

Plans For 2021 SWPC Convention At Sentimental Journey

Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

On behalf of my colleague Gene Keller, myself, and the members of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast chapters of the SWPC, I would like to tell you of our plans and hopes for what could be a spectacular 2021 convention. This convention would be a “twofer”. It would combine our SWPC convention with Sentimental Journey. If any of you are familiar with either event, just double the activities, the aircraft, seminars, vendors, flyouts, and I think you know where this could head. I’m sure that all of us know that we are living in a different world today, a world of changes and restrictions. What is normal for today could change by tonight! Also, of this date, states have certain restrictions on travelers from other states. That said, we are going ahead with our plans, knowing that these plans could change (as plans in the past had). Sentimental Journey had the best weather ever last year, but had to cancel (as did the SWPC). Our plans could be postponed until 2022 and we realize this. We’re going to hope for the best.

On Tuesday September 22nd, I flew out to Lock Haven and met with Mid-Atlantic chapter President Gene Keller, Ed Watson (airport director/Sentimental Journey), and John Bryerton (Piper Aviation Museum) to get an up close look at the facilities, town, lodging, food, and tourist attractions. Many of you are probably familiar with Sentimental Journey. It started in 1985 as a small time fly-in to honor the planes that were built at the west end of the field. It certainly grew from small time! We are still awaiting the input from the museum and Sentimental Journey so we can come up with a hard figure for a fee that will cover admission to the museum and S.J. There will be aircraft parking in a central area (TBD), under wing camping, and parking area for RV’s. I think that we will have our own aircraft judging in addition to S.J. We’re up in the air as to apparel such as shirt/cap. A logo for a patch will probably be done. Lodging is going to be different than any convention I’ve organized or been to. There is no one hotel/motel that can serve as a central place for the SWPC. Two motels are in downtown Lock Haven, close to the airport. The room availability is scarce, due to last year’s S.J. cancellation. They are the Best Western & Fairfield Inn. Two more are about 11-12 minutes out of town with more rooms available. They are the Quality Inn & Hampton Inn. I understand that the rates in all the motels are “reasonable”. Some have restaurants, some are across the street from eating facilities. Sentimental Journey has a food court with breakfast, lunch, and dinner options. Downtown Lock Haven has many good restaurants of varying cuisine. Gene Keller will have more specifics on the hotel options.

The vendors at Sentimental Journey far outnumber anything I’ve ever seen at a SWPC convention. There will be extensive shuttle service between the hotels and the airport as well as around the field itself. Our main hub of operation will be **the 3rd floor of the Piper Aviation Museum**. We are working on a deal to rent the 3rd floor for the

week. There is room for meetings, any seminar we might want for the club, and the member's luncheon and closing banquet. The lunch and banquet will be catered affairs and we are working on obtaining a reputable local caterer. The 3rd floor has the facilities for such events. I believe that each evening there is live entertainment with a bar at the food pavilion. This convention would be from arrival on **Monday June 21st, closing banquet Thursday June 24th**, departure 6/25 or 6/26 depending on one's involvement in Sentimental Journey activities. We will be planning some fly-out activities which could include a poker run, fly-out to an aviation museum, Sentimental Journey has a couple of fly-out activities as well. We met with Julie Brennan, chamber/tourism director for Clinton County. She and her assistant put us on their mailing list and offered brochures and suggestions for activities other than aviation. There is plenty for a family to do in the area as well as for women who don't want to spend the day ogling aircraft. Some possibilities of touring aviation related facilities in the area include the Lycoming factory in nearby Williamsport, Pa, Keystone Instruments and Airparts Of Lock Haven which are on the field.

This is just our first posting of what we hope to be a very special event. Like all our conventions, weather is a big factor. We have Covid -19 to contend with as well, but we're moving ahead with the best of intentions. Updates will be posted ASAP on the SWPC website and Eleanor will publish what she can, when she can. Please be on the lookout for any updates. Volunteers are a big part of the success of any of our conventions. While both of our chapters have capable members who will offer their help, we welcome anyone who would like to help. One area that might be good this year is the donation of goods for prizes in our raffles for door prizes for the luncheon, banquet, and even the welcome party (probably Monday June 21st). I'm starting to get excited. Let me hear your thoughts Let me hear your thoughts. Andy Seligson, Pres. of N.E. Chapter (andytuba@optonline.net)



L. Gene Keller & Andy Seligson at Piper Museum. Phil Hoy's donated PA-22 on right.



4 Tri-Pacers at Blairstown, N.J. on 9/27



L to R: Rbert Walty, David Adams, Rico Cannone, & Andy Seigson at Basin Harbor, Vt.