



The Flyer

April 2005
Vol. Thirteen, No. 4

High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org



Scott Crossfield Dinner

The High Sky Wing again provided the hangar and support for the AAH Museum's seminar program featuring famed test pilot Scott Crossfield on April 9th. Crossfield shared some of his experiences flight testing early jet and rocket planes, including doing the initial test flights in North American's famed X-15. He also showed photos and told stories of his involvement in the building and testing of the replica Wright flyer.

Part of the backdrop for the evening was provided by Col Ollie Crawford who flew the CAF's P-40 Warhawk to Midland. After the Crossfield program, there was a meeting to help reform a local Air Force Association chapter. Photos by Col H. A. Tuck.

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

It was great to see so many enthusiastic Wing members in the big hangar for Open Cockpit Day in March. Thanks to the many helping hands, the High Sky Wing showed a profit of \$500 from the hamburger and hot dog sales. Not bad for a few hours of work.

Saturday, May 21st is a date to mark on your calendars for the IRON EAGLE SHOOTOUT sporting clay event and the High Sky Wing's major fund raiser for the year. Enclosed in this month's newsletter is an entry form for your use in helping to promote the shoot. I urge each member to get involved in making this event a success! During the Wing meeting on April 28th, we'll discuss in depth the opportunities of working at the Iron Eagle Shootout. It will take a good number of High Sky Wing volunteers to help operate the event. Our members will be working along side Boy Scout Troop 233 members who are well experienced with clay shoots.

Also, a Training Session will be held on Tuesday, May 17th at Windwalker Farms beginning at 5:30. This will be a chance for those who weren't involved last year in the clay shoot, or those who need to refresh their memories, to get hands on practice in pulling traps, scoring and getting a feel for the event. If you care to be a shooter that evening, bring your guns, shells will be provided. Hotdogs and drinks will also be served. Again, we'll start training at 5:30 but please come to Windwalker Farms anytime thereafter because we'll train as long as it takes to meet every one's needs. Maps will be available at Wing meeting or go to www.windwalkers.com for directions.

I'd like to encourage each High Sky Wing member to talk this event up with family, friends and co-workers. We still have room for more teams. Additional door prizes are also needed, so don't be shy in asking a favorite establishment you frequent if they would donate. We will give them recognition on the signage banner. Don't forget that a cash donation is always acceptable to help underwrite the cost of the

clay shoot. Consider giving a donation yourself.

Let's all get behind the Iron Eagle Shootout and make this our best fund raiser ever. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Linebarger 528-9642 or Gena Linebarger 528-0997.

Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

There's always something happening around the HSW hangar, but the important day for you to remember is the April 28th wing meeting. We will be finding out what goes on at the IRON EAGLE SHOOTOUT, what it takes to do those "little jobs" needed to make the shootout work, and how important you are in making our biggest fund raiser of the year a success.

This is our last meeting before the May 21st date so join us for dinner followed by our regular meeting. We need and appreciate all the volunteers we can get for a fun and rewarding event.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Spring is definitely upon us, and for those in the school business, the natives are increasingly restless as summer looms ever nearer. What this all means to me is more time to spend with the airplanes in the hangar...hopefully flying them more than fixing them.

The annual inspection on 101X is over, and Rusty Hall has been flying it. He wished to take the airplane to Georgia for a formation clinic hosted by the Dixie Wing. Randy has been looking for an opportunity to get his examiner rating recurrent so, a match made in heaven will find Randy and Rusty flying off to Atlanta next Thursday. While Randy and Rusty were doing a bit of re-currency at MAF they discovered that the intercom in the airplane was simply not working, so a decision was made to come up with a permanent fix by installing a different intercom system. This is being done by Don Haeffner at Deerhorn's shop. Randy and Rusty are going to put in some money to cover some of the cost...Obviously donations for that project would be appreciated!

With the longer days and better weather, I'm sure we will be flying again before Wing meetings. If you want a ride in a Wing airplane and can't come out on a Saturday, I would suggest your chances are good if you come early to the April, May and June meetings. We will be doing the inspections on the two Fairchild's in July.

Finally, a word about recruiting new members. I can't stress enough the importance of everyone getting at least one new member to join the CAF this year. As the Wing most associated with Headquarters, people gauge the health of the CAF by the vigor of our unit. Drag your neighbor, friend, or fellow employee to a meeting and get them involved in our group. I want to be much more active in going places with the airplanes this Spring and Summer, and we need ground support. Let's try to put the flying back into the "flying museum" in 2005, and that way we can increase our membership.

Remember, lefty loosey, and righty tighty....and keep Bob and Phyllis Stine in your thoughts and prayers.



