



## **Southern Navion Air Group**

---

Newsletter

JANUARY 2012

### **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Our final SNAG fly in for the 2012 season was a great success. Our hosts arranged for excellent weather, and we were welcomed with enthusiasm by the good folks at KEUF and at Lakepoint Resort. Wanda and I along with our hosts arrived a day early for a nice round of golf at a local country club. Yours truly slept while the rest soaked up some sun on the golf course. On Thursday evening we enjoyed supper in a restaurant that is in a building built over 200 years ago!

On Friday morning more SNAG members began arriving and soon the ramp was filled with our beautiful Navions. Over the weekend we had 22 Navions, one brand "P" and one brand "WW" arrive at Eufaula. The amenities were much nicer than usual with a spacious hospitality suite. Many thanks to our hosts, ANN SQUARED and company, ie. Ann Bormolini, Ann McSpadden, Art Hutchinson, and Dick McSpadden for planning and arranging the weekend activities. On Saturday morning the ladies toured the local historic area while the rest flew down to Enterprise Alabama to tour the museum at Fort Rucker as arranged by SNAG member Nick Kanakis. Saturday afternoon the Navion games were held including balloon busting, bean bag bombing, and spot landing. The results show that our crop of "younger" pilots can hold their own with the veterans.

Saturday evening we held our awards dinner. Everyone enjoyed a nice meal from the buffet and afterward we announced the winners of each event. We also gave out our annual awards. While everyone else was finishing up the meal, SNAG President of Vice Paul Wright and I held a "lengthy" discussion about who should receive SNAG's special awards for 2012.

### **TRACTOR SEAT**

The tractor seat award was first saddled upon Dick McSpadden at a long past SNAG fly in after a very exciting performance during a spot landing contest which said recipient actually won. Only Dick can tell the story in the appropriate manner. Other behaviors receiving the attention of this coveted trophy have been things like not being able to find Shadetree for the 3rd year in a row and running out of gas on the way home from Texas. This year Paul and I could not recall any flying behavior, by a SNAG member, that deserved the embarrassment of standing in front of our friends to receive The Tractor Seat so it will remain unearned and sit in my hangar for the next year.

### **SNAG MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Paul and I did not have any trouble at all deciding upon Dick McSpadden as the recipient of this award for 2012. Dick has been instrumental in the success of SNAG and remains to this day our best ambassador to the rest of the Navion community. Dick McSpadden has a standing promise to anyone who attends a SNAG fly in that if they don't have a good time, he will pay for their gas, and he has NEVER had to pay up! Congratulations Dick.

On Sunday morning everyone departed for home in good weather. Our next SNAG gathering is at Shadetree Airport in March. The date is 8th, 9th and 10th of March hosted by Paul and Ginger Wright along with Mitch Midyett.

GO FLY YOUR NAVION!

-- Rusty Herrington

## JOE SHEA

Joseph Alexander Shea of Perryville died at his home on Friday, Oct. 19, 2012. He was 77.

He was born on July 18, 1935 in Springfield, Ill., the son of George Edward and Agnes Elizabeth (Mueller) Shea. He was married on May 30, 1959 to Vivian A. Wallace of Perryville, who survives.

Survivors include five daughters and one son, Therese (Mark) Unverferth; Maureen (Jeff) Schroeder; and Kathryn (Randy) Wibbenmeyer, all of Perryville; Louise (Robert) Hayden of Fenton; Rebecca (Raymond) Barreras of Orlando, Fla.; and George (Tanya) Shea of Ballwin.

Mr. Shea was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. He graduated from the St. Louis College of pharmacy in 1962 and received a gold certificate for 50 years. He served in the United States Army and Commemorative air force. He was a member of Boy Scout troop No. 155 and 250 and spent 62 years in scouting. He was also a member of American Legion, Knights of Columbus 4th degree and past faithful navigator, member of S.N.A.G. organization. He loved to hunt, fish and was an avid airplane enthusiast. He loved being with his family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, five sisters, four brothers, one nephew and two granddaughters.

Memorials are preferred for Little Explorers Learning Center in Perryville.

Vivian states, "We started a fund for The Little Explorers Learning Center in honor of Joe to help my grandgirls get their pre-school a few things that they need. We're thinking about a swing-set and putting a plaque to honor Grandpa Joe.

If anyone is interested they can call or e-mail me or just send what they'd like to me and I will get it to the girls. Vivian's contact information is: 573 547-8178 or [vigimama39@gmail.com](mailto:vigimama39@gmail.com).

## SNAG PROJECT FROM ANN PUTSCHE

Says Ann, "I have a lot of albums of Navion photos dating back to our first fly-in in 1975. Wade Finley was president and we were at River Ranch, Arkansas. Wallace Domingue's plane was green and I believe Kevin was about 5.

I have dates and locations on some of them but not all. I will try to put them in date order but I cannot promise that.

You will have to have some of the members who were there in 1975 to help you identify everyone. Some will be our club and some will be nationals. A lot of the members have passed away."

We need an active member who can coordinate this project. This person needs to attend a fair number of fly-ins and willing to ask our more senior members for help identifying individuals in the photos. It would be awesome to put the photos on the Facebook page and maybe share the nationals photos with the ANS. If you are willing or know someone (wives included) who is willing to coordinate this project you can email me or Ann directly. Her contact information is: [amacput@aol.com](mailto:amacput@aol.com) or 318/894-8736.

## 2013 DUES

Membership dues are due. Check your mailing label to see if you owe your \$20.00 to SNAG. Send checks, made payable to SNAG, to Susan Holmes, 151 Autumn Circle, Belton, TX 76513.

## A FEW 2012 PICTURES



## NEWS FROM YOUR SECRETARY

I have not been a good newsletter writer this last few months. Mostly, because I have run out of funny or anecdotal stories to write about. Lee is actually a very good pilot, so he only occasionally gives me food for fodder. When we are at fly-ins someone always tells me they have a story for the newsletter, but most never send them to me. If you are guilty - you know who you are - and I am expecting better from you this year! Send me your stories - I'll print just about anything as is evidenced by Dick's fabulous contribution below!

## SNAG Theme Song by Bob Brame

Looking through an old SNAG newsletter, I noticed this was printed after Bob had introduced it on a school bus trip from New Orleans back to Hammond, LA. We had a lot of fun and sang this song too many times on the way home. A lot of red wine in a screw top jug was consumed as we made the over an hour trip back.

*The little mouse that roared:  
 Ooooooooooh!, the liquor was spilled on the bar room floor  
 And the bar was closed for the night.  
 When a little mouse crept from his hole in the wall  
 And he danced in the pale moonlight.  
 He slurped up the liquor from the bar room floor  
 Then back on his haunches he sat.  
 And all night long you could hear him rrrroooaaarr  
 "hic"  
 Bring on your "g\*\* d\*\*\* cat"*

In the newsletter it was printed "bring on your g\*\*\*d\*\*\* cat." I tried to clean it up but nothing worked. "Bring on your dad gum cat", "Your dog gone cat" & "Your damned ole cat" was the best I could do.

Bob was a retired Chief Master Sgt. USAF and had been a crew chief. He probably picked this up in the NCO Club.

- Dick McSpadden

## FACEBOOK UPDATE

We now have 65 members on our Facebook group. You can join at any time to get up to the minute news from fellow Navioneers including pictures, videos and a current member roster. The group's name is: ***Southern Navion Air Group (SNAG)***. When you find us, you will need to request membership. Once approved (by me) you have complete access to current events, great pictures and other cool information.

-- Susan Holmes

## FIRST 2013 FLY-IN MAR 8-10, 2013 SHADE TREE, MS

The Shade Tree fly-in is set up for March 8, 9 & 10. Danny & the airport are good to go. The hotel is set up with 25 rooms blocked at the Comfort Suites just a little further down the street from the Ramada.

The hospitality room is great and at no extra charge. Ginger and Paul will be bringing smoked brisket for Friday night. As usual, we will need to bring sides, snacks & desserts. Mitch is working on dinner for Saturday night.

Hotel information:

Comfort Suites  
Manager: Santino Castillo  
9121 Hwy 49  
Gulfport, MS 39503  
(228) 678-9001

When you call and make your reservation, tell them you are with SNAG. King or Double Queen Room is \$82.00/night plus tax.

### 2013 FLY-IN SCHEDULE:

**March 8-10, 2013:** Shade Tree MS hosted by Midyett & Wright

**April 5-7, 2013:** Canon Creek FL (Pre Sun-N-Fun)

SNAG has rooms blocked Hampton Inn 813.661.8888. The rooms are in Ann McSpadden's name.

**May 24-27, 2013:** TBD hosted by the Burlings

**Aug 30-Sept 2, 2013:** Fredricksburg TX hosted by the Holmes

**Oct/Nov 2013:** TBD - open

***KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!***

SNAG NEWSLETTER/JANUARY 2013

Susan Holmes  
151 Autumn Circle  
Belton, TX 76513

