



Southwest Bonanza Society

September 2018 Newsletter

SWBS GRAND LAKE FLY IN

SEPT 28-30, 2018

by
John Whitehead



Research: Around twenty years ago, when I was in my fourth and final year as president of the Midwest Bonanza Society (MBS), I arranged a fly-in to Grand Lake. When I first thought of recreating the event for the SWBS I knew a lot had changed and it might not be possible. I learned that the proprietors of the airport and terminal were still there. I called and renewed friendships while asking about a repeat performance. I couldn't do everything the MBS had done in the past but it still looked promising.



Next I called the Shangri-La Resort where we had stayed years ago. That was when I first learned that indeed, things had changed. That resort had been plowed to the ground and rebuilt. The cost of staying at the new resort was unbelievable and a non-starter. They wouldn't budge on pricing. Would the SWBS group accept staying in cabins? We would have to be self supporting since the only restaurant would be closed. And how would we get around?

The car rental business used so many years ago wasn't initially interested but then quoted a price that was akin to wanting my next born child. Here we go again. It was essential that a car could be delivered to the airport and picked up at the end of the event. I made a lot of calls to so many people that I really can't say how I eventually came across a van driver (who had just started his business) and a small town car

rental that was willing to do the drop off/pick up at the airport. Transportation covered.

Lots more to tell but, in the end, *it all started to come together*. The lingering questions for me were whether the lodging was musty and falling apart and whether SWBS members would accept the plan. An end-of-season negotiation allowed for a fixed rate per couple for a bedroom. I decided to fly up to Grand Lake for a first hand look at the cabins. They had been recently remodeled so they were fine. A polling of the members seemed encouraging. As I arranged a boat tour of the lake I learned that they needed to limit capacity to about 30 people. If I was able to fill all cabins, that would equate to about 30 people. Hmmm. I see a trend here.



Some of the cabins

Just as I was about to start the ball rolling, I learned that two cabins were being taken out of commission for maintenance. This put me short of housing. Then I remembered seeing a little motel across the street from the cabin complex. They were willing to drop their price for a group booking. BINGO. *It all started to come together*

The Event: Attendees were requested to arrive between 4p and 5p for a 5:30p dinner in one of the hangars at the airport. But the time between fly-ins had been too long and friendships needed renewing so airplanes started arriving around 2p. I retrieved the rental car and drove to the cabin office to obtain everyone's keys. Upon my return to the airport I learned that there was a "minor problem". The couple that own the airport had incorrectly put our arrival date on their calendar. They thought it was the following weekend! But they are troupers so they said

they would make it happen, although dinner would start a little late.

As our last arrival landed, he had a mechanical problem that translated into a lot of people out on the runway for an extended period of time. By the time that issue was resolved, dinner was ready. The timing worked out ... *it all came together.*



Jon, Mike, Anita, Konnie, Nina, at Friday night dinner

Saturday morning, we drove to the Roadhog Saloon for a big breakfast. It is an understatement to say it was an interesting place. Great food. No one left hungry.



The Roadhog

Just before noon, we boarded a yacht for a tour of the lake. Several dressed assuming it would be chilly on the water but the sun came out and warmed us up quickly. Lunch was served onboard. Our boat owner and captain was Mitch Whitehead. I told everyone he was my daddy and the boat was in the will. By the looks on their faces, I'm thinking nobody bought that.



Boarding the Yacht

Mid afternoon was occupied with preparing for dinner. The dinner cabin had a large wrap-around deck just made for our group. I noted a lot of wine consumed the night before so reinforcements were brought in. Salt Lick Chicken was the main course along with side dishes brought by various attendees. This just made it more special since cooking can be an act of love and many of these dishes were their family specialty. The food was great and the deck didn't collapse from too many party animals. As we allowed dinner to digest, our special guest of the evening had some fun in store for us. Whit Hickman, Executive Director of the ABS, came loaded with a trivia contest about the heritage of the ABS. No, not Bonanza questions ... this was about the ABS. Simple you would think but not so much. He had prepared some doozies. Correct answers were rewarded with gifts from the ABS collection. Hands would go up, answers were shouted out, and wine-fueled debates ensued as to who got their answer in first. OK, nobody was thrown off the deck. That was just a nasty rumor. Thanks for coming Whit.



