



Southwest Bonanza Society

October 2021 Newsletter



SWBS MT PLEASANT FLY IN

October 9, 2021

by

Mike Parrish



Well, the second time is the charm, after our first attempt was cancelled due to weather concerns. October 9th arrived bright and beautiful for the 16 members in 7 Bonanzas as well as a beautiful Comanche 400.



Paul Henderson, KOSA's Airport Manager and his team, greeted us into their terminal building for lunch prepared by the local Creative Catering. The home style service featured choices of Parmesan Crusted Chicken Breasts and Pork Tenderloin with Raspberry Chipotle, complete with all the fixin's.



Paul Henderson

Once fed, we were in for the real treat of a private tour of Mid-American Flight Museum, one of the best kept secrets in the country. Paul led the tour along with museum associates James and Andrew. Prominently setting on the ramp is their newest acquisition, one of only

approximately 8 flying examples, the B-17H Thunder Bird. It will soon be heading to the West Coast for some specific maintenance and hopes to be returned in about 6 months. Thunder Bird joins the nearly 50 flying examples of the American air industry generally from the 1920s through the 1950s.



After stopping at their newest member, we started our tour with the normally off-limits maintenance hangar. Currently their restoration focus is on the completion of a super rare Grumman Duck, this one has the added historical significance of being a Pearl Harbor survivor. It was joined with its stable mates including 2 T28s, a P-40 as well as (Beechcraft tie-in) a T-34C.



Mike Stone by the Grumman Duck

From there we walked over to the main museum hangars – the many high quality examples were breathtaking. The attached

photos are just a small glimpse of the total collection, all in flying condition. A sampling:

- C-47 "Sky King" (a D-Day survivor)
- Stinson Model A (prior airliner, only one in existence)
- Travel Air 6000 (OSH Lindy winner)
- B-25 "God and Country"
- Lockheed Vega (think Wiley Post vintage)
- Spartan Executive
- Grumman TBM
- Catalina Flying Boat
- Waco 9 with original engine

It was way too much to absorb in an afternoon. Mid-American is definitely on the radar for future return visits. 😊



James has flown every airplane on display



Joe, Richard, Rich, John, Paul, Bill in shade of big hangar



Bill Keller, Jim Clement, John Whitehead waiting on arrivals



Waiting on arrivals at the terminal



Paul Henderson conducting the tour



Mike Parrish, Joe Sasser, Jim Clement signing into Museum



Paul, Mike, Richard



Paul, James, Mike, Mike



James, Anerew, Mike Parrish



Richard Yazell



Nina Proctor



Mike Parrish, Lisa Clement



John Whitehead, Lisa Clement



Nina Proctor, Richard Yazell



Joe Sasser, Richard Yazell



Richard Yazell



Jim Clement, Rich Faust



Jim & Lisa Clement



Trey & Maria Segura



Mike Stone, Paul Henderson, Nancy Faust, Nina Proctor



Jim Clement



Nancy Faust, Nina Proctor



Lisa Clement



Richard Yazell, James, John Bowen



James, Richard, John, Mike, Joe



Trey & Maria Segura



John Whitehead



Maintenance Hangar

PREZ SEZ

The weather for the Mt Pleasant fly-in was much better this time and there was a good showing for the rescheduled event. I think we'll put this on the radar for a future return event down the road.

The board is working on rewriting the by laws to better reflect the mission and function of Southwest Bonanza Society. Board member Randy Starbuck has graciously volunteered to head the project. If you would like to help, reach out to him for coordination.

As we near the holiday season we look forward to our Christmas event in Natchitoches Louisiana and planning for the future events in 2022.

That's it for now, but as always if need something or have an idea for SWBS, feel free to reach out.

Fly safe and look forward to seeing you at our next SWBS event.

Mike Watson
SWBS President



SWBS Mt. Pleasant, TX Fly In, October 9, 2021



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SWBS 2021 Annual Christmas Party

2021 SWBS Christmas Party – Natchitoches, LA

November 19 - 21, 2021

The Christmas Party is sold out but in case of a cancellation there is a wait list.



Photo Credits

Credit for these photos go to Mike Parrish and Boyd Proctor

That's All Folks



Fly Safely!