



# The Flyer

January 2009  
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force  
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

On the Web at  
HighSkyWing.org

## Awards Banquet is Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in O'Brien Hall

### From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

I want to thank all of you for your trust in electing me the new High Sky Wing Leader, and I will do my best to make the next couple of years safe, happy and profitable for the Wing. I also want to thank Gena and all the Wing staff and members for their hard work these last few years, including the "great move" into our new home.

As a bit of background, I joined the CAF in May of 1984 while living in Dallas and my home unit was then the DFW Wing, where I served as the XO, Ops Officer and eventually Wing leader before I moved to Midland in the early



1990s. I joined the High Sky Wing early on as a pilot and have served as the Operations Officer here for some time. My wife Pat is also a Wing member.

I'd like to welcome our newly appointed Operations Officer, Col Ronnie Jones, who has agreed to fill the remaining year of my term in that job. Ronnie has been a Wing member for a couple of years, is a private pilot and enjoys the challenges of keeping up with paperwork on pilots and planes. If you haven't yet met Ronnie and his wife Sharon, be sure to introduce yourself and welcome him to the Wing staff.

If we take stock of our Wing, we are really fortunate to have not only our new facilities, four flying CAF aircraft and several qualified pilots for all, plus money in our bank account and a continuing income from our bingo, dues and donations. We also have 170 or more Wing members, many of whom give generously of their time, energy and money. We are in very good shape as a unit, thanks mostly to you, the mem-

bers and our recent leadership and staff.

Col Steve "Jetboy" Bolin gives a very good summary of our finances, incomes and expenses for 2008 in his article in this newsletter. Thanks Steve!

We do face some financial challenges in the next couple of years, as we do not yet know what it will cost to operate the new Commemorative Center over a full year, and we have to pay our fair share of those costs in exchange for the space we and our planes and equipment occupy in the building. The Wing has donated not only significant money towards the finishing of the building but has added other value to it by providing the Wing's own furniture, fixtures and manpower to help operate the building.

The good news is that we are now fully functional in our new home and can get back to normal operations, supporting the goals of the CAF and enjoying ourselves in the process. Let's look forward to a great new year and continue to work and play together as a team and family. I encourage anyone who has a question or comment about the Wing to email or call me anytime. My cell phone is (432) 352-4258, home is (432)570-5914 and email is randy@rwebs.net.

Our next Wing event is the annual **Awards Banquet** on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> in O'Brien Hall upstairs in the Commemorative Center starting at 6:00 p.m.. Following that, we have a **Super Bowl party** on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 p.m.- details for both are later in this newsletter. We have worked out a deal with HQ to install satellite TV in two locations in the Commemorative Center, one in our Ready Room and one upstairs in the Gunfighter Pub, the later for use with rentals and other events. Just think how much more use we can get out of our Ready Room with a large selection of sports and other channels available.

We are changing Wing staff meetings to the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in our Ready Room. The change is to help some staff and other

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members that often are out of town on Thursday evenings during air show season. Wing members are welcome to attend staff meetings, as always.

I hope to have a new HSW web site finished in the next few weeks, and one of its features will be an online calendar of events that can be quickly updated by staff members and others. The new site will also have a history of the Wing and will feature a number of image galleries where we can post the many photos that members take of or planes and activities. With some help, I'd also like to have photos of all our Wing members available, perhaps in the member's only area, to help new and old members put faces and names together.

I feel that effective communications is an important part of making any volunteer organization succeed, and I promise to do my best to ensure that all our members are kept in touch with Wing news, events and activities, using our web site, newsletter, emails or whatever it takes. To do all this I count on your support and help, especially that of our Wing staff.

I look forward to working with you all these next couple of years and hope to see many of you at the Awards Banquet and Super Bowl party. Out for now.



Col Gena Linebarger being congratulated on being the new High Sky Wing Leader at the Awards Banquet in January 2005 by outgoing Wing Leader Ralph Gillette

## A Look Back

by Col Gena Linebarger

As I look back over the past 4 years several things come to my mind. First, where did the time go??!!

Second, we finally made the long awaited move into the Commemorative Center! Because of your continuous support, it's been a rewarding 4 years for me. I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your High Sky Wing Leader during this time. I think about how much time we've all spent together and what we've accomplished as a Wing. Each of you contributed countless hours and energy in support of our many fund-raisers.

