



The Flyer

August 2002
Vol. Ten, No. 8

High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 915-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

AIRSHO 2002 is almost here!

Have you signed up for an AIRSHO job yet?

Look inside for lots of opportunities.

We Have a New Home!

On Thursday, August 1st, at the monthly High Sky Wing staff meeting, your Wing staff officers voted unanimously to join the other CAF entities in the new building funded by a TxDOT grant.

As we reported to you at the July Wing meeting, we have reached an agreement with the other units and groups which limits our donation of cash in return for our active presence in the new building, plus our help in paying a fair share of the monthly utility and other overhead costs, once the building is completed, sometime in the next couple of years, or sooner.

The vote was taken now as September 1st is the date that the CAF must commit to the TxDOT grant by making an initial payment of \$48,944, and it was decided at the July meeting of the building committee, that the payment would be shared equally between all the units and groups who wish to participate. By our vote, we join the B-29/B-24 Squadron, American Combat Airman Hall of Fame (ACAHOFF) and the CAF Officers' Club as participants in the new building.

While we will share equally in this first payment, our total cost to have our own dedicated section of the new building is much less than even the most optimistic estimates for our own new home structure, and we will have full use of the shared meeting and other areas of the new building, whenever needed. Our portion of the projected utility and overhead expenses are based on the actual percentage of the building dedicated to our use and control and should be less than we now pay in our old hangar.

The new building is going to be a showcase for the CAF, and we believe that having our home there will offer the High Sky Wing new opportunities for both activities, membership and even fund raising. We have tried very hard to keep you informed about this issue and made our decision based on your comments and opinions. If you do have any questions, we will be glad to try and answer them either individually or at any of the upcoming meetings. Thank you all for your support in helping us find a new home!

From the Back Office

by Col Blake Cowart

As you have learned of the decision of the Staff in the lead article, I would like to thank all of you as well as the Staff and building committee members for advice and support. Our new home will be a facility of which to be very proud.

A sincere thank you is extended to Col. Bruce Wallace for the use of his ranch property in Coleman County for a Wing fund raiser. The Wing is raffling tickets for a Labor Day dove hunt. Colonel Wallace is providing the hunting property as well as all accommodations and meals for up to three days and two nights. Tickets will be available until August 17th.

Jim Moore has stepped forward to help out as our Personnel Officer, and if you are not getting your newsletter or have a change of address or other info, please contact him. I thank him as well as others that are helping out in that area. Randy Wilson has made improvements to the unit website allowing much of it to be handled in an easier format than years before.

Rodney Jackson is approaching completion of repairs to the Tar-Baby. Soon afterward, we will need to have a major cleanup of the hangar in preparation for the AIRSHO. We will have our hangar "annual" in September and I will be calling a few of you for some helping hands for this much needed project.

I will have a better idea of which Saturday will be best and will announce it at the membership meeting. Thanks in advance for your help.

Executive Views

by Col Ralph Gillette

It really does seem like the dog days of summer. The temperature stays in the 90s and the warm winds blow. The pool does feel good in the late afternoon, particularly if you have been in the hangar spreading dope and breathing avgas fumes working on the Tar-Baby or getting 101X out and flying.

It has been a while since we have had an honest to goodness meeting with a speaker, however, this month, we are going to hear from J. T. Britton. He is a career Army Air Force/Air Force officer and tells me he may have forgotten everything he ever knew since he retired in 1962. But I would be willing to bet that a lot of memories will return when he joins us next Thursday night. We look forward to a big turnout to get things rolling again.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

More progress! I hope all of you who come out to the August meeting will be thrilled with the work that has been accomplished by our favorite mechanic, Rodney Jackson, (and his son Buddy), as they have now applied all the fabric on the Fairchild's wing panel. It's a shame to cover all the exquisite woodwork that Rodney did in repairing the wing, as it was worthy of a master cabinet maker, but the Tar-Baby will fly much better with some fabric on her bare bones.

Soon we will be spraying some silver UV protection on the panel, and that meant that we had to cover some items in the hangar with plastic. Helping drape drop-cloths last Saturday were Bruce Wallace, Randy Wilson, Bobby Meroney, Jim Moore, Mary Alice Tidwell, Blake Cowart, Tom Kingon, Bob Stine, Ralph Gillette, and Ernie Webb. Several of us stuck around after lunch and cleaned up the aileron for Tar-Baby's left wing, so that Rodney can work his magic on it. It would be nice to see some new faces out there on Saturday when we begin the process of cleaning up the rest of the airplane so we can paint it: Scotch-Brite pads and elbow grease are the only items required...

