



SOUTHERN SWIFT AIR GROUP

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Southern Swift Air Group (SSAG)
Newsgram

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National Museum of Naval Aviation,
Perdido Key, Sandy Key Condos, white
sands, deep blue Gulf of Mexico, great
food, Swifters, fun people.



A great combination for a fly in and a really super weekend. Once again the SSAG put a good combination together and the only thing that could have made it better would have been to have even more Swifters enjoy it with us. Seems like Spring is the time that folks are on the go and those of us that live in the South get lots of visitors.



Arrival at Ferguson went well for the six Swifts that flew in and Ferguson Airport easily accommodated us for the weekend, even providing hangar space for those who wanted it.



However, with perfect weather in the mid 70's and bright sunshine it was hardly necessary.

The traditional "happy hour" got us started at the Sandy Key condo on the beach. There were no takers for the pool but with two of the units nearly next door we managed to pretty much run the social scene near the beach.



A great meal at the Oyster Bar nearby got the crew going toward "putting out the seafood low level light". Amazing how many oysters this crew can consume.



Swifters decide Mercedes engine is "too hard to change" and close the hood.

On Saturday we got started with....guess what...more food at Trigger's. A seafood restaurant that serves traditional breakfast as well as some gourmet seafood omelets. Me, I'm pretty much an eggs and bacon guy but the report was that the seafood omelets tasted.....well.....fishy. Say what????

The group arrived at the fabulous **National Museum of Naval Aviation** and got in a few hours of touring the museum before lunch.



After lunch we were met by Museum employee Frank Matson who then gave us a special tour of the refurbishment facility. (Frank Matson is 3rd from R in front row)



This tour was set up by Swifter Chuck Mosely of Love Landing who has had many dealings with the refurbishment staff. His contact, Ricky Haun set up the special tour and it was very interesting to say the least. Interestingly enough, the female members of our group enjoyed this part of the Museum as much as the guys. Joyce particularly like the Zero in the nose dive position.



They have several unique projects on going, and as was explained to us by Frank Matson, the average age for the volunteers is nearly 70. But this group of former Navy men bring with them all the skills acquired in the Navy and is a form of payback to the nation and the Navy for all the years they enjoyed in their careers.



Bud and Steve "There I was at..." but Perry looks a bit skeptical.

We spent another couple of hours after the special tour filling in the blanks of some of the things we didn't see before lunch.



Look closely at the photo. Those engines are supposed to be a 3 blade and a 4 blade.

Finally, we adjourned to the sandy beach once again for a little R&R before dinner. A few hardy souls ventured on down the beach to the Florabama beach establishment (term used loosely). Florabama is a ramshackle beach bar/restaurant that gets pretty lively at times and has all kinds of interesting artifacts

attached to the ceiling. (Ask someone who has been there.)

On to the "Original Point Restaurant" for dinner. Absolutely outstanding seafood in this one of a kind institution on the point at Perdido Bay. Plus, we were entertained for hours by the blue grass band "Joe Banana and his bunch. ...music with a peel". Yuk Yuk. They had us all dancing in the aisles and playing "air banjo and air guitar".



Sunday came all too soon and we headed to the airport with a short stop at the Perdido Bay Golf Club for their Sunday breakfast before we started the journey home. We were once again blessed with perfect weather and the Swifters made good time heading back to home base.....Georgia, Kentucky, Florida, South Carolina.



Frog & Perry decide we need an official SSAG car.



All in all a really nice gathering and a unanimous vote to do it again next year. Pretty good idea....



Other News:

Sun n Fun. See you there 16-22 April.
Lumberton: Mid Atlantic Fly-In, May 18-20. This will have workshops, forums, camping, and just good old grass roots flying and family fun. Lumberton is a really great place for a fly in. No encroaching airspace, large airport, good hotels, restaurants etc. Come on over and join the fun. Swifters will once again do some volunteer duties on the flight line, food and beer tents. Special event will be the arrival of the LoPresti Swift Fury.

As a reminder, get your hotel reservations in early: find them at: www.MAFSAC.COM.

Generally we stay at the Holiday Inn or Hampton near the Outback or at the Fairfield down I-95 an exit away.

Additionally, we will have the use of Dave Barker's lounge in his hangar for Swift Headquarters.

There will be several featured flying exhibitions led by the Red Barons. Come join the fun.

Swift National at Athens 23-27 May. BE THERE.

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