

The Tennessee Short Wing Gazette

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

September 2006

Volume IX, Issue 9

FROM THE LEAD POSITION

Tom Brent

Our fly-in to Knoxville on September 16th exemplified what a Piper Short Wing meeting should be like. Pleasantly cool and sunny weather prevailed over all Tennessee; our destination being Sky Ranch Airport (TN98), a delightful 2000 foot grass strip sequestered on a tiny island at the edge of the Tennessee River. My journey from Corinth MS was uneventful as I accepted a nice tailwind at 7500 MSL where the air was cool and the deep blue ether bore no hint



A gaggle of Shortwings hang out at Sky Ranch. (l-r): Paul Bale's PA22, Gilbert Pierce's Clipper, Bobby Ramsey's and Tom Brent's TriPacers.

of the haze below. The three Short Wings that flew in to TN98 that day arrived within a tight time frame. I heard Gilbert Pierce reporting Sky Ranch in sight, just after I made my initial contact with Knoxville Approach and as I got closer to the air strip I heard Bobby Ramsey giving a proximal position report. After we both changed to the common traffic advisory frequency, we were able to coordinate our landings...Me first! ☺. I was all prepared to demonstrate a perfect short soft field landing, when Paul Bale came on the radio reminding me that a low level pass over the runway (ostensibly to announce arrival) was a practice encouraged at Sky Ranch. So an unexpected low run and go-around was executed with full flap and carburetor heat on only to be followed by a labored climb out that was eventually corrected by adjusting these settings. And so I became "Number 2" as I followed the Ramsey's TriPacer in for my not-so-short field landing. We all parked by to Paul's spacious hangar alongside his TriPacer, before repairing to the airport club house at the other end of the runway, where good food and fellowship were awaiting.



(l-r): Paul Bale welcomes new members, Trish and Gary Soloway to the Tennessee Gaggle of Shortwingers

driven up a day earlier to visit our son Matt and his wife Betsy and infant Zach (the latter all also being in attendance).

Statistics for the day: Aircraft: 1 Clipper, 3 TriPacers; Souls: 12 adults (+ 1 six month-old future shortwinger?) Additionally, quite a few of the locals of the "East Tennessee Pilots Association" joined us for the food and fellowship.

A brief business meeting focussed on next month's South East Regional Short Wing Piper Fly-in at Moontown (3M5) in Huntsville, Alabama. The SER will be held from Friday afternoon October 20 till Sunday morning (22nd), which is only four weeks away (as of the time of this writing). So, I



Hangin' out at the Sky Ranch Club House, enjoying chili. (l-r): Paul Bale gathers feedback from Gilbert & Barbara Pierce and Lola & Bobby Ramsey decide another helping will provide for a better critique.

Vickey and Paul had prepared some great chili, of varying levels of "hotness" with chips and various dips. Cookies and cakes brought by attendees completed the spread. As alluded to above, Bobby and Lola Ramsey flew their TriPacer from Middlesboro, KY and Gilbert and Barbara Pierce winged their way all the way from Memphis in their "Red Lady" Clipper. In addition, we were able to welcome newcomers to the chapter, Trish and Gary Soloway, who drove all the way from Nashville where their PA20/22 is undergoing annual. We hope to see them again with their Pacer next month at the South East Regional...and finally there was my wife Alva who had



Betsy, Matt and Zachary Brent check out what Shortwingers see in them 4-Fs!



Bobby & Lola Ramsey compliment Vickey Bale on the hospitality afforded to fellow Shortwingers at Sky Ranch.

emphasized that folks should make their hotel reservations promptly, (see details below in the newsletter). A block of rooms is being held until October 6... and because cancellations can be made at any time until day of arrival there is no good reason not to "just do it"! We have reserved a 15 seat van for ground transportation and are still working on details for activities, other than the US Rocket and Space Center and joining Moontown's monthly EAA breakfast. Eric Bale, residing in Huntsville, has been very helpful in making contacts so far and the other Bales (Vickey and Paul) are also assisting from afar in Knoxville. Thanks guys!

After eating and chatting in the club house, or sitting outside with a marvellous view of the Tennessee River and some high dollar cottages on the far bank, some of us roamed along the rows of numerous hangars. I revisited one where a DeHavilland Tiger Moth was being restored and that is now virtually complete. And so we eventually dispersed. We watched Bobby and Gilbert take off homeward bound while Gary and Trish drove off as did Alva with Betsy and Zach. Paul helped me tie down and refuel Niner-4-Charlie with auto gas using his pickup tank-n-pump set up. I too then departed with son Matt in my trusty old 1986 Toyota Celica that he still drives, leaving Paul and Vickey to clean up after us.

