



The Flyer

August 2007
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

Boys and Their Toys, Saturday August 25th

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

Gear up High Sky Wing members, we're about to become very busy. There are a lot of events planned between now and AIRSHO. Let's begin with our big event on Saturday, August 25th. **Wing Appreciation Day** will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the HSW hangar. It will be a great day for **"Boys and Their Toys"**. Bring anything you want to show off, the more the better. Remember to bring your family and friends.

The High Sky Wing will serve hotdogs and watermelon for lunch so plan to attend. You are welcome to come and go, or come and stay, but please come! Let me know what "toy" you plan on bringing so we can start the excitement early via emails. Just a reminder, the Thursday, August 23rd meeting is cancelled and replaced with the "Boys and Their Toys" event.

The kickoff for AIRSHO starts on Tuesday, September 11th at 6 p.m. with the Volunteer Hamburger Dinner in the CAF hangar. The High Sky Wing will be cooking hamburger and hotdogs for the event. Your help is definitely needed since this is a fund-raiser for the wing a.k.a. a paying gig. Cooking and setup will begin at 4 p.m. Remember to RSVP for the event, if you also plan on eating, to Kelly at 563-1000 ext. 2235.

I hope you're marking your calendars as you read. The next event is Saturday, September 15th; the BIG clean the hangar day before AIRSHO. This cleanup is most important to prepare the hangar for all the activities of AIRSHO. We will have a list of jobs to accomplish from small to big, something for everyone.

Now for the really big one, AIRSHO 2007, our 50th Anniversary and an extremely busy time for the wing. The High Sky Wing Cantina will be in full operation on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of AIRSHO week from 11:00 to 2:00 serving hamburger, hotdog and chopped beef plate lunches. This is a

major fund-raiser for the wing and it takes a lot of participation from our members to ensure its success. Each day we need volunteers to cut up and prepare the veggies and beans, serve drinks, etc. organize and set up serving areas.

We need to fill positions from money takers and servers to cleanup and trash duty. Also needed are cooking team members and food wrappers, especially on Thursday and Friday. Food prep will begin on Tuesday, evening September 25th at 5:00 p.m. Please volunteer whether it's a few hours or all three days. Let me know of your intentions to help so I'll not go into panic mode. Thank you in advance for all of your hard work. I know the High Sky Wing will pull together and make this event successful.

As part of our AIRSHO hospitality, the High Sky Wing will once again be hosting the Friday night AIRSHO Reception in the O'Club. No one throws a better party or has more West Texas hospitality than our own HSW. Therefore, the AIRSHO Reception will be complete with a live band and catered food. All CAF members, performers and aircrews will enjoy a fun filled evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. I want to thank members who have already donated money to help offset the cost of the Reception.

Other areas needing volunteers at AIRSHO are Pilot Registration on Wednesday thru Saturday. Volunteers are also needed to greet aircraft and crews when they arrive on Wednesday thru Friday and bring them to Pilot Registration. On Saturday and Sunday we need golf cart shuttle drivers to help pickup handicapped, WWII veterans and anyone needing assistance. Also, there will be a shuttle from the CAF main hangar to show center entrance that needs to be manned. There will be a predetermined route to drive and for your convenience, we will take 2-hour shifts. A sign up sheet will be at the hangar.

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High Sky Wing parking passes will be distributed at the September 20th wing meeting. This pass is required on Saturday and Sunday of AIRSHO to get down Wright Drive to the HSW hangar. Parking will be limited to a first come, first park basis.

Wow, do we have a busy time ahead of us. Mark your calendars, put on a smile and we'll have a great time!!

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

"The Grim Reaper" of school, the spectre of ultimate evil in the form of the infamous junior high kid, now looms agonizingly close....oh, woe is me...Hmmm, that does seem a bit over the top, but school is starting soon and my time to wander aimlessly around the hangar and headquarters is drawing to an end. However, with school beginning, that means that AIRSHO is just around the corner as well. This one, the 50th anniversary AIRSHO, should be a good one, and, as always, the High Sky Wing provides some very significant volunteer manpower to see that it all goes well. I've said it for the last 8 years of being Airsho chairman: it couldn't happen without the High Sky Wing! Anyway...

