



# The Flyer



July 2011 Issue, Vol. Nineteen, No. 7  
**High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force**  
On the Web at [HighSkyWing.org](http://HighSkyWing.org)  
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

## Next Wing Meeting, Thursday July 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr

### Loose Formation

by Col Mike Hedrick, HSW Leader

Like kids on a "sugar high" the members of the High Sky Wing have completed fourteen weeks of intense activity. Starting with the Andrews Fly-In on March 26th, our members visited fly-ins and airshows at Burnett, Fort Worth/Carswell, Abilene/Dyess, Hondo (Fredericksburg), Sweetwater/Annual Wasp Homecoming, CAF-HSW/Memorial Day Celebration, Slaton, Big Spring and Denton, with a return fly-by performance for the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce on July 3.

Is that all? Don't bet on it, Pilgrim! Don't forget hospitality fund raisers, on-going aircraft maintenance and restoration, pilot training/qualification, and the addition of the member-owned TORA-vintage Kate Replica. Still not impressed? Throw in the maintenance/operations complication of playing musical airplanes to accommodate event rentals in the Commemorative Center and Main Hangar.

So, what could possibly be left to do?

On Monday, July 25th, a handful of our members will be flying to Oshkosh in James Martin's Twin Beech and Steve Bolin's Barron.

Thursday evening, July 28th brings the Monthly High Sky Wing Meeting, with guest speaker Bob Landenberger, who will tell us about his service as a mechanic and armorer on B-24s in Europe, North Africa and the Mediterranean during WWII. Please help us give a warm welcome to Bob and his wife Lynn, and Jim Henry and his wife Paula. As always, this is a covered dish supper with beverages provided by the Wing. Come out for happy hour starting at 6:00PM and supper at 7:00, and bring your favorite salad, main course, vegetable or dessert.

The 26th Annual Cantaloupe Fly-In and Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, August 7th in Pecos, Texas. This event is remembered by our members as a cantaloupe bombing accuracy contest.



"Warp One Mr. Sulu!" James Martin found the lightspeed button on the way over to Big Spring, or at least that's the impression in this photo by H. A. Tuck who was in Bill Coombe's red Swift, a.k.a. *The Tomato*.

But wait, there's more!

Our very tired, overworked Maintenance Officer, Bill Coombes, and his faithful band of volunteers, whose numbers include Bob Keating, Lance Sommers, Brad Bond, Nathan Stubbs, Paul "Buffy" Cooper, Paul Latham, John Meyers, Jerry Perales, Bobby Meroney, Steve Bolin, Randy Wilson, Drew Diggins, James Martin, John Echols, Chris Aycock, Tom Kingon, Jim Moore, H.A. Tuck, Sam Stahan, and... (who have I forgotten?) now are faced with the task of preparing all of our aircraft for the second half of the season, to wit;

CAF AIRSHO, October 6-9

Laughlin AFB, October 15-16

Wings Over Houston, October 15-16

Fort Worth Alliance, October 22-23

Finally, on a very serious note, all of these fine volunteers need your help. We now have seven High Sky Wing aircraft to "Keep Flyin'", not to mention rolling stock that includes the Dodge Command Car, two tugs and golf carts, all of which need to be "rollin'" and in top shape by AIRSHO. If you will join us every Saturday morning and Tuesday and Thursday nights, regardless of whether you can turn a wrench or not, your presence and assistance will boost morale and lessen the burden of these miracle-workers. There are jobs available for every aptitude, from carrying water to re-assembling the T-28. You will

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have the privilege of working with men who have spent a lifetime performing mechanical magic on warbirds of every type, and the opportunity to get to know your fellow members, wives and children.

The High Sky Wing's membership and fleet is growing, and we are fast becoming one of the most active and important units in the CAF. I want to cordially invite you out to the Commemorative Center to participate in this historical aviation revival.



## Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Our guest speaker for the July 28, 2011 Wing Meeting will be Bob Landenberger. While many of us might know of Bob through the company he and Jim Henry founded, Henry & Landenberger, Bob also served in the Army Air Corps.

Bob provided the following bio:

He was born on May 6, 1923 in Olney, Illinois, and enlisted in the Army Air Corps in June, 1941, specializing in mechanics and armorer. After Pearl Harbor he was sent to England for a year, and later spent the same amount of time in North Africa and then Italy.

His military decorations and citations include: 5 Overseas Bars, Distinguished Unit Badge with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, European African Middle East Theatre, American Defense, One Silver Battlestar and one Bronze Battlestar.

Following his discharge on May 28, 1945, Bob went to O.U. in the fall of 1945 where he met Lynn, his wife of 64 years. He received his B.S. in Geology in 1950.

After college, Bob worked for several oil companies in Texas, and New Mexico prior to founding Henry & Landenberger with Jim Henry in 1969.

