

The Tennessee Short Wing Gazette

April 2008

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

Volume XI, Issue 4

From The Lead Position

Tom Brent, Chapter President



I was disappointed that I couldn't make it to Sky Ranch for Paul and Vickey's "Fire on the Water" chili luncheon, however strong winds combined with mountainous terrain served to restrain my urge to fly that day. I had, however, visited Knoxville just a few weeks earlier to rendezvous with Tom Gifford, SWPC convention chairman, to check out the possibilities for the 2009 SWPC national convention.

Alva and I (+ 4 dogs) drove to Knoxville on Wednesday, April 26th. Next day I met Tom G. together with TN chapter member Ron Collier who lives in the vicinity. We drove to Sevierville which is about 25 miles southeast, first going to the airport (GKT) where we were given a quick tour by Don Baker, the airport manager. Facilities there appeared adequate for our convention purposes. We were told that extensive expansion and improvements are planned during the coming year.

Next we met up with Paul Bale (another local chapter member) and the local Chamber of Commerce events director, Scott King, who showed us a couple of potential hotels that were in 10–15 minute range of the airport. The first of these didn't have the required meeting room capacity while the other, which is still in a construction phase, was already booked for the dates we need as well as being on the pricey side. We were next entertained to a tour of Dollywood where we had lunch. We felt that Dollywood could be an activity that might be included in the convention schedule independent of whether it was based at Knoxville or Sevierville. On our way back to Knoxville we stopped by Ron's house at Seymour AirPark where we saw his beautiful TriPacer in the hangar/basement and his wife, Jackie, treated us to tea and cookies.



Hello, Dolly!

Overall, we were unimpressed by Sevierville as a location for the convention. That evening we met the Knoxville Tourism Bureau folks who were organizing a 3-day program for potential convention organizers. That evening at the tourism office we were treated to gourmet food and wine (and, I might add, some locally brewed rather excellent beers) provided by local restauranteurs. The evening ended with a visit to a movie at a downtown cinema. I was impressed with the environment around the old World's Fair site where the hotels are all located and every thing is in walking distance. We walked back to Tom G's hotel before I drove to my son Matt's home for the night.

Next day Alva joined me as we visited hotels, a chocolate factory, the zoo and generally got a tour of the downtown Center Square area, the UT campus and riverfront. Although I have visited Knoxville many times I had never seen this aspect of the downtown area. Alva and I as well as Tom G., were quite favorably impressed. Several of the hotels meet all our convention needs and at competitive rates.

Alva and I had to leave on the Saturday, but Tom G. stayed to see more hotels and visited the Downtown Island Airport (DKX) where he met chapter member and Colt owner Tony Huddlestone. Tony runs the flight school there. Tom G. tells me that there is a large grass area that would be dedicated to Short Wing Convention parking.

So, all else being equal, I think 2009 will be at DKX in Knoxville. I was initially quite skeptical of this choice, however, after seeing the lie of the land, so-to-speak, I am now cautiously optimistic....(Do I sound like a politician or lawyer or what?) Although we as a chapter are not organizing the 2009 convention *per se* I trust that those of us who are able will volunteer to help make it a success.

I'll try to keep y'all informed and updated as I learn more.

~ Cheers, Tom

Fire On The Water Chili Fly-In

Paul and Vickey Bale, Hosts



A sunny, but windy day at Sky Ranch!
The bad weather didn't dampen the spirits
of the Bales and the Colliers!

April 12, 2008 dawned with howling winds and deteriorating weather around the region, preventing travel for most TN chapter SWP members to the 3rd annual "Fire on the Water" Chili Fly-In at Sky Ranch airport in Knoxville, TN. Vickey and I had cooked her now-famous homemade chili in anticipation of having some arrivals, whether by air or by ground. Ultimately, we did have five SWP folks, Ron and Jackie Collier and their daughter Christen, and Vickey and me. Technically, we even had two short wings on the field, my Tripacer and V-Pacer. In an attempt to bolster our meeting "attendance," I thought about inducting the local Sky

Ranch folks into the Short Wing group based on different measures of "shortness", ex. short hair, short height, short temper, short bed truck....etc. Nah, too much work, let's just eat!! We had good company, good food, and good conversation. After we ate, Ron, Jackie, and Christen got a guided tour inside the secret walls of the Skunk Works, seeing many projects in various stages of completion. I will have to invite Ron over again, we had great fun talking about the different projects in the works! Until next time. ~ Paul and Vickey

Notes from the Bean Counter!

David Geiger, Treasurer

Our membership as of April 30, 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, Ron Spence, Ron Collier, Jim Hudgin, and Ray Lynn.

Thanks! We appreciate your donation!



Flight Planning!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Engines!



Our May 17 fly-in will be held at a new location – the new home of 94 Charlie, President Tom’s red and white Tripacer! Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 17, at 11:00 at the Selmer, TN Airport (SZY), for what promises to be a super day! The airport is putting out the welcome wagon and organizing a fly-in for us and other local aviators, so get ready for a great day and lots of good food provided by the airport management. We hear there will be door prizes that include a couple of FREE biennial flight reviews, a FREE pitot-static check and a FREE medical. Tom reports he just finished his annual inspection at SZY and really likes the local ambience! The rain date, which is usually the following Saturday, is set for Sunday, May 18th, so please make a note of that!

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!

Upcoming Chapter Fly-ins!

June 23-27 SWPC Convention – Cable, WI

September 20 – KY Dam (Patti’s Restaurant)

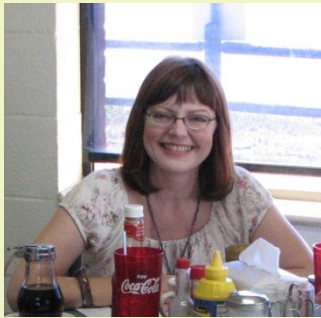
August 16 – Hotter “N Hell BBQ

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

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

Short Wing Shorthand

Deb Geiger, Secretary/Newsletter Editor



OK...I did put that picture of Dolly Parton on the front page...to make sure that everyone very carefully reads about the upcoming 2009 Convention in Knoxville! It got your attention, didn't it! I had the pleasure of seeing Dolly perform one year at our DuQuoin State Fair and she was terrific! She and her wonderful band gave 110% to the audience and no one left disappointed. Dolly is a great entertainer, full of tremendous talent and personality, much like our TN Chapter members! ☺ We hope that everyone will be 110% pleased with this year's convention in Cable, Wisconsin and next year's to-do in Knoxville! Make plans to attend and get to know your fellow members of the Short Wing Piper Club! We general aviation enthusiasts must stick together! Weather is always a factor, of course, plus family obligations, work obligations, and other life events often run interference, but if it is possible, try to attend one of the many Short Wing events that take place in your area. I bet you'll be glad you did!

PARTING SHOTS!

Scenes from Paul & Vickey's second (of many) honeymoon in Cedar Key, Florida and the new panel in their V-Tail!!

