



The Flyer



August 2010 Issue, Vol. Eighteen, No. 8
High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
On the Web at HighSkyWing.org
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday August 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr

From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

Our next High Sky Wing meeting will be this Thursday, August 26th, in the Commemorative Center, with social hour starting at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Please remember to bring a covered dish or favorite deli item to share for dinner. Our program will be the story of the great adventure to the EAA AirVenture last month. I'm sure we will all enjoy the tales!

Our next HSW Staff meeting will be Thursday, September 2nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Ready Room. Note that the October Staff meeting has been moved to Thursday, September 30th at 6:00 p.m. due to AIRSHO. The Wing will also be cooking for the AIRSHO Volunteer Dinner, Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. as a fund raiser.

Speaking of AIRSHO, October 9th & 10th, the HSW will again be serving lunch with our Cantina operation on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before AIRSHO. This is another chance to raise money for the Wing as well as provide a great service to our many visiting Colonels and other performers and volunteers who come to AIRSHO. If you can help, please let us know at the next Wing meeting. This year, taking a cue from Memorial Day, we are asking for donations of beef briskets (12-14 lbs) or the cash equivalent to help cut our costs for the Cantina lunches. If you want to donate a brisket, please put it in the Wing freezer. We need these early to allow time for cooking. For details, contact Col Blake Cowart.

We are also seeking donations to help fund the Friday AIRSHO reception in the Commemorative Center hangar at 6:00 p.m. We would like to raise \$1000 — if you would like to contribute, contact Col Gena Linebarger or Randy Wilson. I would like to encourage as many HSW members as possible to enjoy lunch at our Cantina Wednesday through Friday and to attend the Friday reception to greet our AIRSHO guests!

To get ready for AIRSHO, we will have a major hangar cleaning day on Saturday, September 25th, starting at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided and you can also pick up your AIRSHO parking passes then. Please come out and help in any way you can. We'll try and give a few rides after all the work is done.

Saturday, October 2nd, we plan on doing the annual Safety & Security briefing with the JROTC cadets in our hangar and on the ramp at 10:00 a.m. This will include basic aircraft safety training and should be over by 11:30 a.m. Lunch is not provided for the trainees.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will learn about our finances, maintenance on our now six assigned aircraft, some safety and hangar-cleaning matters, plus the first article by the HSW Cadet Crew! I hope to see you at the Wing meeting!

CAF Elections - Please Vote!

by Col Randy Wilson

I have a favor to ask of all High Sky Wing members — please vote in the CAF General Staff elections this year. This is the responsibility of all CAF Colonels but only a handful typically vote. The easiest way to vote, even if you are busy at AIRSHO and can't make the CAF Membership Meeting and Election on Friday, October 8th at 3:00 p.m., is to request an Absentee Ballot be mailed to you after AIRSHO.

We will have an Absentee Ballot request sheet available at the August and September meetings, but you can also request one with an email to klawrence@cafhq.org. You can also fax a request to 432-563-8046 or by postal letter to CAF HQ. If you email your request, please request a response to ensure your email was received by HQ.

The deadline to request an Absentee Ballot is October 3rd, 2010, and the ballots will be mailed out a few days after AIRSHO. Please vote. Thank you.

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

We're going to be doing something a bit different for our August Wing Meeting speaker. Since we had upwards of a dozen members attend EAA Airventure this past month, we thought we would ask them to share some of their experiences and memories from the event.

EAA AirVenture was this past July 26th through August 1st, and was held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. According to their website, total attendance for the show was over 535,000 and more than 10,000 airplanes were there. So come out to this month's Wing meeting and hear some first hand accounts of what it was like to attend.

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 August Wing meeting and remember to bring a covered dish. See you then.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill "Parking Lot" Coombes

Time, and progress on the HSW fleet, marches on. I'm pleased with the efforts of the maintenance folks who are responsible for our airplanes, as they are truly a gifted and dedicated group. I only wish there were more of them.(that would be a hint that we need more hands on deck!)

The Navion is back in service, after a replacement diaphragm in the prop assembly. We still have an issue or two to handle, but the airplane is now looking as good as that Paul "Buffy" Cooper shine. We hope to give a few rides in it prior to our Wing dinner and meeting this month so come out early if you are interested. Also coming back in service is the PT-19. Col Lance Sommers baby-sat the engine rebuild and is in the process of flying off some hours to break in the new cylinders. I believe it, too, will be ready for some member rides on Thursday evening. The SNJ continues to function flawlessly. Col Sommers and Col "Corn" Aycock took the airplane to Oshkosh (for the first time ever a HSW CAF airplane was at the world's largest aviation event) and it performed beautifully the entire time. The Highland Lakes SNJ was there, and those folks had lots more oil to clean off of that airplane than Lance and Chris did, a measure of how well our airplane has been maintained. I'd like to take credit for that, but Lance and James and (real) Col Bob

Keating have earned that. I only could tell them a better way to bleed the brakes....