Jay & Whit

Sunday morning started with coffee at 8:30a and a huge breakfast starting at 9p. Again, much of what was served was brought by attendees ... some prepared on site. Oh, there was sooooo much food. I may need my stomach pumped. As always, it's the sad part of a weekend when we all have to say goodbye and head home. Thankfully, everyone got home safe where they can begin their new diet. Did I mention we all ate too much.



John preparing breakfast

So my takeaway is that this was a special group that attended at Grand Lake. They accepted communal living. They created food for everyone's consumption. They came knowing this was not Club Med and accepted what was presented to them. Nobody came with an attitude of wanted to be entertained. Quite the contrary, all came expecting to contribute in their own way. And it did ... *it all came together.*



Bonnie, Hallie, Konnie, Sandra, Anita, Nina, Nancy

Addendum: Trying to say thanks to all that supported the weekend is ripe for missing someone so I'll just a thanks to all for attending and sharing in a special weekend. That said, I have to give a special shout out to Ron and Meredith Lessley. They drove from their home in Claremore and then spent much of the weekend supplementing our transportation. On Sunday morning, everyone wants to leave at once. Given that many brought food and cooking utensils, there was a lot to transport. The Lessleys made numerous trips to the airport until they were sure everyone had been accommodated. Our sincere thanks to both of you. I also need to thanks B.J. Whitehead and Lisa Clement for organizing the serving areas and supplementing the cooking. If you were impressed with the presentation and functionality of the meals, they are responsible.