Next day Alva and I departed for the return to Walnut, MS, she (with the 3 dogs) by Toyota PU and I by Piper PA22. I flew on top of a broken layer at 8500 MSL to avoid the haze and keep cool at the price of slightly lower ground speed. The tops were only about 5000' at Knoxville but slowly went up to 8000' as I proceeded west. I naturally exploited the thermals associated with each build-up that poked up from the tops by flying close to its edge or even almost ☺ through its top to gain altitude without making any power or trim changes. (Remember the gliding rule: if a wing lifts, turn towards it). Center had approved me to change altitude at discretion when I mentioned avoiding cloud to remain VFR...Only bit of excitement was racing with a Diamond Katana that was at same general altitude and on slightly converging course. Once each of us admitted to having a visual, Center left us alone to maintain visual separation. And yes, I let the Katana win ☺... that way I could see it cut across my bow...at least, that's my story. A quick check with Flight Watch about 40 minutes out from Corinth suggested that a line of precipitation (for which a convective SIGMET had been issued) might prevent completion of my flight as planned. Memphis Center advised me they could see no weather anywhere close to CRX and in point of fact, the stormy weather didn't get there till hours later. So much for Flight Watch...maybe that Garmin 396 is worth it!



"Hang a left, and keep going 'til you see the Mississippi River." Paul Bale bids adieu to the Pierce's at Sky Ranch

All in all Sky Ranch was a great 4F's day. Thank you Vickey and Paul!

Next month in Huntsville at Moontown Airport (3M5) for the South East Regional Short Wing Piper fly-in. Plan on it!

Cheers,

Tom B



The ending of a great fly-in at Sky Ranch as Bobby and Lola Ramsey depart the area.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FLY-IN

TOM BRENT

Editor's Note: We're repeating this story in order to remind you that the SER is just days away as you receive this. Please make your plans to attend!

The 2006 South East Regional Fly-in will be held at the Moontown Airport (3M5) from Friday afternoon, October 20 through Sunday morning, October 22.

We will be staying in the Holiday Inn at 5903 University Drive in Huntsville, AL. An initial block of 10 rooms has been set aside for Oct 20-22 at rate of \$85 (inclusive of all taxes)... more rooms can be blocked if we get a good response and the group rate will extend to any number of rooms as long as they are available...There are sporting events in Huntsville that weekend so it is important to make reservations **EARLY** Cancellation can be made up to 6:00 pm on day of arrival (blocked rooms will be held through Oct. 6).

NOTE: At publishing time, we have eight (8) people have signed up for hotel rooms.

- Make your reservations at **800-845-7275** and ask for the **Short Wing Piper Group rate**.
- The hotel has a bar/lounge and restaurant...indoor swimming pool...
- Free shuttle service is available within a 6 mile radius and to the big airport (we may try substitute 3M5 since it's a similar distance?)

Planned events include:

- A visit to the US Space and Rocket Center which is close by the hotel.
 - http://www.spacecamp.com/forms/04_museum_guide.pdf
 - http://www.spacecamp.com/forms/04_museum_brochure.pdf
- Joining the EAA #190 fly-in breakfast at 3M5 on Saturday morning.
- Local outing(s) for the less aviation-inclinedto be determined.
- Dinner on Saturday at an eatery... to be yet determined.

Let us know if you have questions or comments. I shall try to keep y'all apprised of the progress and anticipated attendance as time goes by....

It will be useful if folks planning to drive could let me know as this may influence requirements for a rental vehicle....

Moontown has a smooth 2200' grass strip.

Alternate airport with instrument approaches....5000' runway...good night lighting...etc....is Madison County Airport (KMDQ)....it's about the same distance from the hotel as is 3M5.

- <http://www.airnav.com/airport/3M5>
- <http://www.moontownairport.com/>
- <http://www.airnav.com/airport/KMDQ>

Cheers,
Tom Brent

FLY MARKET

TNSWPC Patches	TNSWPC Decals
<div data-bbox="315 1461 591 1650" data-label="Image"> </div> <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>	<div data-bbox="932 1461 1208 1650" data-label="Image"> </div> <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

Net Cash Assets August 30, 2006	\$628.48
Ordinary Income & Expenses	
Income	
Membership Dues	
Donations	
Sales	
Interest	.73
Total Income	.73
Expenses	
Postage & Delivery	
Other	
Total Expenses	
Net Ordinary Income:	.73
Net Cash Assets: September 30, 2006	\$629.21

Paid Members as of 31 August		
Adkins	Ammons	Atkins
Bale	Baumgarcher	Brent
Brown	Butler	Geiger
Hancock	Hansley	Hillis
Hudgin	Hudgins	Marcozzi
Miller	Perry	Passalacqua
Rettberg	Sargent	Scheve
Sherlock	Smith	Soloway
Spence	Stanley	Stone
Warren		

Folks, if your name's not here, contact the Treasurer

FLIGHT PLANNING

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FLY-IN

Huntsville, Alabama – Moontown (3M5)

- Dates:** 20-22 October 2006
Location: 34-44-50.3250N / 086-27-40.9590W (7 mi E of Huntsville)
Elevation: 650 ft
Communications: CTAF: 122.7
 WX AWOS-3 @ MDQ (8 nm NW): 120.00 (256-829-1242)
 WX ASOS @ HSV (17 nm SW): Ph: 256-772-8074
 WX AWOS-3 @ FYM (19 nm N): 135.275 (931-433-5916)

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

CONTACTS

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