The "man with the plan" Col James Martin immediately jumped from finishing up the Navion to supervising the annual on the Tarbaby. Along with several other dedicated folks we got it done in record time and she is back in service with no squawks. I even managed three good landings in it myself the other day, so they obviously fixed the "bounce, swerve, and wing dip" I had complained about. Cols Martin and Keating, along with Cols Bobby Meroney, Drew Diggins, and John Meyer also attacked the annual on the QGC-1B Swift drone-controller (AKA the Pumpkin), and it too looks to be ready for service again, joining the Cub in my never-ceasing patrol of Midland County airspace.

You will notice when you come into the hangar Thursday night that the T-28 is now in the maintenance bay, and it has some parts removed from it. The plan is to begin what in effect is an annual on the airplane, correcting all the squawks on the list prepared for us by T-28 guru Bill Muszala earlier this year, while we wait for a newly overhauled R-1300. Much cleaning is being done right now (Cols Strahan, Aycock, Bolin, Cooper, Meroney, Diggins, Thornton, Sommers, Bond, and Donnelly have been seen with oil-stained shirts and smelly hands) and we are excited by the prospect of this big airplane joining the HSW fleet. As our hangar must be clear for AIRSHO, we must keep the airplane moveable, and the stuff we remove from her to do work must go into the storage shed (thank you guys for cleaning out a space) so we don't lose anything. I'd like to have a brief meeting of all the guys who wish to be part of the maintenance team that works on the T-28 on Saturday August 28th at lunchtime so we can go over the protocols we will follow. I would like to recommend that Col Aycock, as the "majority sponsor," serve as "Aircraft Coordinator" and Col Sommers be the lead mechanic on the airplane. Col Keating, as our "elder statesman" and IA, has the final word on everything: I'll just help with the grunt work.

Finally, we've had a bit of a setback with the Stinson. We are going to be buying a prop, as the one we have on it (which really wasn't the right one prior to our incident) is causing some problems, so the airplane is "down" until we can find a suitable replacement. Additionally, we discovered that the door hinge on the passenger side of the airplane has been broken.

Accidents will happen, but this is the second time we've discovered damage to one of the airplanes that no one reported (a hole in the fabric of Tarbaby being the first). Please, if you make a mistake and cause damage to one of the airplanes, let me or another Wing officer know. You aren't going to "get in trouble" as we all know that accidents and hangar "rash" are part of the price we pay for having lots of airplanes in our hangar. We will get the Stinson fixed in the course of the annual (Col Martin once again steps up) so this is just an inconvenience rather than a major issue, but lets try not to have any more.

I hope you all come to the Wing meeting to hear our account of the great adventure to Oshkosh. It was like a Cub Scout sleep-over tied to "airplane porn;" a great trip indeed!

Until next month, righty-tighty and lefty-loosey.

Keep 'Em Flying!

Turn and Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

As the heat of Summer gets cranked up, the Wing's expenses do too. The Maintenance teams have been working on the aircraft, just so we can go burn fuel. Ah, but we don't just burn fuel. The Wing's aircraft generate income as well. The SNJ and PT-19 are enrolled in the rides program, and have earned \$2,245.00 during the last year and a half. They have also earned us some new members. Ask around and see who learned about the High Sky Wing from a ride in the aircraft first.

Speaking of maintenance, we have just made our first request for reimbursement from the aircraft accounts in quite a while. To most of you this is just an accounting procedure, but we have received \$16,444.70 back from the 5 aircraft accounts for work the Wing has paid for over the last couple of years. We will continue to be able to repair and maintain the Wing's aircraft and take care of our membership with Wing funds. The aircraft accounts will also continue to be funded through the MCRP. (Minimum Cost Recovery Program) This program puts sponsorship monies and operational costs into a Headquarters maintained account. Then as specific maintenance occurs; we can request reimbursement, or pay for that item directly from the aircraft account. The original intent of the program, as I am told, was to have enough money in the account to pay for an engine overhaul. As we know with the T-28, this doesn't always happen. Let me

close this issue with this promise. The High Sky Wing will be able to *Keep 'Em Flying* or make the aircraft in such a condition that another unit will be able to.

Next month I'll explain what the Wing's budget may look like while operating 6 aircraft. Of course, I'll have to figure that out myself first. Let's continue to work on our recruiting and retainment. Remember, our most important asset are our members.

The New Kids on the Block

by Cadet Maigen White

The HSW Cadet Crew is a diverse group of boys and girls from ages 12 to 22. We have about 18 cadets signed up and we are adding one to two cadets every meeting. The attendance at every meeting ranges from eight to ten cadets. We meet every 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the CAF museum entrance. Our current project is restoring the Sikorsky R-4B Hoverfly. It is on display in the big hangar. We are sanding it and getting ready to primer it. We look forward to having it fully restored although it will be a static display.

