

This is the article from the September/October Star. Some more [photos](#) from the convention.



Volume XXXI, Number 5

September/October 2006



AYA 2006, Fredericksburg, Texas

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AYA 2006 Review

by Tom Lewis
Convention Co-Chair

The beautiful Texas Hill Country was the setting for this year's AYA International Convention, held in Fredericksburg, Texas, July 10-13. With a total 120 planes on the ground and 250 attendees at Thursday's banquet, we had a wonderful gathering of AYAers! We welcomed 54 first-timers to the AYA convention family. The tremendous support of the volunteers made this convention a huge success. *Participation* describes this year's convention, as all events and activities were well-attended.

Upon arrival Saturday morning, we found several airplanes already present. By evening, we had 20 airplanes on the ramp. Operations headed by Stu Morse and Ground Bosses, Sarah Barber and Kirschen Seah did an excellent job of filling every parking spot on the ramp. Les Staples provided three golf carts for the ground teams use during the week and rebar tie down stakes to create additional tie downs along the edges of the ramp. Since the weather was good, the arrivals continued until we had 103 airplanes on Monday evening and a total of 120 airplanes by mid week. The Welcome Reception was held Monday evening at the Hangar Hotel Conference Center which was the central meeting place during the convention.

Each morning at 7:30 AM a pilot briefing was held for the flying events of the day. The Tuesday flying event was an Air Rally coordinated by Bonnie Lewis. Since she worked on the registration, she was busy selling the air rally to everyone signing in. The Wednesday flying events were Flour Bombing and Spot Landing. Nigel Thomas was the Flour Bombing event coordinator and Lou Evans was the Spot Landing event coordinator. The flour bombs had a Texas look as the event team had taken the extra effort to shape the bags like a bull's head

with horns. The Spot Landing was interrupted briefly by a Citation landing, naturally on the spot landing line. The Thursday flying event was the Air Race with Andy Elliott as coordinator. A call from the secret service spiced up the air race. All the flying events had excellent participation as the weather was outstanding. A good time was had by all.

Adams coordinated an Ask the Experts panel to answer questions from the airplane owners.

The General Meeting was Tuesday evening followed by Walt Porter entertaining us with his auctioneering skills and managing to raise \$2000 for the scholarship fund. Ashley Porter joined in the fun by modeling and displaying the auction items. Luann

Sieve collected the door prizes from numerous generous aviation suppliers, and Roscoe Rosche' assisted in their distribution. Jeff and Janet Foltz raffled off a beautiful quilt, made by Janet, a first timer, and raised an additional \$1235 for the scholarship fund.

On Monday afternoon, a group of early attendees traveled to Kerrville to tour the Mooney Factory. A tour to the ECI factory in San Antonio was also attended by a number of folks as well. Wednesday afternoon included an LBJ Ranch tour and the Nimitz Museum,

scheduled and coordinated by Cindy Daly. Van transportation during the week was coordinated by Bill Daly and included five volunteers from the local EAA chapter as well as numerous AYA attendees.

Wednesday evening's event was an Ice Cream Social and pool party at the Fredericksburg Inn. We had 200 attend and it was truly a special social evening. The pool and hot tub were enjoyed by many and lots of stories were shared between friends new and old.

The week ended with a banquet at the Hangar Hotel Conference Center on Thursday evening that was attended by 250 AYAers. Maybelle Fletcher was the keynote speaker at the conventions final event sharing many of her flying experiences over the last 60 years—an interesting glimpse into the history of flight by someone who lived it.

As dawn broke Friday morning numerous flyers were already loading their aircraft for the journey home. Aircraft after aircraft broke the confines of the ground to soar the air currents to their destinations. By Saturday morning only 12 aircraft remained on the tarmac.



Co-Chairs Tom and Bonnie Lewis, Convention Director Carol Adams and President Les Staples.

Public Relations were coordinated by Denny Arar, and the result was two nice newspaper articles in the local Fredericksburg weekly. The local people knew we were in town as we had many visitors to the airport to watch the activity. The Cockpit Cool course was headed by Mike Babin and was well attended. The Star Squad returned this year lead by Colin and Yolanda Aro. The kids had several activities and also demonstrated their air race skills by flying their model airplanes at the banquet.

