



The Flyer

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On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

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

Awards Banquet Highlights

by Col Gena Linebarger

The annual High Sky Wing awards banquet was held on Saturday, January 20th at the Hog Pit. For those who braved the weather, a great time was had. Once again Becky Carter entertained us with her recap of last year's events in the form of a poem. Great job Becky!

A live auction was held for a signed and framed print from the Red Baron team from AIRSHO 2006. After some generous bidding, the winner was Gary Covington.

The banquet is also the chance to present the Wing's two most prestigious awards to members for their outstanding work in the last year. The Wing is proud to recognize Col Tom Kingon as the **Colonel of the Year**. Col David Linebarger was recognized for all his hard work with the **Spirit of the Eagle** award. Congratulations to you both and thank you for all you do for the Wing.



Col David Linebarger being presented with the High Sky Wing Spirit of the Eagle award by his wife Gena.



Col Tom Kingon, High Sky Wing Colonel of the Year



Above, Col Gary Covington was high bidder for the Red Baron print, while below, Col Steve Bolin reports on income from bingo for the year, sporting his new "Dawn Patrol" leader shirt - call sign "Snoopy"?



From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

I want to thank all the members of the High Sky Wing for making 2006 another successful year for the Wing. Your continued support, enthusiasm and passion for this organization have made our Wing a stronger unit. As we go forward in 2007, I feel a heightened sense of excitement about what we, as a Wing, can accomplish. This will be the year that we relocate our home to the new Commemorative Center. I view this move as a giant step in the right direction. With a new first class facility and our visible presence in the hangar, I believe our recruiting efforts for the CAF and the HSW will greatly increase. I also believe that many new fund-raising opportunities will present themselves as well. Let us all keep a positive attitude and a firm commitment as we work together to make 2007 the best year yet for the High Sky Wing.

Staff elections were held in November for the positions of Adjutant, Finance and Wing Leader. As she steps down, I want to thank Mary Alice Tidwell for her many years of outstanding service as adjutant for this Wing. We welcome Lauri Skinner to the Staff as new adjutant. Steve Bolin was unanimously elected as Finance Officer for 2007-2008. Thank you for your confidence, as you elected me for another 2 year term as Wing Leader. Remaining on Staff are Executive Officer Ted Claussen, Maintenance Officer Bill Coombes, Operations Officer Randy Wilson and Safety Officer Lyle Thornton. Thank you Staff for your dedication to your job.

Listed in this newsletter you'll find a **Schedule of Events for 2007** for the HSW. At this time the schedule takes us through July and will be updated as needed. As you can see, we have some busy months ahead. My goal is to keep the membership better informed of upcoming activities and events in an effort to increase member's participation. As fund-raising will continue to be a high priority for 2007, you'll notice from the calendar the many opportunities already available for us to cook and raise funds.

On the fun side, the Wing will host a **Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 4th** at the hangar. A big screen TV will be set up for your viewing pleasure. Begin arriving at 3:00 p.m. for pregame activities before the 5:00 game. Please bring your favorite Super Bowl snack to share with the group. We have plenty of chairs and tables but I'm bringing my own personal lawn chair for added comfort.

Wing Staff Conference will be held **February 16-18** at the MCM Fun Dome in Odessa. Registration fee is \$45 and includes Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch. All CAF members are encouraged to attend this conference and be a part of the many informative break out sessions and general meetings.

2007 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Commemorative Air Force. The High Sky Wing, along with the Desert Squadron, will join more than 30 other Units of the CAF by participating in the CAF's International Celebration of 50 years of Patriotism, scheduled for **Monday, February 19th** – the 50th day of the 50th year. As a Wing we will jointly host an open house with the Desert Squadron from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the big hangar. Your help is needed to cook and serve FREE hotdogs and chili to the attendees. In lieu of museum admission, those attending will be asked to bring items to be shipped to our troops overseas. They will also be invited to write notes to the troops, which will then be forwarded to active-duty service men and women to show appreciation for their sacrifices. I realize many of you will not be off work that day, those of you that can please make every effort to come out and help setup on Monday, Feb. 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Remember High Sky Wing membership dues are NOW DUE. After your dues are paid, expect to receive your membership card in the mail.

Next Staff meeting is Saturday, Feb. 3, 10:00 a.m. at the hangar. Staff meetings are open to all the membership.

Keep 'Em Flying!

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Happy New Year to all the High Sky Wing members! I hope that this year brings you all that you want, or at least all that you can handle. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a proposed calendar of events that the HSW Staff put together. It is an ambitious list! I really want to see how many of these things we can pull off. I think that the Wing is poised for some really enjoyable activities, and I hope to see ALL of you at one or more of them.

