

Tennessee Short Wing Gazette

A MONTHLY UPDATE OF THE TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF THE SHORT WING PIPER CLUB

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FROM THE LEAD POSITION

Tom Brent

All the weather prognosticators for our fly-in to Owensboro on May 21st were positively positive. However, when Saturday morning dawned, all bets were off. I had filed my flight plan with DUATS on Friday evening and merely checked for NOTAMS, TFRs and TAFs, all on the Internet, before departing for the airport at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Skies were essentially clear except for a touch of what I considered to be early morning fog. I had arranged to hook up with Bobby Irby and Lawrence Atkins at the



Loyal Short Wings awaiting their daring aviators to return from the Moonlite BBQ and meeting in Owensboro.
(l to r) Jim & Betsy Stoops PA-16, Tom Brent's PA-22, Gilbert & Barbara Pierce's PA-16, and Dave & Deb Geiger's PA-22

Camden, Benton Co. Airport at about 9:00 and everything was going smoothly and according to plan as I cruised above a scattered layer at 5500' MSL in calm air with just a light headwind. Ten miles out from Camden I made contact with the guys on the ground and started a descent for landing... and that's where the picture changed. Visibility was barely VFR (3 miles?) below the scattered layer that quickly changed



Jim, Gilbert, Deb & Dave hangar flying at Owensboro

to broken. I climbed back to 5500' and let the guys at Camden know that I preferred to wait for them while circling the field. We agreed to use 123.45 to communicate once they were in the air. My GPS was playing up (poor contact with antenna cable ...cured by spitting on it ☺), so once Lawrence and Bobby had climbed through a hole in the clouds, I followed a few hundred feet above their TriPacer's rear right quarter. It wasn't too long before the broken layer closed up to where it became a solid under-cast. At that point Lawrence and Bobby decided to turn back, not wanting to be trapped on top or scud run in the poor visibility below. I had been unable to contact flight service for weather, but with more than 3 hours fuel (+ 30 min reserve) I elected to

press on. I continued to climb and listen to AWOS along the route ahead. Ceilings were reported as 2000' or better and since I knew the tops were only 3000' I felt comfortable about descending through the thin



The TNSWPC meeting takes on a serious note at the Moonlite BBQ in Owensboro
(l to r) Dave & Deb Geiger, Jim & Betsy Stoops, Barb & Gil Pierce

cloud layer if it proved necessary. Eventually I got in touch with Jackson radio who phoned the Owensboro tower (there being no automated AWOS or ATIS at OWB), and were told that there was a big hole in the overcast northeast of the field. Sure enough when I got close to OWB the ceiling went to broken and I was able to see the runways as I circled at 5500'. No problem except my two hour flight plan was extended by three quarters of an hour due to circling at Camden and a couple of other times when I climbed in my efforts to

communicate with Flight Service... plus more of a headwind at altitude.

On the ground at the Owensboro Ramp I found Deborah and David Geiger's TriPacer and Betsy and Jim Stoop's Clipper, while shortly after Barbara and Gilbert Pierce's Clipper arrived. Two PA16s and two PA22s... Not a Pacer or Colt in sight! We might have had a Colt but Stan Stone turned back to West Memphis being uncomfortable with the poor visibility in the Memphis area. Kenny and Patti Brown likewise set out but turned back due to the scuddy conditions. Gilbert apparently flew the whole way from Memphis below the clouds with no problem, even finding and landing at 80KY a private grass strip south of OWB where he refueled with auto gas. I had planned to do the same but not being able to see the ground at all until close to OWB had given up on that idea.

After the usual greetings and looking over each other's airplanes David summoned the Moonlight BBQ shuttle van and we made our way to the restaurant. As advertised, the food at the Moonlight was absolutely first rate. Amongst the dishes I sampled at the food bar was mutton, one of my favorites.

