



The Flyer

February 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

AIRSHO 2007 Dates Changed

Due to a conflict with our sponsor Fina, AIRSHO 2007 had been moved one week later to the weekend of **September 29-30, 2007**. Other related events such as the ACAHOF banquet, TraRon, etc. will also reflect this change. More information will be available at the Wing meeting next Thursday, February 22nd.

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

Wing members and guests enjoyed their own private Super Bowl party at the hangar. Forty people were in attendance and there was enough food to feed a small army. Thanks to James Martin and Lance Sommers for providing the mechanics and equipment for our viewing pleasure and entertainment. Look for some pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

The High Sky Wing is off to a good start with the "Paid the Rent" Club donations and pledges. So far, 9 months of rent have been spoken for by the following members: Clyde Watson, Steve Bolin, Mary Alice Tidwell, Gary Covington, Randy Wilson, Blake Cowart, Bill Stella, Paris Sharp, and the team of Randy Skinner & David Linebarger. Additional donations for rent have come from Jimmy Parker, Harold Brenner, H.D. Butler and Neil Harrison. Thank each of you for financial support of the Wing. There is still room for other members to step up and pay the rent for 2007. Please consider making a donation.

We will continue with the on going effort of cleaning out the hangar in preparation of our move to the new Commemorative Center after AIRSHO. At the next Wing meeting we will make available items, I mean "treasures", that need to find new homes. In the past we have collected and accumulated more "treasures" than we really need. In looking at the plans for our new home, it is evident that we will need to down size our belongings and make changes. One of these changes will affect the Library. While the Library has been a source of pride to our Wing members with many of you making contributions, there will not be

space available to continue the tradition in our new facility. At this time we are in the process of evaluating each book and determining who could best benefit, whether it is the CAF Library and Archives or another Library. The goal is to have this process completed by the March Wing meeting and any books left will be offered to our members. I thank you for your understanding in this matter and if you have questions or concerns please feel free to discuss them with me.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Wing meeting on Thursday, February 22nd.

Cobra Pilot Speaks at Wing Meeting

by Col Bill Coombes

The HSW is indeed fortunate to welcome former Army Cobra pilot Glen Brown to our Wing meeting this month. Mr. Brown, who grew up in Odessa and still works and lives there, flew gunships (1st Air Cavalry Division, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery ARA, which means basically helicopters) in the Vietnam conflict. His book, **Blue Max, Missions and Memories**, which details his military career, has recently been published.

Some of you might remember Glen as a participant in several of the Seminar Series programs about the air war in Vietnam. He tells a good tale, and I'm sure you will want to hear him speak.

Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

We have had one new member this year, Col Estela Urias, recruited by Col Paris Sharp. Please welcome Estela when you see her at the next meeting.

Dues renewals are going well and we hope to get your membership cards to you very soon. Also, if you want to participate in sending packages to our troops overseas, "Honor Our Troops" (H.O.T.) is an operations that does this in conjunction with Walmart on Loop 250 every Saturday from 9am - 5pm. You can contact Walmart for more info or Jim Leascher at 432-889-0177. Thanks for your support.

Super Bowl Party 2007

Photos by Col David Linebarger.



Col James Martin provided the projection & TV equipment while Col Lance Sommers rigged the big screen - don't ask how! Thanks guys!

Some brought their own lounge chairs and seem to be settling in very comfortably. Of course, the "usual suspects" manned the lounge to help provide beverages and other goodies for the crowd.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Well, as Robert Burns once said (much more poetically), "the best laid plans of mice and men oft go awry" and so did my plans for working on the air-planes. Such is the way of most things aeronautical, but, since the weather has been so uncooperative, the fact that we did not get the SNJ's annual inspection done hasn't really hurt anything. I can report, however, that the Stinson is back in service, thanks primarily due to the efforts of Eric and Lance during the last three weeks or so. The "plan" is still to get the SNJ done now, rather than waiting to May, so that we won't have an annual to do on it during the Spring when most of the air shows and fly-ins we wish to attend are scheduled.

