

2012 Baltimore Convention in Review

The weather was perfect for the 2012 Baltimore Convention - bright sunny days with the temperatures in the low 80's and nights cooling to the lower 70's. The gentle breezes made exploring Baltimore on foot very pleasant, and the clear skies were perfect for flying.

A number of ICS members took the suggestion to come early and spend time enjoying the sights of Baltimore. The Inner Harbor area has undergone a major facelift in the past few years, and offers many fine attractions. The free transportation on the Charm City Circulator bus routes makes everything within easy reach.

About sixty people attended the full Convention, a decline over the past years. Again the ICS Convention was held responsible for unfilled hotel room nights. The total did swell to over eighty-five for the weekend events. There was lively participation in scheduled meetings and good attendance for the various seminars. Of special interest were the speakers from NASA who spoke on topics ranging from the Joint Polar Satellite System, source of weather image and analysis, to current exploration projects of the Mars Rover. Another popular presentation was by a pilot, Fred Hall, telling of his experiences in flying the Berlin Airlift in the late 1940's.



Seminar attendance



NASA presentation



Berlin Airlift pilot

On Thursday evening the various Tribes made good use of the many fine restaurants in downtown Baltimore. The host NE Tribe chose one of the many establishments in Little Italy.

ICS-member seminars on insurance and maintenance were well attended, with quality cooperation from the vendors present. Other topics covered were the Comanche Pilot Proficiency Program (CPPP) and problems with aging aircraft, both in the form of an open discussion, and drawing on the expertise of our ICS President, Zach Grant.

The vendors were quite active, talking to a number of the attendees. Curt LoPresti again offered his 50% discount deal to ICS members.



in Little Italy

The Friday evening dinner and General Membership Meeting proved very successful. Convention attendees enjoyed a fine buffet dinner followed by the meeting. Most people stayed to find out what ICS has been doing and to participate in the open question and answer portion.

The Convention provided van transportation to and from Martin State Airport each day of the Convention. This was especially important for the strong turn out for Airport Day on Saturday. Members got to inspect the many aircraft that flew in, and especially the seven entries in the Flagship competition.



General Membership Meeting



At Martin State Airport



Tire kickin'



Flagship row

This year we offered a Pilot Companion ground school as an alternative to Airport Day activities, with twenty-five people signing up to attend. The course covered the process of a flight, from initial planning to ground and flight operations, explaining what is going on in the mind of the pilot. While the pace, at times, was like drinking from a fire hose, many attendees felt encouraged to take an active part in future flights with their pilots.

The final Convention activity, a dinner and 3-hour cruise on the *Spirit of Baltimore*, was very popular. The dinner buffet was excellent and relaxed atmosphere provided plenty of time to get better acquainted. Photos from the Convention, including Airport Day, were on display in a running slide show during dinner.

The Flagship awards were presented at the close of dinner, with the following results.



Best Single –PA-24-260 N143VP
Charlie and Patti Littwin (SE)



Best Twin –PA-30 N11KY
Ron and Lynn Ward (NE)



Flagship –PA-30 N8818Y
Alan and Kate Burrows (EU)

An introductory presentation for next years Convention was given at the General Membership meeting by the Northwest Tribe. The plan is for three days of meetings and seminars “on land” followed by a weeklong Alaska Cruise. Check in the coming issues of the *Comanche Flyer* and on the website for details and registration information.

Thank you to one and all that made this Convention a reality. Baltimore certainly lived up to its name as the Charm City.

Pete Morse, ICS-NE Chief (retired)