



# The Flyer

February 2009  
Vol. Seventeen, No. 2

High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force  
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

On the Web at  
HighSkyWing.org

## Next Wing Meeting is Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. in the Hangar

### From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

If you missed the January Awards Banquet, you missed an evening of camaraderie and also a very good steak dinner. Col Gena Linebarger hosted a great evening and as we do each year, presented our two High Sky Wing awards to two very deserving members.

The Colonel of the Year was presented to Col Lauri Skinner for her years of service to the Wing in a number of capacities, including as our Adjutant. The Spirit of the Eagle award went to Col Steve Bolin for his hard work not only as our Finance Officer but also his much appreciated management of the Wing's bingo operations in association with the museum.

Here are a few photos taken by Col H. A. Tuck of the Awards Banquet. Look later in this newsletter for some of his photos from the Super Bowl party.

I hope to see you all at the next Wing meeting, Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the hangar. Please don't forget to bring a covered dish to share for dinner. Fly safe!



Above, Col Lauri Skinner is the HSW Colonel of the Year for 2008 and below, Col Steve Boling displays his Spirit of the Eagle award. Congratulations to both.



Outgoing High Sky Wing Leader Gena Linebarger was presented with a Flying Sponsorship on the Wing's PT-19 in recognition of her four years of leadership.



The dinner was held in O'Brien Hall in the CAF Commemorative Center.

The 2009 HSW Staff, left to right, Ronnie Jones, Steve Bolin, David Linebarger, Rick Peterson, Lauri Skinner and Randy Wilson.



## Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Our speaker for the February Wing meeting is Autumn Esparza, CAF Director of Membership Marketing, who will be presenting an idea for a CAF Cadet Venturing program that the High Sky Wing may wish to help pioneer.

As always, I'm am open to suggestions for future months' speakers or programs, so don't be bashful about contacting me with any good ideas.

I hope to see you this Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> for our pot luck dinner at 7:00 p.m. and meeting to follow. Please don't forget to bring a covered dish or something from your local supermarket deli section to share. Thanks.

## Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

I want to thank everyone for the great turnout and all the great food and snacks at the Super Bowl party - I think everyone enjoyed themselves, even the kids.

We have two new Wing members this month, Cols Darin Binek and Rudy Silas, and a number of members have recently paid their dues, including the following folks, according to Col Steve Bolin's accounting: Becky Carter, Lyle Thornton, Cody Furlow, Ben Love and Ron Stacks. Just a reminder that our dues are annual, so if you haven't yet renewed for 2009, please consider doing so soon, as membership dues really help keep the planes flying and the heat, air and lights running.

## The Safety Corner

by Col David Linebarger

Things at the hangar are going fine and with spring just around the corner we need to be on the look out for Mother Nature's little creatures that will be coming out in the spring. So look before you start to get or move something in and around the hangar.

Also there seem to be several cans and bottles of liquids that are left sitting in the hangar. This can be a safety hazard in several ways as it can attract bees and wasp to the sugar in the soft drinks and with the several small children that are often in the hangar, they could get confused and take a drink from what they thought was a water bottle and it may have another liquid in it. Let's be safe and when you finish with a drink find a trash can to put it in and not just set it down on what is handy at the time. It only will take a

few seconds to do this and it could save a lot of heart-ache.

If you put a chemical in a bottle or can please write on it with what it is and the date it was done. We do not need any mystery bottles sitting in the hangar.

## As the Props Turn

by Col Ronnie Jones

**Busy** and gettin' **Busier!!!** The SNJ's annual inspection is now complete and the annual inspections are progressing on the other three.

In the middle of all this, the hangar had to be rearranged and cleaned for 'rental' activity. I want to thank all the people who helped with the cleaning and rearranging. It is incumbent upon the High Sky Wing to assist with preparing the facilities for any rental activity because the monies acquired will directly affect how much the Wing will have to pay for our rent and/or utilities each year. Again, a big Thank You.

I've spent some time working on learning the CAF Regulations and Unit Manuals. I started reading them when I first joined, but now, being the Operations Officer, I feel I must learn them and then apply them correctly. And they are really quite in-depth with a lot of documentation that is required.