Ron & Meredith Lessley



Lisa Clement & BJ Whitehead



BJ cleaning the kitchen



The main cabin



SWBS Aircraft on the ramp



Sandra, Randy, Rebecca, Bob-- Fri nite



Ron, Meredith, Wayne, Friday nite dinner



Scott, Hallie, Bonnie, Glenn, Fri nite dinner



Jay, Kathy, Rich, Nancy, Fri nite dinner



Sat morning breakfast at the Roadhog



Sat morning breakfast at the Roadhog



Sandra, Bob, John, BJ, at the Roadhog



Laurie & Cam Gulley at the Roadhog



Ron, Meredith, Jay, Kathy, at Roadhog



Jay, Kathy, Scott, Hallie at the Roadhog



Jim Clement photographing the yacht



The yacht and Jim Clement



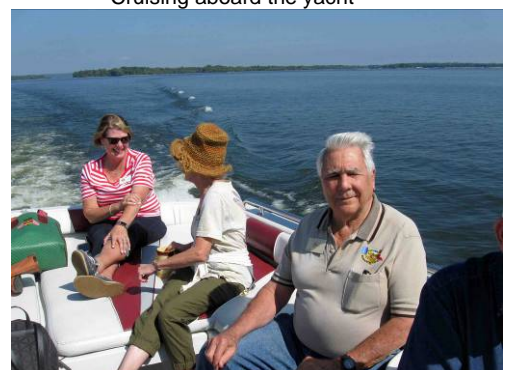
Boarding the yacht



Cam & Lorrie on the yacht



Cruising aboard the yacht



Lisa Clement, BJ Whitehead, Boyd Proctor



Saturday night dinner at the cabin
Jon, Wayne, Rich, Ron



Sat nite—Jay, Scott, Glenn



Sat nite—Meredith, Rebecca, Kacie



Sat nite—Jim, Bob, Whit, Lisa



Sat nite—Randy Starbuck, Jim Clement



Sat nite—Jon Taylor, Rich Faust, Ron Lessley



Sat nite—Rebecca & Randy Starbuck



Sat nite—Glenn Beavers, Wayne Collins



Sat nite—Wayne, Whit, Ron



Sunday morning breakfast



John preparing Sunday morning breakfast



Sunday morning breakfast
Glenn, Bonnie, Jay, Konnie, Anita, Meredith



Sunday morning breakfast



Sunday morning—Wayne Collins, Scott Gunter



Sunday morning—Jon Taylor, Ron Lessley



Geese hissing at Scott Gunter



Aerial view of the airport—top center



SWBS Grand Lake Fly In September 29, 2018



SWBS Grand Lake Fly In September 29, 2018



SWBS ladies: Bonnie, Hallie, Konnie, Sandra, Anita, Nina, Nancy

PREZ SEZ

Time has flown by...both literally and figuratively this year. It seems like only yesterday that we were gathering for our annual meeting back in May. Summer has seen so many things happen with our organization. We lost two incredible members who've "Gone West" and will be greatly missed (Carlos Acosta and Sue Halpain). Oshkosh was well-attended by many from our organization and a "first" for several. Lorrie and I diverted west from Oshkosh on our way home and flew to Glacier National Park for the first time and flew through the park along the "Sun Road".

Your board of directors has been diligent in both administrative and organizational activities. We have finally gotten most of the kinks out of our new web-site presence. Fly-ins have been in the planning stages for a number of months and will be rolled out to you shortly. Tweaks to our fly-in hosting policy are still under discussion as we consider the effects of subsidizing event fees with surplus funds to that policy.

The Grand Lake weekend was a lot of fun. It got interesting when one of our own had a mechanical issue and belly-landed his plane with only minor structural damage. Quite a few of us will head to Tullahoma, TN next weekend for the annual Beech Party. We are planning a day-event fly-in to San Antonio with a Foreflight presentation on November 17th. Our annual Christmas party will be held in LaGrange, TX on December 7th – 9th. Both events should be educational and memorable. Information on both will be sent out in the very near future as we iron out final details for both.

You are the most important part of the Southwest Bonanza Society. I am always amazed at the warm receptions as we gather together at events. Being part of such a wonderful group of people is the most satisfying part of my membership. Thank you for helping make the Southwest Bonanza Society such an enjoyable organization. I certainly hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming events.

Safe flying,

Cam Gulley, president
Southwest Bonanza Society

Officers & Directors

Cam Gulley - President
P.O. Box 163
Eastland, TX 76448
325-669-9795
cgulley@txol.net

John Whitehead - Vice President
100 Flagship Ct
Cresson, TX 76035
817-894-9323
jwhitehead@earthlink.net

Wayne Lohmeyer - Secretary
12229 Bonanza Place
Brookshire, TX 77423
469-879-1615
wayne@theaeroworks.com

Shirley Roberts - Treasurer
101 Timberline North
Colleyville, TX 76034
817-485-0253
Shirley@aviationallianceinc.com

Konnie Sasser-Event Coordinator
9021 Woodlawn Drive
Granbury, TX 76049
817-678-1979
ksasser10.ks@gmail.com

Board of Directors:

Chuck Fronce - Board of Directors
Mike Kirk - Board of Directors
Robert Winkler - Board of Directors

Boyd Proctor - Newsletter Editor
424 CR 2452
Leesburg, TX 75451
903-856-0012
boydproctor@att.net

FUTURE FLY INS

Nov. 17, One Day, Stinson Airport (KSSF) San Antonio, Tx
Dec. 7—9, Annual Christmas Party, La Grange, Tx (3T5)

PHOTO CREDITS

Thanks to Lisa Clement, John Whitehead, and Boyd Proctor for this months photos.

EDITORIAL

We usually don't write editorials for fear of offending someone or stepping on toes, but this will be an exception.

John Whitehead deserves special recognition for the great Fly In he sponsored at Grand Lake of the Cherokees, OK. We realize he had help from the Gulley's, the Clement's and others, but the bulk of the successful Fly In rests on the shoulders of John. We were privy to most of John's pre Fly In preparations, including many phone calls, emails, and actually flying up to Grand Lake to check out all the facilities and the yacht.

Along with this, John prepared Salt Lick Chicken for 30 attendees Sat night which was outstanding. Sat lunch was sandwiches which John brought aboard the yacht. Then on Sunday morning he and BJ prepared a delicious breakfast for all. We think John & BJ deserve a special "atta boy" for a very special Fly In.

That's All Folks