The HSW team cooked, grilled, hosted and served many a meal, the last 4 years, in support of such events as Memorial Day, Open Houses, Saturday work parties and let's not forget AIRSHO, to name a few. These efforts all put money in the bank. You rallied before, during and after the move to the Commemorative Center. It was hard work both physically and mentally but this Wing has a can-do attitude that doesn't quit. The move did come with a price tag, thank you also for your financial support to cover expenses that turned into improvements: concrete for the Comm. Center, our wonderful HSW patio, air compressor, ice maker, security fences, window in the Ready Room, new furniture, new refrigerators, Paid the Rent Club, new members and the list goes on.

The CAF and HSW name also became more recognized as we flew Wing aircraft and member owned aircraft in support of more fly-ins and air shows than ever before. As I write this article, one thing becomes abundantly clear; none of these accomplishments could have taken place without you, the Wing Members. Your continued support, enthusiasm and passion for this organization have made the High Sky Wing a stronger and more valued unit of the CAF. I am proud to have been your Wing Leader, but more proud to be a member and part of the family of the High Sky Wing.

## Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Happy New Year from your Wing's XO.

Over the next few weeks, I'll be contacting potential speakers for our 2009 "Season". I'd like to thank the numerous HSW members who have given me people to contact. Stay tuned for details. Now, I'd like to take a few moments and recap the speakers we had come to the wing this past year. In February, Bob Keating spoke to us about his time piloting some of the "Century" birds. In March, Dick McFadden was our speaker. In April, Darryl James spoke to us about

his time flying the “Loach” helicopters during the Vietnam War.

After that, Percy O’Quinn spoke to us about flying P-51s for the 356th Fighter Group. While not a Wing event, later that month, for Memorial day, Keni Thomas spoke about living through the events surrounding the Blackhawk Down incident. Then, in June, we had our HSW Open House at our new home. Next, in July, Glen Brown spoke of his time piloting helicopters in Vietnam. AIRSHO preparations took us through the months of August and September when we had no speakers.

In October, HSW member and new Crew Chief for the B29/B24 Squadron, Dave Miller, spoke to us about the efforts to get FIFI flying again. After November, when we didn’t have a speaker due to Thanksgiving, Ed Fenner spoke to us in December about his time flying P-47s in Europe in WWII.

I hope everyone enjoyed the speakers who were so informative and entertaining in their talks this past year, and I hope to bring you more of the same as we enter 2009. As your XO, I always gladly consider any suggestions for future speakers at upcoming Wing meetings. I hope to see you at the Awards Banquet January 24<sup>th</sup> and be sure to join us in February for our first speaker of 2009. See you then.

## Turn & Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

Last year was another good financial year for the High Sky Wing. We’ll start with the big item; Bingo made the Wing \$46,800 and \$31,200 for the Museum. Now the smaller, but more important in my eyes, items; over \$23,500 was donated to the Wing this past year. General donations, our meal donation, paying the rent, aircraft, lounge, and Col David Linebarger was still bringing in donations toward the Commemorative Center. The AIRSHO Cantina netted over \$1,600, while Bill Stella was collecting \$1,052 in aluminum cans. Our new aircraft rides program brought in \$2,500. Our Wing dues, literally from around the world, earned us \$6,855.

Now for the expenses. The High Sky Wing spent over \$54,300 on outfitting and constructing the new Commemorative Center. This is divided between furnishing our new digs and setting up stuff for the building itself. If anyone would like greater detail, see me. Oh yeah, we paid rent too, \$8300 divided between the two hangars. We also paid to maintain and operate



Col Steve “Jetboy” Bolin in the L-39.

our assigned aircraft, \$2,800 in maintenance, \$12,200 in insurance, \$7,750 for fuel, and \$6,127 for ANUAC. Other normal day to day expenses round out our checkbook. (phone, garbage, etc.)

The good news is we currently have \$32,000 in cash in the bank. The aircraft accounts have over \$18,000 to maintain the aircraft. All of the big annual bills (Insurance and ANUAC) are already paid, and our most important asset continues to grow. I’m talking about our members. The individual members of the Wing are where we get our strength. Whether it’s on a Saturday, or the monthly meeting, or something special like the Super Bowl party. Come out and be a part of this wonderful organization. Come out and enjoy your Wing. But most of all, come out and let the other members get to enjoy you.

## Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

You may find a renewal notice included with this newsletter. Dues for our Wing are due at the beginning of each year, however if you joined the Wing at or after last year’s AIRSHO, you are considered paid for 2009. If you do have a question regarding your dues, please call Lauri Skinner at 553-2316.

In 2008 we received 30 new members for our Wing. I would like to challenge the Wing to meet or exceed this number for 2009! Through all of our efforts we can recruit and retain new members for both the CAF and the Wing. We have access to the best facilities in the CAF and I know we all want to share this mission with others. Remember, when you see a face you do not recognize, please introduce yourself.

**Don’t Forget!  
Your 2009 Wing Dues  
Are Now Due**

## As the Props Turn

by Col Ronnie Jones

I am very proud to be selected by the Wing Staff to serve as Operations Officer for the remainder of Col Randy's original term. I will serve to the very best of my ability.

A little personal history...I've worked for over 35 years in the oilfield – crude oil pipelines, to be exact. I currently work shift work in Plains Pipeline Co.'s Pipeline Control Center here in Midland. It's a rotating shift schedule, working 3 days one week and 4 days the next, while swapping between day and night shifts each week. The 'perk' of this job — 7 days OFF in a row each 28 day rotation! (This makes my wife, Sharon, jealous!!)

I earned my Private Pilot Certificate 3 ½ years ago and absolutely love everything about aviation. I joined the CAF, and then the High Sky Wing, just before AIRSHO '07 (Thank You, James Martin!). I firmly believe in the mission of our fine organization and look forward to serving.

One duty of the Operations Officer is to verify and document our pilot and crew member currencies in FAA and CAF ratings and status, namely, license, medical certificate, BFR (biennial flight review), etc. Documentation that ensures our compliance with CAF Regulations may never be checked or looked at, but it is very important. The Liability Release forms that are required to fly (pilots and passengers) in CAF aircraft must be signed (and witnessed) each calendar year.

I look forward to a safe and fun year for the High Sky Wing!

### *Keep 'Em Flying!*

## Awards Banquet

by Col Gena Linebarger

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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in O'Brien Hall at the CAF Commemorative Center. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. The catered menu consists of Ribeye steak, baked potato, green beans, rolls, dessert and tea. Cost is \$20 per person and may be paid in advance or at the door. The cost of the dinner is actually more per person but the Wing will pick up the overage, including gratuity.



Ronnie & Sharon Jones (left) joined Sarah & James Martin at last year's Awards Banquet. Please R.S.V.P. for this year's dinner as soon as you can.

Make checks payable to HSW. **RSVP** is needed by Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> to Gena at 528-0997 cell or by email at [iblast4fun@grandecom.net](mailto:iblast4fun@grandecom.net). Dress is casual. Consider bringing a guest/prospective new member with you to the banquet. Parking will be available in front of the Commemorative Center. Enter the Museum parking lot, turn right and drive through the open black iron gates located south of the CAF Headquarters Building. I hope to see everyone there!

## *Lest We Forget*

### CAF Winter Staff Conference

by Col Randy Wilson

The CAF Winter Staff Conference will be held on March 5-8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at the MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome in Odessa. This is the annual meeting of CAF unit leaders and staff officers from all over, and where new unit officers have a chance to meet the HQ staff members and learn how best to perform their unit staff jobs.

I encourage as many HSW staff and members as possible to attend and have a chance to learn first hand more about the national workings of the CAF. There is a registration fee of \$89.00 which does cover some meals and other events. A schedule for the conference should be released soon and included in the *On the Fly* emails from HQ. We will also post the schedule in the Ready Room.

## Super Bowl Party

by Col Lauri Skinner

The High Sky Wing will host a Super Bowl watching party on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 4:00 p.m. All Wing members, family and friends are welcome as are the staff of CAF HQ and the Museum.

We plan to have satellite TV available in the HSW Ready Room and also upstairs in the Gunfighter Pub, in case we have too many to comfortably seat in our room.

Bring your favorite football munchies and snacks. Soft drinks, water, ice tea and coffee will be provided and other beverages will be available. We have plenty of chairs, so there is no need to bring your own.

