



The Flyer

January 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

Awards Banquet is Saturday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Midland Hilton

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

I want to thank all the members of the High Sky Wing for making 2007 another successful year. Your continued support, enthusiasm and passion for this organization have made our Wing a stronger unit. As we go forward in 2008, I feel a heightened sense of excitement about what we, as a Wing, can accomplish. This will be the year that we finally relocate to the new Commemorative Center. With a first class facility and our visible presence in the hangar, I believe our recruiting efforts for the CAF and the HSW will greatly increase. Let us all keep a positive attitude and a firm commitment as we work together to make 2008 the best year yet for the High Sky Wing.

Moving into the new Commemorative Center has not come without a price tag for the Wing. I thank each of you who have made donations to the Concrete Fund as well as the Furniture Fund. Your generous support is greatly appreciated! Donations are still being accepted. No gift is too large or too small.

Staff elections were held in December for the positions of Exec, Maintenance, Operations and Safety. Stepping down from the staff are Ted Claussen, Bill Coombes and Lyle Thornton. Thank you for a job well done. We welcome Rick Peterson to the staff as Executive Officer, Lance Sommers as Maintenance Officer, David Linebarger as Safety Officer and reelected Randy Wilson as Operations Officer. Remaining on staff are Wing Leader Gena Linebarger, Adjutant Lauri Skinner and Finance Officer Steve Bolin. I thank you staff members for your dedication to the job.

Please make plans to attend our annual **HSW Awards Banquet**, at which time Colonel of the Year and Spirit of the Eagle Awards will be presented. The

Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, January 26th, 2008 at the Midland Hilton Hotel Ballroom. Social time 6:00 p.m. (cash bar) with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and may be paid in advance or at the door. Make checks payable to HSW. **RSVP** is needed by Jan. 18th to Gena at 528-0997 cell or iblast4fun@suddenlink.net. Dress is casual. I hope to see everyone there!

Listed in this newsletter you'll find a **Schedule of Events for 2008** for the HSW. This schedule will be updated monthly or as needed. My goal is to keep the membership better informed of upcoming activities and events in an effort to increase member's participation. We plan on taking the Wing aircraft to more air shows and fly-ins this year. With this in mind, Sam Strahan has been appointed as liaison and coordinator for these activities.

Wing Staff Conference will be held March 7-9 at the MCM Grande Fun Dome in Odessa. Registration fee is \$50. All CAF members are encouraged to attend this conference and be a part of the many informative break out sessions and general meetings.

Remember, your High Sky Wing membership dues of \$50 are **NOW DUE**.

The next Wing staff meeting is Saturday Feb. 2nd, 10:00 a.m. at the hangar, and the next general Wing meeting will be on Thursday Feb. 28th, 7:00 p.m.



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

HSW Events 2008

The following are schedules events involving the High Sky Wing or our members and aircraft, as of Jan 12th, 2008. This list will be updated in future newsletters.

Jan 26 - Awards Banquet, Midland Hilton (6pm)

Feb 2 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)

Feb 2 - Blastards meeting in hangar (1:30pm)

Feb 16 - Seminar program (2pm)

Feb 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Mar 1 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)

Mar 7-9 - CAF Wing Staff Conference at

MCM Fun Dome in Odessa

Mar 15 - Seminar program (2pm)

Mar 15 - Rio Concho Air Show, San Angelo

Wing Aircraft Attending

Mar 27 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Apr 5 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)

Apr 12 - Seminar program (2pm)

Apr 12 - Blue Bonnet Air Show, Burnet

Wing Aircraft Attending

Apr 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)

May 3 - Dyess AFB Air Show, Abilene

May 3-4 - Central Texas Air Show, Temple

Wing Aircraft Attending

May 8 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Note Change of Day or Time

May 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)

May 26 - Memorial Day events - **Wing Cooks**

June 5 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Note Change of Day or Time

June 6-8 - TraRon Clinic, Midland

June 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)

July 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Subject to change

July 24 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Hello and greetings from your new HSW XO. Since this is my first article, and there are probably a few people that I haven't yet met, I'd like to share a bit of my background. My lovely wife, Stacy, and I have 2 children: Hannah 5, and Jack, 10. We moved to Odessa from the Woodlands in the summer of 2006, and I've been working at Smith Barney since then. Stacy works at home as an Illustrator, working on

various children's books, greeting cards and other projects. I've been a private pilot since just before we moved and have accumulated a whopping 130 hours in my logbook. I'm honored to have been selected to serve as Executive Officer for the next 2 years and I will do my best to prove worthy of your confidence.

