



# The Flyer



June 2010 Issue, Vol. Eighteen, 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, Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCenter

### From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

We plan to move our Wing meeting, next Thursday, to O'Brien Hall to get out of the heat for our dinner and program. We will need to be sure to clean up well after our meeting, as the room and tables will be used by a rental on Saturday. We also hope to be able to give member rides in some of our planes before the meeting, if the weather and heat aren't too bad. As always, the social hours starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. followed by our program. Please remember to bring a covered dish or favorite deli item to share will all for dinner. Also, don't forget that spouses and friends are always welcome.

Details on our speaker, a report on our finances and news about our planes are provided in the rest of this newsletter. I would like to remind everyone that we now have a pledge form available for the assignment of the North American T-28A. If you are interested in pledging towards the plane for the Wing, please contact Col Chris Aycock, or you can get a form online from a link on our home page at <http://highskywing.org>. Your Wing staff needs to be sure that we have adequate sponsorships and other pledges to be able to accept the T-28A and return it to airworthy status without use of existing Wing funds.

Last weekend, Cols Lance Sommers and James Martin flew the SNJ and SNB (Twin Beech) to attend the Denton air show. The slow movers, our Stinson and J2K (Tar-Baby), attended the Snyder breakfast fly-in with pilots Col Randy Wilson and Steve Bolin. They came back with trophies for the second and third favorite planes at the fly-in! Thanks to all in our Wing who work so hard to keep all our planes not only airworthy but also clean and good looking. By flying our planes to these fly-ins and air shows, the High Sky Wing helps to show the flag for the Commemorative Air Force and **Keep 'Em Flying!**

In other recent happenings, last Monday the Wing provided lunch for about 100 members of a classic car club that toured the museum in the morning and wanted to eat lunch before continuing their tour to Amarillo and Colorado. Col Mike Hedrick volunteered to do another fajita lunch and recruited his two sons, Alex and Chris, to help set up and cook. An early accounting shows that the Wing made between \$500-600 after expenses. Being a Monday, special thanks to all who helped out, including H. A. Tuck and Tresa Bolin who ran the kitchen, Steve Bolin for being the money man, Bill Coombes and James Martin for helping where and as needed. If I've forgotten anyone, my apologies.

On Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, we have been asked to do a fly-over for the All Star games hosted by the Rockhounds. Time over target is 6:58 p.m. and we would like fly the SNJ, Twin Beech, Stinson and J2K, if we have pilots available. More on that shortly.

Check the rest of the newsletter for photos by Col H. A. Tuck related to all of the above, and I hope to see a lot of you next Thursday for the Wing meeting. As always, call or email me if you have any questions about the High Sky Wing.



Col Steve Bolin with the trophy for the Fairchild J2K (Tar-Baby) as the third most favorite aircraft at the Snyder fly-in last Saturday.

Our Stinson 105, flown by Col Randy Wilson, was the second most favorite aircraft at Snyder.



## Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Joining us as our guest speaker for the June 2010 Wing Meeting will be Darrell Sanders, who was a Cobra pilot in Vietnam.

Darrell was drafted in 1967, and did some of his training at Stewart AFB in Savannah, GA. After completing his training, he later flew in IV Corps, and his group was the only one to fly aerial weapons in all of IV Corps.

Darrell tells us that the Bell Cobra AH-1 gunship was still newly deployed at the time he flew it, and that as a result, many aspects of its use were determined on the fly. Now in Midland, Darrell works at the Museum, and is also Wing Leader of the CAF Desert Squadron.

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.

## Turn and Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

May was a very interesting month for the Wing financially. We realized the potential that our membership can bring to the table in many ways. Our hospitality, as the home unit, provided lunch and fellowship to the B-24/B-29 Squadron during their ground school weekend. We were rewarded with donations for lunch, a few new members, and a special gift from an out of town member of both Wings. For a little of your time, we realized over \$800.00 for the Wing.

We celebrated with the Blastards their new unit status. Many were on hand at the Wing meeting to donate a sponsorship of the L-17 Navion. Most are also High Sky Wing members, who blow things up for our benefit. Thanks to David, and all the Blastards, this \$1,500.00 will help get and keep the L-17 flying.

Lance took the SNJ to Sweetwater for the WASP Museum celebration. He sold 3 rides there. That, along with his donation of some of the fuel, more than paid for the trip. We supported another Veteran organization, kept our aircraft flying, and made a little money to spare. But wait, we're not finished there. Drew and Mike were selling rides at the Memorial Day lunch too. Four rides were sold that day. Our rides sales for May were \$1,760.00.

The Memorial Day celebration was really a total

success. So many of our members, and families, came out to help cook, set up, answer questions, clean up, etc., etc.

After all was said and done, we netted over \$2,800.00 for the lunch alone. Thanks to everyone who helped on this event. It really does show what we can do together.