Tuesday and Thursday activities included seminars. Richard Hinsley presented a Fuel Flow Detective Story intriguing everyone as to why his fuel flow was erratic. Richard also presented an AYA Electronic Services seminar which described the new AYA website and its capabilities. Jeff Simon gave an AYA Tech Director Update and a seminar on Vista Nav. A Forced Landing seminar was lead by Roscoe Rosche' and Claude Allen, two of our members with personal experiences on that subject.

Lou Evans coordinated a Two Place Ownership seminar. Charlie



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2006 Rally Review

by Bonnie Lewis
Granbury, TX

Rally pilots and observers rose early Tuesday morning to attend the 7:30 briefing. The weather cooperated with 2000 to 2500 foot clouds and good visibility along the route. By the time most pilots were taking off, the temperature was approaching 80 Degrees F. The winds were a little challenging, but our excellent pilots handled their aircraft well.

The Rally route took the participants on a leisurely and beautiful 125 NM tour of the Texas Hill Country. Clues led the pilots from site to site along the way while observers recorded answers to questions about what they observed at each location. Sites to be found included President Lyndon B. Johnson's Ranch, "The Alamo" movie set, several rivers, the picturesque Highland Lakes region, a massive granite dome called Enchanted Rock, and airports large and small along the route. Participants had many stories to tell of their adventures.

Twenty four airplanes participated in the rally this year. Each crew included a pilot and at least one observer. The competition was very tight as each crew worked very hard to answer all the questions. Two beautiful plaques were the incentive. Three- and four-way ties were the order of the day which meant that those who tied for fifth place missed only four out of a possible 40 answers. One crew clearly captured first place missing only one question. Second place was determined by the scoring of a tie-breaker question.

Everyone enjoyed the fun, and we look forward to next year's rally.

Place	Pilot	Observers(s)
1	Greg Sincok	Carolyn Brown
2	Guy Warner	Bob Gibson
3	Ken Ingham	W. Bailey Jr. and Phyllis Dudley
3	Mark Matthews	Kelly Matthews
3	Walt Porter	Bonnie and Ashley Porter
4	Christian Goetze	Denny Arar
4	Jim Lambert	Mike Boyd
4	Phil Works	Steve Weintraub
5	Hal Beauchesne	Bruce Skaggs
5	Kay Krause	Jim Krause
5	Graham Smith	"Eagle Eye" Schmitz
5	Les Staples	Kevin Hankins



The American Star



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Cockpit Cool at AYA 2006

by Mike Babin
PPF Director

Once again, the PFP Program hosted the Cockpit Cool course at the annual AYA Convention in Fredericksburg, Texas. Cockpit Cool is an AYA program designed to give the non-pilot some procedures to use in the event they suddenly find themselves with an incapacitated pilot. It also gives them a better understanding of what's going on during normal flight. The course consists of approximately two hours of classroom time, and, aircraft availability permitting, a flight with a PFP Instructor to practice what was learned in the classroom.

PPF Director Mike Babin taught the classroom session this year, walking the 21 attendees through the basics of aircraft control, emergency communication, elementary navigation, and survivable landing techniques. Attending were: Melissa Willome, Barbara Pelham, Debo Bryant, Shirley Dillon, Donna Harris, Eloise Moffatt, Marilyn Geller, Cherry Horton, Janet Foltz, Kristen Badowski, Barb Hamilton, Tracyne Heldman, Kelly Armstrong, Beth White, Dub White, Dena Lef, Brittany Evans, Kelly Matthews, Carolyn Smith, and Joyce Tatsch. Completion certificates for course attendees were presented after the general membership meeting on Tuesday night.

After the classroom session, a number of students had the opportunity to practice in "their" airplanes during the remainder of the convention. Taking Cockpit Cool flights were Melissa Willome, Debo Bryant, Janet Foltz, Kelly Matthews, Joyce Tatsch, Barb Hamilton, and Carolyn Smith, with Colin Aro, Lou Evans, Ed Manning, Christian Goetze, Lou Thomas, Dick Samuels, and Mike Babin volunteering time as instructors. Strong crosswinds at Fredericksburg presented challenges to the students, as well as some certificated pilots, but all were up to the task. Everyone involved had a great time, and (as usual) all the airplanes returned from the Cockpit Cool



Lady AYA Pilots pose with guest speaker Maybelle Fletcher

flights in condition to be used again. Cockpit Cool is an ongoing part of the PFP Program. If you haven't had the opportunity to participate yet, you can look forward to signing up in Glen Falls, New York, at AYA 2007.



