



# The Flyer

July 2007  
Vol. Fifteen, No. 7

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

On the Web at  
HighSkyWing.org

## Wing Appreciation Day, Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>

### From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

The summer seems to be passing us by too quickly, with AIRSHO only 60 days out, and we have yet to have a summer event for our own Wing members. Well don't fret; the staff has proposed an event that will be fun for all!

Before unveiling the idea, take out your handy schedule of events calendar and let's make some changes for August. CANCEL the Wing meeting for Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Instead, we're having a **Wing Appreciation Day** on **Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the HSW Hangar. The focus of the day will be **"BOYS & THEIR TOYS"**.

I can already hear the comments flying... yes, women have "their toys" as well, and I expect to see them on the ramp to show off. The first rule for the event is – there are NO rules. Bring anything to the Hangar you want to show, it could be a plane, a car, a motorcycle, a helicopter, a flying RC, anything that makes you proud. Also remember to bring your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. It will be a great day of show and tell!

The Wing will provide all the hotdogs and watermelon you can eat. Come join us for a day extraordinaire. More details will be discussed at the Wing meeting on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Keep 'Em Flying!*

### Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

Our speaker at the July Wing meeting will be a friend of Col Tom Horton, Bob Propp, who parachuted into Normandy and other interesting places. Bob has a slideshow to go with his stories and plans on bringing some family and friends. Let's all come out to welcome our speaker and guests and don't forget to bring a covered dish to share for dinner.



Cols Elsie and Harry Hugly were recognized by B-29/B-24 Wing Leader Col Lyn Fite at our last meeting for their very generous donation to help the B-29 *Fifi* get back into the air. All are also High Sky Wing members.

### From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

"Summertime and the livin' is easy...unless you are trying to get the Tarbaby airborne!" So I began the July 2003 maintenance column...little did I know this would be an accurate lead sentence for a column in 2007! But, we are talking about the Tarbaby, so we probably shouldn't be too surprised. You might recall that during last year's annual, we discovered that Tarbaby had one low cylinder during the compression check. We decided to watch it for any further signs of distress. Surprisingly, the Tarbaby has done well this year, flying to Hondo and back (its longest ever trip) and other missions around the area with nary a burp. However, when Eric did the compression check this time, he found THREE low cylinders. He, Lance, and James have already pulled the engine off the airplane and are looking to see what we can do to fix the problem. (My contribution was to find the Ranger engine overhaul manual.) We have another engine and lots of parts, so I'm confident that we'll get her back

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in the air quickly.

The PT-19 came through the annual with no squawks (except we are lacking a crush washer for the main oil screen) so we have three of the four Wing airplanes up and going.

There are two more fly-ins to go to this summer, Pecos on August 4<sup>th</sup> and Monahans on August 11<sup>th</sup>, so get your bid in early for a seat in one of the planes. Many thanks go to Robin Donnelly and James Martin for taking their personal airplanes (in order to take more Wing members) to some of these past shindigs: I hope they will continue to do so.



Col Robin Donnelly and his Cessna 180 have helped carry High Sky Wing members to fly-ins and air shows in the last few months. Thanks for your support, Robin!

Local folks Ernie Webb and his wife, Ronnie Barnett and his bride, Lyn Fite and his wife, and Clay Francell joined with my mom and dad and Elise and me in Las Vegas for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary patriotic rally of the CAF. This event was simply first-rate: the only thing missing was more folks. I wish more of you could have gone, as the food was great, the hotel spectacular, the program speakers excellent; in short, a worthy event. I'm sure you will see more information about it in coming months. Oh, and the only thing that happened in Las Vegas that stayed in Las Vegas was some of my money!

I understand that our August meeting will be a special one, as we get ready for AIRSHO. Gena will talk more about that at the meeting this Thursday, so be sure to listen. I hope all of you have gotten your slates clear so you can help make our CAF 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary AIRSHO one of the best. If you are a new member and don't have a job yet, just wait: somebody will get to you!

## Turn & Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

Another slow month for finances at the High Sky Wing, just the normal bills coming and going. We did have a couple of interesting deposits this month though. General Colonel Coombes sent another donation to the Tarbaby, that was quickly spent when we discovered some (minor major) repairs needed on the engine. Blake Cowart was a man of his word, remember his pledge in January, and paid the rent for one more month. Thanks, Blake. Bill Stella continues to turn aluminum into greenbacks at the Recycle Midland plant. Keep up the good work.

Returning to a topic from last month, our most important resource are our members. As such, take advantage of your membership and share your wealth of knowledge with us newer Colonels. Come on out on Saturday mornings and spend 30 minutes or so. We really enjoyed Col. Wallace and Janie's visits over the last couple of years. There are so many of you that I know by name, but don't really know that well.

Our "Legacy" is not just the airplanes, but our people too. So come on out. Grab a rag, and wipe a leading edge for 5 minutes. Then, spend some time bringing us new guys up to speed on what it means to *Keep 'Em Flying*.