The list of donors to the Tar-Baby grows! Bob Hansen is the latest to contribute \$100 to the fund, and Ernie Webb generously asked that all the profits from the sale of the leather bomber jackets (a Wing/Ernie project) go to the Tar-Baby. Soon we will have to buy some electronic gadgets so that we can safely operate the airplane out of Midland International, so these contributions will certainly help. Elsewhere in this newsletter you should see a list of Tar-Baby donors (the "I's ben got stuck to de Tar-Baby fo a hunnert dollas!" club); please consider joining....

The SNJ continues to operate with only routine care and attention, which is good, since your Maintenance Officer has been working on proposals for utilizing the insurance monies we have for purchasing a new Wing-assigned airplane. Charlotte Larsen helped out recently by stopping by to see a Focke-Wulf FW 149 that was at Oshkosh and is one of six for sale. She has some photos which I will have out at the Wing for all to see. Also, with Randy Wilson's help, we've also made inquiries about a deHavilland Tiger Moth that is for sale in the Dallas area. We might have video of this one flying at the next Wing meeting.

The staff is doing all of this because we must do

something with the insurance monies we received after the tragic loss of the Wing's airplanes else the money goes into the General Aircraft Acquisition Fund at Headquarters, to be used by any other unit that has found a desirable airplane to buy. The Unit Manual states that "units that have lost airplanes must use the insurance monies to replace that airplane with one of equal or greater value." Both of these fit that requirement.

Now that the hangar issue has been resolved, we can get back to putting the airplanes first. Hope to see you out at the Wing.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

Bill and I again successfully committed aviation in the two SNJs a couple of Saturdays back, and during the Summer Advisory Board meeting weekend, 101X was used for a CAF fighter check ride for Col Rusty Hall, who hails from down near Austin.

Rusty is preparing to sponsor and fly the CAF's P-39. He is a High Sky Wing member and despite having found himself upside down and stalled during the ride (not a problem just part of the checkout, but he did say it was interesting!) he generously donated considerably more than the cost of the flight to 101X's account, plus making a \$50 donation to the Tar-Baby and renewing his Wing dues. We hope to see Rusty piloting the P-39 in the near future.

As Bill noted in his column, we are also trying to determine what type of new aircraft to acquire. One reason we are looking at the FW-149 is that it is a relatively fast 4-5 place aircraft with tricycle gear that does not require the tail-wheel experience needed to fly our other Wing aircraft. We think that this might help us attract other pilots to the Wing, plus it would be a handy aircraft to have based here at CAF HQ, should aircrews or other folks need a lift to pick up a plane or parts.

The Tiger Moth is nothing like the FW-149, of course, being an open-cockpit biplane without even an electrical system, which does pose a few problems about a radio, etc. However, if you have ever flown in an open-cockpit biplane, complete with goggles and a white scarf, you know how much fun it can be, for both the pilot and passenger.

In the long run, I'd say something more utilitarian like the FW-149 would be a better addition to both the

CAF Ghost Squadron and our own local gaggle of planes. We will continue to look into new aircraft and keep you posted.

We just recently learned that there will be a major **air show in Lubbock on September 7-8**, featuring the Thunderbirds and the Golden Knights. If I don't take the SB2C to that show, we were thinking of taking the two SNJs and inviting Wing members with private planes to fly up for the day Saturday to see the show and pass out posters and info about AIRSHO 2002 and the High Sky Wing.

If you are interested in going, please contact me and we will try and put something together.

Dollars and Cents

by Col Bob Stine

I'd like to recognize some of the folks who have donated hard cash to the various Wing projects and funds so far this year. Is your name on the list?

SNJ 101X

Downtown Midland	95.00
Rusty Hall	224.00

UC-61 "Tar-Baby"

Morris Bassham	150.00
Bill Stella	100.00
Tom Kingon	50.00
John Roome	100.00
Bob Hansen	100.00
Rusty Hall	50.00
Blake Cowart	100.00
Bob Stine	100.00
Bob Halford	150.00

New Home/Hangar

Henry Anderle	100.00
Paul Finnegan	50.50
Ernie Webb	450.00
John McLeod	50.00
Peggy Vaught	195.00
Donna Burgess	10.50

General

Harold Davis	10.00
Terry Tubb	50.00
WTW Blastards	500.00
Reef Chemical	25.00
Gary Covington	50.00
William Jessup	10.00
Ron Buccarelli	100.00

Thanks to you all who help us **Keep 'Em Flying!**



HSW needs YOU

Come help arm and man the

Cantina

for AIRSHO 2002

Forward bases are now being established

Needed:

Troops on the front line – to man BBQ pit
Ground Troops – for serving line
Support personnel – to help prep food

ENLIST NOW!!