Relaxing by the river at the new Fletcher site near Comfort, Texas

Fellow Grummanistas

by Harvey Maddox
Lubbock, TX

I must say that, as a first-timer, and fairly new owner, I had a great experience at the convention. I have never enjoyed such friendly, helpful, non-judgmental people anywhere. The ground transportation was beyond any reasonable expectation, the sharing of expertise flowed as fast as I could absorb it, the good humor was a treat, and my only regret was not getting into the air events.

Thanks to all whose hard work made it a success, and that appears to be almost everyone.



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Door Prize Donors

by Roscoe Rosché
Archive Director

The door prize and auction requests were supported by the following commercial vendors and AYA members. We thank all who made these events and the resulting scholarship donations possible:

- Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co.
- AirMods NW
- Blackstone Laboratories
- Blue Sky Marketing Services
- Carol Adams
- Carolyn Brown and Greg Sincock
- Chase Donaldson
- Cindy and Bill Daly
- Dan Rubino
- David Clark Company Inc.
- Debbie Dewey
- Debo Bryant
- Fletcher
- Gary Vogt
- Geoff and Leslie Hickey
- Gleim Publications, Inc
- Ground Tech Covers
- Hangar Hotel
- Hill Country Aviation
- J.P. Instruments
- Jeppesen Sanderson
- Jim and Sharon Spence
- Laughing Rabbit, Inc (LRI)
- Les Staples
- "Mean Gene" of DMA Speed Mods
- Oregon Aero, Inc.
- Power Flow Systems, Inc
- Roscoe and Luann
- Sharon Spence
- Sky-Tec
- Sporty's Pilot Shop
- Stitch America
- Tanis Aircraft Services, Inc.
- Trade-A-Plane
- Wag Aero

These folks donated the following prizes, and, in the final count, we had almost one prize for each attendee.

One-year subscriptions, one free fuel ticket, Grumman apparel, Grumman coffee mugs, 100 foot extension cord with light (indicates cord is plugged in), key chains with logo and heater instructions, Chap Stick, Catalog, oil sample analysis kits with free analysis, headset upgrade kit, t-shirt, Softseat bottom, Softseat lumbar, catalogs, DVD-



A busy Auction team managed to get through all the donated items

flight review, DVD-Flying, Garmin G-1000, Photon 3 Micro lights, X light red, Instrument Commercial Manual, Aviation Weather, FS 450 fuel flow, \$25 gift certificate, 50% off gift certificates, DVD "16 Right", embroidered golf shirt, golf caps, H10-13.4 headset, embroidered hats, \$100 gift certificates, \$25 gift certificate, flight bags, FAR/

Pilot handbooks, rubber fairings for nose struts, nav lens covers, wing nuts for batteries, embroidered athletic bag, can cooler coozies, Hangar t-shirts, Hangar hats, Hangar blankets, two-night stay for two, door prize kits.

Luann and I were happy to serve as door prize chairpersons this year and hope that all items have found happy homes.



David Fletcher, with Garner Rice and family, hosted AYA to a pre-convention barbeque at the new Fletcher site near Comfort, Texas



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A special thanks to all the photographers who made images available for the *Star*: Harvey Madsen, the Ketell family, Sharon Spence, Steve Peach, Colin Aro, Tom Jackson, Jr., Michael Boyd, Bill Daly, Charlie Adams, Eileen Burger, Tom Lewis, and others.



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More convention photos in the next *Star*.





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Star Squad 2006

by Colin and Yolanda Aro



The Star Squad had quite a good convention! We started off with a pizza party at the Fredericksburg Inn Monday evening. The kids had a great time swimming while the parents got to know each other. The next morning the Squad headed off to Longhorn Cavern State Park for a hiking adventure over half mile underground to see fascinating caves. Margaret Peach was the true hero of the day, dropping her plans to join us as a driver. Without Margaret, we would have been a few seats short for the trip.

On Wednesday, the kids made necklaces and decorated toy aircraft, which they flew at the banquet for the parents to see. Thursday morning, our young pilots provided fantastic distractions for the map folding contest. One or two of the older kids tried their hand at the broken towbar contest. Of course, we had lots of adult help: Bob and Irene Arnold, Vicky Beauchesne, Greg and Kim Ketell, Margaret Peach, and Carolyn Skaggs. Participating squad members included John and Joel Arndt, Cameron Aro, Ethan and Devin Ketell, Eric Peach, Ben and Kim Schmitz. Thanks to everyone who made the convention a success for our youngest pilots.