Who was at the 2011 Koch Corporate Caucus in Vail, CO?

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Billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch held their twice a year meeting of corporate titans, political operatives, and public officials in Beaver Creek Colorado (near Vail) The <u>event</u> started Sunday and wrapped up today.



Its fairly normal for people who want to discuss political strategy to do so in private, after all why tell your adversaries what you are planning? But the Kochs go to great lengths to prevent people from knowing even of the existence of these meetings. Maybe that's because if people knew that the Kochs and their fellow CEOs were bankrolling pundits we see on TV (like from the CATO Institute, Heritage Foundation, or American Enterprise Institute), the organizations claiming to speak for the Tea Party (like Americans for Prosperity) and many candidates and elected officials (like WI Governor Scott Walker) they would assess their statements and actions differently.

We know from press accounts that Virginia Governor <u>Bob McDonnell</u> was there, as was Florida Governor <u>Rick Scott</u> and Texas Governor (and possible presidential candidate) <u>Rick Perry</u>. Regardless of what they discussed, these elected officials served as a recruitment draw, to assist the Kochs in bringing together more billionaires to raise political money. Their last gathering in Palm Springs brought in \$49 million toward a goal of <u>\$88 million dollars</u>. While it would be illegal for Rick Perry to solicit corporate funds to run for governor of Texas (remember what happened to Tom DeLay?) or for him to coordinate activities with a corporate independent expenditure campaign regarding a presidential effort, his ability to hobnob with the consultants who could orchestrate such a campaign and the fat cats who could fund it while not yet a declared candidate presents

a bit of an end run around what little campaign finance laws we have left in place. The Virginia Attorney General also attended.

What we don't know is which corporate CEOs were in attendance. Maybe they don't want their shareholders and customers knowing how they are spending their money without their consent. But, we do have some clues.

I happened to be bird watching outside the Eagle/Vail airport on Saturday afternoon and noticed an unusual amount of private jet activity. Here's a list of the tail registration numbers on the planes I saw land and information on who owns them as provided by the FAA:

N707LX TARGET CORPORATION, CUYAHOGA OHIO

N889TC BANK OF AMERICA, LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

N148MC MOUNTAIRE CORP, ARKANSAS

N744XP AIR EAGLE LLC, DETROIT MI

N224JD CONWAY AVIATION, AUSTIN TX

N589QS NETJETS, OKLAHOMA CITY

N444FX BOMBARDIER AEROSPACE, DALLAS TX

N552SK RED RIVER MT LLC, PHOENIX

N877SX MKP21 LLC, SCOTTSDALE AZ

N703SM BUTLERS ISLAND LLC, FAIRFIELD CT

N2656A ERNEST KOEBBERLING, LENOIR NC

N265H SAMMY STERLING HOLDINGS, MIAMI FL

N432CS CITATION SHARES. FAIRFIELD CT

N616CC CAPSTER RADIO/CLEAR CHANNEL SAN ANTONIO TX

N300KH SEVEN KH AVIATION LLC BELOIT WI

N988T EAGLE I LLC, KALISPELL MT

N166ST GABLE S CORP, WEST LINN OR

N423BB DOUBLE B JETS, LOVELY KY

N106SL AGC AVIATION LLC

N245K KOCH LEASING CO LLC, WICHITA KS

N50AW THOROUGHBRED AVIATION, NEWARK DE

N4TILX FLIGHT OPTIONS LLC, RICHMOND HEIGHTS OH

N617QS NETJETS, OKLAHOMA CITY OK

N115L JIM ODOM, LUFKIN TX

Most of these jets are chartered by different corporations or individuals, or owned on a time share basis so there is no definitive way to be sure who was on them on June 25th, 2011. Even the ones owned by corporations like Target and Bank of America may have been leased out to others and not necessarily used by their CEOs for this event.

But, this provides a starting place for bloggers and reporters who want to dig a little deeper at who might have been plotting political campaigns with the Kochs in Beaver Creek. A list of those who attended the June 2010 Koch meeting in Aspen is posted here at ThinkProgress.



We also know that more than 50 people attended a rally to call attention to the Kochs meeting at a public park just below the gated community that housed the Ritz-Carlton resort where the Kochs met. These folks, organized by Common Cause, Progress Colorado, the state AFL-CIO, Colorado Conservation Voters, Democracy for America, MoveOn.org and others held their meeting in public — with Koch operatives filming the entire show and even a guest with an American Enterprise Institute T-shirt. I guess if you've got nothing to hide, then what's the harm?