We are beginning the paper work to participate in the CAF "Rides" program. This will mean that we can sell rides in the SNJ and PT-19, a potentially excellent source of revenue for the Wing. We will not be incorporating the Stinson or the Tar Baby into the program at this point, as, frankly, we doubt there would be much demand for a ride in those two airplanes. Lance, Steve, and James are currently qualified to fly paying passengers; neither Randy nor I have the necessary Commercial licenses. There is some expense in participating, as drug testing is a component, and we will have to change up our maintenance procedures on those two airplanes a bit, but I don't see any major hurdles. The Wing staff decided to try it for a year to see how it goes. When we move into the Commemorative Center, having a "Rides" program available for our visitors should work as another recruitment tool.

We have an ambitious schedule of events planned for this year, with many flying opportunities. Remember that we don't like to fly the airplanes with empty seats: riders are usually those who have been out helping at the hangar. If you want to go along on one of our adventures, either the weekend air shows at Burnet in April, Temple and Hondo in May, or the area weekend fly-in breakfasts beginning in April, come out and expend some sweat equity. Also, we have several member-owned support airplanes that usually go on these trips as well, and ground-support personnel in cars and trucks for the air shows, so many people can participate in showing the CAF's flag. I hope to see you involved this year.

The Winter Staff meetings are looming, so I'm sure I'll have many stories to relate at the Wing meet-

ing. Since being on the General Staff I can't tell you how disappointing it has been to see how much "mis-information" is flying around about the CAF, much of it generated by people (members) who either can't read or won't. Communication requires an effort by both parties. The HSW has an OUTSTANDING newsletter and we operate in a very transparent manner, so communications among our members does not seem to be a problem. However, we are the exception rather than the rule!

Until the Wing meeting, righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.

**Don't Forget!
Your 2007 Wing Dues
Are Now Due**

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

First, I'm sorry that this newsletter is once again getting out later than I had hoped, but things related to getting ready for the Wing Staff Conference at HQ kept me busier than I had planned last week. I also came back from the conference with a head cold so I'm having to miss the CAF 50th events at HQ.

At the WSC, Bill and I visited with Col Skipper Hyle, TraRon Lead, and other TraRon check pilots and will have more details on our own Midland TraRon clinic, June 8-10 (dates to be firmed up), in the next newsletter. We would like to have the ground school the first evening (Friday?) and be able to fly on Saturday and Sunday as much as possible. Again, more shortly.

TraRon and the F.A.S.T. organization, of which it is a part, has just recently finished rewriting a number of its rules and also its formation training manual. As soon as these become available, I'll get copies so all of our pilots who want to get a formation rating or get recurrent can get up to snuff on the new info.

It looks like the bad weather that has kept us on the ground these last many weeks may be slowly improving, so perhaps we can one again commit aviation soon. As Bill notes in his own column, we have a busy schedule for air shows and fly-ins this year but that's what we are all about as part of the CAF Ghost Squadron.

Just a reminder to all Wing pilots that I need to keep track of your medicals, and other currency info and may be asking those who don't have all the data on file in their records at the Wing for updates. Thanks and let's continue to fly safe.

Motor Pool Update

Work continues on the Wing's vehicles. The big truck was moved out of the hangar to do some cutting and welding on it and the smaller truck is at the Midland College automotive facility where it is being worked on. We will try and have more details in the next newsletter.



Above, Cols Tom Kingon and David Linebarger tug the big truck out of the hangar where Col Bobby Meroney does some cutting and welding on the bed frame, assisted by Cols Lyle Thornton and Tom Kingon.



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Wing Staff Conference News

by Col Randy Wilson

We will have a full briefing of the news and events that took place this last week and weekend at the WSC at the Wing meeting next Thursday. The WSC is a chance for new and existing Wing staff officers to meet with the HQ staff and learn more about how to better perform their jobs in the units.

Two key bits of information were announced — the first being the change of the dates of AIRSHO 2007 to one week later, September 29-30, which is further explained on the front page of this issue.

The other news of significant importance was the announcement by Col Bob Rice that he was retiring from his position as the President of the CAF at the end of this year. Bob has served on the CAF HQ staff for 16 years, first as the Director of Flight Operations and then the Executive Director and President.

The General Staff formed a committee to locate a new President for the CAF. More details at the Wing meeting. See you there.

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

Feb 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Feb 24 - Seminar program

Mar 3 - Wing staff meeting (10am)

Mar 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Mar 31 - Seminar program

Apr 5 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)

Apr 7 - Open Cockpit Day - **HSW Cooks**

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday February 22nd 7:00 pm at the Hangar
