



Southwest Bonanza Society

October 2022 Newsletter



SWBS AT THR ABS CONVENTION

by
Mike & Anita Watson



The much-anticipated ABS Convention finally arrived. Anita and I arrived early on Wednesday morning and was greeted by a familiar voice, Dan Drew. Dan and Wayne Whittington had volunteered to assist the ABS folks in parking airplanes and shuttling folks to the awaiting buses. These were the two volunteers I alluded to in the Prez Sez. They worked tirelessly making sure all who arrived were greeted with a smile and a helping hand, even on that Thursday when the weather turned to cold rain and gusty winds. Thank you, Dan and Wayne, for representing SWBS with great spirit.



Dan & Gail Drew, Jean & Wayne Whittington

We made it to the hotel with no problems and proceeded to the ABS desk to check into the convention. We received our badges with the welcome bag and would you believe it, there was another SWBS member doing check in.

Lisa Clement and later Nancy Faust and Espi Nelson all helped in the check in process. Anita and I set up the SWBS booth in the convention hall that Thursday morning and waited for the official opening to start at noon.

Numerous vendors were there ranging from interior mods to engine parts. On a side note, we had a booth next to Guy Ginby of GeeBee Products. He had people stop by to ask questions and look at his products the entire convention. I think that was the most visited booth of the event.

Whit Whitman, the ABS Executive Director and his team did a fantastic job moving people around, providing great topics at the seminars and inviting interesting speakers each night at the dinners. One notable standout was Lauren Bayless, she seemed to be everywhere. Her infectious smile and light hearted attitude were perfect in making everyone feel welcome and an important part of ABS.

Having a booth at the convention proved successful. It truly was a team effort to maintain representation at the table. There were many fun and flexible people who volunteered some time to man the booth, and there were several who would offer coverage for the volunteers to make a bathroom break or grab some lunch.



SWBS Booth

That's what makes the SWBS group so special... our members, who are willing to step up and assist when needed. A couple of the most memorable things I remember about my

interactions with the folks who stopped by were:
1. They all said “Hey, aren’t you that fun group we read about in the ABS magazine” and 2. “Why are you called Southwest Bonanza? You should be Southcentral Bonanza”.

Anita ribs me a little, well, maybe a lot about talking to people and trying to sign them up. My proclivity to that, (that’s my word of the day) paid off as I met Stephen & Bitsy Reynolds and Todd & Rita Garrett in the hotel bar, my kind a people already. I convinced them to stop by the booth and yes, they are now new SWBS members. At the end of the event SWBS walked away with 17 new members eager to participate in our upcoming events which brings our total membership of SWBS to 175.

Anita and I got up early Sunday morning to catch the 05:15 bus and beat some 200+ airplanes departing Jabara Field. We weren’t the only ones with that idea. People, buses, golf carts were everywhere. And guess what, there was Dan Drew starting his volunteer shift moving planes and people, thanks Dan.

As I look back at the convention, I’m grateful for the friends I was able share time with and for the new ones I made. 😊😊



Mark Campbell & Mike Stone



Anita Watson



Jay Burris



Mike & Anita Watson



Maria & Trey Segura



Ron & Meredith Lessley



Mary & Leldon Locke



Lisa Clement



Bob Goss & KK Powers



Sharon Davis & Marty King



Nancy Faust, Anita Watson, Espi Nelson, Lisa Clement



Formation including Jay, Leldon, Trey, Ron, Rich, & Mike



Larry & Katherine Sears



Jim Clement



SWBS members at the ABS Convention Sept. 22—25, 2022

PREZ SEZ

It's hard to believe the ABS Convention is over. The SWBS booth was a huge success, we have 16 new members and they are excited to join us on our future events. I would like to thank Rich & Nancy Faust, Ron & Catherine Bindas, Mark Campbell, Ron & Meredith Lessley, Jon Taylor, Ron & Espi Nelson, Bill Keller, Jim & Lisa Clement for stepping up and manning the booth. We would not have had the success without their help. An extra thank you to my wife Anita who manned the booth during our anniversary. I think that may cost me later.

Mark Campbell is working on the Balloon Festival for next year. He will be sending out a questionnaire in the coming weeks to gauge interest.

Bill Smith is hard at work on the Christmas Party in Waco. The event is full but we do have a waiting list if someone drops out.

Our next big event is the Poker Run. Ron Nelson has all the details posted on the website. This is different from what we have done in the past and I think this is going to be one of those we are going to want to repeat.

I have received several questions about the New Orleans trip. Let me just say we are working on it.

Be looking for the next newsletter for all the details on the Convention. There are two people who went above and beyond in helping the 200+ aircraft arrive safely and representing SWBS. I'll tell you who they are in the newsletter.

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

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Future Fly Ins

Oct 8 1st Annual Poker Run
Oct 13-16 Tullahoma Beech Party
Nov 12 Weatherford, OK Museum KOJA
Dec 2-4 Annual Christmas Party, Waco
Oct 2023 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
Spring 2023-Spring in New Orleans



Claramore OK Fly In 20 years ago

THAT'S ALL FOLKS



FLY SAFELY