On the maintenance front, we had a major setback with Tarbaby. As you will recall, we had a low cylinder last year during the annual, and we decided to watch it. One low one became three, and, as Eric, Lance, James, and Sam all discovered, much was rotten with the Ranger engine in Tarbaby. It is now removed, with many parts strewn around it (PLEASE don't touch them!) and some parts have been sent off to the ONE PLACE in the entire country that works on Ranger cylinders. Eric has been in touch with all (make that TWO people TOTAL) who are the major experts in Fairchild restorations, so the rebuilding of the engine is beginning. We hope to have Tarbaby fixed by AIRSHO, but that is only a goal. She is, once again, costing us some significant bucks: if anyone wants to join me in making some donations toward her maintenance fund, Steve will gladly take your money.

The Stinson, SNJ, and PT-19 are all up and operating with nary a squawk. Congratulations to Sam Strahan for beginning his checkout as a CAF pilot in the PT-19. It is always good to have new young pilots come on board. Eric is getting close to solo in the "Bissett Trainer," and he'll be able to join us as Wing

pilots, along with being one of our two superior mechanics. We've been taking the airplanes to some fly-in breakfasts, giving Wing members a chance to fly in "their" airplanes, and that has been fun. Most recently, TWENTY-NINE Wing members and family members in 8 fixed-wing and 1 madly-swirling-around-wing helicopter descended on Pecos. That was WAY cool. Thanks to Cols James Martin, Robin Donnelly, Sam Strahan, Dan Linebarger, and Gregg Baiano for taking their own airships: I will say arriving in the Huey with the five Baianos and 4 Coombeses was an experience!

A shout-out needs to go also to Randy for the new picture part of the HSW website. If you haven't checked that out, please do so. And add pix! Randy can explain to you how to get him the pictures and he'll do the rest. I believe that James will soon have pictures he took at Oshkosh on the site. Of course, they are heavily tilted toward Cessna 195's! Oshkosh was a great trip (THANK YOU JAMES) and I really hope we can consider a way to take at least some of the Wing airplanes up there next year. It would benefit the whole CAF if we had more of a presence at OSH.

Well, that is all for now. Hope to see all of you "boys" with your "toys" on the 25th for our special day. And remember, taking the airplanes all over the area is what we are supposed to do with them, showing the flag for the CAF. A tip of the oil-stained cap to all those who have contributed in various ways to the Wing so that we can do just that: fly these airplanes as memorials to all those who flew them when the skies weren't so friendly and the needs of our country were much much greater.

See you at the Wing meeting, and get ready for AIRSHO 2007!

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As Bill notes we have been busy both flying and working on planes these last few weeks. Thanks to all who make it happen, not only the pilots and mechanics but also the folks who show up to help clean up and do whatever needs to be done to keep 'em flying.

One addition to Gena's list of events coming up is that on Saturday, September 15th, in addition to doing hangar clean up we will again have a safety and security training session for the JROTC cadets who help out with security and public safety at AIRSHO. I need to work out final details but it will be as we have

done in past years, letting the young folks get up close and personal to the planes to understand the dangers of turning props and basic aircraft ground safety.

During the upcoming *Boys and Their Toys* event, Saturday, August 25th, we may be doing some training and check rides in our PT-19 to help pilots from the Highland Lakes Squadron get qualified to fly the PT-19 they are restoring and hope to bring to AIRSHO. Just a heads up.

We hope to send some planes to support the DEW Line Squadron's fly-in in Amarillo on September 8th but need to work out some logistics for an overnight stay, at least for the slower planes, due to the distance. We'll have more info on that as soon as possible.

I've been pretty tied up with HQ computer and other stuff these last few weeks and will be in Dallas attending the CAF Sponsorship and Flight Operations meetings August 17-18th, so will miss you at the hangar that weekend. More info when I get back. Fly safe, y'all.