I now understand that one of my duties is to announce the upcoming speakers for our Wing meetings. For the February meeting, we will have Lt. Col. Bob Keating, USAF (Retired) as our speaker. Bob joined the Air Force in 1956 and flew many various aircraft during his career including several of the fighters in our inventory: among them the F-84, F-100 and F-105 during assignments around the world. In his spare time, Bob keeps himself busy as an A&P, an IA, and a DPE. If you don't know what these acronyms mean, join us at the Wing meeting Feb. 28th and you'll find out. See you then and don't forget to bring a covered dish or other item to share for dinner.

Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

Wing dues notices for 2008 have been mailed. Wing dues are payable each January. If you feel you received one in error, please contact me at pyroblonde@grandecom.net or at 553-2316. Dues are \$50.00. Consider contributing additional funds for our new hangar furnishings or other area of interest. I would also like you to update your information on the High Sky Wing website. You have access to your member information from that site. If you do not have access to the web, please feel free to let me know and I will be glad to assist you.

We have received quite a few new members in the past few months and we hope to continue that growth. When you see a new face, introduce yourself and let's get them involved!

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As the weather tries to warm up, we should be flying more in the next few weeks. The cold weather has been used to do needed maintenance and annual inspections, so no time was really lost. My understanding is that all four Wing aircraft should be air-worthy and ready for the new air show season in the next week or so.

Newly elected Maintenance Officer Lance Sommers has been a bit tied up getting things running

of late but we should hear more from him in future newsletters.

We will continue to cross train our pilots in the various Wing aircraft, based on their experience and qualifications, so we have at least two or three pilots for each aircraft. It looks like our first event will be the Rio Concho air show in San Angelo, March 15th, so if you want to go and help support our planes, please let us know.

Col Sam Strahan has graciously agreed to help keep track of air shows and fly-in events that we may want to attend and generally help coordinate those events, members who want to ride or attend, etc. He will also be working to let folks know about our aircraft rides program in the SNJ and PT-19.

We are working to produce a one-page brochure to advertise that we offer rides for hire, and Sam is going to help get these out to future show and fly-in sites. If you know anyone who would like to give a gift of a warbird flight to a Dad for Father's Day or just anyone 18 years of age or older, we will also be offering gift certificates. The rides will normally last for 20 minutes in the air and costs start at \$250 for the SNJ and \$150 for the PT-19 here in Midland. At some other locations, increased prices for fuel may increase the price of the ride.



Welcome New Members!

Please welcome new High Sky Wing members, from top to bottom: Col Ronnie Barnett, Col Chris Aycock and Col Phyllis Key. Thanks, as usual to Col H. A. Tuck for these and other images.



In other goings on, a number of HSW members, lead by Col David Linebarger worked in our future home to put up metal sheeting in the big storage area over the last couple of weekends (below).

Outgoing Maintenance Officer Col Bill Coombes used his artistic talents to finish the repainting of the Wing's can trailer (below), used so faithfully by Col Bill "Can-Man" Stella to regularly bring in needed money from recycling our aluminum cans.

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 Midland, Texas 79711-1064



Our speaker at the November Wing meeting was Wendell Strahan, father of our own Sam Strahan. Wendell told of his experiences in the Navy as a night fighter pilot in the early days of jet fighters.

His talk was greatly enjoyed by the members and guests present, and if you missed it, you missed a very good program. We hope Wendell will not be a stranger to the High Sky Wing in the future.

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

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 at the Midland Hilton (6pm)

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