

The Tennessee Short Wing Gazette

March 2008

Celebrating 10+ years of "them 4-Fs"!

Volume XI, Issue 3

From The Lead Position

Tom Brent, Chapter President



After a total washout for our January fly-in and a somewhat poorly attended meeting at Houston Co. in February, I was quite determined to make the March 15th fly-in a reality. However, once again the weather foiled the primary date, so..... not wanting to risk similar bad conditions a week hence and that weekend being Easter to boot....we made the extraordinary decision to go for it on Sunday 16th immediately after the frontal

weather had passed through. Forecasts were unanimous for CAVU so I confidently ambled along to the airport and took off for Sikeston expecting to arrive an hour earlier than the appointed time.

With blue skies and just a few puffy white clouds at 3000 MSL over Corinth I quickly climbed to 4500', contacted Memphis Center for flight following and relaxed for a smooth trip to SIK. Gradually I became aware that the clouds below had gone from a few to scattered and as I approached McKellar Field at Jackson I realized I was over a broken layer that was closing up. I told Center I would be descending below the cloud deck but would

delay till past McKellar so as to keep clear of the Delta space. Once about 10 miles past

MKL I just barely was able to stay clear of cloud as I descended, turning and twisting through wispy holes. At this point Center asked how low I intended to go and advised me of high towers in the immediate vicinity. I had planned to level at 2000' but at that point I



was still not below the ceiling, finally reaching 1300' to find myself in marginal visibility looking for towers on my old Lowrance yoke-mounted GPS. A quick interchange with Center and I decided that landing at McKellar to reassess weather would be prudent. I almost decided to head home at this point but after an hour on the ground checking all the METARs and TAFs and AWOS reports in the direction of SIK I took off again and was able to maintain 1500 MSL just below the overcast. Center kept me on the RADAR all the way to SIK with the same (pre MKL) controller advising me of the higher towers along the way.



Some fellow aviators hovering in the haze!

Although I was almost 30 minutes late I was gratified to see the Pierce's "Red Lady" and the Geiger's "Mystery Girl" parked at the ramp and their respective crews patiently waiting in



the FBO. Constituting a quorum we immediately started a business meeting that seemed to last, intermittently, until we departed later after lunch...but more of that will be recorded by our Secretary/Newsletter Editor elsewhere in this issue.

My trip home was uneventful as I climbed to 5500 MSL through a clear hole in the broken

ceiling above SIK. After passing McKellar once again conditions were CAVU. Folks at the airport at Corinth told me it had been clear and sunny there all day.

Next month we shall again deviate from our usual third Saturday routine. The "Fire on the Water" Chili Fly-in hosted by Paul and Vickey Bale at Sky Ranch (TN98) by Knoxville will be on the second Saturday April 12th. Mark your calendars!

Also, it's time to start your plans for the National SWPC Convention at Cable, Wisconsin (3CU) June 23-27. Reserve rooms at the Telemark Resort: 1-877-798-4718...ask for the SWPC rate (\$72 / night).

~ Cheers, Tom

From The Secretary's Desk

Deb Geiger, Secretary / Editor



It was really great to finally have a Chapter meeting! Holding this on a Sunday made for a confusing follow-up week...I was a day off for the next few days, but it was a terrific flying day that couldn't be passed up!

The main topic of discussion was the 2009 convention, proposed to be in Knoxville. We discussed our concerns about being the Chapter hosts for a national convention. In fact, the idea was kicked around many, many months ago and the general consensus was against it, since our Chapter is very geographically diverse (IL, MO, IN, TN, MS, KY, AL, AR). When Knoxville was proposed, we felt it would not be fair to our few Knoxville members to bear the burden of a convention, since we don't have many members in that area who are available to help with a convention. (Our membership geographical center of gravity is between Memphis and Nashville.)

However, if it is to happen in the Knoxville vicinity, President Tom and Paul Bale have been doing some research on Sieverville as a possible alternative site. There are many good points in favor of Sieverville, such as a very friendly and accommodating airport with banquet facilities, a museum on the airfield, good prices on rooms, and other attractions to keep folks entertained. The SWPC Convention Chairman, Tom Gifford, will be touring

Knoxville at the end of March and Tom and Paul will try to meet with him for a tour of Sieverville (GKT).

So, yes, we have concerns, but that being said, as gung-ho Short Wingers, we will do our best, if Knoxville or Sieverville is chosen as the 2009 location, to make sure the convention is a success, and we will await instructions from the SWPC Convention Chairman, as to how we can be of service.

It was good that we had some time to hold our business meeting prior to the arrival of the Lambert's van...because once we were picked up and delivered to the restaurant, our only thoughts were of food! Threw food, at that! We all managed to catch our rolls (better stats than the Cardinals and Cubs can boast) and no one left hungry!



As President Tom mentioned earlier, our next Chapter meeting will be a delightful "Fire on the Water" Chili feed, hosted by Paul and Vickey Bale. Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 12, at Sky Ranch (TN98). You'll note that this is one week earlier than normal, and there's a reason! Mr. and Mrs. Bale will be celebrating a wedding anniversary on the third weekend and that's the kind of celebration that is best done as a twosome! Congratulations and best wishes for many more happy, flying years of bliss, Paul and Vickey!

Fly safe, everyone ~ happy landings!

~ Deb Geiger

Notes from the Bean Counter!

David Geiger, Treasurer

1st Quarter Activities - 2008	
Income	
Membership Dues	110.00
Donations	45.00
Interest	2.96
Total Income	157.96
Expense	
Web Site	45.00
Total Expense	45.00
Net Income	112.96
Cash on hand	885.54

Our membership as of March 31, 2008 includes the following folks:

Curt Ammons, Bill Schmitz, Tom Brent, Kenny Brown, Frank Civera, David Geiger, Bobby Irby, Larry Jenkins, Gilbert Pierce, Keith Sargent, Gary Scheve, and Ron Spence.



Thanks, and we appreciate your donation!

Upcoming Chapter Fly-ins!

June 23-27 SWPC Convention – Cable, WI

September 20 – KY Dam (Patti's Restaurant)

August 16 – Hotter "N Hell BBQ

October 17, 18, 19 – SE Regional (Knoxville)

(May, July and November are open dates – stay tuned for latest developments!)

Flight Planning!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Engines!



TN98 is the destination for Saturday, April 12, 2008! Sky Ranch welcomes you for a "Fire on the Water" Chili Fly-in, hosted by Paul and Vickey Bale! Gorgeous scenery, great friends, scrumptious food...you won't want to miss it!



Here's a picture from last year's get-together! Yes, folks, that's either chili or homemade ice cream in those bowls! Yum! I think I'll have a little bit of both!

See you at Sky Ranch on Saturday, April 12th!

Contact your TN SWPC "Ossifers"

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Call your "ossifers" with any questions about the Tennessee SWPC or to purchase patches or decals! We'll be happy to help!



Parting shots! So long...until next month!