

# SWPC NORTHEAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

July - 2010

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## President's Message

Hello there – a lot going on so let's get right to it. There is an airshow at Fabio Schulthess's home base, Sugarbush, Vt. (0B7) this Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The "airport will be closed to any flight activities between 1-3pm. The weather looks pretty good for this Saturday, so this might be a good activity. There is a website to go to for more info: [jimparkerairshows.com](http://jimparkerairshows.com). Fabio will be volunteering in the aircraft parking. I, of course, have to be back in NYC too early to permit me to make this event.

Next Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, with the 11<sup>th</sup> as the rain date, is our annual "beach party" on South Beach at Katama Airpark on Martha's Vineyard (1B2). This is always a popular event. Katama is a good turf field with 3 runways, beach parking, avgas, and the airport diner which is open until about 2:00 pm. There are showers at the FBO and toilet & changing facilities at the beach. Arrive as early as you wish. Just look around and you'll see "us" on the beach. There is a Jitney that runs by the FBO as well as the beach that can take you into town for any shopping or restaurant activity you may desire. Just remember that there are **no airport operations after sunset!** If you plan on staying later, you'll have to move your plane over to the "big airport" before dark. This rule is strictly enforced. Alas there is a fee for this airport's use. I will collect \$15 from each plane that comes to the beach. If you don't go to the beach, make sure you tell the folks at the FBO that you are with the Short Wing Piper Club!

I was out at the Board meeting at the Convention in Middletown, Ohio a couple of weeks ago. While I couldn't stay for the convention, Keith Flint represented us at the Chapter President's meeting. I'll try and make this convention report as brief as possible. As many of you know, the tone/mood of the SWPC isn't what we'd call upbeat. Membership is on the decline.

This is due, in part, to some of the activities that transpired over the past several months. The proposed lawsuit against Short Wing Piper.org and its handling certainly contributed to some of the decline; no doubt about it. There is some history involving this conflict. Some of it I still don't understand. One of the principals in that organization has run into other similar conflicts with other "type clubs". Was the entire issue handled in the best way it could have? Let me say this. One must remember that practically every position in the SWPC is a volunteer position. These people are giving of their time without compensation, for whatever reason they may have. The officers of the club were elected by a majority of the membership and are in office for one more year. Some people were quite vocal and vehement about the whole situation. My question is this. Where were you in the past? Why didn't you take a more active role in the national and local chapters of this fine organization? How would you have handled this situation? This club will have the opportunity to make any changes it wishes in next year's elections. As I have said to some of my Board colleagues, this is not a popularity contest or an ego trip – we are supposed to be here to serve the membership, for the betterment of the organization, to the best of our ability. Frankly, another reason for the decline is the economy. Look around your local field and in your logbook. There's less aviating going on!

Another big problem is the SWPC website. The Board agreed to spend a reasonable amount of money to develop a good quality website (that we own) which could serve the SWPC's needs. While the website is up and running, it is not completely and fully functional. It is not interactive. One can not join the SWPC from this site. The membership base is not yet included. Attempts to rectify this have been stymied by no return calls. The folks that developed the site won't even accept more \$! They say just give them a bit more time and they'll fix the problem. At the Board meeting, I stated that we don't really have much time and it was supposed to be fully operational by the convention weekend. It was not. I recommended that we inquire as to who developed websites such as AOPA and EAA's and make a call. We can't afford not to have this website for the organization's survival. This was left in limbo. Both Iris Morris and myself will push for a quick rectification of this matter.

Sally Luse, our storekeeper, gave a report on the SWPC store. The only item(s) that sell are the CDs. The rest of the inventory (hats, pins, shirts, mugs, etc.) are just taking up space. Iris Morris suggested that an outside company could do drop shipments of any type of clothing with our logo. The administration will appoint a person to help Sally consolidate and remove any items that are not selling and taking up space.

Larry Jenkins, the director of the Education Foundation, gave a report. There are 5 people receiving scholarships and the board voted to increase the \$\$ amount to \$2000 for each person. The Foundation is actively seeking more donations as well as deserving recipients. If you know of any college bound person who wants to pursue a career in aviation through an accredited college (and already has their private certificate) **please bring this person's name to my attention**. We have been sorely lacking in anyone from the northeast! There will be no co-mingling of funds between the SWPC and the Education Foundation.

The matter of future conventions was discussed at the Board meeting and followed up at the Chapter President's meeting. Next year's convention will be in Spearfish, South Dakota June 27-July 1. There is nothing planned after that. To make a long story short, a person volunteered to act in the position of convention coordinator, a position that Tom Gifford served in for several years. Money for this position will be appropriated in a timely fashion. We need to plan ahead at least 2 years! The club tries to have a convention on one coast, mid-country, and then the other coast for obvious reasons. Remember that these conventions are, perhaps, the finest thing the club has to offer (for those that attend). It is one big "family reunion" with many activities for all, in a (hopefully) good setting. Again, please remember that these conventions are set up by **volunteers**. Our chapter has hosted 2; both in the Catskill region. They were quite popular! Perhaps we can do another in the future? It was a lot of work, but we had many who took part in the process.

We also discussed recruitment of new members at the Chapter President's meeting. The Florida chapter has led the way over the last year in their recruitment efforts and won a new Chapter award for their efforts. Congratulations to you folks! They developed a good brochure that was successful in getting new members to sign up for the National & local chapter. It was also discussed, as it was last year, that we desperately need younger members!!! I'm guessing that the average age of the SWPC is on the high side of 60! This isn't healthy for growth. We need to do more. Rico Cannone is a one man recruiting machine for our chapter and has had impressive results! Good job Rico. We all have to do more!

Our chapter had 3 planes that I know of with 5 members attending this convention. Keith and Patricia Flint in their Pacer, Bev & Susan Jewett in their Pacer, and Len Solomon in his PA 22/20. If there were any others please let me know. Perhaps Keith could write something about his convention experience? It would also be great if Bev Jewett could write a (short) story about his fantastic (literal) cross country journey that he & Susan made? From what I've heard, secondhand, some folks were not happy with the venue this year, especially the hotel. I was at the hotel for about 10 minutes after the Board Meeting. It seemed like a carbon copy of the hotel I stayed at the next exit north. It didn't offer too much in amenities. I can't tell you what the price was. I can tell you that this was set up by volunteers and voted on, I believe, 2 years ago by the membership. You can't please everyone. I distinctly remember hearing an earful from a Mooney pilot at the convention we hosted at Ellenville, N.Y. years ago as to what a bogus setup the whole thing was. It was at a worldclass resort ( that was getting a bit old ), close to the airport with good shuttle transportation, had many interesting things for everyone, 2 great meals a day, entertainment every night, good flying activities (flight around the Statue of Liberty), golf course, tennis, pools, day camp for kids, and this guy was unhappy! Turns out he wasn't even a member of the national SWPC!! You can't please everyone. If we (you) want better, one must get involved!

With all that said, I hope some of you can make it to Sugarbush this Sat. and hope to see you on the beach at Katama on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Our August fly-in will probably be at Zene & Marcia Garnsey's the weekend of Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>? Safe flying to you all - Andy