On the maintenance front, Eric has been doing lots of "master mechanic" stuff for us that has probably

gone unnoticed by most everyone. The Stinson is done with her annual, (save for Lance's work with the primer and the nose bowl) and Eric reassembled all of the interior as well as doing the inspection. If you were involved in the "taking apart" process of the Stinson (a major pain in the butt) you can appreciate what a debt we owe Eric! In addition, he put a new, more modern tailwheel assembly on the PT-19, something that we have needed since "new, old-stock" tires and tubes for PTs are extremely scarce.

In talking with Lance and Eric, we've determined that we should do the annual on the SNJ now (within the next month) while the weather is crappy, so that it will be ready to go during the airsho/fly-in season. The two Fairchild's have their annuals due in July, so they can wait until then to be gone through. We want to hit several shows (Burnet and Temple in particular) and the big EAA Southwest Regional Fly-in with all the airplanes. Start checking your calendar about which ones you can attend. As always, we don't want to fly the Wing airplanes without other Wing members going along...Come out and join in fixin' 'em, and then go fly in 'em! We shall start the annual on the SNJ the weekend of January 27.

Many of you have come out to the "Stripping Party" on Tuesdays...our efforts to help Gary Austin and the B-24 folks with the refurbishment of Diamond Lil as a real bomber. We shall continue to soldier on with our unskilled labor...See another part of the newsletter for how much our efforts are appreciated by those people. I hope to see more of you out on Tuesday evenings.

Next month I'll include information about the EAA deal in Hondo in June. I'd like to see how much interest there would be in other Wing members going down there...Might be smart to rent a house and have everybody bring sleeping bags instead of going the motel route. Let me know when I see you at a Wing meeting or, better still, out working on the airplanes on Saturday.

Until then, remember, lefty-loosey, righty-tighty.

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

A Bit of Praise for Our Work

by Col Bill Coombes

The following email was sent to me last month. It is really address to all the members of the Wing who have been helping support Gary and the B-24.

Bill,

I owe you and the members of your High Sky Wing the biggest "Thank you" I can possibly give!!! To see you guys pitching in the huge amounts of volunteer labor and monetary donations to help Gary with Diamond Lil's transformation is just awesome. I realize all to well the amount of time and help it takes to keep a CAF unit operating and their plane(s) in the air. To see your unit keeping its self going, and at the same time, stepping forward to help with this B-24 project is not only commendable, its actually inspiring, and really shows the high caliber of people making up your membership.

On another level, for whatever it's worth, I also want to thank your unit for restoring my faith in the CAF as a whole. The changing times and economy has made our job of preserving these great machines more and more difficult every year. Instead of everyone pulling together, there seems to be a competition for survival and isolationism mentality between a majority of the CAF Units. You guys coming to the rescue of Lil' is a picture perfect example of how the CAF needs to be if these planes are going to survive for future generations and shows me the heart and sole of our organization is, in fact, still alive.

If you have time, could you send me a list of the tasks your unit has done & are currently doing to help Gary, the extremely generous monetary donations made, and any pictures you may have of your members in action? I want to make sure every member of the B-29/B-24 Squadron knows exactly what and how much the High Sky Wing has done to help keep Diamond Lil alive.

I personally just don't know what to say in order to fully express the amount of gratitude I owe you all. I guess I could start by at least restocking your "Adult Beverage" inventory next time I'm in Midland.

Very sincerely,

Don Obreiter,
Maintenance Officer
B-29/B-24 Squadron

HSW Events for 2007

The following are HSW-related events for 2007 as of January 6th. Please check future newsletters for changes and additions.

- Feb 3 - Wing staff meeting (10am)
- Feb 3 - Blastards meeting (2pm)
- Feb 4 - Super Bowl party (3pm)
- Feb 16-18 - CAF Winter Staff Conference
MCM Fun Dome in Odessa
- Feb 17 - Hangar rental, Permian Playhouse
all day and evening
- Feb 19 - CAF 50th Anniversary Celebration
(11am-2pm) CAF hangar - **HSW cooks**
- Feb 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)
- Feb 24 - Seminar Program

- Mar 3 - Wing staff meeting (10am)
- Mar 10-11 - Brownsville air show
- Mar 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)
- Mar 31 - Seminar Program

- Apr 5 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)
Note change back to Thursday evenings
- Apr 7 - Open Cockpit Day - **HSW cooks**
- Apr 14 - Burnet air show - *HSW planes attending*
- Apr 21 - Seminar Program
- Apr 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)

