



The Tennessee Short Wing Gazette

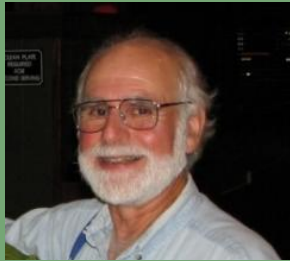
December 2008

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

Volume XI, Issue 12

From The Lead Position

Tom Brent, Chapter President



As 2008 draws to an end I find myself once again reflecting on the events of these last twelve months. The Tennessee Chapter's activities started slowly with weather washing out the January meeting and essentially February and April too, although a handful of die-hard individuals did insist on enjoying at least a couple of the four F's. As the year unfolded, weather abated and momentum gathered. In May we had a strong showing at SZY and after the June National Convention in Wisconsin our fly-in to Hernando Air Park was equally well attended. The annual Hotter-n-Hell meet at Lawrenceburg was as usual crowded with both planes and people, as was the South East Regional fly-in the following month at Athens, TN. Even our last event of the year at my newest home base, Ripley, MS was well attended in spite of inclement, blustery November weather.

I am compelled to inject some scientific quantitation into these subjective observations. Of 10 scheduled meetings only one was canceled. 50 planes flew in to the remaining 9 meetings (averaging 5.5 per event) and 114 souls got there one way or another (averaging 12.7 per event). The vitality and success of these monthly meetings is in large part due to those of you who hosted us at your home bases, however I also recognize the considerable effort it takes on the part of attendees, to combat the elements and overcome large distances in order to reach each destination. For the enthusiasm and commitment all this represents, I would thank each and every one of you.

And so I start to ponder what the New Year will bring. 2009 will be an extraordinary year for our chapter. Hosting the International Short Wing Piper Club Convention in Knoxville this June will be a formidable challenge. However, we are fortunate to have exceptional leadership from Gilbert and Barbara Pierce who have already developed a detailed program and assembled a slew of volunteers to implement each phase.

So I am confident that this will be one of the best Conventions yet! As I look forward to the next few months, I have no doubt that Convention planning will be the primary focus of our Chapter fly-insand perhaps during the later part of the year we will be able to relax and reflect on the greatest Convention ever . . .back to earth, I look forward to seeing y'all on January 17, 2009, at Houston Co. Airport (M93).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Schedule of Chapter Fly-Ins for 2009

The Four-F's will begin in a couple of weeks and won't stop for months! You don't want to miss out on all the fun, so mark your calendars and come giggle with the gaggle! We always meet on the third Saturday, unless we have a rain date the following Saturday. We'll always do our best to get the word out if there is any change in the schedule.

January 17	Houston County, TN (M93)
February 21	Memphis – General Dewitt Spain (M01)
March 21	Dexter Snow Blower Fly-In (DXE)
April 18	Robert Sibley Airport – Selmer, TN (SZY)
May 16	Knoxville Downtown Island (DKX)
June 29-July 2	SWPC International Convention (DKX)
July	R & R
August 15	Hotter'n'Hell BBQ...Lawrenceburg, TN (2M2)
September 19	open
October 17	South East Regionaldetails to be determined (KY?)
November 21	open

Let us know of your suggestions for the open months. If you want to get a fly-in in your neck of the woods, this is your chance.

Notes from the Bean Counter! ***David Geiger, Treasurer***

	<u>Jan - Dec 08</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Membership Dues	260.00
Donations	187.00
Sales	2.00
Interest	13.83
Total Income	<u>462.83</u>
Expense	
Rentals	225.00
Teleconferencing	22.10
Convention Prizes	100.00
Miscellaneous	125.00
Postage/Delivery	10.75
Web Site	45.00
Total Expense	<u>527.85</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u><u>-65.02</u></u>
 Unrestricted Cash on Hand	 707.56



Membership as of 01-04-09
 Jim & Candy Butler, Bobby & Nancy Irby, Paul & Vickey Bale, Tom & Alva Brent, David Brown, Ken & Bonnie Eckel, Steve & Kim Marcozzi, Jim & Martha Passalacqua, Delton Perry, Gilbert & Barbara Pierce, Ron Spence, Stan Stone, Curt & Rolls Ammons.

Membership dues are once again kindly asked for. Please remember that your dues payment is for the calendar year 2009. I need to point out that your dues to this organization do not qualify as a bona fide charitable contribution! Best wishes to all this coming year.

Convention Report

Seminar-Presenter Openings

Deb Geiger, Journalist

Our chairpersons, Gilbert and Barbara Pierce, continue to do a fantastic job of organizing our Knoxville *Smoky Mountain High*, which is shaping up to be a terrific Short Wing convention! We are all working hard to make sure there will be something for everyone to enjoy. There will be some new things offered this year, such as a seminar on wine-making, as well as seminars about restoration and maintaining our beloved Short Wings. We have room in the schedule for more seminars, so don't be shy if you have something you'd like to share with our convention attendees. Do you have photography techniques that you use to get that perfect aerial shot? Do you paint gourds? Scrapbook? Are you proficient at researching genealogy? Are you a knowledgeable star-gazer? Can you knit and purl? Do your fishing techniques cause envy among friends, but fear and trepidation among fish? Can you Salsa and Cha-Cha? (I can't, but I *have* been known to Salsa and Dip-Chip!) My point is that the sky's the limit when it comes to offering your talents as a seminar presenter. People just like to be entertained and informed at a short seminar. It's great fun to learn something new, even if it's just in passing. Give it some thought and let us know if you'd like to participate!



Three guided tours are arranged, including a visit to the University of Tennessee Experimental Gardens, the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge (Oak Ridge National Laboratories), and the Museum of Appalachia! We have a great poker run planned, which will conclude at the TN Museum of Aviation in Sevierville.

The Membership Luncheon and Banquet are set, with Bob Minter and Sparky Barnes Sargent sharing their fascinating and compelling stories. We are so fortunate to have them as our guest speakers!

If you would like to be involved in any way, please let one of us know and we'll put you to work! There are lots of volunteer opportunities available. You'll have a great time, plus you can list your new skills on a job application! Example:

Question: What *unusual* talents do you bring to the XYZ Corporation?

Answer: I can successfully and adroitly park 100+ of the greatest flying machines ever to take over Knoxville...and teach willing subjects how to begin the Beguine!

Now, I ask you...what employer wouldn't want to hire you!

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!

Lacking a recent fly-in to document, here are a couple of night scenes from a local flight David and I took over southern Illinois. Also, a photo from M93 fly-in two years ago!