The business meeting over lunch was brief. We talked about the upcoming Convention in Oregon and the Southeast Regional our chapter will be hosting in October (14-16) at Middlesboro. Next months Tennessee Chapter fly-in will be June 18 at Tullahoma (THA), home of the Beech Staggerwing Museum and most recently a Bonanza exhibit.

After we were all well sated by the good food at the Moonlite we were shuttled back to the airport, our driver giving us a short tour of some of the old, fine homes/mansions in the town of Owensboro. By the time we got back to the field it was sunny with blue skies. We hung around for a fair time chatting and indulging in hangar talk but after more looking at each others planes and taking photos, it was time to get into our Short Wings and depart for home.

I climbed to 6500' expecting clear skies back to Corinth only to be



Discussions of the SWPC Convention and Southeast Regional Fly-In take precedence at the Moonlite BBQ in Owensboro... yeah, right
(l to r) Tom Brent, Deb & Dave Geiger, Jim & Betsy Stoops, Barb Pierce



frustrated yet again. After only 20 minutes or so, I encountered another barely broken ceiling at 3000'-4000'. This time I elected to descend below it, completing the rest of the flight at 2000' being bounced about in rotten visibility, called up Campbell Approach for flight following and was glad for the extra "eyes" watching out for me...

I arrived home with almost five hours of flight time for the day! In the words of the song... "It had been just one of those days!" Sub-optimal flying conditions, but well worth the *other* 3-F's... Fun, Food and Fellowship. ☺

Let's keep our fingers crossed for more pleasant flying weather for our June meeting.

Fly safe and cheers,
Tom B

FLY MARKET

| TNSWPC Patches | TNSWPC Decals |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| <p>We have plenty of patches available. Contact either Tom or Curt so you can fly your colors proudly! Size: 2½" x 3¾" Price: \$5.00, checks payable to <i>Tennessee Short Wing Piper Club</i> Send to: Curt Ammons</p> | <p>Display your colors while supporting your organization. Contact Tom or Curt to get yours now! Size: 2½" x 3¾" (approx) Price: \$2.00, checks payable to <i>Tennessee Short Wing Piper Club</i> Send to: Curt Ammons</p> |

GAGGLE RESOURCES

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Balance Forward: April 2005 | \$484.07 |
| Income: | |
| - patches (0) | \$0.00 |
| - decals (0) | \$0.00 |
| - membership dues (0) | \$0.00 |
| Payments: | |
| - mailing expenses (February) | \$0.00 |
| Balance: May 31, 2005 | \$484.07 |

FLIGHT PLANNING

Tullahoma, TN: (THA)

It's the meeting at Piggy's Place! It can't get no better than that!
Come visit us @ THA!

Visit: <http://www.100dollarhamburger.com/tha.html>
Date: 18 June 2005
Time: 1100 CT
Location: 35-22-48.3270N / 086-14-46.8960W
Elevation: 1082 ft
Communications (CTAF): 123.0
WX AWOS-3: 128.325 (931-454-2052)

Information courtesy of Airnav.com (<http://www.airnav.com>)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 18 June - Tullahoma, TN (THA): Piggy's Place and/or Staggerwing Museum
- 16 July - Centerville, TN (GHM): Homestead Restaurant
- 18-21 July - Vancouver, WA (VUO): SWPC Convention
- 25-31 July - Oshkosh, Wisconsin (OSH): Airventure 2005
- 20 Aug - Lawrenceburg, TN (2M2): Kenny Brown's BBQ or Brass Lantern
- 17 Sep - Sikeston, MO (SIK): Lambert's
- 14-16 Oct - SWPC - Southeast Regional Fly-In: Middlesboro KY (1A6): Glacier Girl
- 1-2 October - Millington, TN (2M8): Millington Air Show
- 19 Nov - Pell City, AL (PLR): St. Clair County Airport
- Dec - Christmas?



Parting Shot: More from the Owensboro Fly-In.
(l to r) Jim & Betsy Stoops Clipper, Tom Brent's Tri-Pacer, Gil and Barb Pierce's Clipper, and Dave & Deb Geiger's Tripacer.

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