- May 3 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)
- May 5-6 - Temple air show - *HSW planes attending*
- May 12 - B-24A Unveiling & Twin Tail Fly-in
HSW cooks
- May 12 - Dyess air show
- May 24 - Wing meeting (7pm)
- May 28 - Memorial Day events - **HSW cooks**

- June 1-2 - EAA fly-in Hondo - *HSW planes attending*
- June 7 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)
- June 9 - TraRon formation clinic
- June 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)

- July 4 - SNJ in Las Vegas fly-over
- July 5 - Staff meeting (7pm)
- July 9-11 - CAF Rally in Las Vegas
- July 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Being Safe!

by Col Lyle Thornton

I hope that everyone is keeping warm during this winter weather. I would like to remind everyone to be extra careful when you go out and drive. Roads can be dangerous due to moisture and cold temperatures and sometimes the conditions are not readily identifiable.

Since our streets are used as drains for excess water, ice can form in any low spot that can not be seen until you are on top of it. This water also causes potholes that can cause your vehicle to lurch quite unexpectedly in the wrong direction. Basically, when you drive during this time of the year, slow down and be alert for any changes in weather and road conditions.

We have quite a year ahead of us and I would like to see everyone safe and healthy to enjoy it.

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

Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

At AIRSHO in October, we gained 9 new members. These are William Foster, Sue Bowen, Kay Crawford, Robert Holton, Justin Crawford, Kay Nehring, Greg Trobridge, Russell Yearly and Alden Hughes. We welcome each of you. Let's all make sure that these new faces are made welcome at wing and staff meetings as well as at work parties.

As the new year begins I want to remind all members that yearly dues are renewable each January. New members who joined the Wing at AIRSHO or after are paid for the next year. Dues notices went out the first of the month. If you feel that you received a renewal notice in error, please contact Steve Bolin or myself.

Updating records is a continuing project. If any of your information has changed please let myself or any other member of staff aware. Gena is sending many notices out by email, so please keep us posted of any additions or changes.

Membership cards for the High Sky Wing will be available by the February meeting. As renewals are received cards will be generated. If you have information or questions I can be reached at 432-694-5136 (home), 432-553-2316 (cell) or by email at pyroblonde@grandecom.net.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

It seems we are mostly working on planes these last couple of months and not flying, plus I've been tied up tending to family matters but hopefully things are about back to "normal" — whatever that is.

Next Wing meeting I hope to introduce you to a new Colonel and Wing member, Pat's Mom, Cathy Gerry. Mom just completed the move from southern California to Midland and wants to come out and be part of the Wing.

This newsletter ran a bit over the usual four pages but I want to congratulate the staff for putting together the schedule of events and sharing that with everyone as they have done. Hopefully 2007 will be a great year for the High Sky Wing as we look forward to seeing the Commemorative Center building completed in time for AIRSHO. When you come to the February meeting, we will have more information on our space and other arrangements in our new home.

I've dug through some photos from the last year or so, many thanks to Col H.A. Tuck's photography but also others, and have included a few I think show what we do and why we do it. I'm not going to name everyone in each photo but I hope you enjoy them.



We cooked, wrapped and served hamburgers and hot dogs at a number of CAF HQ, Museum and Wing events, which not only supported the CAF but helped raise money to keep our planes flying. In 2006, Col Bill Coombes even stepped into the 21st century by getting his own personal cell phone. Just don't ask for the number!



In 2006 we lost "Colonel Colonel" Bruce Wallace but his spirit lives on in all of us, especially the younger members like Jeremy Linebarger. We also gained a new aircraft, the Stinson 105, thanks to the sponsorship of a number of members, including Mary Alice Tidwell.



One of the greatest challenges for the CAF is getting more young people involved, and in this, the High Sky Wing has excelled, I think. With the addition of younger pilots and mechanics, we hope to keep 'em flying for a long time. In the photo above, Col Lance Sommers supervises James Bissett helping with the annual on the S-105, as dad Col Wayne Bissett (right), looks on.



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Col Gregg Ulvestad is the newest Flying Sponsor on the Wing's PT-19. I gather that Gregg and Col Lance Sommers, our Instructor Pilot, would like to have a bit warmer weather before continuing Gregg's check out!

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 3 - Wing staff meeting (10am)
 Feb 4 - Super Bowl party (3pm)
 Feb 16-18 - CAF Winter Staff Conference
 Feb 19 - CAF 50th Anniversary
 Feb 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)

See inside for more 2007 events

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