



The Flyer

March 2005
Vol. Thirteen, No. 3

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

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

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

Thank you to everyone that turned out for the Hangar cleanup on Saturday, March 5th. Great strides were made sorting thru our diverse collection of "this, that & the other" and "why in the heck are we keeping this STUFF anyway" piles. A few more cleanup Saturdays will be scheduled in the future, but please feel free to exercise your cleanup abilities anytime you're at the Hangar.

There was discussion at the last Wing meeting about changing the time of the monthly meeting. After consideration from the Staff, the meeting will remain the same, 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 26th for Open Cockpit Day. The bar-b-q pit will be hot to cook burgers and HSW member power will be needed to feed the crowd. Lunch should be ready to serve at 11:00. Also, volunteers are needed to help with assisting at each aircraft during Open Cockpit Day. All interested volunteers should meet in the Pub at Headquarters on Saturday, March 26th at 8:00 a.m. for coffee and donuts. At this time you will be able to select the aircraft(s) and shift(s) you want to work during the day. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. with the event concluding at 3:00 p.m.

The Iron Eagle Shootout committee is working diligently to obtain underwriters and teams for the clay shoot event. Please take it upon yourself to contact someone you know about participating in the shoot scheduled for May 21st. Next committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 22nd, 7:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing a large turnout of members at the Wing meeting on Thursday, March 24.

A laugh is a smile that bursts.

Don't Forget!
Your 2005 Wing Dues Are Now Due

10 Years? No way!

by Col Randy Skinner

We are happy to let everyone know that our son Jason is back in the U.S. from Iraq, safe and sound. We found the first photo below of Jason taken in 1994 and the second one taken in 2004, while he was in Iraq. Some things never change...HA!



Sgt. Jason Skinner,
USMC and CAF
Cadet, left, playing at
being a soldier in 1994
and below, serving his
country in Iraq in 2004.
Welcome back Jason!



From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Thanks to all who came out and worked at the hangar clean-up day on March 5th. We accomplished much, but much more needs to be done! It remains amazing to me that we have collected so many random bits and pieces of things. I know that we will be moving into our new digs after Airsho next year with a bunch of stuff...hopefully all of it will fit!

We did begin the annual inspections on the SNJ's, and, for the first time ever, 101 is in better shape than 24. Eric has been his usual thorough self (which is why I wanted him to come back and do the inspections) and I think the Wing will get away relatively unscathed, financially speaking. We could have a cylinder problem, but that will be something we will watch rather than jump in to fix immediately. I wish to thank especially John Meyer, Bill Wood, Jim Moore, & Tom Kingon for all their work, along with Randy Wilson, Sam Strayhan, and our friends from the Highland Lakes Squadron Rusty Hall and Ray Rylander. It is a major project and, of course, the two airplanes still have pieces scattered all over the hangar. Hopefully they will be together by the time of the Wing meeting.

We have Open Cockpit Day coming up, and then another Seminar Series dinner in our hangar, this one featuring famous test pilot Scott Crossfield. Crossfield was the first man to fly faster than Mach Two and Mach Three, and he flew all the X planes while at Edwards AFB in the early fifties. He has a fascinating presentation and I hope many Wing members will come out, both to help as well as to eat. The Wing made significant money last year at Open Cockpit Day selling hamburgers, and certainly being hosts for the Seminar Series dinners is another revenue source. However, like the annuals on the airplanes, it takes many hands to make these events work well.

Elsewhere in this issue you will learn about the Iron Eagle Clay Shoot II, our major fundraising event for the year. I'm sure that Jeremy and his crew will make this one another success. Again, maximum effort on the part of all the members of the Wing will make it so. It is comforting to Gena and the rest of the staff that we have such a good volunteer base: we need you all!

One of the things we need to do this year is to take the airplanes out to some area shows and fly-ins.

Thanks to Deb and Myles Magness, we have good access to the doings of the West Texas Flyers. This is a very active group of airplane people and I hope we can attract some of them into our ranks. When we decide to go to a fly-out, we'd like to have a ground support detachment willing to go also. Watch the newsletter for the dates and plans for these adventures.

Please keep Bob Hansen, Jim Moore, and Bob Stine in your thoughts and prayers.

Righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.

From the Pyro Field

by Col Dan Linebarger

The Blastards held their first (for this year) safety meeting at the HSW on Sunday, February 27th. Attendance was much larger than years before and we had to use the hanger instead of the lounge to conduct the meeting. Two new associate members were signed up for the CAF.