As for expenses, most of the normal expenses for running the Wing stayed the same. Repair and Maintenance of the aircraft ran \$971.00 for the month. However, the bottom line was a net income of \$4,828.29 for May.

Finally, we renewed or joined up 15 new members during May. Thank you all for talking care of our most important asset; our members.

## From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill "Parking Lot" Coombes

Work, work, work, that is all we seem to do these days, and then many of us are coming out to "work" on the High Sky Wing's fleet of airplanes. I guess what we do could be called therapy: I know we have a good time out there telling lies and listening to Bob Keating's masterful rendition of selected profanities from his military career, plus we are making significant progress in keeping the airplanes in the air. I want to encourage any of you who wish to help out to come out. I can find something for you, maybe not a glamour job, but one that has to be done. Willingness to get dirty and the ability to follow instructions will qualify you to do about 75% of what we need done in the maintenance area, so don't be shy. Mondays and Wednesdays are our "work evenings" and we would love to see you.

Much progress has been made on the L-17, which, thanks largely to Paul Cooper and Bruce Day, is shining like a newly minted nickel. With leadership provided by Bob Keating and James Martin, the Navion is on her gear, with new fuel tanks and hardware and moving toward flying status. Paul and Bruce have taken over the buffing/polishing lead and I exercised my lone talent as operator of the rattle-can paint shop, while Drew Diggins has provided significant help and some comic relief as the pieces start going back on the airplane. We are looking at its first "public debut" to be the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Colorado City fly-out: again, come out to help us get her going. The B-29'ers think they are the only ones with a fancy silver airplane to get back in the air! And remember, sponsorships are available

and encouraged, with no contribution too small. Sponsors can help select the nose art that we put on the cowling, so step up with some cash and be thinking of what flavor pin-up you want to see.

The Stinson is back up and going, with Bob and James solving the brake problem which may have been an issue that the notorious Col “Corn Pucker-tips” Aycock had to deal with earlier in the spring. The Tarbaby hums along, with no significant problems, and, thanks to Lance, the SNJ now sports more battery power than the city of Presidio as we attempt to guarantee there will be starting power when we are preparing to give rides. Thank you Lance and Bob for your innovative approach to our lack of amps: I bet we are the only kids on the block with that arrangement!

Several of you have asked about the PT-19. Well, my plan was to complete the Navion and move her out of the maintenance bay before we pull the engine from the PT-19 but this changed, and work started on pulling the engine last night. We have received the new cylinders and can now start work. The actual rebuild of the engine will require the efforts of our most experienced wrench-twisters, Keating, Martin, and Sommers, but others can lend a hand as tool runners and cheerleaders. I will help by reading the maintenance and repair manual (inside joke). If all goes well we should have the PT up and going in time for AIRSHO.

Finally, please tell the guys who I’ve mentioned in these columns over the past several months “thank you” for all the hard work they are doing. We simply could not afford to operate the number of airplanes we operate if we did not have such wonderfully dedicated and skilled wrench-twisters. It is a privilege to work along side them all.

Until the Wing meeting, remember, lefty-loosey, righty-tighty.

## Safety’s Edge

by Col Bobby Meroney

The heat is on! Summer is here and so are the high temps. Be careful out there. Be sure to use sunscreen if you are working outside and also drink plenty of water

Inside with limited ventilation can be just as hazardous, so always remember:

- Use plenty of sunscreen or sun block
- Drink plenty of water
- Take frequent breaks to cool off
- Always keep an eye on your fellow workers and folks around you. Heat related illness can affect a person very quickly before they can realize it.



Just a few of the classic cars that stopped to visit the museum and have lunch last Monday.



Col Mike Hedrick and sons Alex and Chris did a great job cooking. Below, Cols Steve Bolin and Bill Coombes take money and hand out plates.



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## Meeting Videos Online

As promised, video of the special meeting with CAF President Steve Brown earlier this month is now online on the CAF web site. Just look for a link on the home page at <http://commemorativeairforce.org>.

I encourage those who were not at the meeting but still have questions about the actions between the CAF and museum earlier this year to view the video. It is broken into a number of segments and is rather long, as was the meeting. Please note that this is on the public web site and can be viewed by all, including non-members. This is really unprecedented in the history of the CAF, and I hope it will help all understand the desire of the CAF administration and the General Staff to share the events that led up to this conflict in full and in public.

On a lighter note, if you view the next to the last video, you will understand why Col Bill Coomes has acquired his new call sign of "Parking Lot"!

*Lest We Forget*

## 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: Chris Aycock  
Maintenance: Bill Coombes  
Safety - Bobby Meroney

## New Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

## What's Happening & When

June 24 - Wing Meeting (6 pm)  
July 1 - Wing Staff meeting (6 pm)  
July 3 - Colorado City fly-in  
July 22 - Wing Meeting (6pm)  
July 26-Aug 1 - Oshkosh/Air Venture  
July 31 - Pecos fly-in

**Work Parties every Monday and Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. until done**

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