



Southern Navion Air Group

Newsletter

March 2015

SHADETREE 2015

The 2015 Shadetree fly-in was a big success. The flying weather has never been better than it was at Shadetree Airport this weekend. The skies remained clear and blue with cool temperatures, and Danny Miller had the runway in excellent condition. The field was dry despite all of the recent rain that had fallen in the last few weeks. 20 Navions were represented at Shadetree Airport this weekend. Dave Morgan who is based at Shadetree was already tied down when Wanda and I arrived Friday morning. Paul Wright landed a few minutes later and we ate lunch at "The Shed". On our way back to the airport we saw Fiddle Flight (i.e. Bill Ross, Charles Wiggins, and Pim & Tineka Sierks) preparing to land.

Ground bound attendees included Al Butler, Mitch Midyett, Wayne and Ellen Whitaker, Vernon and Christine Walls, as well as Robert Gaines and his lady friend Ying, all driving due to airplane problems. Mitch has an RV-8 in pieces in his hangar. Lawrence "Larry" Austin and son Bryant were all set to leave Winona in "JR" of Cecil Austin fame when a problem with the master control valve forced them to hitch a ride with Steven Jennings. Many thanks to Steven for providing needed transportation. Blake Fleming arrived with his Dad and son Evan. Dan Smith, Greg Young, and Bruce Herrington all arrived flying solo. David Heath arrived with his recently acquired flagship quality Navion formerly owned by Freddie Miller. Traci and Scott Burling arrived in Scotts D model affectionately known as "The Hippo". Dave Mosley stopped by on Saturday in his D model as well.

"Dawn Patrol"

As is the usual SNAG custom, "Dawn Patrol" did not depart at dawn again this year. We finally herded the cats (i.e. pilots together) and departed before 10 AM. We briefed 11 Navions for the flight but David Heath seems to have forgotten how to start a cold E225 engine and scratched for the flight. Ten Navions departed Shadetree and flew west to the bridge and back east along the coast to the other bridge. We had to fly low over the water because T6 "Texan" aircraft were practicing approaches at GPT. One flew over our gaggle while on approach. We may have upset the pilot because he immediately began climb even though we were well below his approach path.

Flying Events Results

The wind and weather were perfect on Saturday for our Navion Games. The results are as follows:

Bean Bag Bombing

- 1st Pim and Tineka Sierks
- 2nd Steven Jennings and Larry Austin

Spot Landing

- 1st Pim Sierks
- 2nd Bill Ross

Balloon Bust

- 1st Greg Young
- 2nd Evan Fleming

There was a three way tie for second place with two balloons each and a fly off tiebreaker was decided upon. Evan won the tiebreaker, I think Blake Fleming was PIC for the balloon bust but allowed Evan to do the flying because Blake can't see the balloons! Bruce Herrington dropped out of the tiebreaker due to problems with a broken seat. Many thanks to Paul Wright who provided a replacement seat so Bruce could fly his Navion home.

Dinner on Saturday evening was at "The Lookout" in Gulfport. They provided good service and good food again this year.

On Sunday we departed for home in beautiful weather. Many thanks again this year to Janet and Danny Miller who hosted us at Shadetree.

- Rusty



Shadetree
2015



JUDY SORTON

Judith Ann Sorton, 75, of West Lafayette, passed away at 7:30 pm, Monday, March 2, 2015 at University Place of West Lafayette. She was born May 30, 1939 in Kansas City, MO to the late Joe S. and Marabel (Williams) Rideout. She received bachelor degrees in Journalism and English from the University of Georgia, Athens, and a master's degree in Special Education from Purdue University. Her marriage was to Melvin R. Sorton on June 26, 1960 in Atlanta, GA and he survives.



Judy was the chief flight instructor at Lafayette Aviation and prior to that she served as the editor of Ag Info at the School of Agriculture at Purdue. She was a member of the Wabash Valley Artists Society in Lafayette, the Florida Watercolor Society of Sarasota, FL, the Weavers Guild, the American Navion Society, the Lafayette Pi Beta Phi Alumni Club, and the Tippecanoe Pilots Association.

Surviving with her husband are her children, David W. Sorton and Sandra Sorton Keller. She is also survived by 4 grandchildren, Mitchell Keller, Michael Keller, Kendall Keller, and Aubree Sorton. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, March 7, 2015.

Because Judy and Mel have always believed in the value of education throughout their lives, in lieu of flowers, to honor Judy's memory, the family asks that you consider a contribution to the Judith A. Sorton Scholarship Fund (c/o PEFCU, PO Box 1950, West Lafayette, IN 47996) so that someone very special to Judy may have the opportunity to pursue a dream of an education in the medical field.

GEAR UP FOR FLY-IN SEASON

SNAG Pre-Sun N' Fun Fly-in Cannon Creek Airpark Lake City, Florida

April 17 - 19, 2015

It's confirmed! Once again the SNAG and Midwest Navioneer Pre-Sun n'Fun Fly-in is scheduled for April 17,18 and 19 at Cannon Creek in Lake City, Florida. The weekend will be hosted by Art and Ann Hutchison, Jack and Judie Wells and Jack and Shirley Gordon. Registration will be on Friday the 17th followed by a cocktail party that night at the Hutchison's. Participants whose last name begins with A-H are asked to bring fruit or nuts, I-P brings appetizers, and P-Z should bring desserts (or you just bring something filling and delicious!). Usually we have enough to make a meal out of this party!

Golfers will probably hit the links on Friday so let Ann know if this is an interest of yours and she will make tee times.

