



Southwest Bonanza Society



December 2021 Newsletter



SWBS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Natchitoches, November 19-21, 2021

by
Mike Watson



Everyone has been much more eager to participate in fly-ins this year, after a dormant 2020. The Christmas Festival weekend in Natchitoches was our final group gathering for 2021. Since there was a high level of excitement and registered participants for this event, it took Nancy Faust several months of planning.

During the planning phase of the fly-in, another family event arose which took priority and her and Richs's weekend with us ended early Saturday morning. But their dedication to planning the fly-in never wavered and was completed in the traditional "Nancy style" down to her handmade ornaments for each attendee.

Anita and I drove in and were there to meet the arriving aircraft.



The staff at that airport were, by far, some of the most friendly and helpful personnel I have met during the course of our many fly-in adventures.



Wayne Lohmeyer at the welcome sign

I must say that the owners of the Bed n Breakfasts were also extremely accommodating. The houses were decorated so beautifully and all of our needs were carefully covered.



Upon arrival, everyone was shuffled around to their respective B&B to get ready for the evening's activities. The dinner and social time started at a fantastic restaurant called Merci Beaucoup. They provided us with our own private dining room, which allowed catching up with everyone easier and more personal. From there we moved over to the Creole Cottage which was a cute little B&B on the Cane River for more socializing and drinks.

Saturday was another beautiful day where everyone was left to explore the downtown shops and river area at their own pace. An early dinner was planned at the Mariners Restaurant, a SWBS favorite and then it was off to the Creole cottage for drinks and a warm outdoor fire to watch the festival fireworks.



As the evening wound down, several folks walked into the old downtown to see the lights up close, while sipping hot chocolate or, yes, eating ice cream.



Wayne & Sceptra Lohmeyer

Rick Brunson, our resident professional photographer set up along the riverbank and took some fantastic pictures. Here is the link to his work (<https://rbrunson.smugmug.com/SWBS-Natchitoches-2021/>). They say a picture is worth a thousand words, well, Rick's pictures would fill up an entire library. (Some of Rick's pictures on next pages) Sunday was a typical end day for the SWBS, everyone packing up, looking at the weather, trying to decide whether or not to file a flight plan or just wing it and go VFR.

We all met at the Good House B&B for the all too famous banner picture and to say our good byes. I think I've said this before but it bears repeating, this is the hardest part of these events. Saying goodbye. Hoping that your schedule and theirs will line up for the next event.



Meeting at the Good House

Thanks to all who attended and an extra thank you Nancy Faust for putting this together. 😊



The following four photos are Rick Brunson's photos of the lights on the Cane River



Wow!!



Photo by Rick Brunson



The river boat ride



Mike Watson & Lisa Clement



Gail Drew, Sandy Fulton, Rick Fulton, Dan Drew, Rick Brunson, Tim Brenham, Patricia Brenham, BJ Whitehead, Barbara Brunson



Rick & Mary Kirk, Barbara & Rick Brunson



Dan & Gail Drew, BJ & John Whitehead, Barbara & Rick Brunson



Sharon Davis & Marty King



Rick Brunson photo in antique shop



BJ Whitehead & Barbara Brunson



Barbara Brunson



SWBS Natchitoches Fly In, November 19-21, 2021

PREZ SEZ

Where did the year go?

We started out with the first trip to Natchitoches in April, the annual board meeting at Conroe in May, College Station in June, Oshkosh in July, Mt Pleasant and Tullahoma in October and finally back to Natchitoches for the Christmas party in November.

It's been great to visit with old friends and have the opportunity to make new ones with our expanding membership.

With all the great memories that 2021 holds, I look forward to making new ones in 2022. We have some great ideas in the works and I encourage everyone to attend as much as possible. We will try to balance the individual one-day events with the more time consuming and costly multi day trips, so that everyone can take part in the SWBS experience.

If you're looking for that special holiday gift, don't forget to check the website under SWBS Apparel. You can never have too many monogrammed shirts, jackets or hats. Well, that's what I keep telling Anita but I don't think she agrees. But if anyone is feeling extra generous this year the president could sure use a Bonanza.

Happy holidays to everyone and thank you for allowing me to be a part of this great organization.

That's it for now, but as always if you 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

Officers & Directors

Mike Watson- President

mikewatson85@gmail.com

Lisa Clement- Vice-President

lsadclement@gmail.com

Ron Nelson – Secretary

renflyr@yahoo.com

Rich Faust-Treasurer

rich.faust@coveytrails.org

Members at Large

Konnie Sasser

Mike Parrish

Randy Starbuck

Boyd Proctor-Newsletter Editor

boydproctor@att.net

Future Events list for 2022

- [2022 Spring Poker](#)
Run February 26,
2022 TBD
-
- [SWBS 2022 Annual Meeting](#)
May 14,
2022 TBD
-
- [EAA Airventure - aka Oshkosh!!](#)
July 25, 2022 Oshkosh, WI
-
- [ABS 55th Anniversary Convention](#)
September 21, 2022
Wichita, KS

[2023 \(yes, 2023!\) Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta](#)
October 01, 2023
Albuquerque, NM

Photo Credits

Thanks to Mike Watson, Rick Brunson, and Wayne Lohmeyer for this edition photos



Steve & Marilyn Dishman



Kacie Taylor & Marty King



THAT'S ALL FOLKS