From the Pyro Field

by Col Dan Linebarger

The West Texas Wing Blastards have just come off of three air show performances back to back. On April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, we shot ordnance in support of Naval Air Station Ft. Worth. At the show, we shot a 1,000' wall of fire, strafing runs and bomb drops each of the three days. Aircraft flying were predominately F-18's. Everything went beautifully and the weather Gods blessed us with 2 out of 3 days of good weather. The Shooters in Charge for the show were Gregg Ulvestad and Dan Linebarger. The Blue Angels flew all three days and on one of the days, we were allowed to remain on the field and enjoyed the Blue Angels routine from their show line. Looking down the nose of the lead F-18 is a beautiful sight. The next weekend, Gregg led a team to Burnet to support the CAF Bluebonnet Airshow with us expending an assortment

of bomb drops, strafing runs etc.

The very next weekend (April 16-17) we traveled to Alamogordo, NM. to provide pyro for Holloman Air Force Base's "Thunder Over the Basin" Airshow. We had the unique opportunity to expend ground special effects to simulate strafes, A-bombs, bomb drops etc. for four F-16's, two German Air Force Tornados, two F-15's, four F-117 Stealths, one B-1 Bomber, a complete A-10 demo, the B-25 Yellow Rose and the CAF P-39. The weather was beautiful, skies clear and temps in the mid 70's. Shooters in Charge for this show were Dan Linebarger and Rodney Robinson with David Linebarger handling logistics and field setup.

The Blastards next show is in Temple, TX. on May 6, 7, and 8. Attached is a picture (taken by Blastard member Stuart Small) at the NAS Ft. Worth show of their 1,000 wall of fire following a 500 kt. pass by two F-18's.

Safety Is No Accident!

by Col Lyle Thornton

First, I want to thank everyone for their help and suggestions for our Emergency Action Plan. I have discovered that any plan for our hanger is a lot more complex than I had anticipated. If anyone has any ideas or comments, please let me know.

We have all heard the expression that "the devil is in the details". This is especially true with safety. Something that might seem to be a minor irritant to you might turn out to be dangerous in different circumstances for someone else. I encourage everyone to be alert and please report anything that you think might become a problem for you and others. Accidents not only can hurt someone, they can become a liability to the Wing and the CAF.

Now that the weather has started to warm up, I would like to remind everyone to protect themselves while they are outdoors. The West Texas sun is hot and it is easy to forget during outdoor activities to use sunscreen, to protect exposed skin, and drink plenty of fluids. Speaking of the outdoors, please don't forget to attend the Iron Eagle Clay Shoot on May 21st.

Bye for now and have a CAFe day.

Check Us Out!

by Col Sue Becraft

We have lots of new book, pictures and magazines in the Wing library so please come check us out.

SNJ 101X at Burnet

by Col Rusty Hall

Once again, 101X was the "belle of the Ball" at the Burnet air show. She performed well with the other three Texans present.

The photos below show my newly painted helmet in 101X colors and the 101X sponsors and supporters. A cross wind landing (can you see the pucker factor?) went fine and the third shot is of the bottom wheels up as we flew over the crowd. Wish the photographer would have got the "photo" shot at the end of the show. Folks on the ground said it was picture perfect. 101X shows the High Sky Wing colors well.

Congrats to all who helped in her annual and the "clean up" crew. Prettiest SNJ there, but I'm a bit prejudiced. I dearly love this paint scheme as it carries a very special meaning for me. My father was killed in WWII as a naval aviator, stateside, Widby Island NAS, in a J2F *Duck* on a test flight. Mom was three months pregnant with me at his death.

The color scheme on 101X are the exact colors of the SNJ's at Pennsacola when he finished flight training and received his "Wings of Gold". He and I fly 101 together. Don't sweat the small stuff, and remember, its all small stuff,



SNJ 101X piloted by Col Rusty Hall at the CAF Burnet show. Photos by Paul Casanova-Garcia.



HIGH SKY WING - CAF
Post Office Box 61064
Midland, Texas 79711-1064

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

Our SNJ made the CAF show at Burnet, Tex. earlier this month and Col Rusty Hall flew it back to Midland after that to have a new intercom installed. Rusty and I will be taking 101X to a CAF TraRon formation clinic in Atlanta, Ga. this next weekend, to get me requalified and to give Rusty his first organized formation flight practice. We will need to leave Thursday, so I won't be able to make the April Wing meeting. Hopefully we will be back in Texas the following Monday. Rusty plans to take 101X to the Temple show before returning it to Midland for our Clay Shoot fly-over. I'm not yet sure how I am getting back from Burnet to Midland but will!

Some other events we will or may be flying at are the HSW Clay Shoot, May 21st, Memorial Day ceremonies May 30th, Slaton, Tex. June 4th and Snyder, Tex. June 18th. Of course, all of this depends on weather and other events. If you want to fly as crew to any of these events, please contact us as soon as possible. Fly safe, y'all.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell
Executive Officer: Ted Claussen
Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell
Finance: Bob Stine
Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell
Maintenance: Bill Coombes - 689-8359 home
Safety - Lyle Thornton

Hangar Phone: (432) 563-5112

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Apr 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)
May 5 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)
May 7 - AAHM Flying Tigers program (2pm)
May 21 - Iron Eagle Shootout
May 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)
May 30 - Memorial Day activities (Noon)

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, April 28th at 7:00pm in the Hangar
