



# The Flyer

April 2006  
Vol. Fourteen, No. 4

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

On the Web at  
HighSkyWing.org

## A Huey and perhaps a Cobra at the Next Wing Meeting, Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

### From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

What do Spring time and Easter mean to the CAF? One thing was the museum's Open Cockpit day, Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. This was well attended by the public and our own members, and once again we cooked hamburgers and hotdogs and made some money for the Wing. We'll have a thank you list in the next newsletter.

April is a busy month with the next Luncheon and Seminar program being Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the HSW hangar. The HSW will host this luncheon, which will be catered by Hooters. Please show your support by helping with the setup, cleanup and your attendance. This event is also a fund-raising opportunity. Lunch will be at noon and the program will begin at 1:00, cost \$10 per person.

Col Gregg Baiano has confirmed that he will be flying his Huey and perhaps his Cobra helicopter in for the Wing Meeting on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, so everyone who attends will have a chance for a close-up view and tour of these beautifully restored rotorcraft. Just be ready to close the hangar doors when they get ready to land on the ramp!

Thinking ahead to May and reminding you to mark your calendar, will be the Memorial Day event on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Once again the High Sky Wing Grill will be put to the test. More details will follow next month.

BINGO has now been up and running for over a month and the first revenue check cut. Steve Bolin presented the HSW with a check for \$600.

The High Sky Wing membership roster can be found on our web page [www.highskywing.org](http://www.highskywing.org) in the Members Only section. This roster is only as accurate as the information received. Take a moment and look to see that your info is correct. For corrections, notify



We had a great crowd and two very rare planes in our hangar for last month's Marianas Turkey Shoot lunch and seminar program. Left is the Curtiss SB2C Helldiver and right is the Mitsubishi A6M3 Zero.

Lauri Skinner at [pyroblonde@grandecom.net](mailto:pyroblonde@grandecom.net). I am in the process of building a bulk email list of members to use for "Wing Reminders" from the Wing Leader. Please send me an email to make sure I have the best email address for you, [iblast4fun@cox.net](mailto:iblast4fun@cox.net).

Aluminum cans are being turned into cash. In 2006, Bill Stella has already turned cans into \$177 for the Wing. Last year we saw revenue of \$1,265. It's easy to help out. Save your cans, place them in the trailer on the West side of the HSW hangar and Col. Stella will do the rest!

Thank you for your support of the High Sky Wing and don't forget our next Wing meeting is this Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the hangar!

**Don't Forget!**  
**Your 2006 Wing Dues Are**  
**Now Overdue**

## Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

We are always asking for volunteers and here we go again. HELP! HELP! HELP! PLAY BINGO. Now that's a fun way to help the wing without having to work so hard. Ask Mary Alice or Steve if you want to help or need more information. However, April 15<sup>th</sup> was the annual Open Cockpit, and we once again cooked for the visitors. The meat for this event has been donated by new wing member, Roger Wells. A great big THANK YOU to Roger. Be sure to introduce yourself and tell him how much we appreciate his generosity.

Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup>, is another day to mark on your calendar. There will be the regular program at the CAF followed by our usual "cooking of the burgers." Guess what we need!

April wing meeting is on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We will have Gregg Baiano with one or more of his Vietnam vintage helicopters as our speaker. Please join us for food and fun.

## From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Well, I had hopes of regaling all of you about our adventure flying to the Burnet Airshow with all three of the Wing airplanes, but, alas, the WIND BLEW and the mission was scrubbed. As I had developed a good old-fashioned headcold, I couldn't have gone anyway, but it was too bad that the Wing wasn't represented in the skies over central Texas. It became, I believe, a matter of risks versus rewards...

The primary issue in operating ALL of the CAF's airplanes must be safety, of that there can be no question. Friday afternoon was the time we were going to launch for the show, and all the pilots plus the backseaters gathered to discuss the situation. With sustained winds at MAF of 25 with gusts to 34 KNOTS, simply getting to the runway was going to be "interesting." The forecast winds in Burnet, with its single runway, called for direct crosswinds of 15-18 knots. I was pleased to see that all parties agreed that the risks to the airplanes simply far outweighed the rewards for going. I think that each of the men entrusted with operating YOUR airplanes realizes the responsibilities involved. I know of other units in which the attitude would be that of the "hero pilot" who believes his unsurpassed abilities could overcome such a little thing as a crosswind. That is how air-

planes get damaged or destroyed. Discretion is always the better part of valor when it comes to operating these priceless airplanes.

Thanks to many, the lunch and lecture seminar series program with the men of the Marianas Turkey Shoot was a great success. The Wing made some money and the Museum made some money, and all our guests were appreciative of the efforts made by the HSW to host such a fine affair. We have another opportunity to do this on August 22, when test pilot Joe Kittinger comes to town. Hooters will provide the food, and we will provide the venue. I hope to see ALL OF YOU at this event, as Joe has a story that you won't want to miss hearing.

Next, I think most of you have seen the "orange pumpkin," as my new Globe Swift is lovingly known as. Of course it is "really" a Globe QGC-1B Navy drone control airplane used at China Lake NAS, home of the Navy's Weapons Test Center. It is much more economical to operate than a certain SNJ, but it does lack the good sound of that big P&W engine! Rides will be given as I gain more "comfortable-ness" in it....