If you plan to attend, please try and let me know so we can have a rough head count. Come out and enjoy the party!

## A Kids Friendly Super Bowl

by Cols Randy Wilson

Last Saturday, we were discussing the Super Bowl party and the fact that several of our members had younger kids and how it would be nice to have a plan to keep the kids happy, occupied and safe during the party. Listening in was brand new Col Bob Wray, a neighbor of Col Steve Bolin's, who has a couple of kids aged 7 and 10, and Bob offered to help set up and coordinate a "Romper Room" during the Super Bowl party in the Briefing Room below the Gunfighter Pub, which has no carpet to soil. With three or so TVs set up to let the kids play video games and watch videos. Here are Bob's plans and I want to congratulate him on stepping up and taking this on.

## Activities for Kids

by Col Bob Wray

This year our Super Bowl party will include several activities for kids (big and small) in the Romper Room where kids can play games without interrupting the football watching and enjoy their own food and drinks with easy cleanup.

Planned activities include the following:

**Nintendo DS Multiplayer Games**

**Nintendo DS Pictochat**

**Nintendo GameCube**

**Nintendo Wii**

**Dance Dance Revolution**

**Movies**

If you have a Nintendo DS be sure to bring it. Also

bring your favorite DS games, a movie (DVD or VHS) or a GameCube or Wii game. Join my son Cristian Wray (age 7) for multiplayer Nintendo DS action. He will host the multiplayer games including *Kirby* and *The New Super Mario Brothers*. My daughter Cassidy Wray (age 10) loves multiplayer Nintendo DS Pictochat.

If needed, Cassidy and Cristian will help to initiate multiplayer use of your Nintendo DS or you can see instructions for this at the following site:

[http://www.nintendo.com/consumer/systems/ds/multiplayer.jsp#multi\\_pak](http://www.nintendo.com/consumer/systems/ds/multiplayer.jsp#multi_pak).

We will also have a two-player DDR dance-mat game (Playstation 1) and a GameCube system featuring the racing games of *Hotwheels Velocity X*. Col Randy Wilson has offered the use of their Wii.

**To ensure everyone has fun, stays safe, and that we keep the messes cleaned up, we ask that parents coordinate with each other during the party so that the Romper Room always has at least two parents supervising.**

Of course, kids are welcome to join their parents to watch the game in the Ready Room or upstairs. As we are all responsible for safeguarding the CAF carpet and facilities, we ask for your help in carefully supervising your child's consumption of food or beverage whenever outside of the Romper Room, and thoroughly cleaning any spills. Cleaning supplies will be available but keep in mind that some carpet stains are permanent.

## Combat Flight Simulators?

by Col Randy Wilson

In addition to all the great activities we are ramping up for our member's smaller kids, some of us bigger kids may get a chance to go head to head in multiplayer dogfights very soon.

The Museum has eight computers that are used solely for flight simulations for their Aviation Cadet Academy sessions. In the past, these computers had to be stored away between each academy but I was told by Clay Francell just recently that they have gotten permission to set these computers up in the Culpepper's Angels building, between the Commemorative Center and the CAF parts warehouse.

Clay has given the High Sky Wing members permission to use the computers to fly against one another using the various versions of Microsoft Combat Flight simulator they have. More info when this is set up but I got dubs on the Zero!!!

HIGH SKY WING - CAF  
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## Thanks from the Food Pantry

by Col H. A. Tuck

Just a note to the High Sky Wing expressing our deep appreciation for the canned goods and cash contributions which were made recently to the Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry.

The Pantry was open 49 weeks in 2008 and provided assistance to more than 11,000 Midland County residents who came seeking help. Please pass along our thanks to the always-generous High Sky Wing members for their continued support.

## AIRSHO 2009 Update

AIRSHO 2009 has been officially rescheduled for October 9-11, 2009 at the Midland International Airport. As always, High Sky Wing members play a big part in making AIRSHO a success for the CAF. If you are a new member, be sure to ask about the various ways to help out at AIRSHO.

## 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

Jan 24 - Wing Awards Banquet (6pm)

Feb 1 - Super Bowl Party (4pm)

Feb 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

### Note changed day & time

Feb 26 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

Mar 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Mar 5-8 CAF WSC

Mar 26 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

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**Awards Banquet is Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in O'Brien Hall**

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