Finally, Bob tells us that he and Lynn have 6 children, 13 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

As your XO, I always gladly consider any suggestions for future speakers at upcoming Wing meetings, so let me know if you have someone you would like to speak to us. Please join us at the July Wing meeting and remember to bring a covered dish. See you then.

## Turn and Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

May, and the first half of June, have presented several interesting financial items to record. Our Memorial Day Lunch sold \$3588 worth of BBQ and Hot Dogs, and we spent \$1244 in supplies. This netted the Wing \$2344 towards our General operations. This is comparable to last year, but I understand we have several lunches worth of meat waiting to be thawed out. We were asked to honor Roger Clendenen's life and service to our country with a flyover prior to his funeral, and several members of his family honored us with donations. The notes that accompanied the donations were very poignant and moving. We lived up to our Commemorative name that day. Every member of the High Sky Wing can be proud of that duty.

More info on the Kate will come from other sections, but new member Don Hoffman has also put up the first \$1000 of the maintenance fund for that aircraft. Randy Wilson not only donated \$300 for some recurrency flying in the SNJ, but also gave a fighter checkride to a Southern California Wing member. Ken Nashimura donated \$490 for the use of the SNJ. Other expenses were of the normal variety, and the Wing is still in good financial standing. Even after designated funds are accounted for, we still have \$40,000 in the checking account. Jim Moore keeps asking, "When are we buying the next airplane?" I can't answer that question, but I know the members of the High Sky Wing will "Keep Em Flying." Thanks for your continued support. You keep earning and spending the money, and I'll keep tracking it. However, I'll never forget our most important resource and asset are the members that make up the High Sky Wing.

**Don't Forget!**  
**Hangar and Airplane Maintenance**  
**Tuesday and Thursday evenings**  
**6:00 pm**

## Membership Connections

by Col Patti Reakes-Collins

Memorial Day reminded me of why Brent and I chose the High Sky Wing as our Wing affiliation with the CAF. In a word, HOSPITALITY! You got it! The HSW shined once again and showed the public that we have a great group of people.

Cooking for Memorial Day started a month earlier with our cooks, Brent Collins and Blake Cowart, getting serious about smoking brisket. The actual day of the Memorial Day feed found the rest of the Pit Crew, Richard Cotte, Jerry Perales, and Chris Rutter, assisting Brent and Blake at the pit. Backing up the excellent brisket sandwiches on the serving line was the Inside Crew, H.A. Tuck, Tresa Bolin, Paul and Lanetta Cooper, Carolyn Cotte, Bruce and Susie Day, Drew Diggins, Ralph and Carol Gillette, Barbara Graff, Brenda Hansler, Chris Hedrick, Suzanne Agnew, Harry Hugly, Margaret Drennan, Mark and Ramona Russell, Nelson Schott, Bob Wray, and Joan and Bob Lothringer, providing assistance with food and drink preparation, serving, and the all-important cleanup. In addition, thanks go out to new members Jay Burns and Damian Barrett. I know I've missed some folks, both current members and newbies, and other family members who helped out. Please accept my sincere thanks to each and every volunteer.

The winner of the free ride in the Navion L-17 was Holt Stephens. Drew Diggins was the pilot. Bill Coombes and Randy Wilson did a great job with the Remembrance Seminar. And many thanks to our Formation Pilots at the opening ceremony and over the Ball Park in a Memorial Day tribute: James Martin, Bob Keating, Bill Coombes, Randy Wilson, and crew, along with "Devil Dog". Memorial Day was a huge success.

And last, but not least, welcome to our new members Don Hoffman, Duane Moreland, Chip Barker, Jay Burns, Nathan Stubbs, and Damian Barrett and his son, James.



Damian Barrett



Jay Burns



Nathan Stubbs

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

## On the Flightline

by Col Brad Bond

I don't know about the rest of you, but I am ready for fall, or at least cooler weather. When the temps reach 100 degrees in the shade, I personally want to stay indoors or head off to the pool and try to keep cool. But despite the heat, the HSW crew has come together to put together some great trips this last month.

We had several airplanes make it out to the Hondo airshow on Saturday, May 21st, with overnight stays at the Gillespie County Airport and the Hangar Hotel on both Friday and Saturday nights. Some minor mechanical issues kept a couple of the planes from making the hop over to Hondo and back for the airshow, but we still had a good showing with a couple of HSW airplanes and several member-owned airplanes able to make the show.

The HSW visited the annual WASP Homecoming at Avenger Field in Sweetwater on the Saturday before Memorial day and Slaton saw action on Saturday, June 4th, with a couple of airplanes at each show. In terms of numbers, the Big Spring Fly-in was our best yet, with all of the wing airplanes plus three member owned airplanes making the trip over for breakfast. More than half of the airplanes on the ramp that morning were from our group. The HSW brought home two awards from Big Spring with the Stinson being the oldest airplane, and one of our pilots reeling in the award for oldest pilot in attendance (Bob, I'll never tell!). Thanks to all of our pilots and crew members who have kept our planes flying out to these shows and supporting the mission of the CAF. Keep up the good work and let's keep the flying safe and fun!