Back to the "Busier"..... the upcoming Air Show / Fly-in season starts soon and there is a lot of work yet to do in getting ready for it. In addition to completing the annual inspections, there are the annual Pilot Proficiency check rides and the annual Pilot Ground School training that has to be done (and documented!!).

Our first planned (still in the planning stage) air show visit will be the Dyess Big Country Air Show Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year it will be held at Abilene Regional Airport instead of Dyess AFB. I hope many of you can attend, either riding along in our Wing aircraft or driving over - we had a blast last year!!! Put it on your calendar, OK?

Please attend our Wing Meeting Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> to hear a special presentation by Autumn Esparza.

Working to **Keep 'Em Flying**.

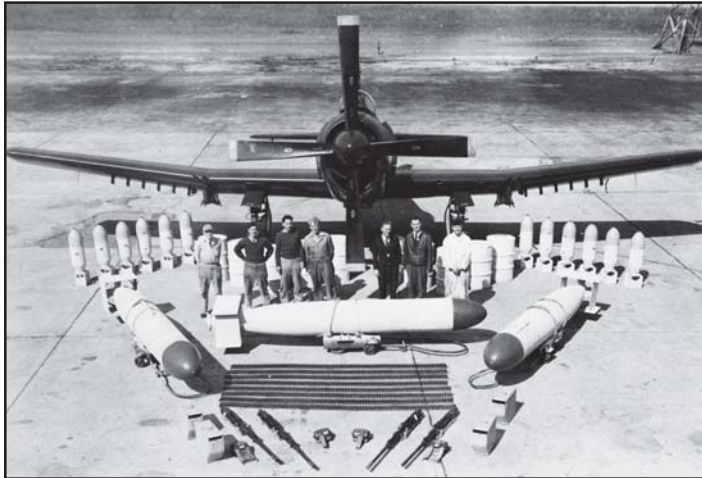
## Moving Maulers!

by Col Randy Wilson

Sometime in mid-March or April, a team from the Glenn L. Martin, Maryland Aviation Museum, will be in Midland to pack and load the remains of two Martin AM-1 Mauler aircraft onto trailers to take back to

Maryland where they will be on static display.

The aircraft were loaned to the CAF years back by the U. S. Naval museum and they are now being reassigned to the MAH. If any HSW members want to lend a hand to help our visitors from the North, let me know and I'll be happy to share the contact info for the MAH team leader.



On March 30, 1949, this AM-1 Mauler set an unofficial payload record for single-engine planes at 10,648 pounds! The P&W R-4360-4W twenty-eight cylinder radial engine was rated at 3,000 horsepower.



Super Bowl 2009 party images by Col H. A. Tuck. Everyone had a great time, young and not-so-young alike!

### Super Bowl Party 2009

by Col Randy Wilson

We had a great turn out for the Super Bowl watching party on February 1<sup>st</sup>. With our new Dish Network satellite connected to our large-screen TV in the Ready Room (below), and the help of Col James Martin who set up his TV projector and screen in the Gunfighter Pub, there was lots of room for folks to relax and watch the game.

Food was more than plentiful and everyone had a great time. The kids were kept occupied and happy in the "Romper Room" with several video games and other attractions, thanks to Cheryl and Bob Wray and their family. We will certainly want to do this again!



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## From the Tool Box

by Col Lance Sommers

The annual inspection on the SNJ is done, including rewiring the starter and installing a booster coil to improve starting. It now fires on the second blade every time. Thanks to all the HSW members who helped.

Our next project is the J2K (*Tar-Baby*) which needs some fabric repair on the belly and the two cabin doors repaired or rebuilt. After attending to these squawks we should have the Fairchild up and running in top order again.

Annual inspections on our other planes are going well and on track to have everything up and flying by the time spring flying weather arrives.

***Keep 'Em Flying!***

## 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: Ronnie Jones

Maintenance: Lance Sommers

Safety - David Linebarger

**New Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581**

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

## What's Happening & When

Feb 26 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

Mar 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Mar 5-8 CAF WSC

Mar 26 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

Apr 7 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Apr 23 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

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