



The Flyer

June 2002
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 915-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org



dinners and David Linebarger got Bosworth to come through with five \$50.00 certificates for service.

We mentioned during the last wing meeting that we seem to fill all the spots available to play in the tournament without too much trouble. It is the sponsorships that really pay off with big dividends to the wing, so if you have any ideas on who we might approach for help, like Ed McElrath suggesting Guy W's Harley Shop, let one of the committee know and we will be glad to follow up. Sponsors are all recognized with signs along the course, as shown in these photos from last year.

Annual Memorial Golf Tournament set for Friday, September 13th

by Col Ralph Gillette

Plans are coming together very nicely for the 10th Annual High Sky Wing Roy Green Memorial Golf Tournament. We held our second organizational meeting Tuesday, June 4th and it looks like we have a good start on our plans.

Hogan Park is the venue as usual and they will do the catering. The cap design was approved and is on order. Raffle items have been chosen, with a leather bomber jacket donated by Ernie Webb as the number one item. We also have several gift certificates for



As a matter of information, Dan Linebarger is chairing the effort again this year with a little help from his friends, Bruce Wallace, Blake Cowart, Becky Carter, David and Gena Linebarger, Randy and Lauri Skinner, Ernie Webb, Jim Moore, Mary Alice Tidwell, Randy Wilson, Ralph Gillette and Linda Bradshaw, who is Dan's chief antagonist and the real chairman of the committee.



From the Back Office

by Col Blake Cowart

As the temperatures rise, don't let that lower your interest in coming out to the hangar on Saturdays or to our monthly meetings. This month's gathering will be of significant interest to all members of the Wing. As mentioned in the Executive Views column, our speaker will be the architect for the TXDoT hangar project. As the Staff is reviewing options for our future home, feedback from the membership will be needed and desired. Please try and attend.

Nominations for individual awards are due at headquarters on July 15th. These are the citations given during the General Membership meeting at AIRSHO. If you would like to submit a nominee from our Wing, please contact me or Lois Harrington. Lois chairs the awards committee and may be reached at 694-2332.

Gregg and Lee Bell Ulvestad, in conjunction with Boy Scout Troop 175 invite all Wing members to attend the Eagle Court of Honour of their son Erik as he will become an Eagle Scout. Erik's Eagle project was to refurbish the garden area of the Wing last summer. The project turned out very well given the efforts of a few Wing members and fellow Scouts from the Troop. The Court of Honour will be held on Saturday, June 22, at 6:30 P.M. at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The address is 2104 W. Louisiana in Midland, with a reception to follow.

I wish to remind each of you that the Summer Advisory Board meetings have been scheduled for July 20, 2002, at the Holiday Inn Center in Odessa. Conference activities for the general membership begin at 6 p.m. on Friday with a social hour and dinner. The Saturday meetings are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you all and please try and bring a friend to the meeting on the 20th as we need to recruit new members.

Executive Views

by Col Ralph Gillette

Memorial Day 2002 dawned somewhat murky and threatening. It looked like rain all morning and we did get some in the evening, but for the midday observance at the Commemorative Garden at headquarters, it was beautiful. The turnout was beautiful too. Blake said he gave out all his 300 poppies to people coming to the ceremony and there wasn't a vacant chair in the 160 plus that were set up.

I had the opportunity to emcee the program this year and I believe it went very well. The Reverend Allen Whitman was our speaker and he, being an infantryman from WWII, was able to get across the meaning of the day. The Sun Country Gentlemen had everybody on their feet for the Star Spangled Banner and later brought them up again as they did a medley of service songs.

I was very impressed with the closing this year. The Sun Country Gentlemen sang God Bless America, which had everybody teary eyed, then we had Taps played from in the garden, and Randy had Bill make the fly-by and pull out just as the last echoes of Taps finished. All in all, I think it was a great way to remember those who gave so much for what we now enjoy.

Last month we had a somewhat unstructured meeting, leaving time to talk among ourselves and get back into "Wing Things". Our meeting this month is back to the potluck theme. Our speaker will be Rodney Roberts who is the architect doing the preliminary work on the new TXDOT hangar. He has promised to give us a short version of the type of design he is working on and then answer questions from the wing members.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

The "Tarbaby" saga continues, again with apologies to Joel Chandler Harris.

