



The Flyer

December 2003
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On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

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

An Evening with Dick Rutan

In place of a Wing meeting in December, you are all invited to attend the museum's seminar dinner and address by Richard G. "Dick" Rutan, pilot of the *Voyager* aircraft which flew around the world nonstop and without refueling in 1986. Mr. Rutan also served as an Air Force fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, flying 325 combat missions, including 105 missions as a "Fast FAC" as part of the MISTY operations (see page 2). He was shot down but evaded capture on his last mission and retired from the USAF as a Lt. Colonel.

The dinner will be held in the High Sky Wing hangar on **Friday, December 12th**, with the social hour beginning at 6:30pm and dinner being served at 7:15pm. After dinner, Mr. Rutan will make his presentation and entertain questions.

The dinner will be catered by Fazoli's Italian restaurant and the cost will be just \$15.00 per person, payable by cash or check at the door. To make reservations to attend, please call Jill Easterling in the museum office at (432) 567-3009 or (432) 563-1000 extension 2260.

The event helps support both the High Sky Wing and the American Airpower Heritage Museum, so please try and attend what should be a very interesting evening. See you all there.



High Sky Wing Awards Banquet

The annual Wing awards dinner will be held on **Saturday, January 24th** at the Clear Springs Cafe, just off Hwy 190 and Loop 250 in Midland. The social hour will start at 6:00pm with dinner beginning at 6:30pm. You may order your own choice for dinner from the regular menu. The dinner will be in the private room to your left as you enter the cafe.

After dinner, we will present the *Colonel of the Year* and *Spirit of the Eagle* awards and recognize a number of our members for their hard work this last year.

Reservations are not required but we do hope as many of you as possible come out for the awards dinner and to just have a great time with your friends in the High Sky Wing.



Other Wing News

If you haven't been out to the HSW hangar in a few weeks, the Motor Pool gang has been hard at work on the deuce and a half truck, stripping it down and getting it apart for further cleaning and inspection. We have the "truck bay" set up as a work area in the corner of the hangar and our second truck project, the M37 3/4-ton pickup is also beginning to get some attention.

Within the next few weeks, we will start on the annual inspection for SNJ 101X but for now, all three of our planes are airworthy and in good operating condition. Col Bill Coombes has recruited several new CAF Cadet members with the threat... er, I mean offer of a ride in the PT-19 (i.e. the "convertible").

Cols Mary Alice Tidwell and Bob Stine asked us to remind all High Sky Wing members that our Wing dues of \$50.00 are due in January for next year. You can mail a check to High Sky Wing - CAF, PO Box 61064, Midland, TX 79711-1064. Thank you.

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

MISTY 40

by Col Randy Wilson

As noted in our lead story, Dick Rutan was a USAF fighter pilot in Vietnam and part of that time flew with the call sign MISTY 40 as part of the top secret MISTY squadron, who flew "Fast FAC" missions, low and fast over the Ho Chi Minh trail and elsewhere. Mistys flew two-seat F-100Fs, armed only with cannons and smoke rockets used to mark targets for other fighter-bombers.

Several Misty pilots went onto important positions in both the Air Force and the world of aviation. If you would like more information on the Mistys, they have a web site at <http://www.mistyvietnam.com>. There is also a new book out titled simply MISTY by Don Shepperd (MISTY 34). Details and excerpts from the book are available at the site listed above.

For more information on Dick Rutan, the Voyager aircraft and some of his current projects you can visit his site at <http://www.dickrutan.com>.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Ralph Gillette - 570-8093 ofc
Executive Officer: Gena Linebarger
Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell
Finance: Bob Stine
Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell
Maintenance: Bill Coombes - 689-8359 home
Safety - David Linebarger
Hangar Phone: (432) 563-5112
all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Dec 12 - Dinner with Dick Rutan
Jan 3 - Wing staff meeting
Jan 24 - Wing Awards Banquet
Feb 1 - Wing staff meeting
Feb 21-22 - CAF Wing Staff Conference
Feb 26 - Wing meeting

Dick Rutan Dinner Friday, December 12th at 7:15pm in the Hangar
