



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2013

FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

Well folks, another fly-in is in the bag. The Fredericksburg fly in was great. Ginger and I left home on Thursday morning because we had to make a couple of stops along the way. We spent Thursday night in Lake Charles with Ginger's folks and then on to West Houston Friday morning to visit a customer with a bridge problem. After lunch we headed for Fredericksburg. When we arrived the hospitality room was stocked with some fantastic smoked brisket and fixins. Everyone settled in and the stories and libations began to flow. It was great to see Dick and Marilyn Olwin again. This will probably be their last SNAG fly in, as they are retiring from fly ins unless maybe we have one real close to Los Alamos. I think this was Jim and DeEdra Carter and Joe and Amy Cavett's first SNAG fly in. Joe and Amy bought Mitch Midyet's Navion. We haven't seen Ike Wiley for a while but he was in attendance at Fredericksburg. Great to see you again Ike. For those of you new guys who don't know Ike, he is a long time Navion owner and an active IA that is very knowledgeable about Navions.

Those in Attendance were:

Susan & Lee Holmes, JT & Ora Dell McMahon who drove as the plane is being fixed, Paul & Susan Deason along with PJ, Steve & Lita Ware who drove as he is still in the throes of an engine rebuild, Wayne & Ellen Whitaker, Paul & Ginger Wright, Dick & Ann McSpadden, Art & Ann Hutchinson, Jeff Davis, Greg Young, Scott & Tracy Burling, Joe & Amy Cavett, Jim & DeEdra Carter, David & Lana Heath, Chuck Fisher who flew in for the day only, Ike Wiley who drove because his new prop governor is on the way and other people's planes keep cutting in front of his own repairs, and Dick & Marilyn Olwin who say they are retiring from fly-ins.

Saturday morning at dawn patrol time, the gaggle of about 10 planes headed over to check out Horseshoe Bay & the McMahon house before heading to Lake Buchanon where Lee has the delusion of owning lakefront property with an air strip (editor's comment). From there the group flew over Enchanted Rock State Park, a well-known camping & climbing area.

The games were limited because of the hot & muggy afternoon. There were only six entrants (JTs new term) because of the heat.

Game results are as follows:

Bombing

1st: Paul Deason at 15 feet
2nd: Greg Young at 20 feet
3rd: Wayne Whitaker- ?

Balloon Bust

1st: Greg Young – all 3,
2nd: Scott Burling – 2 balloons
3rd: Lee Holmes – 2 balloons

Spot Landing – All were really bad, but the least bad were...

1st: Paul Deason at 48 feet
2nd: Lee Holmes at 77 feet
3rd: Scott Burling landed in the next county
4th: Wayne Whitaker landed two counties away

Sunday morning the brunch patrol flew out to San Marcos, TX where we visited the Red Bird flight simulator company where various SNAG members flew the full motion simulators. Most notable was Lee Holmes in the left seat and David Heath in the right seat. The reason this was notable is because, as everyone knows, David can explain an hour's worth of avionics information in fifteen minutes, so as Lee flew the simulator, David programmed and reprogrammed the avionics all the while explaining to Lee what he was doing. While this was going on some mischievous SNAG members were at the remote computer constantly changing the flight conditions. So, while Lee struggled to control the simulator as he flew through strong winds, rain, snow and in and out of zero visibility conditions, David programmed in a flight plan including an instrument approach and locked on the auto pilot. After a few minutes Dave unlocked the auto pilot and said, "I think you are going to crash", I'm out of here, and he promptly bailed out of the back of the simulator. Oh well, that's what is great about simulators. If you haven't been to Red Bird, it is worth the trip, especially if you go with some Navion pals.

Monday morning it was a great trip home nonstop for Ginger and me. Smooth and cool at 7500'. I hope you guys that headed north made out OK.

- Paul Wright

THE MEN BEHIND THE SNAG WIN AT NATIONALS

KUDOS to those who attended the Nationals in Paso Robles, CA. Jeff Davis, Greg Young, Rusty Herrington, Bobby Herrington & Bruce Harrington, and Robert Gaines. This group was small but mighty! Congratulations again for your efforts & expertise.

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.

We have the latest membership roster and all the newsletters uploaded for your convenience.

-- Susan Holmes

ANOTHER NEW SNAG MEMBER

July 1st James and Melissa Herrington had a new daughter. Charlie Ava Herrington! Congratulations to all!



A SUMMER BLIZZARD HITS CENTRAL TEXAS!

Sunday's (very) late morning replacement for the Dawn Patrol was a pretty "loose" affair with decision-making on the fly (pun intended) by the hosts. Lee Holmes, Paul Deason and JT McMahon led a group of eight planes who took off for San Marcus to visit their small CAF squadron which has a couple of T-33's, a Stearman, (2) T-6 Texans and the famous Yellow Rose B-25 Bomber. Upon landing we engaged in some synchronized taxiing (like synchronized swimming, but with planes) as we headed over to the CAF building, discovered it was closed for Sunday and then taxi-looped around to the main terminal. For those of you who read (pretty much ANY) general aviation magazine, you may recognize San Marcus as home of the new cutting edge Redbird Flight Simulation Training Program.

