facility. SNAG members viewed many fine aircraft there. The ladies went shopping in downtown Gadsden and had a very nice lunch at a restaurant called the Coffee Well. Saturday night we went to The Fish Market Restaurant for a fine meal and returned to the hospitality suite for more fellowship.

Sunday morning a gaggle of 16 Navions again lined up on the runway and flew down to Talladega, Alabama to tour the NASCAR Museum and Talladega International Speedway. We saw race cars from every era of "stock car racing" that were at one time driven by people like Richard Petty, Bobby Allison, Tiny Lund, Fireball Roberts, Dale Jarret, and many others. Also on display is Bobby Allison's turbine powered Aerostar airplane. Bobby Allison of the "Alabama Gang" was probably the first NASCAR driver to fly to the races and was instrumental in getting the speedway built. After the the tour a few of our members headed directly for home and our gaggle of 13 Navions returned to Gadsden in time for lunch. During the afternoon we were on our own for individual flying and touring the local sites. I took a young family on their first airplane ride while Blake and Heath flew around the area in their Navions. James Herrington and Nick Kanakis flew around the area in 9559Z. Sunday night we held our awards dinner and meeting at

the Top O' the River Restaurant for another fine meal. Due to early departure Scott Burling was not able to purchase any more of Kelly Herrington's delicious homemade salsa which was auctioned during the dinner meeting.

Winners of the flying events include EVERYONE who participated, but trophies are only awarded for first and second place. In bombing only the best score out of the three is counted so one pilot can't get first and second place. Those getting trophies are as follows:

Balloon Bust:

Bobby Herrington and Bert Zeller (tie for first place with 3 balloons each).
This contest was Bobby's first attempt at busting balloons with a Navion.

Spot Landing:

Competition was very tight with only 10 inches separating Wayne Whitaker and Nick Kanakis for first and second place until Mitch Midyett finally got his Navion started and handily won the event.

Mitch Midyett First Place.
Wayne Whittaker Second Place

Bean Bag Bombing:

Dave Morgan was very consistent as all of his bombs were eligible for first place. I promised \$20 to any pilot who could hit our judge John "Blackjack" Blum. I thought Dave was about to collect but Blackjack moved his hips just in time to avoid the bean bag. Great flying and bombing Dave!

First Place Dave Morgan
Second Place at 10 feet. Bert Zeller

Monday morning our members departed for home. During the weekend we were closely watching a tropical storm that moved into north Florida. The storm stayed to the south and east of us and did not cause any weather problems at Gadsden. Our flight home to Statesboro, Georgia was bumpy and warm but I don't think the storm caused any trouble for our members during their flights home.

Again, many thanks to the Fleming families for planning and hosting a great SNAG fly in and the good folks at Gadsden, Alabama for welcoming us to their excellent facilities.

-- Rusty Herrington

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE! Facebook is a great way to share our photos, talk trash - I mean share stories about our friend's flying exploits, and stay connected between fly-ins. Now I know that some folks need to stay off Facebook so as to stay below the radar of their probation officer, but we will certainly excuse those folks from participation! **Our FB group is a closed group.** That means that folks who aren't members can't see our stuff. Anyone who wants to be a member needs to request to be a member and an administrator (only me right now), must approve the request.

The coolest part of FB for me is that we can all upload our own photos and "tag" others in any of the photos. I have already uploaded my Gadsden photos for everyone to check out. The most active members see each other about 6 times a year, many of us only make it to 4 or less fly-ins. When we don't see each other all the time, our memories fail. Tagging folks (and planes) in photos allows us to do a better job of remembering names along with those faces. Shoot, after 10 years, I still don't remember whose plane is whose most of the time!!!

To join the group, you must have a FB account. In FB, type in "Southern Navion Air Group". Do not click the open group that pops up; instead click the bottom that says see more results. Our official SNAG group has a Red Push Pin Icon by it. Request to join the group. Then the next time I check FB, I'll approve you as a

member. You can also request to be my friend "Susan English Holmes" and I will automatically make you a member of the SNAG group.

Heard about the evils of Facebook (FB), but haven't ever created an account? It's really easy. Go to www.facebook.com and click the "sign up for facebook" hot link. All you need is your email address and a password. You can choose to make your page fancy and add all sorts of stuff "about you" or you can add as little as you want. If my 80 year old, computer illiterate mom can set up an account ALL Navion owners should be capable.

-- 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. 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

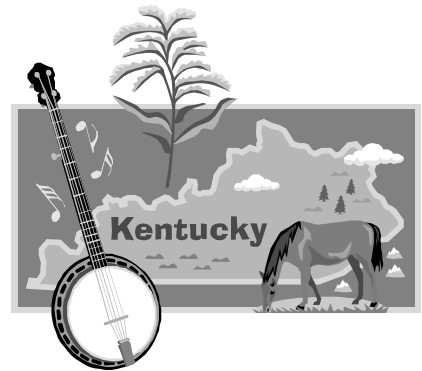
Monday: Heaven Hills Bourbon Heritage & City Tour

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



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. .

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.



Check out the picture of the Talladega Motor Speedway taken by Amy Fleming on approach to the runway in the bottom right of the pic. What a great fly in. This is what happens when you ***“Go Fly Your Navion”***.

--Paul "Elmo" Wright

NEXT SNAG FLY-IN:

Labor Day Weekend, Sept 2012 in Statesboro, GA hosted by Wanda & Rusty Herrington
Block your weekend off as busy, now! See y'all there.

KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!

SNAG NEWSLETTER/JUNE 2012

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