



The Flyer

February 2005
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org



Good Morning Vietnam!

by Col Randy Wilson

If you missed the museum seminar program and dinner held in the HSW hangar last month, you missed a great time and a very interesting gentleman.

Adrian Cronauer, the subject of and coauthor of the screen play for the movie *Good Morning Vietnam!* turned out to be a fascinating and very gracious guest and speaker. After his Air Force service, Adrian went to law school and now serves on commissions involved in helping with POW and MIA issues around the globe. He is also active in other conservative causes as both a spokesman and commentator.

Adrian was kind enough to pose for a number of photos with our Wing members and others, with Col Stuart Small (a new HSW member) of Dallas acting as the photographer. Nearly 200 people showed up for the dinner and program, and they all enjoyed an excellent BBQ meal catered by Michael's Charcoal Grill of Midland. Proceeds from the dinner helped support both the AAH Museum and our own Wing, so it was a profitable and enjoyable evening for all, as noted in some other articles in this issue.

Adrian expressed his interest in the CAF and museum and said that he hoped to make it back for AIRSHO 2005. We hope he can make it.

Our guest and speaker, Adrian Cronauer poses with our SNJ 101X. Adrian is a private pilot and we had planned to give him a ride in the SNJ and/or PT-19 but as you may note in these photos, the weather did not cooperate that weekend. Hopefully he will be back in the near future.



Adrian was gracious enough to pose for a lot of photos with individual members and here, most of the regular "hangar gang" and "doers" of the HSW.

Don't Forget!
Your 2005 Wing Dues Are Now Due

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

What a unique place our High Sky Wing hangar can become! This was proven on January 29th when we transformed the aircraft hangar into a decorated, red, white and blue, tables and chairs, sit down dinner for 197 people. The Adrian Cronauer dinner program was a huge success! What an interesting man and a delightful speaker Mr. Cronauer turned out to be.

For all in attendance, it was great to be entertained but more important, this event was turned into a money making opportunity for the Wing. We were able to make a profit from the hangar rental as well as from three silent auctions of the DVD movie *Good Morning Vietnam!*, all personally autographed by our guest.

On April 9th we have another opportunity to repeat our success in another dinner program featuring famed test pilot Scott Crossfield. Mark your calendars now for what promises to be another great event.

March 26th is the date for the museum's annual Open Cockpit Day and the High Sky Wing will once again bring out its elite team of award winning *Burger Flippers* and support staff to provide lunch for the anticipated crowd. This is a great time for all members to get involved while helping the Wing earn money to support our planes and hangar.

Several Wing members attended the CAF Wing Staff Conference held in Odessa this past weekend. It was one of the best attended staff conferences to day, with valuable information in all areas of the CAF.

Our own Wing staff meetings have been rescheduled back to the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the hangar for the duration of the air show season. The next staff meeting will be Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome and encouraged to sit in on our staff meetings.

Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

Although it has looked rather quiet around the HSW hangar lately, things have been happening. Members have been moving, removing, and cleaning in the hangar, but a real spring cleaning needs to take place. Saturday, March 5th, has been chosen as a "WORK DAY" to be enjoyed by all. Please mark your calendar to come out at 10:00 a.m. and help clean, rearrange, and paint as needed. We also have a real money-maker coming up May 21st in the form of the

annual **Iron Eagle Shoot Out** clay shoot. The number of shooters is growing which makes this years event look even more profitable than last years for the High Sky Wing and Boy Scout Troop 233. This IS a wing event and wing members are needed to help with many of the duties involved. There is something for everyone's physical ability and—WE'LL TRAIN YOU! Those who worked last year said that it was a lot of fun. More information will be coming at a Wing meeting.

The next Wing meeting is Thursday, February 24th, with HSW Col. Harry Spanus scheduled as our speaker. He will share with us some of his experiences in the Air Force.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

I really don't have much news from the maintenance side, as we did pull out all the planes a week or so ago and Randy and I flew the PT-19 and J2K to exercise them and then ran up the two SNJs. All flew or ran up OK. Thanks, as always, to Jim Moore for helping us stack and unstack the hangar.

On the seminar front, I'd like to thank all of you for your efforts in making sure the Cronauer dinner went so well. We managed to clear a bit over \$1000 due to everybody's efforts, and Cronauer went home very impressed with our West Texas CAF hospitality. Special thanks to Gena and the usual hangar gang for setting up and decorating, to Jeremy for finding two more copies of the movie that we made \$240 bucks on (for a \$20 investment!), to Randy for always being ready to pitch in where needed, and lastly, but certainly not least, to Doc Watson for being such a great aide-de-camp again. Y'all done good!

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As Bill mentions above, due mostly to weather, the holidays and other issues, we haven't been flying much these last few weeks, so hopefully the sun and winds will be kind to us these next few Saturdays and we can exercise the planes a bit once again.