Our first fun was examining (in very close detail) their diesel-powered Cessna-182 which is painted with nomenclature all over the plane with big red arrows pointing to all major flight surfaces with witty/funny statements about what each part of the plane does. Once inside the flight academy we were treated to an open-house on their four full motion simulators which can be programmed to "become" several planes (single engine, twin, Citation, pretty much anything) with multiple options for avionics (G-1000, Aspen quad-packs, Double 530/430). After JT finished playing in his "box", Lee and David Heath hopped in: Of course David immediately started playing with the avionics and programmed in an instrument approach and critiquing my flying while I just enjoyed flying the plane. Then Heath bailed out and ran off leaving me to fly the approach (anyone ever notice how Heath can't stay focused on anything for long?).

Unknown to me at the time was that Paul Deason was leading a conspiracy to seriously screw with my flight: Upon commencing the procedure turn inbound I started getting bounced around all over, then it started pouring torrential wind-driven rain, lightning, then blowing snow and ice with winds 20G40 in 1/2 mile visibility. You get all wrapped up in this with eight (8!) wide screen wrap-around displays and full motion so you get sucked into the event. Somehow I found the runway and upon landing ended up with locked brakes, a blown tire and a fire...so all-in-all a pretty average flight for August in Texas!

The sims are first-class (and I've logged hundreds of hours in multi-million dollar military simulators) so I'd easily recommend them for a license upgrade, IPC or similar training. After that approach, the flight back to Fredericksburg was a cake-walk which we concluded with a trail formation straight over the middle of main street into a "highly modified initial break into base" that concluded our formal flying events for the weekend!

- Lee Holmes

A FEW PHOTOS FROM FREDERICKSBURG



Georgetown, SC Fly-In

Southern Swift Air Group & Southern Navion Air Group
Combination Fly-In October 18-20, 2013

AIRPORT: Georgetown Airport, Georgetown County, SC (KGGE) FBO 843-527-7516
CTAF: 123.0 AWOS: 118.275 (843-527-3851) R/W 5/23 6005x100; R/W 11/29 4539 X 150;
EL: 39 FT The FBO is very excited about us coming and has gone above and beyond to accommodate our group. We are working on a fuel discount. Bring tie-downs. Registration is in Robert's hangar. Vans will be available. Hertz rental cars can be arranged by calling FBO.

HOTEL: Georgetown Quality Inn & Suites, 210 Church St, Georgetown, SC 29440. Since we are combining Navions and Swifts ask for **AIR GROUP RATE**. We arranged a special rate of \$69.99 + tax = \$77 for 1 King or 2 Q's. **24 HR cancellation** policy. Make your reservation NOW, you can always cancel within 24 HR due to weather. Includes hot deluxe Continental free breakfast. WI-FI, outdoor pool, fitness center, business center. Newly remodeled and very nice! Block ends Sept 25th.

FRIDAY: The usual Meet, Greet & Graze dinner in reserved upstairs room at terminal. Hosts are Robert & Roye Ann Dickson, Bud & Sylvia Brown. BYOB. Setups, wine, beer and soft drinks provided in Robert's hangar before meal. Bring: A-J Chips & dip or nuts; K-R Fruit or veggies; S-Z Dessert. Hosts to provide meats, bread and condiments. Friday evening we will have a Silent Auction for the ladies only. Please bring jewelry or home décor item that you already possess and take items to Robert's hangar where bidding sheets will be on tables. Ends 9:00 pm Friday.

SATURDAY: Airport - Dawn Patrol, Flour Bombing, Balloon Burst, Spot Landing Contests. The 24th Annual Georgetown Wooden Boat Show features one of the nation's best boat exhibits with more than 100 classic wooden boats displayed on land and water, a wooden boat building competition, children's model boatbuilding, knot tying, maritime art & crafts. This will be in Historic Downtown from 11 am to 6 pm.

Ladies - We will tour either Hobcaw Barony Plantation or Brookgreen Gardens - both are spectacular! By Sept 1 we will know if Hobcaw will do a special tour for us on Saturday since they are normally closed. Will advise later of final choice. If you wish to golf, contact Ann McSpadden 706-245-5941 or email at annmcsp@bellsouth.net. Lunch out and then shopping and Wooden Boat Show in downtown Georgetown for the afternoon.

BANQUET: 6:00 PM Lands End Restaurant is directly across the 4-lane road from Quality Inn. We will have an entire section for our group banquet. They request that we choose from a selected menu so we can be served in a timely manner. Choice of chicken alfredo over fettuccine, fried shrimp & flounder platter, or 12 oz ribeye. Your meal will include a salad, tea or soft drink, tax and gratuity for an approximate cost of \$26 to \$31 depending on choice. Separate tickets are not a problem. Cash bar for any other drinks.

SUNDAY: Depart. When you register, you will be given an agenda sheet for the weekend, name tags, etc. With the fly-in events, tour, Wooden Boat Show, shopping and the Historic Downtown...this should be a great weekend.

HOPE TO SEE ALL YOUR SWIFTS AND NAVIONS THERE!

KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!

SNAG NEWSLETTER/SEPTEMBER 2013

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