



# The Flyer

July 2004  
Vol. Twelve, No. 7

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

On the Web at  
[HighSkyWing.org](http://HighSkyWing.org)

## Colorado City Fly-In

by Col Randy Wilson

On Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Col Bill Coomes and I had the rare treat of taking our wives (Elise and Pat) along to a fly-in in nearby Colorado City, as part of their 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Cols Deb and Myles Magness were also there and provided some of these photos, while the rest were taken by Pat from the back seat of 101X.



As we taxied in at Colorado City, we were warmly greeted by the crown and other aircrews. Our own Col Tom McKown (right) even helped marshal us in safely past the many planes and people lining the taxiway.



Col Elise Coombes give Pat the thumbs up from the back seat of their SNJ, while Bill gets ready to crank up. Bill says Elise is usually too busy to fly with him, however, she says he never asks her! I'm staying out of that one.



As I am straining to make sure we don't hit anyone or anything as we taxi in, Pat is in charge of PR as she waves from the back seat. Yes, the seat is all the way up!



My own Col Pat Wilson is not excited at all about getting to fly! She is obviously very talented with a digital camera, taking this self portrait while all strapped in and ready to go.



On the way home, Bill gives me the lead in 101 and hones his wingman skills (above). A big thanks to both Bill and Elise for their support of the Wing and CAF!

## From the Back Office

by Col Ralph Gillette

Well we are well into the summer. Not much going on at the hanger. Randy had the PT-19 at the big hanger for some rides for people going through the museum. According to the TV news, those that were lucky enough to hold the winning ticket had a good time. One lady said she always wanted to be a pilot and fly WWII planes, but wasn't sure about getting into the PT. Maybe it was Randy.

Bill and Randy did a good job in arriving at the FABB right on time for the Fourth of July fly-by. It sometimes happens. They don't always fly on CAF time. Got us some good press, which is something we can always use, not only for the CAF but our Wing.

Major item to come out of your staff meeting this month was the timing of the next Iron Eagle Clay Shoot. Assuming Windwalker farms has the date open, we plan to shoot on May 14<sup>th</sup>. According to Jeremy Linebarger, there have been several people ask about our next shoot, which is a very good sign.

We did decide, once again, to send 101X to Nelson Ezell shop to get the steerable tail wheel installed. Nelson has time, usually gives us a break on price, and always does an excellent job. Check the Operations article in this issue for details.

Our next Wing meeting is Thursday night, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Check the Exec's column for info on the program. In the mean time, remember we are stressing safety this year like never before. Please be careful out there and wear something CAF.

## Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

Once again it is time to make plans to attend the monthly Wing meeting. Since weather has not cooperated to give rides in our planes the last two months, once again we will try, so members and potential members should come out early, if they want to fly in the PT-19 or J2K, starting about 5pm.

We will be hearing from Col Jim Archer, one of our own Wing members, as our program, so mark your calendar, decide what food you're going to bring for dinner and join us July 22<sup>nd</sup> for another enjoyable evening.

## Iron Eagle Shootout a Success

by Col Gena Linebarger

The High Sky Wing's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Iron Eagle Shootout held on June 12<sup>th</sup> was a great success! Fourteen teams of sporting clay enthusiasts gathered at Windwalker Farms for a day of competition shooting, fun and surprises.

As a treat for the shooters and volunteers alike, we did what we do best; a two-ship fly-by of the SNJs, along with a strafing run and pyrotechnics, brought applause from the entire crowd. Thank you go out to so many people for their time and efforts spent in promoting and producing the event. Successful fund raisers don't just happen but with team work from many Wing members and adults and young men of Boy Scout Troop 233, we were able to return a profit of about \$5,100 to the Wing.

Plans are already underway for the next clay shoot event in 2005, with a target date in May. A special thank you to my son, Col Jeremy Linebarger for agreeing to chair next year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Iron Eagle Shootout.

Again, a big thank you to all High Sky Wing members for your tireless dedication and support for this event. Don't forget, all of these funds are to help Keep 'Em Flying!

## Sgt. Jason Skinner Heads to Iraq

We would like to wish Marine Sgt. Jason Skinner and his wife, Elizabeth, all the best as Jason reports to Twentynine Palms, Calif. as part of about 30 Amarillo-area Marine Corps reservists training for duty in Iraq. Many of you know Jason as the son of local Cols Lauri and Randy Skinner. Perhaps when Jason returns, he will share some of his adventures with all of us at a Wing meeting.