On Saturday, registration will continue. There will be a fly-around in the area then on to a brunch/lunch destination—leaving at 9:00 am. This is the laid back and late “dawn patrol”! Upon the return there will be a tech session followed by the BBQ that night in Jack and Judie's hangar.

Also on Saturday, spouses, or anyone else who wishes, will be taken to lunch and then on to afternoon activities, which are now being planned.

Sunday morning we will have a civilized departure time at 10:00 for Sun N' Fun.

Recommended hotel rooms are at the Holiday Inn (with a Ruby Tuesdays) and the Quality Inn (formerly the Jameson Inn.) They are recommended because they are right next to one another and across the street from the Cracker Barrel. This makes transportation coordination and any additional meals you might want easily accessible. The contact info is as follows:

- Quality Inn (formerly the Jameson Inn) 386-758-8440
- Holiday Inn 386-754-1411

We will not leave anyone stranded but if you wish to rent a car for convenience, they are available from Hertz, 386-754-3774 or Enterprise 386-755-4005.

Registration costs will be \$10.00 per person, which will cover the water, soft drinks, snacks and the cocktail party. The BBQ Saturday night will be charged separately. RSVP's would be greatly appreciated so we have some indication of those intending to come—we understand the uncertainty of flying!

You do not have to go on to Sun 'n Fun to come to the fly-in! Just join us for the weekend! If you are planning on Lakeland, this is a great way to beat the crowds. We hope to welcome you to Lake City!

LaGrange, GA May 15-17, 2015

Rusty, Dick & Blake are co-hosting our next fly-in. After the poll on having fly-in around holiday weekends, we have decided to have our next fly-in before the Memorial Day weekend. Mark your calendars now!

The airport identifier is KLGK

The hotel is: La Quinta Inn & Suites
LaGrange
111 Hoffman Drive
LaGrange, GA 30241



Call 706-812-8000 and ask for the SNAG group rate of \$69.00. Rusty has blocked out 20 rooms half King and half double Queen. This rate is good until April 24th. After then the rooms will be released and will be at normal seasonal rate.

55th Annual Navion Society Convention Fredericksburg, VA

JUNE 24 - JUNE 29

Why do we have a convention? For fun, camaraderie and to share the joy our navions bring us. For those of you who could not join us, we've included a few pictures from the week and hope you will be in the pictures from next year's convention to be held in Fredericksburg, VA, June 24-June 29, 2015.

This year the convention will run from Wednesday through Tuesday instead of the customary Sunday through Friday. This is in response to requests that convention not involve 2 weekends. The board is giving it a try. If more can attend with this new format, it will be used again.



2015 DUES ARE DUE

Annual dues are \$20.00 per family. Please send your check to: SNAG c/o Susan Holmes, 151 Autumn Circle, Belton TX 76513. Please, please, please make the check out to **SNAG**.

And please, please, please complete the roster update information below to include with your check.

Last time I sent this out only about 25% of members responded with updated information. I would like to have an updated roster on the website & Facebook page by mid-March.

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

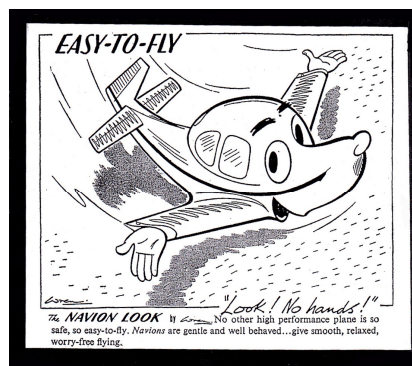
N#: _____ Model: _____ Engine: _____ Year: _____

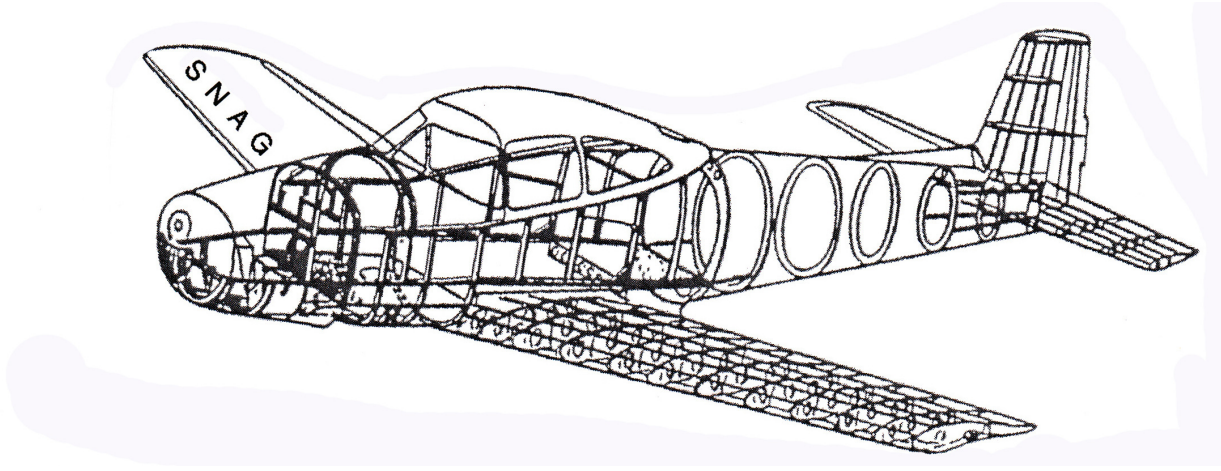
Aircraft Type (if not a Navion): _____

Home Airport Identifier: _____ City/State: _____

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

Please return this page to: Susan Holmes
SNAG
151 Autumn Circle
Belton, TX 76513





KEEP THOSE NAVIONS FLYING!

SNAG NEWSLETTER/MARCH 2015
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