....and den dat ole debil TIME raised up its ol' gray haid and says 'when you gonter fly, Tarbaby?' An dat is when the good ol' boys at de High Sky Wing gother 'round and say, we gots to spend some moneys iff'n de Tarbaby is eber gonter have dem ole wings covered and dat der tail covered and stuck back on de hindend of de fuselage. So dey decide to hire fo' to work anudder A&P man name o' Rodney Jackson, and he gonter be de saviour of de Tarbaby, cuz he gonter work all summer and gets dem ol' wings fixed right up.

Uncle Jim Moore and Couzin Bill Coombes been out gatherin' up de pieces and de parts what wuz down at de college, and dey been orderin' some new fabricy cloth to stick on my wings, and, at de nex meetin' of de High Sky Wing, dem two gents should ought to have a schedule of when folks what is interested can come out to hep ol' Rodney.

I sho'nuff hope that dis plan work so dat I can fly like a birdie come Airsho time!

Yes, indeed, progress is needed on the F-24, and the staff has voted to hire Rodney Jackson, formerly the lead mechanic on the B-29, to do the necessary fabric work on the tail assembly and on the wings, and reassemble the airplane. Money for this is already in the aircraft account at HQ, so for awhile we will not need to worry about funding for the restoration of the airplane. However...

At some point we are going to have to spend money to finish the project. I would guess that we are looking at a minimum of \$10,000 over and above what is in the aircraft account. Fortunately, the SNJ is not, at this moment, in need of significant maintenance, but that situation could change: with airplanes one never knows. Thus, we are going to have to think again of what I consider our **FIRST PRIORITY: to maintain, in flying condition, as a living memorial to the members of the "Greatest Generation" the aircraft of WW II.**

Every project we involve ourselves in, every fundraising effort, from the golf tournament to special seminar dinners to hangar rentals, should begin with that understanding. I am unalterably opposed to spending money needlessly on **anything** besides the airplanes, and I am opposed to asking members for money for **anything** other than the airplanes. To that end, I am making another \$100 donation to the Tarbaby account: if you are able, will you join me?

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find out that our special guest for this month's meeting is Rodney Roberts from Sturgeon Construction, the folks who will be designing and building the new TXDOT-funded hangar. He will be presenting some information about the configuration of the facility, including our proposal

to be considered as a part of the building.

At this point, my impression is that everything we asked for (lockable area, kitchen, meeting room, lounge, offices, storage, etc.) can be included. Assuming this is true, I am firmly convinced that being a part of that facility is the best thing for the High Sky Wing. I hope that everyone who is interested in the possible future home of the Wing will come to the meeting.

We will be flying over downtown Midland for the 4th of July celebrations, once in the morning and once in the evening: see me or Randy if you are interested in going for a ride. See you Thursday night, and remember, righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

The CAF ramp was busy a couple of weeks ago, as the Arizona Wing's B-17 *Sentimental Journey* blew a cylinder on the No. 1 engine while doing some pilot requalification. If you don't believe that the cylinder really "blew", just take a look at the photo on page 4. Fortunately, the crew was able to truck in a spare engine and resume their summer tour a few days later.

As you probably know, the theme of AIRSHO 2002 is *Barnstormers and Black Sheep*, and two modern-day barnstormers just happened to fly their NuWaco (left) and 1928 Travelair (right) biplanes into MAF to visit our museum. Naturally, Col Bill Coombes greeted the pilots, Art Annecharico and Dan Murray, both from Colorado, and invited them to come back and participate in the show next October.

The SNJ has had its ignition problems fixed, and next month I'll include a list of shows and events we hope to attend this summer. Fly safe, y'all.





Strange place for a piston! See page 3.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Blake Cowart - 528-1344 cell
Executive Officer: Ralph Gillette
Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell
Finance: Bob Stine
Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell
Maintenance: Bill Coombes - 689-8359 home
Safety - David Linebarger

Hangar Phone: (915) 563-5112

all numbers are Area Code 915 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

June 20 - Wing meeting
July 2 - Wing staff meeting (rescheduled)
July 18 - Wing meeting
July 20 - Summer Advisory Bd. Meeting
Aug 1 - Wing staff meeting
Aug 15 - Wing meeting

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, June 20th at 7:00pm in the Hangar

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