

# The Tennessee Short Wing Gazette

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

April 2006

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## FROM THE LEAD POSITION

Tom Brent

Perhaps it was the Easter weekend... Or maybe just the gusting westerly winds with occasional moderate turbulence at low altitude. In any event, only two intrepid Short Wings flew into Tullahoma (THA) on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April for our monthly fly-in.



Although gusty and turbulent, Paul Bale (left) and Tom Brent (right) brought their trusty Tripacers aloft to Tullahoma for the April meeting

albeit bumpy, ride (ground speed ~ 115kts). On the ground we were joined by Donna and Jim Miller, and two (2) Colts in Jim's hangar, minus their wings which are currently at home in Jim's workshop.

There being just four of us we piled into Donna's car for the short drive to Applebee's. Over a light yet sustaining lunch we discussed plans for the upcoming South East Regional (SER) fly-in. Consensus emerged for holding the SER at Moontown, Alabama (3M5) on the weekend of 20-22 October. Prior communication by e-mail with the Tennessee



Jim Miller's Colt projects were the center of attention at Tullahoma.

Saturday Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.

So, the die is cast! Let the planning begin! I have listed a couple of links for 3M5 and the Space Center below:

- <http://members.fortunecity.com/phantomtwo/moontown/#>
- <http://members.fortunecity.com/phantomtwo/moontown/about2.html>
- <http://www.spacecamp.com/museum>

Paul Bale flew in solo from Knoxville finding

smooth air and tolerable headwinds at 6500 MSL. He left Vickey at home to prepare for their eminently imminent wedding on Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>. I came in from Corinth, MS (CRX) at 3500 MSL exploiting the 30kt tailwind, throttling back for a one hour,



Call it a quorum. l-r: Paul Bale, Donna & Jim Miller, along with photo expert, Tom Brent met for consensus. Food was good too!

chapter officer cadre (VP, Sec., Treasurer & Newsletter ed./Webmaster) had already evoked a positive reaction to the idea of Moontown for the SER. Additionally, when I had talked with George Myers, who runs the airport and is president of the local EAA chapter #190, he expressed great enthusiasm for us holding the SER at 3M5. The focal event will be a visit to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville on

Back at the airport, Jim drove us over to the other side of the field where his Colt (or I should say Colts in plural!) were parked. Jim has now installed the engine on his project "Navy" Colt and is well on the way to getting one set of wings and tail feathers painted so as to get the project flying soon. He'll then restore the other set, at length, with no doubt the same scrupulous attention to detail that is his wont.



Paul Bale gathers pointers from Jim Miller on the makings of Jim's Navy Colt.

Back on the ramp by the FBO, as we watched as wave after wave of sky divers dropped back to earth from ~15,000 MSL, way, way upwind, we said our "adieu's" for the return flight home. I followed Paul's advice and climbed to 6500 MSL where my ground speed at full throttle was

a mere 65kts but the air was smooth. I tried descending to 4500' but started getting thrown around before I got there and what with throttling back due to the chop I gained nothing. So, I went back to 6500' till just short of CRX where I made a swift vertical descent through the bumpiness to the runway.

Next month on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May we shall get a tour of the ATC facility at Memphis Center. Be sure to send your name ahead of that time to Curt Ammons (afore May 16) so he can register you on the official list.

Until then, fly safely... and cheers,

Tom B

**SUN-N-FUN 2006 (HTTP://SUN-N-FUN.ORG)**

**CURT AMMONS**



Indoctrinating my best girl to her first Sun-n-Fun. Dee has a real taste for aviatin'!

The annual trek to Sun-n-Fun 2006 proved much more of an adventure than normal for Tweet's caretaker. Last year I had begun a new position as a Senior Mechanic with FedEx Express, more or less a position I had worked towards since beginning employment there in 1997. Arriving on the flight line a few months prior to Sun-n-Fun 2005 put me in a situation that didn't warrant making the trip that year, my first absence from the great Spring fly-in Mecca since 1994. Bound to make sure I didn't miss 2006, plans began early for the trip. A recent death in the family required driving to Florida this year, and as always, I was able to hang out in Lake



Wales (my hometown) except for the trips to LAL for the show.

Leaving Monday morning, immediately after a night of hanging out with the purple-tailed box haulers, my neighbor, Brian Cantrell, and I headed for Florida, picking an old friend, Earl Doherty and his son, Josh, in Atlanta along the way. We arrived in Lake Wales just in time for a quick hellos, welcome homes and introductions to my parents before finding crashpads for the night.

