



The Flyer



April 2009 Issue, Vol. Seventeen, No. 4
High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
On the Web at HighSkyWing.org
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday April 23rd 7:00 p.m. in the Hangar

From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

Our maintenance team has been very busy these last several months getting our fleet of four CAF aircraft ready for another flying season. The SNJ and PT-19 are now flying and the J2K is getting ready for paint on its repaired fabric and its rebuilt doors are going back on. Next up for its annual inspection and some nose bowl repairs will be the Stinson 105.

The SNJ and PT-19 made the Midland College fly-in this last Saturday and we sold and gave a ride in the SNJ. Thanks to Lance Sommers and James Martin, who were the pilots, and also Ronnie Jones, Mike Hedrick and others who helped out. I hope to be able to publish a schedule of our planned fly-outs to events in the next issue of the newsletter but Bob Wray has published information on possible events at all the airports within 150 miles in an online spreadsheet available [here](#) — note you will need to view the newsletter online for the link to work.

At the last Wing staff meeting, the Wing's Flight Evaluation Board (FEB) was appointed for the year, with Operations Officer Ronnie Jones as the FEB Chief, myself as the Wing Leader, plus Lance Sommers, James Martin and Steve Bolin all HSW Pilots or Pilot Sponsors. If you have any questions about our pilots or about potential new pilots, these are the concerns of the FEB, so feel free to contact them.

Also at the last staff meeting, we had an extended discussion about issues with our sharing the Commemorative Center hangar with HQ rental events. I was asked by the rest of the staff to meet with Steve Brown, CAF President, and determine if we couldn't negotiate to resolve as many of the issues as possible. Steve's reaction was very positive and we will be determining a small group to meet with Steve and his staff after many of them return from Sun 'n Fun being held this week in Florida. We will keep you all up-

dated on the results in the next couple of weeks. If any HSW member has comments or suggestions on these issues, please feel free to contact myself or other staff members, as we are open to your input.

I'm afraid that this month's newsletter is shorter than usual due to most of the staff being so busy with Wing or personal matters. I hope to get back to a normal newsletter next month. I hope to see you at the next Wing meeting, Thursday, April 23rd. Fly safe.

Keep 'Em Flying!

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Joining us as our guest speaker for April 2009 will be Matt Espenshade, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent for the FBI. Matt will be speaking on the activities and operations of the FBI in West Texas and their efforts to secure the region from potential threats.

Matt began his work with the FBI in 1995, assigned to the New York office as a member of the Regional/Emerging Drug Trafficking Squad. This squad was tasked with the investigation of violent drug traffickers operating throughout New York City.

Later, in 1998, Matt responded to the bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

Then, in 2003, he participated in a deployment to Afghanistan during which he conducted operations with Afghan government entities, the United States military, and other United States government agencies. Prior to employment with the FBI, Matt was a U.S. Army Intelligence Officer.

As your XO, I always gladly consider any suggestions for future speakers at upcoming Wing meetings, so let me know if you have someone you would like to speak to us. Please join us at the April Wing meeting and remember to bring a covered dish. See you then.

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

Some Member Updates

by Col Randy Wilson

We recently learned that Cols Mary Alice Tidwell and Richard Collier were both in the hospital and have sent a plant to each from the Wing, thanks to the ever helpful Gena Linebarger. Also, Col Bill Stella's wife Sally recently had a bad fall and broke several bones in her arm and we wish her a speedy recovery, too.

This morning (Sunday, April 19th) I received an e-mail from Museum Director Tami O'Bannion that Col Earl Francell, father of HSW member Clay Francell, had passed away. We have made arrangements, again thanks to Gena, to send flowers and have members at the memorial services Tuesday, April 21st, at the First Presbyterian Church in Odessa.

My own wife Pat continues to heal from a procedure to reduce pain from back issues, and I have to drive her to Dallas on Tuesday for a check up but I will be back in Midland for our special staff and regular Wing meeting on Thursday. Just an FYI for all.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell
 Executive Officer: Rick Peterson
 Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell
 Finance: Steve Bolin
 Operations: Ronnie Jones
 Maintenance: Lance Sommers
 Safety - David Linebarger

New Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Apr 23 - Special Staff meeting (5pm)
 Apr 23 - Wing Meeting (7pm)
 May 5 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)
 May 28 - Wing Meeting (7pm)
 June 2 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)
 June 25 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

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