



# The Flyer



June 2009 Issue, Vol. Seventeen, No. 6  
**High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force**  
**On the Web at HighSkyWing.org**  
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

## Next Wing Meeting is Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. in the Hangar



Col Lance Sommers gives a ride for hire in our PT-19. The rides program continues to grow and help fund our planes.

plan is to make a new nose bowl later this year but reinstall the old one with some repairs to get the Stinson back in the air soon. Thanks to Cols James Martin, Bob Keating and others for their hard work on this.



Lead by Col David Linebarger, Cols Steve Bolin, H. A. Tuck and Bill Coombes worked to install a new walkway onto the patio area. The small tractor is courtesy of Col James Martin and his Dad and made it possible to have the area ready to be hydro mulched last week. By the time of the Wing meeting, we should start to see some grass! Please do not walk on or drive on the grass area.

## From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

Hopefully, we are finally off and flying for this year's air show and fly-in season. Despite weather that kept the PT-19 from going to the Denton air show last Saturday, the SNJ, flown by Lance Sommers, and James Martin's Cessna 195 made the show to represent the High Sky Wing. The previous Saturday, the PT-19 and Cessna 195 attended the Denver City fly-in and sold a ride in the PT-19 while there. Three rides in the SNJ were sold on Memorial Day at CAF HQ.

Great job to all working on promoting our rides for hire program, including Cols Bob Wray and Mike Hedrick, and pilots Lance Sommers and James Martin and everyone who has worked hard to keep 'em flying. Keep up the good work guys!

While the SNJ and PT-19 are flying, the Fairchild J2K is in the paint shop, having some fabric repairs painted. Once that is done, the tail surfaces will be re-installed and the plane should be airworthy again. The Stinson 105 is waiting the finish of its annual inspection and the making of a mold for its nose bowl. The

Other members have provided a lot of labor to our facilities recently. Col Blake Cowart brought a team out to clean the Ready Room carpet and wax the galley floor. Col David Linebarger installed lights under the bathroom extension in the hangar and also installed a number of overhead fans on our patio area. David also installed the sprinklers for our soon to be grass area and was also the lead in getting paving stones and edging stones laid this last weekend. David also provides a lot of unseen help and maintenance on various fixtures and appliances in the Commemorative Center, so please be sure to thank him and the others for their support of the Wing and CAF.

I'd like to clarify the *I Wanna Fly* list's use a bit as I must admit to a bit of confusion about it myself.

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Basically this list is for unscheduled local flights such as maintenance and proficiency flights. The idea is that when such a flight is going to happen, the pilot or another person will call the first name on the *I Wanna Fly* list until he finds a member who can make it out to our hangar to ride along on the flight. However, for scheduled flights to fly-ins and air shows, the list is not used, and coordination for riders in the planes is the responsibility of the person organizing or leading the flight.

Col Sam Strahan has been helping with these chores for air shows in the past, and Col Ronnie Jones, our Operations Officer, is another person to contact about riding along to fly-ins. We try and announce by email and in our events calendar who will be flying each of our Wing planes to events, so you can always contact the pilots directly if you are unable to determine if a seat is available.

In other news and changes, Col Ed McElrath has chosen to step down from his management of our Ready Room and pursue other activities in the Wing. Please be sure to thank Ed for his several years of service ensuring that our refrigerators and cabinets have been kept well stocked for members' use and enjoyment. Col David Donnell has agreed to take over some of the stocking chores but we should all be responsible for the cleanliness of the area and also for acting as hosts behind the bar when visitors are present. Thanks to David for stepping forward and taking charge.

We are investigating having an RO water system installed for washing our planes. This will require a large 160-gallon tank and other equipment but will cut down the need to hand dry the planes and save a lot of time. It would also give folks something to do some Saturdays and help keep our planes looking good as representatives of the CAF and HSW. More news on this as it develops.

If you haven't yet tried out our online HSW Events Calendar, you are missing out on one of the best ways to keep current on our plans for Wing events, fly-ins and air show participation. A link to the calendar is on the home page of our [website](#). Just click on an event for basic information or double-click on it to get more detailed information, including, when known, what planes are flying to an event and who the probable pilots of each will be. After an event has happened, I try and write a short report of the event in the details area. Don't forget you can get an online version of this newsletter in color from our website, too.