Please report for duty

Contact David @ 894-2852

Or Gena @ 528-0997

Cantina open Wed., Thurs., & Fri. ONLY 11:00 to 2:00



Dove Hunt Raffle

by Col Randy Wilson

As Blake mentioned in his column, Col Bruce Wallace has donated the use of his ranch and hunting facilities for a fund-raising dove hunt raffle. Tickets are available from several Wing members and also at the Village Car Wash, on Andrews Highway in Midland.

Only 200 tickets were printed and at \$25 per ticket donation, we hope to raise additional funds to help get us into our new home, plus keep our planes flying. Four lucky adults will win a long-weekend during the opening of dove season on Bruce's property in Coleman County, and he tells us that the land has not been hunted for seven years or more. Bruce is also providing a fully equipped and air-conditioned hunting cabin, plus breakfasts — nothing too fancy, he says!

Please take a moment to thank Col Wallace the next time you see him for his continued support and generosity.

Stuff We Need

by Col David Linebarger

Following on Bob's thank you list for donations of money, I'd like to add a thanks to Col Mary Simolke for the donation of the freezer to the Wing.

We are also in need of one or two working 18-20 cu. ft. household refrigerators — emphasis on the working part if you please! We need these as soon as possible to be able to operate our canteen in the days before AIRSHO 2002 and also for food for the Friday night mixer. If you have or know of such a refrigerator, please let me know and we'll arrange to help get it here.

Please sign up to help with the canteen and mixer, as this year Col Ernie Webb and some of his crew are going to have to be out of town during AIRSHO, and we will have to fill their very talented cooking shoes and aprons. If you can barbecue, we have a job for you!



Calling all CREWMEMBERS
the **High Sky Wing**
Needs you aboard!



Destination? Friday Night Mixer

Cruise Speed? \$25 \$50 . . . \$100 . . . Any size donation

Altitude? The sky's the limit

Once again the High Sky Wing is hosting the

Friday Night Mixer for AIRSHO 2002.

Your help is needed to make this fund-raiser a success.

With your generous donation, we can together, offset the cost of the mixer.

This year we give each Mixer participant a unique opportunity!

A **\$5 DONATION** at the door provides each person with a

RAFFLE TICKET for a chance to win a hand carved mahogany

P-51 Mustang signed by Chuck Yeager and Bud Anderson

OR

Corsair signed by 3 original VMF-14 Black Sheep Squadron members:

Tom Emrich, Ed Harper and Jim Hill;

along with a book written by Bruce Gamble.

The Friday Night Mixer allows the High Sky Wing to share with others
that West Texas hospitality that has made us legends.

Where else but West Texas and the CAF can you fly so high!

Send your donations to HSW with a memo noted Mixer.

For further information contact **Gena Linebarger 528-0997.**

I'm Not Getting My Newsletter!

by Col Randy Wilson

First, we have to apologize to some of our newest members for problems getting them added to our newsletter mailing lists in the last few months.

To help correct this, Col Jim Moore has volunteered as the Wing's Personnel Officer and will be maintaining the roster and mailing lists for the newsletter and other mailings. If you have not been receiving your copy of *The Flyer*, or need to update your address, phone or e-mail information, please contact Jim.

Don't forget that you can also check and update your contact info from our Members Only section of our web site. Just go to HighSkyWing.org and click on the Members Only link. To login, use your Colonel number for your login name and your last name for your password, unless you have changed it. You can also look up other members' contact info online.

If you have a problem logging into the Members Only section, please e-mail info@highskywing.org and I'll be happy to try and help you.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Blake Cowart - 528-1344 cell

Executive Officer: Ralph Gillette

Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell

Finance: Bob Stine

Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell

Maintenance: Bill Coombes - 689-8359 home

Safety - David Linebarger

Hangar Phone: (915) 563-5112

all numbers are Area Code 915 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Aug 15 - Wing meeting

Sep 5 - Wing staff meeting

Sep 7-8 Lubbock Air Show

Sep 13 - HSW Golf Tournament

Sep 19 - Wing meeting

Oct 5-6 - AIRSHO 2002

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, August 15th at 7:00pm in the Hangar

HIGH SKY WING - CAF
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