See you out on the flight line!

## *Lest We Forget*

### From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

#### !!! Breaking News !!!!

The T-28 engine arrived on June 14, Flag Day. Yes, two weeks after they said it would be here in five days. The dusty old ghost in the corner of the maintenance bay will once again be in the spot light. Under the leadership of Bob Keating and Lance Sommers, with help from John Meyer, Nathan Suggs, Brad Bond, Paul Latham, John Paul Cooper, Jerry Perales, Drew Diggins, Chris Aycock, James Martin, Sam

Strahan (wait, that must be a mis-print), Bruce Day, Bobby Meroney, even Randy Wilson and I got into the act, the old engine is off the airplane, the prop is at the prop shop, and the accessories will be taken off the old engine and sent out for reconditioning/overhaul. I know it has seemed like the engine would never come, but now it has indeed appeared. If you want to come get your hands dirty again, we have stuff to do on the giant white airplane.

And speaking of airplanes, major kudos to new Wing member Col. Don Hoffman for his purchase and subsequent lease back to the CAF (meaning us in the HSW) of a replica Kate. Randy Wilson assumed the role of "aircraft coordinator" for the airplane and did all the negotiations between Don, ourselves, and CAF HQ. Randy did a fine job, and I think the resulting agreement will mean that the HSW can operate the airplane and "show the CAF flag" just as we do with our current fleet. The HSW staff will be looking at the agreement and I'm sure Wing Leader Hedrick will be speaking more on this subject at our Wing meeting. Far be it for me to pass along rumors, but a little bird told me that Col. Hoffman was mighty interested in acquiring a Tora Zero as well....

Since my last effort at writing, we've taken the airplanes to Fredericksburg/Hondo, then to Slaton, and most recently to Big Spring for their annual fly-in breakfast. I'm proud to say that the HSW made a "maximum effort" for the Big Spring event, with five of the Wing-assigned airplanes and four privately owned airplanes making the journey. Thanks to the pilots of the Wing birds, real Colonel Keating, CAF colonels Sommers, Strahan, Diggins, Bolin and Bond, and the colonels who flew their own airplanes, CAF colonels Martin, Donnelly, Wray/Echols, and Coombes. According to the airport manager, "you CAF guys make this event for us!" Watch for pictures, as I had H.A. "I'm glad it's digital" Tuck in my airplane pulling the trigger on his camera pretty much non-stop.

We are fixin' to have to do some annuals (on both Fairchilds) and we have some on-going maintenance issues to address on the SNJ, as well as some work on the Kate. In other words, there are plenty of tasks before us. We need about ten more hands out working not only on the airplanes, but on the vehicles. Jerry Perales did yeoman work to get the tugs in better repair, but he will be hors d'combat due to surgery on his thumb, so I really need folks to pitch in on the rolling

stock. We're out there every Tuesday and Thursday evening, plus Saturdays, so make some room in your schedule and venture out to join us. The work isn't too hard and the camaraderie is first-rate.

Until I see you at the hangar, righty-tighty, and lefty-loosey.

## Don't Forget! Your 2011 Wing Dues Are Now Overdue



Formation Flight to Big Spring Fly-In: James Martin flying lead in his Twin Beech, Drew Diggins and Bob Keating in the L-17 Navion, Lance Sommers in the SNJ, and Bill Coombes with intrepid photographer H.A. Tuck in the red-winged Swift.

Right break over McMahon-Wrinkle Airport



Re-Formed formation



Waiting patiently for the pancake eaters, Robin Donnelly's Cessna LC-126

HIGH SKY WING - CAF  
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**High Sky Wing Elected Officers**

Wing Leader: Mike Hedrick - 638-6552 cell  
Executive Officer: Rick Peterson  
Adjutant: Patti Reakes-Collins  
Finance: Steve Bolin  
Operations: Brad Bond  
Maintenance: Bill Coombes  
Safety - Bobby Meroney

**HSW Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581**

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

**What's Happening & When**

July 28 - Wing Meeting (7pm)  
Happy Hour (6pm) Supper (7pm)  
Speaker is Bob Landenberger, ComCtr-OBrien Hall  
August 4 - Staff Meeting (6:30pm),  
HSW Ready Room  
August 7- Pecos-Cantaloupe Fly In &  
Pancake Breakfast  
Every Saturday morning & Tuesday/Thursday nights  
Hangar and Airplane Maintenance

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**Next Wing Meeting, Thursday July 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr**

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