Gena Linebarger discussed membership requirements, David Linebarger discussed safety issues, Gregg Ulvestad covered equipment requirements, Mary Ann Drennan discussed our medical forms, ATF forms and hold-harmless forms.

Sign up sheets were circulated and were filled with volunteers wanting to do pyro for this year's airshow schedule. The Blastards schedule for shows and events this year so far include: NAS Ft. Worth (April 1,2,3), Burnet (April 9), Holloman AFB (April 17), Temple (May 6,7,8), Desert Squadron Dance (early May), San Marcos (May 21, 22), HSW Shootout (May 21), Slaton, TX. (June 4th). I would like to note, that due to an overwhelming increase in air shows wanting pyro and the Blastards unit's slower growth rate, we declined requests to provide pyro for the following shows due to lack of personnel: Laughlin AFB (April 16), El Cajon, CA (April 29, 30). We are currently receiving requests to provide pyro teams for shows up until Nov. 5, 2005.

Jeremy Linebarger will be redesigning the Blastard website to make it more interactive. Stay tuned to: www.blastards.com for exciting changes!

If you want see an airshow from our angle (see the photo on the next page), please contact one of the HSW Blastards or e-mail Dan Linebarger at dan@linebarger.com to learn how to get involved.

Lest We Forget



Photo taken from the pyro field by Bahar Tengku of the Midland Reporter Telegram, Airsho 2001. For more about the Blastards, see Dan Linebarger's article (left).

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As anyone knows who has been out to our hangar recently, our SNJ has been undergoing its annual inspection, as reported by Col Bill Coombes. The weather has also not cooperated for the last couple of months so we are looking forward to being able to get back into the air with the PT-19, J2K and SNJ soon.

Hopefully, we will have more news of actual flying activities next month. Y'all fly safe!

Editorially Speaking

by Col Randy Wilson

Just a reminder that everyone is welcome to submit articles and photos for the newsletter. Also, that you can get a color copy each month by visiting our web site and viewing or printing the newsletter in Adobe Acrobat format. If you don't have the free Acrobat reader already installed, there is a link to get it on our newsletter page. Also, if you can't view the images properly, you might have a very old copy of Acrobat reader and may need to get a newer version — it is free is the good news!

If you do regularly read or print the newsletter online, you can save the Wing 37 cents each month on postage by visiting our Members Only site and unchecking the box that says Mail Flyer. How do I do that? Glad you asked.

First, browse to our website at highskywing.org and then click on the Members Only link on the left menu. You will then need to log into the members only area using your CAF Colonel number as your

User Login and then your password, which if you have never changed it, is your last name. This is the same set up used at www.ghostsquadron.org, the CAF's members only site, however we allow you to change your password, which I strongly suggest everyone do.

Once logged into the members only section, click on Contact Info in the left menu to edit your personal contact info, address, phone, e-mail, etc. The box marked Mail Flyer is near the bottom of the form. When done, click the Update Your Info button to save your changes.

If you don't have access to the Internet or don't feel comfortable making your own changes to your contact info online, you can give them to Col Lauri Skinner, our Personnel Officer, or any of the Wing officers and they will see your info is updated.

Safety Is No Accident!

by Col Lyle Thornton

I'm still working to learn more about my new job as Wing Safety Officer and hope to pick Randy and Bill's brains to learn more about aircraft operations and safety in that area. I would also like to ask all HSW members to help evaluate safety risks around the hangar and help develop an emergency action plan.

For instance, have you ever thought how quickly and safely we could get all the planes and vehicles out of the hangar in the event of a fire? Just something we need to think about and discuss.

I'd like to see of have regular safety meetings, perhaps on Saturdays when the regular work crew is at the hangar anyway. I'll be visiting with you and the rest of the Wing staff on these ideas and have more to report in the near future.



How not to land an SNJ on a carrier!

Photo from *The Incredible T-6 Pilot Maker*

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



In 1961, the Harmon Trophy for outstanding achievement in aviation was awarded to three X-15 pilots, left to right, Joseph A. Walker, Robert White and Scott Crossfield. Join us and the AAHM for a dinner with Scott Crossfield on Saturday, April 9th.

Photo from *The Society of Experimental Test Pilots: History of the First 20 Years*

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell
Executive Officer: Ted Claussen
Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell
Finance: Bob Stine
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

Mar 24 - Wing meeting (7pm)
Mar 26 - Open Cockpit Day
Apr 7 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)
Apr 9 - Scott Crossfield dinner (7pm)
Apr 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)
May 21 - Iron Eagle Shootout

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, March 24th at 7:00pm in the Hangar