Last Friday morning, as I was arriving to help set up the CAF Wing Staff Conference, I got word that Cols Rusty Hall and Howard Martin had experienced a problem while flying Howard's Mooney from Burnet to Midland to attend the meetings. Visiting with Rusty by phone later that day, I learned that

Howard had experienced a heart attack and collapsed while they were flying in the clouds IFR and Rusty had to take command and try to get his friend help. Unfortunately, Howard was gone before Rusty could get the plane back on the ground.

Many of us knew Col Howard Martin from the air shows he helped put on at the Highland Lakes Squadron and other events in central Texas, as well as our own AIRSHOs in Midland. He will be missed. I would also like to congratulate our own Wing member and pilot, Col Rusty Hall on handling a very difficult flying situation with such professionalism and skill. We know you did all you could for Howard, Rusty.

Lest We Forget

Safety Is No Accident!

by Col Lyle Thornton

On my return from a business trip last week, I passed by the Lubbock airport and noticed this sign, *Silent Wings Museum*. While I understand that this is the name for the World War II glidermen's museum, it occurred to me that the only thing standing between the CAF's commitment to being a flying museum and becoming a silent museum is safety. Simply put, if we don't take care of our commitment to safety both on the ground and in flight, the only thing that will be left are silent wings. Please be careful out there and I will see you at our next Wing meeting or Saturday work day.

Recruiter's Corner

by Col Lauri Skinner

The Commemorative Air Force and our own High Sky Wing have recently made membership recruiting and the retention of existing members a high priority. Whether you are a pilot, have mechanical abilities or simply an interest in preserving our military history from World War II, this is the place for you.

Our Wing has set a goal to increase membership in the High Sky Wing by 10% this year. Think about those friends, neighbors or family members that you have been meaning to invite out to the hangar for a meeting or Saturday work day and bring them out to meet us. I or any Wing staff member will be glad to meet with any prospective member and assist you in their recruitment in the CAF and Wing.

Wing Staff Conference Highlights

by Col Randy Wilson

At the annual CAF Wing Staff Conference held last weekend, the General Staff announced changes to the way the CAF will be operated in the future, including giving our professional staff, lead by Executive Director and President Bob Rice, more authority to conduct the day-to-day business of the CAF, with the General Staff functioning more as a normal board of directors and setting policies as needed.

To bring the CAF corporate structure more in-line with the norm, there will be some changes to the CAF constitution and/or bylaws proposed for our vote, mainly to add the President of the CAF to the CAF General Staff as a voting member. You will get more information and explanation of this in upcoming Contrails and at future High Sky Wing meetings and we will have a chance to vote on these changes at this year's general membership meeting at AIRSHO 2005.

It was also announced that the CAF is looking to hire a Marketing Manager and a Safety/Flight Operations Officer, to manage these respective areas. Both increased marketing and safety will be major focuses for the CAF in the future. We will keep you updated on the progress of these new programs and initiatives.

At the conference, we showed some videos and audio/video presentations that were very well received, including a resurrection of the 1982 version of the CAF Ghost Squadron film, digitized and spruced up a bit, plus a slide show created by Keith Lawrence with the help of Kay Crites and others at HQ, set to the music used by the USAF Heritage flight, and this presentation was one of the highlights of the event for many visiting Colonels.

At our next few High Sky Wing meetings and perhaps some Saturdays when the weather doesn't permit much flying or work, we'll show some of these videos and other presentations. I'd like to see us put together an audio/video presentation for our own Wing to help recruit members in the Midland/Odessa area. One way we can recruit new members is to be active and go out to other local organizations, Rotary Club, VFW, etc. and present an interesting and attractive program at their luncheons and dinners, to promote not only the CAF but also the High Sky Wing.

Please note that Col Lauri Skinner has volunteered to take over many of the chores as our Personnel Officer, to help better manage and greet our new Wing members. Now, let's go out and recruit!

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

TAILDRAGGER

Taildragger, I hate your guts,
I have the license, ratings and such
But to make you go straight is driving me nuts.
With hours of teaching and the controls in my clutch
It takes a little rudder, easy, that's too much.

You see, I learned to fly in a tricycle gear
with one up front and two in the rear.
She was sleek and clean and easy to steer
But this miserable thing with tires and struts
Takes a little rudder, easy, that's too much.

It demands your attention on the take-off roll
Or it'll head towards Jones's as you pour on the coal.
Gotta hang loose, don't over control.

This wicked little plane is just too much
With a lot of zigzagging and words obscene
I think I've mastered this slippery machine.

It's not that bad if you have the touch
Just a little rudder, easy, that's too much.

I relax for a second and from the corner of my eye,
I suddenly realize with a gasp and a cry
That's my own tail that's going by.

You ground looping wreck; I hate your guts,
Give a little rudder, Great Scott, THAT'S TOO MUCH.

Author unknown

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell

Executive Officer: Ted Claussen

Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell

Finance: Bob Stine

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

Mar 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Mar 5 - Hangar Clean Up (10am)

Mar 24 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Mar 26 - Open Cockpit Day

Apr 7 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Apr 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)

May 21 - Iron Eagle Shootout

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, February 24th at 7:00pm in the Hangar