Tuesday morning, and we're off for our saturation of



Hangin' out with the latest member of SHOWPLANE row! TNSWPC members Barbara and Gilbert Pierce enjoy the fruits of their labor at Sun-n-Fun 2006

all things aviation after meeting up with another old friend, Nick, who flew in from Houston the night before. A quick breakfast in Bartow, and we're heading to Lakeland! As we loomed closer to Lakeland Linder Airport, we began watching the circling of buzzing ultralights commence from our vantage point along Pipkin Road, and the Sun-n-Fun parking lot. Occasionally, a hot-rod plastic plane would zoom by, providing a simulated strafing run along Runway 9-27, to show the crowd it was the better/faster/more maneuverable plane... of the moment.

Before we could accomplish our mission of Sunnin'-n-Funnin', we had to coordinate cell phone numbers so we could locate each other. Off to the exhibit buildings to update our GPSs, drool over the latest gadgetry, and gather aviation trinkets, giving us our proof of making this year's event



Old friends abound! SWPC VP Frank Sperandeo kicks back and enjoys the sites at Sun-n-Fun 2006

through souvenirs. Then it's off to find old friends. As part of the group wandered off to the homebuilts, others checked out the manufacturer's area, while some wandered over to the vintage and ultralights. Meeting up in the Warbird arena to partake in homemade ice cream, we wondered at the beauty of all these miracles of flight.

Hanging out beneath the wings of Miss Pearl, we marveled at the air show while discussing Frank's latest improvement to this famed Short Winger. If you haven't had the opportunity to turn Pearl's crank, trim crank that is, you just don't realize how smooth pitch trimming really is supposed to be. Frank's pitch trim is now even smoother than Pearl's paint job!

By Wednesday, our four-year-old granddaughter, Dee, wasn't near as enthusiastic about going back for more Sun-n-Fun, but



For the true Short Wing aficionado, check out this clipped-wing Monocoupe Model 110 Special featured in the January 2006 issue of the VAA's *Vintage Airplane*, authored by our own TNSWPC family member, Marcia "Sparky" Barnes (Sargent). Check it out!

mentioning Mr. Frank's candy bag full of "*Pearl Choco-Mints*" provided just enough to perk her interest. After making the usual rounds, checking out every plane we could, and running back through the exhibit buildings for last-minute shopping, we settled down to watch our final air show for this event underneath the Bearhawk exhibit wing, another example of a Short Wing Piper on steroids. In spite of the additional sugar to keep her running, Dee finally had had enough of aviating, reflecting what three days of running on pure adrenaline was doing to us all.

Once again, Thursday morning found us heading for home, another exciting adventure at Sun-n-Fun put into the history books. What a great time, catching up with old friends, while introducing new ones to aviation.



Dee shows her enthusiasm as we wrap up our Sun-n-Fun adventure.

**GAGGLE RESOURCES** **DAVE GEIGER**

**Ordinary Income/Expense – April 2006**

<b>Income</b>	
Membership Dues	\$37.50
Interest	0.84
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38.34</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	
Printing & Reproduction	16.89
Postage/Delivery	19.11
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>36.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Net Cash Assets: 01 April 2006	<b>609.15</b>
Net Cash Assets: 30 April 2006	<b>611.49</b>

<b>Paid Members as of 30 April 2006</b>		
Adkins	Ammons	Bale
Brent	Butler	Geiger
Hancock	Hillis	Hudgins
Marcozzi	Passalacqua	Perry
Scheve	Smith, Jr.	Stone
	Warren	

**FLIGHT PLANNING**

**Memphis, TN: (M01) – Memphis Center Visit (Reservations required)**

**Date:** 20 May 2005  
**Time:** 1000 CT  
**Location:** 35-12-02.4940N / 090-03-14.3170W  
**Elevation:** 224 ft  
**Communications:** CTAF: 122.8  
 WX ASOS NQA: 118.925 (901-332-3679)

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



**CONTACTS**

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**PARTING SHOTS**




**Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bale  
 Married: 18 April 2006**

**New TNSWPC Members for 2006**

Mike Adkins	Butler, TN
Jack Hancock	Baldwyn, MS
Olon Hudgins	Oxford, MS
Gary Scheve	Johnson City, TN
Ralph & Sherri Smith	DuQuoin, IL
Richard and Joan Warren	Cookeville, TN

***Welcome to the Gaggle!***



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