



# Southwest Bonanza Society December 2022 Newsletter



## SWBS CHRISTMAS FLY-IN

Waco, TX 2-4 Dec 2022

by  
Bill Smith

As 2022 rapidly comes to a close, the SWBS ended it with its annual Christmas fly-in in Waco, Texas. The weather wasn't cooperating on Friday for the arrival with ceilings and visibility down to ILS mins, but 6 planes still braved it out and were able to fly in. The rest of the people attending drove in giving us a total of 27 people for the event.

After arriving the members were met in the FBO with a catered lunch by George's Restaurant, a favorite for the Waco locals.

After lunch the members split into two groups; one going to Stanton Studios to make hand blown glass Christmas ornaments and the other to Homestead Heritage an agrarian and craft-based international Christian Community.



Scott Gunter at  
TX Ranger Museum



Hallie Gunter, Bonnie Beavers,  
Alan & Dianna William

At Homestead Heritage the members embarked on a trip back in time when things were simpler and made by hand. The tour consisted of a trips to different shops where actual community members were making items by hand and displaying their handywork. The shops included a pottery house, blacksmith stable and woodworking building, as well as an actual mill grinding wheat with a mill stone that was over a 100 years old and turned by water!



Group at Stanton Studios



Hallie Gunter  
Making Ornament



Group at Homestead Heritage



John & BJ  
Whitehead Lisa & Jim  
Clement

After touring Stanton Glass and Homestead Heritage, the members headed back to the hotel to clean up and enjoy copious libations in a well stocked hospitality room before dinner.



Final Touch!



Bill & Rich Picking  
Out a Design



Mike Watson at  
Dr Pepper Museum



Glenn & Bonnie  
Beavers & Kyle Jones



Anita Watson &  
Glenn Beavers

At Stanton Studios the members were able to select the shapes and colors for their ornaments and then stand next to flaming kilns of over 1000 degrees as they watched the glass artisans prepare their glass for them to blow. Each member was instructed on how to form the perfect one-of-a-kind ornament to be passed down for generations in their family!

Dinner was enjoyed at "Slow Rise" Pizza Restaurant on the Brazos River. While dining the members were treated to a fireworks display right across the river, when the City of Waco had their annual Christmas tree lighting which was a nice surprise!



*Fireworks on Brazos*



*Slow Rise Pizza House*

The SWBS Christmas dinner was held in a private room in Diamondback's Steak House. The meal was a multi-course selection of delectable items and drinks to fill our members. During the meal our newest lifetime member, Bill Keller was introduced and our host held a drawing with many items to thrill our members. There were laser engraved bottles of whiskey with the SWBS logo on it, T-shirts, hats and many other items from the ABS, a gift card from Aircraft Spruce, a survival kit from Lightspeed and the top prize of a JPI FS-450 fuel flow indicator! All-in-all a very fun and memorable evening.

After dinner the group retired back to the hotel and the hospitality suite to talk about their adventures and indulge in some more Christmas cheer!

Saturday started early with a hotel breakfast, followed by members being shuttled downtown to see some of the attractions Waco has to offer. The members enjoyed tours of the Dr Pepper Museum, Texas Ranger Museum and of course a stop at Magnolia Silos, TV personalities Chip and Joanna Gaines' attraction. After lunch and more shopping, the members were shuttled back to the hotel to rest up and hit the hospitality room before dinner.



*Group Dinner in Diamondback's*



*Bill Smith Gift Drawing!*



*Kacie & Jon Taylor at Dr Pepper Museum*



*Rich & Nancy Faust at Dr Pepper Museum*



*Group Dinner in Diamondback's*



*Karen & Kyle Jones at Dr Pepper Museum*



*Group at Texas Ranger Museum*



*Glenn & Bonnie Beavers*



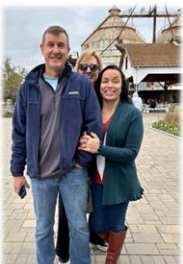
*Dianna Williams & BJ Whitehead*



*Espi, Ron & John*

After dinner the members were shuttled back to the hotel to cap off the night one last time in the hospitality room before heading to bed.

Sunday morning after breakfast, the members were shuttled back to Waco Regional Airport to depart back home after a very fun weekend!



*Ron & Espi Nelson & Anita Watson*



*Jon & Kacie Taylor & Marcia & Ed Livermore at Lunch Downtown*