After we are done with the R-4, we will begin again on the *Battleships in the Desert* where we will be recreating a 1/10th scale model of a WWII bombing target on the CAF premises. We appreciate your sponsorship and look forward to the completion of these projects. With that, I will now introduce the new officers that have been elected.

Although the Cadet Crew is in it's infancy, we are thriving. We have just elected our first board of officers. I'm the president, my name is Maigen White. I'm 18 years old and homeschooled. I am a Senior this year. I really enjoy volunteering at the CAF, especially with the Junior Aviation Cadet Academy. I look forward to being an instructor next year at the Aviation Cadet Academy.

The Vice President is Chris Barow. He is 15 years old and homeschooled. He volunteers with the CAF as well. Public Information Officer (PIO) is Addison Larson. She is a Junior at Trinity High School. She is responsible for writing articles on the crews activities for the wing's monthly newsletter; we look forward to reading her upcoming articles. Tim Dzida, who is 16 years old and a Sophomore at Trinity High School, was the very first member Cadet Crew. Tim is the Recruiting Officer. The Secretary is Zack White.. He is 15 and is a homeschooled Sophomore. He volunteers at the CAF with the Junior Aviation Academy as well.

Wing Nominating Committee

Just a reminder that this year's Wing nominating committee is looking for your input on candidates for Wing Leader, Adjutant and Finance Officer. Please contact Cols Blake Cowart (Chairman), H. A. Tuck or Susie Day if you can suggest a good member for any of these positions. Thanks.

FIFI Flies as does the L-17!

As you may have heard, FIFI completed her first test flight without major problems but the #2 engine acted up on the second test flight, and that engine is now back at Ray Anderson's facility being inspected and repaired as needed. Photos below are from new CAF member Steve Barbee, from Dallas, recruited by our own Col H. A. Tuck. Steve also flew along in Col James Martin's Twin-Beech to the Pecos fly-in on Sunday and shot several photos of the Wing's newest restored aircraft, the North American L-17 Navion, on its first mission out of the Midland/Odessa area.

Col Randy Wilson flew the plane with Col Paul "Buffy" Cooper in the right seat. Enroute, Paul got his first chance at flight training, taking the controls for a while under Randy's watchful eye. Paul seemed to enjoy the chance to fly the plane he had worked on so long!



Above, FIFI take to the air on her first test flight. Below, Cols Randy Wilson and Paul Cooper arrive at the Pecos Fly-In on the HSW L-17's first mission away from Midland.



More Images

The following photos are by Col H. A. Tuck.



New members - left, Col Greg Gutting and below, Col Stewart "Stu" Watkins. Greg is local but Stu is also a B-29/B-24 Squadron member looking to relocate from Arizona to the Dallas, TX area. Stu is another real Colonel, being retired from the U.S. Army Infantry, Airborne, Ranger. Please welcome them to the HSW.



Major General Glenn Redmond, USAF (ret.) was our speaker at the last HSW meeting. Like one of our own, he loved the "Hun" or F-100.



The T-28A Comes Apart

Photos by Col H. A. Tuck.



Cubing it

by Col Randy Wilson

The other Saturday, Col James Martin prepared to take Col Bill Coombes' Cub over to the Monahans fly-in breakfast, with Col H. A. Tuck in the back seat. Little did H. A. know what kind of adventure he was in for that day.

First, the battery in the Cub was found to be dead, and with a little work, I hand propped the Cub and launched them off. However, the battery was found to still be dead when it came time to leave Monhans for Midland, and this time Col Drew Diggins got the honors (below). Little did H. A. know that a combination of texting and light signals resulted in a final safe return of the Cub to Midland with no radio!



"Is that Tab A?" Work starts on an annual of the T-28A with learning how to open up the cowl and take off basic components. Fortunately, Col Bob Keating is in the background supervising and providing the manual!



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

Safety's Edge

by Col Bobby Meroney

Proper disposal and storage? There are three items that must be addressed. One is oil. Oil has been put in trash cans. This is not where it should be placed. Proper disposal will prevent fires and other hazards. This also pertains to oily rags.

Two! Water bottles? We all have been leaving water bottles sitting around the hangar and not throwing them away. Your mother doesn't work here. When you finish a bottle drain any remaining water and throw it away. It should not be left for the next person to pick up.

Three! Electrical cords? If you are not using them or finished with them unplug and roll them up. Electrical cords lying around creates tripping and electrocution hazards. Just remember clean up and pick up now will save time when we have to clean the hangar for events.

Lest We Forget

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: Chris Aycock
Maintenance: Bill Coombes
Safety - Bobby Meroney

New Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Aug 26 - Wing Meeting (6pm)
Sep 2 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)
Sep 21 - AIRSHO Volunteer Dinner (6pm)
Sep 23 - Wing Meeting (6pm)
Sep 25 - Hangar Cleanup & Lunch (9am)
Sep 30 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)

Aircraft Work Parties every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. until done

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday August 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr
