



The Flyer

January 2006
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

Wing Awards Dinner is Saturday, January 21st at Clear Springs Cafe

Wing Awards Dinner News

The High Sky Wing's annual Awards Dinner will again be held at the Clear Springs Cafe, just off Loop 250 and Highway 191 in Midland, on Saturday January 21st. The social time will begin at 6:00 p.m. and we will start ordering dinner from the regular menu at 6:30 p.m. This way everyone can order their own favorite food and refreshments.

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

I want to thank all of the members of the High Sky Wing for making 2005 a successful year for the Wing. As we go forward in 2006, I hope that your continued support, enthusiasm and passion for this organization will be strong as we, together, make this the best year yet for the High Sky Wing.

Please make plans to attend our annual Awards Banquet, at which time our Colonel of the Year and Spirit of the Eagle Awards will be presented. The banquet will be held on Saturday, January 21st at Clear Springs Café, 5707 Andrews Hwy in Midland, 6:00 p.m. social time, 6:30 p.m. dinner. Members and guests are responsible for their own dinner and drinks.

A big "Thank you" is in order for our Pyro friends. The EOD (Explosive Ordnance Detachment) and the Blastards have each presented us with \$500 checks as a donation to the High Sky Wing. We are extremely appreciative of their generosity.

This year's Wing Staff Conference will be held on Feb. 18-19, at the MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome in Odessa. Registration fee is \$45. All CAF members are encouraged to attend this conference. There are many informative breakout sessions as well as general

meetings to attend that will keep you up to date on the state of the CAF.

Fund-raising will continue to be a high priority for our Wing in 2006. We are very excited about the opportunity to participate in the BINGO program. This venture should generate a continuous revenue of funds for the High Sky Wing. At this time, we're hoping to have BINGO in full swing by late January. Thank you to Mary Alice Tidwell and Steve Bolin for diligently pursuing and over seeing this project. Other fund-raisers are needed as well for this year and the Staff welcomes all of your suggestions.

Next Staff meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th, 10:00 a.m. at the Hangar. Please feel free to attend and be a part of these meetings.

Library Donations

by Col Sue Beecraft

Just a quick note to say we always welcome donations of books and other materials related to aviation or the CAF but recently a lot of magazines and books with no relevance to these subjects have been dropped off in the library.

If you have non-aviation magazines, etc., please consider donating them to another library or other places where they will be better appreciated. Thanks.

Don't Forget!
Your 2006 Wing Dues Are
Now Due

Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

There have been lots of activities on a very flexible schedule over the past two months, but things should be getting back to routine by February. January 21st will be our Awards Dinner at Clear Springs Cafe beginning at 1800 hours (6:00pm) with a social time followed by dinner at 1830 hours (6:30pm). This is a time to get together to visit and have fun. We will honor some members, reflect on the past year, and look to the future.

Our regular meetings will resume on the fourth Thursday of each month with speakers and discussions on the necessary actions needed to get the new hangar going. Come out and see where things are headed and how you can be a part of it all!!

Let's Have a Safe New Year

by Col Lyle Thornton

To start off the New Year, we have just received 2 new Halon (aircraft friendly) fire extinguishers that we had previously ordered. One was installed on our tug and the other will be placed in a prominent location in the hangar. Lyn Fite has accepted the position of Industrial and Ground Safety Program Manager for the CAF and I look forward to working with him to update our safety programs. I have been charged by the Wing Staff to form a Safety Committee to help with all wing related safety issues. I have had one volunteer already and will be looking for others to assist us.

I have had a request to check into having a CPR class for wing members. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I will see about getting a class set up. Don't forget to attend the High Sky Wing Awards Banquet on Saturday, January 21st and please be safe.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Wintertime is upon us, and we have some time to do some little maintenance items on our airplanes so that they will all be up and ready to go when Spring comes. Fortunately, both Fairchild's are in fine shape, with the latest maintenance item being a battery for the radio in the Tarbaby. Thanks to Steve Bolin, the nav side of the radio in the F-24 functions....no longer will I have to rely on my trusty Humble Oil and Refining road map of Texas to find destinations!

Actually, as I've never gotten lost using that map, I-20, and a compass heading for all the places we've taken the Tarbaby, perhaps the navigation aids associated with the radio represents overkill?

Thanks to new member Lance Sommers, the flap problem we had on the PT-19 has been eliminated. (nice to be young, flexible, and a skilled A&P)...I imagine a new battery for the PT will be in the cards sometime this year, but, other than that, I see no problem with the airplane. Lance has also agreed to do some work on the wobble pump on the SNJ, and we did buy a new battery for it, which needs to be installed. I'm also pretty sure that we will have to do some work on the shock strut on the tailwheel on the SNJ, but that shouldn't be too costly or time-consuming. All in all, our fleet is in good shape.

The dirt work for the Commemorative Center, our new home, is done, and foundation cement should start to pour by the middle of the month. I hope you all get a chance to see it at this stage....when we actually pour cement perhaps we can organize a "hand-printing" activity? The building is not as big as originally planned, but I think it will serve our purposes very nicely.

Hope to see everyone at the Awards dinner on the 21st. Until then, righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

With the combination of cold, windy weather plus the holidays these last few weeks, we haven't been flying much but that should be about to change.

All three of the Wing aircraft are back in our hangar and will probably stay there for a while as construction forces the gates to remain closed across the CAF taxiway. As soon as the weather and schedules allow, I hope to fly with Cols Lance Sommers and Steve Bolin to get them qualified in the PT-19 — just need a bit warmer weather and less wind!

Any of our pilots and mechanical types are welcome to attend the break-out meetings held during the Wing Staff Conference, Feb 18-19th, to get more info on CAF regulations for operations and maintenance. It is also a good time to meet other pilots and maintenance types from other Wings and Squadrons.

I would like to personally thank Col Davy Roberts for his sponsorship donation to our PT-19. I look forward to seeing you in it someday soon, Davy!

Recruiter's Corner

by Col Lauri Skinner

With the new year comes reflection on the past year. Looking back I am happy to report that our Wing gained these 15 new members in that time:

Ed Fredricks of Midland
 Jody McQueen of Odessa
 Lance Sommers of Andrews
 Rance Phillips of Midland
 Tabor White of Midland
 Chris Hughston of Brownsville
 David Hughston of Brownsville
 Stuart Small of Dallas
 Patrick Burke of Odessa/El Paso
 Michael Stogner of Estancia, NM
 Ben Love of Marathon
 Hugh Barnes of Midland
 Steve Bolin of Odessa
 Kelly Stout of Midland
 Cody Furlow of O'Donnell

In addition, several past members have rejoined the ranks of the High Sky Wing, and we are pleased to welcome them back. Now is the time to think of co-workers, neighbors and friends who are not already involved in the CAF — invite them to join you for any of our Wing activities.

Wing dues are on a calendar year basis and dues for your 2006 Wing membership of \$50.00 can be mailed to the High Sky Wing, PO Box 61064, Midland, Tx 79711-1064 or paid in person at any Wing meeting or whenever you are out at the hangar. We will be mailing out a reminder postcard in the near future.

We encourage all Wing members, new and not so new, to be active in our endeavors to **Keep 'Em Flying**. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Saturday morning work parties or the upcoming Awards Dinner on January 21st.

Wing Meeting Schedule

Wing meetings are normally held on the 4th Thursday of the month, with the social hour starting at 6:00 p.m. and our potluck, bring a covered dish dinner being served at 7:00 p.m.

Around AIRSHO and the end of year holidays, we often have to adjust Wing meetings or sometimes combine them with other functions. Occasionally we

have a chance to replace a typical Wing meeting with a special dinner or other meeting to take advantage of the presence of a special guest, such as a museum seminar speaker.

Your best bet to keep up with any of these changes is to check our website at <http://highskywing.org>, make it out to the hangar for the Saturday work parties or get the information via our newsletter. Sometimes, we can't get the newsletter in the mail as early as we like but we try!

To help you plan 2006's Wing meetings, here are the dates for them as best we know now:

February 23rd

March 23rd

April 27th

May 25th

June 22nd

July 27th

August 28th

***September 28th**

(*may be changed due to AIRSHO)

October 26th

The forth Thursday in November is Thanksgiving Day and the December date falls between Christmas and New Years, so we may again have to combine these months in a meeting on another date.



Thanks Again to the *Can Man*

As we review last year's income from the various events, donations and fund-raisers, we need to once again offer a special thanks to Col Bill Stella for his tireless work in collecting aluminum cans and turning them into money for the Wing. Thanks Bill!

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

Bits and Pieces

by Col Randy Wilson

The following are news or information items that just didn't fit elsewhere.

The **I Paid the Rent Club** is still active, so if you would like to help donate a month's rent (\$500) to the Wing in 2006, you will have your chance beginning at the Awards Dinner. Last year, generous members donated the whole year's rent for our hangar and we hope to be able to do the same again this year.

With the return of bingo income this year, we are looking at not holding a Clay Shoot fund-raiser this year but doing so again in 2007. Various factors prevent a number of key members from being able to support a clay shoot this year but we will try for an even better one next year.

I often seem to wear too many hats and if someone would like to take over or help with the Wing newsletter, I would be happy to visit with them. We may get a computer setup at the hangar in the near future, which might make this easier.

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

Jan 21 - Wing Awards Dinner (6:30pm)

Jan 28 - NASA News program (2pm)

Feb 4 - Wing staff meeting (10am)

Feb 18-19 - CAF Wing Staff Conference

Feb 23 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Mar 4 - Wing staff meeting (10am)

Wing Awards Dinner Saturday, January 21st at Clear Springs Cafe