## CAF Summer Staff Conference

by Col Randy Wilson

We will have a full report on events and news from the recent staff conference and advisory board meeting. At the meeting, the CAF Nominating Committee announced the names of five Colonels for consideration for four available General Staff positions at the October elections. Nominated were Cols Gordon Stevenson, Graham Robertson, Ted Short, Doug Jeanes and our own Bill Coombes. More info at the next Wing meeting. Be there!

*Lest We Forget*

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## As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

It has been a fairly busy month, with our mission to Colorado City, featured on the front of this issue, followed by flying the PT-19, J2K and Col Dan Duewall's Starduster to Hobbs, New Mex. for their fly-in, in association with the New Mexico Wing.

Our SNJ is currently in Breckenridge, at Nelson Ezell's shop, having a number of maintenance issues resolved, plus getting the tail wheel steering modification installed. Hopefully the work will be finished and the plane back home early next month.

On Saturday, July 10th, we helped support the Museum's summer visitorship promotions by giving rides in our PT-19 to four lucky museum visitors. None had ever flown in an open-cockpit aircraft but everyone had a great time. One gentleman's comment over the intercom as we were on short final for landing was "This is too cool!"



Lucky Museum visitor, Mrs. Jo Lystad, gets help from Col Randy Wilson to buckle up in the back of our PT-19, as she prepares for her first open-cockpit flight.

One of our riders, Mrs. Jo Lystad of Stephenville, Tex., was kind enough to write a short article about her experience. The full article will be in a future museum newsletter but this excerpt gives a clue to her excitement.

*Of course, I had been a passenger before on many flights and had always wished I knew how to fly, but there is no way to compare a ride on a 747 with sitting in the passenger seat of this little wood and fabric two-seater. I even had been up in a small Piper trainer, but that was an enclosed plane. Here I was, ready to head into the wild, blue yonder with nothing over my head but the wild, blue yonder!! Off we went, on a clear, warm day in West Texas.*

*My heart may have been beating a little faster than usual, my breath may have been a little faster,*

*too, but nothing could have kept me from going up. We took off and made a gentle turn over I-20 and then on to get a bird's eye view of Midland. I know you can see a long way off as your driving along the highways of West Texas, but believe me, when you're up 1000 feet in the air the view never ends.*

Mr. Lystad was kind enough to forward a couple of photos of my helping his wife into the back cockpit of the PT-19 and her feelings after the flight was over. I was also very happy to report to Museum Director Tami O'Bannion that the four rides had cost her only 12 gallons of fuel!

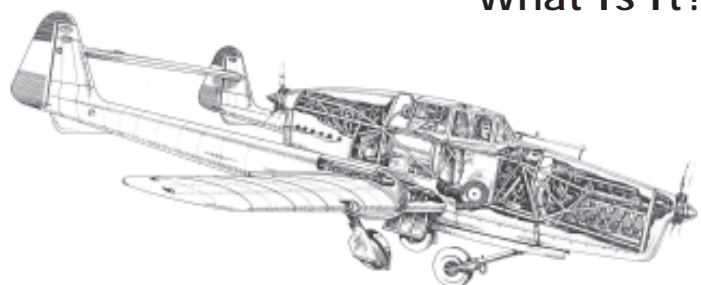


To say Jo enjoyed her ride is probably an understatement!

Since weather has prevented our giving rides to members, once again we will try to do this before the next Wing meeting, next Thursday. If you want to go for a ride in the PT-19 or J2K, show up early, starting at 5pm and we will try and get everyone who wants to fly into the air.

Please remember that you must meet CAF requirements to ride in our planes and also some physical requirements, including size and weight limits. See you at the meeting. Fly safe, y'all!

## What Is It?



HIGH SKY WING - CAF  
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Midland, Texas 79711-1064

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## Jumo 205 Diesel Engine

Last month's brain teaser was a drawing of a WWII German Jumo 205 diesel aircraft engine (photo below), rated 700 h.p. at 2500 r.p.m. A larger model, the 207, produced 1,000 h.p. and both engines were used in various models of the Junkers Ju 86 twin-engine medium bomber.



## High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Ralph Gillette  
Executive Officer: Ted Claussen  
Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell  
Finance: Bob Stine  
Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell  
Maintenance: Bill Coombes - 689-8359 home  
Safety - Don McCracken  
Hangar Phone: (432) 563-5112  
all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

## What's Happening & When

July 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)  
Aircraft rides start at 5pm  
Aug 5 - Staff meeting (7pm)  
Aug 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)  
Sept 2 - Staff meeting (7pm)

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**Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, July 22nd at 7:00pm in the Hangar**

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