## As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As a quick update, yesterday (Saturday) our mechanical gurus dove into one of our spare Ranger engines and the spare parts obtained with the PT-19 from Col H. D. Butler, and think they have located enough parts to repair the Tar-Baby's engine, which, as Bill reported, was showing signs of some wear and tear. With Eric, Lance and James all pitching in to help, along with others of us who can at least clean parts or fetch tools, we hope the J2K will be flying again in the near future. Thanks guys for all your hard work on all the Wing planes.

Cols Eric Van Hoff and Sam Strahan have both been working hard to get their tailwheel currency and other time needed to qualify to fly some of our Wing planes, and we hope to see them flying with us as soon as all the boxes have been checked and paperwork handled. Just a heads up to the members of our Flight Evaluation Board (FEB) that we will need a meeting soon to visit with Eric and Sam, as per the regs.

Col James Martin will also be transitioning into

the Stinson 105 and Fairchild J2K in the near future — the Tar-Baby will obviously need to wait until the engine repairs are completed. I am very happy to report that the Wing's small fleet of planes should have an even larger but still excellent pool of pilots for the future. As always, my hat is off to all in the Wing who continue to help *Keep 'Em Flying*.

Also from Eric, I understand that Col Lance Sommers should be approved as a pilot in the CAF's Rides For Hire program very soon with Col Steve Bolin to follow, which will allow us to legally sell rides in the SNJ and PT-19 to the public for a fee. This will let us not only raise money to keep our planes flying but can also let us give rides to nonmembers who want to buy a ride in a warbird as a present or special event for a family member or friend. Once we are operating out of the Commemorative Center, this might become a significant part of the Wing's operations. Thanks to Lance for helping make this possible!

The next couple of local fly-ins are at Pecos on August 5<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) and Monahans on August 11<sup>th</sup>. We also have the Wing Appreciation Day or *Boys & Their Toys* event on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. If you want to fly along on any of our outings, please let us know — we also have a signup sheet in the hangar that you can use. As always, space is limited to the number of seats and the generosity of our Wing members who offer seats in their own aircraft. Thanks to all who make this a fun and flying Wing!



With three cylinders showing low compression at the start of the annual, the Tar-Baby's Ranger engine was removed and all six cylinders removed for inspection and repair. Fortunately, we seem to have enough spare and usable parts to repair the engine and get the J2K flying again before too long.

## More Photos on the Web

by Col Randy Wilson

I have to say that our Wing's website has become rather stale and out of date and want to replace it at some time with a new look. This will include a number of photo galleries and/or photo slide shows and even some videos — you can get a glimpse of a first draft of this section at <http://hswing.rwhome.net/>. This is hosted on one of my own test servers but will be incorporated into the new HSW site when I get a bit (or lots) more time.

If you have images related to the Wing or CAF in general and would like to share them with other HSW members, just email me and I'll be happy to help.

Images to post online do not need to be as detailed or high a resolution as those you want to print. If your digital camera allows you to shoot at 1024x768 pixels (sometimes called PC Mode), that is more than enough resolution, and I will in fact, shrink these down even further before putting them online.

## More Wing Events

- July 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)
- Aug 2 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)
- Aug 5 - Pecos fly-in
- Aug 11 - Monahans fly-in
- Aug 25 - Boys & Their Toys (11am-4pm)
- Sep 6 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)
- Sep 11 - AIRSHO Volunteer Dinner

### HSW cooks

- Sep 20 - Wing meeting (7pm)
- Sep 26-28 - HSW Cantina - **HSW cooks**
- Sep 27-28 - TraRon in Odessa
- Sep 28 - ACAHOF Dinner
- Sep 29-30 - AIRSHO 2007
- Oct 4 - Wing staff meeting (7pm)
- Oct 6-7 - Wings Over Houston AIRSHO
- Oct 25 - Wing meeting (7pm)
- Nov 3 - Wing staff meeting (10am)  
(Note change back to Saturday)

### No Wing Meeting in November

- Dec 1 - Wing staff meeting (10am)
- Dec 6 - Wing meeting (7pm)  
(Note change of date)
- Jan 5 - Wing staff meeting (10am)
- Jan TBA - Wing Awards Banquet

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

## Whatzit?

by Col Randy Wilson

Here is another mystery plane to challenge those of our members who like this sort of thing. As always, the answer will be provided at the next Wing meeting and in the next issue of the newsletter.

To keep things sporting, I have cropped out the national markings but left the other insignia. Enjoy.



## 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

July 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Aug 2 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Aug 25 - Wing Appreciation Day

*Boys & Their Toys* (11am - 4pm)

Sep 6 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Sep 20 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Sep 29-30 - AIRSHO 2007

**Next Wing Meeting is Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm at the Hangar**