## Member Appreciation Meeting

by Col Randy Wilson

This month's Wing meeting is Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> in the hangar and will feature some special Wing member appreciation events, including rides in our Wing aircraft. We will start the rides for members at 4:00 p.m. to give plenty of time for those who haven't ridden in a Wing aircraft or haven't for some time to get a chance to fly. We will also have the patio area set up for plane watching, with the new fans to help cool the area and some period music available so come out early and enjoy a relaxing evening at the Wing.

We will also have some videos and slide shows running in the hangar, with images of HSW activities and members from the last several years. I'm sure there will be a few stories to embellish some of the images, too!

The dinner will be as usual, with each member asked to bring a covered dish or favorite deli item to share with all, however for this meeting, there will be no donation required for dinner. Please plan to come out and enjoy our great facilities and the camaraderie of our members and their families. Feel free to bring a friend or other guest. I look forward to seeing you and perhaps giving you a ride!

## Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

For this month's Wing Meeting, we are going to be doing something a bit different. We are having a "Wing Appreciation Meeting", as a way of thanking everyone who's worked at getting the planes, the building, equipment or even the grounds, up and running. As such, there won't be a guest speaker, or even a formal Wing Meeting.

This has been discussed at the last couple of staff meetings and the idea is: "Rides, Food, Drinks and Camaraderie". We'll be doing all of those at this month's meeting, and, with the new members we've been adding recently, it'll be a good chance to meet them.

Also, we're working on having period music (Big Band and 40s) as well as video or a continuously-running slide show of recent pictures taken of Wing personnel and activities.

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 June Wing meeting and remember to bring a covered dish. See you then.



Our speaker last month, Bob Lothringer, who told of his service on some of the largest and some of the smallest ships in the Navy during Vietnam.



Yours truly at the controls of the Martin family tractor, working to prepare our area for grass. James warned me that the tractor had no padding on the seat, and after a couple of days bumping back and forth over the rocks and dirt, I can attest to that statement! Oh, my aching...

## Turn and Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

Your Wing's finances continue to be on very solid ground. May and the first part of June have continued that trend. The Wing's ride program is literally taking off! (Pardon the pun.) There were four SNJ rides sold in May (3 at the Memorial Day festivities), and one PT-19 ride sold at Denver City on June 13<sup>th</sup>. These rides should be able to make all of the Wing's aircraft self sufficient in the long run, as well as providing extra cash for the Wing. Bingo continues to bring in a share of income as well as the aluminum can sales.

Income for the month was just over \$7,500 and expenses (including a \$3,600 insurance payment) were \$6,300. Another positive cash flow month. As of June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Wing has \$61,693.72 in the checking account, with about another \$900 to be deposited. I need to plan a trip to Vegas.



CAF Blastards members and also High Sky Wing members were featured on the Whiteman AFB website for doing the pyro for their recent show. Left to right, Cols Rhonda & Patrick Burke, Lauri & Randy Skinner and Gena & David Linebarger. Whiteman is the home of the B-2 bomber and several got a chance to fly the B-2 simulator. How cool!



Attack of the Spiders! No, just the *Tar-Baby* masked off in preparation of some paint work on the belly.



Col Rick Peterson and daughter Hannah with face paint at the Memorial Day events at CAF HQ.

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



The winner of the drawing for a ride in our PT-19 on Memorial Day was Joana Neal, who gave the ride to her husband Ronnie. When pilot Col Chris Aycock asked Ronnie if he had ever been in an open cockpit plane before, his answer was "well, if you count being in the back of Huey in Vietnam with the door open and not even belted in". Chris's answer was "You will do fine!". We hope Joana and Ronnie will come back and visit us at the High Sky Wing and perhaps join us for more adventures.

### 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

June 25 - Wing Meeting (4pm) with  
 Aircraft Rides & Member Appreciation Events  
 June 27 - Hobbs, NM Fly-in  
 July 4 - Colorado City Fly-in  
 July 7 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)  
 July 23 - Wing meeting (7pm)  
 Aug 2 - Pecos fly-in

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