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January 1st, 2004

Dear Navioneer,

This is my first newsletter as president of the Golden Gate Navioneers. I would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and I hope I can live up to your expectations. Dennis Dooley will stay on as Vice-President and Johannes Verhoek has again consented to be treasurer. I am thrilled to have their help.

The Christmas party was wonderful. My heart felt thanks to Marcelle Roise and the Alamo Women's Club for their efforts as well as Howard Curry for tending bar and Chet Robbins for photo documenting the event.

The task before me is a little daunting. I am relatively new to Northern California flying and a new Navion owner. I'm counting on everyone to keep me on the right course and to speak up when I'm not.

I have so many ideas floating around in my head that have come from many people and I'm trying to sort them out and get them out as programs for this coming year. I know the club has been mostly a social organization but I'd like to try to broaden the appeal somewhat and bring other kinds of activities onto the calendar. Some of the ideas I'm playing with are:

- A maintenance clinic with a really top notch Navion expert
- A formation flying clinic sponsored in our region
- A mid-calendar formal social event (like a '50's hangar dance party)
- A Wings qualified program or two tacked onto some our usual "Burger Runs"
- Group flyin's to established Classic air shows (maybe arrive in formation)
- A couple of over-nighters with full programs that can be enjoyed by those who can only make one of the two days.
- Golden Gate Group Flights to the Presidents Day Imperial and the Glens Falls Nationals

I want to know what makes belonging to the Golden Gate Navioneers special for you. I'd like to know what you think would make it a more interesting and fun group to belong to. Do you know Navion owners that don't belong to our group? Please take the time to ask them their opinion? What would encourage them to join?

Did you know that there are about 100 Navions in the FAA registry in Northern California? How many do you know that are out of annual, never flown or permanently down for repairs. Some times it just takes someone showing an interest to spark renewed energy. I want to see as many of those Navions back in the air as we can get. What will it take? I have some ideas but please help me out on this one. Talk to the owner of that lonely Navion that sits on the ramp at your airport. I know some look pretty hopeless but I've see more than one Navion return from the ashes. The more Navions that fly the more support we will get from equipment manufacturers and service organizations. It's in our interest to get some air under the wings of those ramp and hangar queens. I'd like to get everyone's help in this. As a start, please make an inventory of the Navions at airports you frequent. Just a short note: N number, general condition, owner if known, contact information if known. Call, write or email me the information.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be the chapter president this year. I'll do my best to make this year a memorable one.

Bill Putney – President

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P.S. If you would prefer to have the newsletter by email or off the web page let me know and we'll save the postage.