Last Month's Mystery

By Col Randy Wilson

The plane was the PZL P.23 *Karas* light bomber and reconnaissance aircraft of the Polish Air Force in World War II. The original specification was given to PZL (*Panstwowe Zaklady Lotnicze* - the State Aviation Works) in 1931 but various problems prevented the first order for 200 from being fulfilled until September 1937.



The P.23 was the most numerous type in service with the Polish Air Force when war began in 1939, with about 114 in service with frontline units. It saw extensive service and suffered heavy losses in the German invasion of Poland in September of that year. However, some of the planes escaped to Romania and continued to fight against the Russians for several years.

[Image from *Polish Air Force 1939-1945* by Dr. Jan Koniarek, Squadron/Signal Publications, 1994.]

A Bit of CAF History

by Col Randy Wilson

I thought you might enjoy an excerpt from the old Officers Manual of the Confederate Air Force and the American Airpower Heritage Foundation, dating from the early-mid 1980s. It tells of one of the earliest organized missions and aerial displays of the CAF Ghost Squadron outside of Texas, and gives an insight into what our founders had planned for us to do.

The development of the American Airpower Heritage Program is probably the most important advancement made by the CAF in recent years. It is the culmination of twenty-five years of dedicated effort by CAF members to put together this collection of air-planes and attain the forth-stated objective — **“to establish an organization having the dedication, enthusiasm and Esprit de Corps necessary to operate, maintain and preserve these aircraft as symbols of our American Military Aviation Heritage.”**

In 1972, the CAF was invited by the U.S. Air Force and the FAA to participate as a featured attraction in the first International Transportation Exposition in Washington, D.C. This was to be the first extensive test to which CAF aircraft and crews would be put. They completed the 3,500-mile round trip to Washington with 20 aircraft, each more than 30 years old, few 20 demonstrations on 10 consecutive days with sixteen aircraft airborne on each flight — without accident or serious mechanical problem.

The Washington trip, and other events, have proven that the CAF has the capability to “operate, maintain and preserve these aircraft” on a continuing basis. The effort can be sustained.

CAF flight crews, maintenance crews, and support teams stand ready to take this fleet of airplanes anywhere in the country to fly the WWII AIRPOWER DEMONSTRATION and tell the story of American Airpower.

The AMERICAN AIRPOWER HERITAGE PROGRAM is an educational project which is flown at military and civilian locations across the country.

The theme of the AMERICAN AIRPOWER HERITAGE PROGRAM is PRIDE IN THE PAST — PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH — and FAITH IN THE FUTURE.

Lest We Forget

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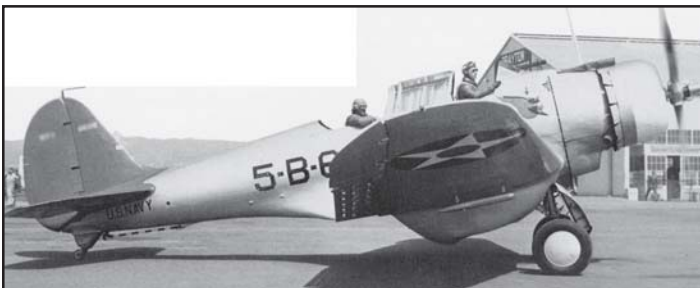
An Easy (?) Mystery Plane

by Col Randy Wilson

This month's mystery plane is not a prototype or one of only a couple built but a production aircraft, just not a particularly well know one, I admit. Oh, I did smudge the info on the rudder and tail, just to add to the challenge!

As usual, if you want to prove your mettle at aircraft ID, we'll see if anyone has the right answer at the *Boys and Their Toys* event. The answer will also be published in the next newsletter. Enjoy!

By the way, anyone is welcome to submit their own mystery plane image and have it published.



High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell

Executive Officer: Ted Claussen

Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell

Finance: Steve Bolin

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

Aug 25 - Wing Appreciation Day

Boys & Their Toys (11am - 4pm)

Sep 6 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Sep 20 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Sep 29-30 - AIRSHO 2007

Oct 4 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Oct 6-7 - Wings Over Houston AIRSHO

Oct 25 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Next Event is Saturday August 25th 11:00 am at the Hangar