Finally, I'd like to give major kudos to Lance Sommers, one of our newest members and pilots. Lance has already done marvelous things repairing the PT-19 flap mechanism and the tailwheel strut on the SNJ, so, in honor of these achievements, I "appointed" him as Assistant Associate Maintenance Officer, or ASSMO for short! With the graciousness of a true gentleman, Lance accepted this position and vowed to work hard to deserve the title! Seriously, Lance, because he is young, flexible, a highly skilled A&P, and willing to step up, will be taking the lead in the Wing's airplane maintenance. First on his plate is the annual inspection of the SNJ, which we will start in May. Will we see you out helping?

Remember, lefty-loosey, righty-tighty...

## Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

I want to thank everyone who responded to the invoices with dues reminders. We received quite a bit in dues and several people thanked me for the reminders. We will continue to do that on a yearly basis. Remember though, it is never too late to renew your membership in the High Sky Wing. We will be glad to continue your CAF connection to the best Wing around!!!! Dues (\$50/year) may be remitted to:

High Sky Wing  
P. O. Box 61064  
Midland, Tx 79711-1064

I join the Wing Leader in welcoming the newest members of the High Sky Wing:

**Steve Hanson of Odessa**  
**Roger Wells of Midland**  
**James Martin, Jr. of Odessa**

I look forward to seeing everyone for a Saturday work party or at the next wing meeting. If you have any questions regarding membership, I can be reached at home at 432-694-5136, cell phone is 432-553-2316, email is [pyroblonde@grandecom.net](mailto:pyroblonde@grandecom.net).



Welcome new member Col James Martin, Jr. who is also in line to be one of our pilots soon.

## As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

I join Col Bill Coombes in praising the maturity of our Wing pilots and passengers in knowing when to keep the planes in the hangar, as happened due to high winds on the day of our intended departure for the Burnet Airsho.

I'd also like to welcome Col James Martin as a new member and let you know that he is also a candidate to fly the PT-19 and Tar-Baby in the near future. I am also just waiting for some kinder wind conditions to finish the transition of Col Steve Bolin into the PT-19 and hopefully that will be accomplished in the next few days.

As we bring new pilots into the Wing and also into the different environment of flying older airplanes, often in a strange environment, such as air shows and fly ins, please remember that we have to be safe, so if

I or any of our other senior pilots seem to be overly cautious in qualifying or rating new folks in our planes, remember that we just want to be sure that they are safe enough to trust with not only our planes but also our friends and family members.

As air show season begins we have the chance to take our planes to several shows or fly-ins. We'll try and post a list of these on the bulletin board in the hangar and also discuss them at the Wing meeting this coming Thursday.

Until then, please fly safe!

## Last Month's Mystery

by Col Randy Wilson

Congratulations to Cols Bruce Day and Billy Barnhill for correctly identifying last month's Mystery Plane as the North American model NA67 or XB-28A. It and the NA63 XB-28 were the only two of this type built to fill a 1939 specification for a high-altitude medium bomber by the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Both prototypes were powered by 2,000 horsepower P&W R-2800 engines and the XB-28A was designed as a lighter version for reconnaissance, as the need for a high-altitude medium bomber had disappeared by 1943. The XB-28A was lost during dive tests but both crewmen escaped, while the fate of the first XB-28 is not recorded, to the best of my knowledge.

## Crew Chiefs Needed

It has come to our attention that we have a lot of supposedly running vehicles in our hangar which often don't. This is not only irritating when we need to move planes in and out but also a potential safety issue.

We want a few folks to step forward to help make sure that the batteries, fuel levels, etc. of the following vehicles are maintained on a regular basis and in return, these folks will become the Crew Chief for that vehicle and get his or her name added to right side of the vehicle.

These vehicles include the Tar-Baby golf cart, Blastard's golf cart, double-seat golf cart, Kubelwagen (VW Thing), Flying Tigers tug, Blue Angels tug and the Army Jeep. Col Bobby Meroney has already volunteered to take on the Blue Angels tug but all the others are available. Please get with Col Jim Moore or any of the Wing officers if you too would like to become a vehicle Crew Chief.



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## Newsletter Help Wanted!

by Col Randy Wilson

Once again, my best efforts to get our monthly newsletter out earlier have failed due to demands on my time from other responsibilities in the Wing, over at CAF HQ and what I'd like to call my real life, whatever that is!

I would be very happy to help someone train and get up to speed on editing the Wing's newsletter and hopefully this will be someone who doesn't have their plate already full with other jobs and chores. We have talked about setting up a computer at the hangar to help with composing the newsletter and other chores and if this would help someone get more involved with the newsletter, we will make that happen in the very near future. One problem with that is that the hangar does not have a broadband Internet connection and e-mail and other communications for the newsletter might not be done very easily at the hangar. I'm open to your thoughts and suggestions. Thanks.

## 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 27 - Wing meeting (7pm)

May 6 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)

[Note that staff meetings may change back to an evening due to air shows.]

May 25 - Wing meeting (7pm)

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**Next Wing Meeting is Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm at the Hangar**

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