



The Flyer

February 2008
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday February 28th 7:00 pm at the Hangar

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

The High Sky Wing's annual Awards Banquet was held in January and the turn out was great. There were 78 members and guests in attendance. I want to thank each of you for taking time out of your schedules to be there. It was my pleasure to present the HSW awards with Colonel of the Year going to Col. Bill Stella and Spirit of the Eagle to Col. Bill Smith. Congratulations gentlemen.

As tradition would have it, the "Paid the Rent Club" once again gained momentum at the banquet. Our generous members who have pledged or already given their checks are Mary Alice Tidwell, Clyde Watson, Randy & Pat Wilson, George Coombes, Blake Cowart, Davy Roberts, Ed McElrath and Skinner/Linebarger aka the Skinbargers. As you can see, 8 months have been paid. It's never too late to step up and help pay the rent. Finance Officer Steve Bolin will gladly accept your check.

If you haven't been out to the CAF lately, come by and take a look at the Commemorative Center. Work continues to progress and yes, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully we'll have the occupancy permit by mid-March at which time the HSW will begin the process of relocating to our new home. The move will be a major project for the Wing and everyone's help is needed. The staff will keep you updated on dates and times for the moving party. In the mean time, we will use Saturdays to concentrate on packing up and boxing our valuables. Come early to the next Wing meeting for a tour of the Commemorative Center.

Wing Staff Conference will be March 7, 8 & 9 at the MCM Fun Dome Odessa, TX. Registration is \$55 for the event. All members are encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to meet other CAF members from units all over the United States, as well as meet

your General Staff members and to get acquainted with HQ personnel.

One correction to last's months schedule of events is that the seminar program in March has been moved to March 29th.

Next Wing meeting is Thursday, February 28th, 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to share with the group.



Don't Forget!
Your 2008 Wing Dues
Are Now Due

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Just a reminder that at this month's meeting on February 28th, we have Lt. Col. Bob Keating, USAF (Retired) as our speaker.

Coming up for our March Wing meeting, will we have Lt. Col. Dick McFadden, USAF (Retired). After enlisting in 1957, Dick became a commissioned officer in 1957 and during his career, flew 494 combat missions in Vietnam. In addition, Dick was an Instructor Pilot in various trainer aircraft (T-33, T-38, T-39) as well as the O-1A Birdog. He retired from the Air Force in 1977 and has lived in Midland since 1993.

See you at the March Wing meeting and don't forget to bring a covered dish or other item to share for dinner.

Finally, if any Wing member has someone in mind for a guest speaker at an upcoming Wing dinner, please feel free to give me a call or email. My cell phone is 917-488-5600, email is crpeterson@grandecom.net.

Being Safe!

by Col David Linebarger

Hi, I am David Linebarger, the new High Sky Wing's Safety Office for the next 2 years. Most of you know who I am, and for the new members I will be the person at the Wing who is not working on airplanes but on the building and trying to blow everything up at Airsho. Everything is going well on the safety side of the Wing at this time, but there will be some changes when we move across the street into our new home.

Speaking of the move we need to keep in mind a couple of things when we start to pickup and move our stuff from our old home to our new home. If it is too heavy, too long, too tall, or just too clumsy to hold please get some help. Also keep in the back of your mind that we (people) are not the only things that call the hangar home. Keep an eye out for critters with and without legs as it is cold and they want to stay warm also for the winter, and many of them may have moved into our home

A lot of our valuable stuff has not been touched for awhile and our hangar guest may claim it as their own so they will try and protect their homes. If you do get a bite we need to try to capture what it was so the doctors can get the right treatment for you as the medical staff will need to know more that it was a bug. If you have any questions on safety in our hangar please ask me and I will get you an answer. We do have a new magnetic sweep to pick up small metal objects from the floor and ramp area to help keep the FOD down for the planes and people. *Safety First.*

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

Once the winds and cold weather passes, we should be back in the air for another year, thanks to the hard work of many. The SNJ is the last Wing aircraft to undergo its annual inspection, and that should start any day now.

We continue to check out pilots in different Wing aircraft, with both Steve Bolin and James Martin currently training in the Fairchild J2K a.k.a. *Tar-Baby* and Sam Strahan getting ready to do the same in the Stinson 105. We will all be getting recurrent in the various planes to be ready for a busy air show and fly-in season. Air shows we currently plan to attend include San Angelo (March 15th), Burnet (April 12th) and Temple (May 2nd-4th). We are also looking into a Poker Run type of event but don't yet have a date or

any details to share.

Come out to the next Wing meeting on February 28th and we'll be happy to answer your questions about air shows, the new building and more. Fly safe!

Keep 'Em Flying!

Welcome New Members

The Wing had several new members join in the last few weeks and we will try and get a full list of names and some photos in the next newsletter. One new Wing member is Mark Novak (below) of Lincoln, Nebraska, who is also a member of the CAF General Staff and owner and pilot of an AT-6/SNJ. Welcome Mark!



Photos from the Awards Dinner



Three members of the past Wing staff, Lyle Thornton (far left), Bill Coombes (center) and Ted Claussen (not shown) completed their service this year. Wing Leader Gena Linebarger thanked them all for their hard work. Thanks to Col H.A. Tuck for all these photos. He said it was a challenge to shoot in a room with so many large mirrors!



Top, Col Lyle Thornton is thanked for his service as HSW Safety Officer and below, Col Bill Coombes wears his new CAF jacket as thanks for his long service as Maintenance Officer and other duties.



A good time was had by all, members, family and guests alike!



The 2008 Wing staff - left to right, Lance Sommers, David Linebarger, Lauri Skinner, Randy Wilson, Steve Bolin, Rick Peterson and Gena Linebarger.



Col Bill "Can-Man" Stella is presented with the Wing's Colonel of the Year award for his many years of fund raising and other service.



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Get This in Color!

by Col Randy Wilson

Don't forget that you can get the High Sky Wing newsletter in color by visiting our website at

<http://highskywing.org>

There is a link to view or download the current newsletter as an Acrobat Reader (.pdf) file which you can then print on your own color printer or just enjoy reading with full color for the images.

You can also help save the Wing some costs by letting any of the Wing staff know that you don't need to be mailed a printed black & white copy of the newsletter but will get it from the website in color.

Each month, we send out an email to all members, or at least all who have an email address on file with us, and let you know the newsletter is available online.

Currently, the other information on our website has gotten a bit stale and out of date, however, I have started a redesign of the site which I will try to launch sometime in the next couple of months, to include lots of pictures of our new home and facilities.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell

Executive Officer: Rick Peterson

Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell

Finance: Steve Bolin

Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell

Maintenance: Lance Sommers

Safety - David Linebarger

Hangar Phone: (432) 563-5112

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Feb 28 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

Mar 1 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)

Mar 7-9 CAF Wing Staff Conference
at the MCM Fun Dome Odessa

Mar 15 - Rio Concho Air Show, San Angelo

Mar 27 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

Mar 29 - Seminar program (2pm)

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