



The Flyer

March 2008
Vol. Sixteen, No. 3

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

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday March 27th 7:00 pm at the Hangar

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

I love it when a plan comes together! After a day delayed due to winds, the High Sky Wing fleet made a grand appearance at the Goodfellow Air Force Base Air Fiesta Airshow in San Angelo, TX on March 15th.

All four Wing planes were in attendance along with three other member's owned aircraft. Thank you both pilots and passengers for not only waiving the flag of the CAF but that also of the High Sky Wing! There were also many other members and family that drove down for the event. I believe this to be a record turnout for the Wing.

Did I mention pyro was on the field? The crew of nine, all HSW members as well, made things hot and noisy for the airshow spectators. Future shows the Wing would like to participate in are the Blue Bonnet Airshow in Burnet on April 12th and the Dyess AFB show in Abilene on May 3rd. Flying to shows is, of course, weather permitting and the ability to obtain an invitation for the planes. If any member desires to fly to a show, please let the pilots know in advance. Anyone that is in the Central Texas area on May 3 & 4 is invited to attend the CAF airshow in Temple that weekend.

Progress continues on the Commemorative Center. While we had hoped to have occupancy by this time, it now looks like the middle of April to be a more realistic time frame. This gives us another few weeks to continue packing up our hangar belongings and finalizing our moving plans. Saturdays are packing/work days so come out and pitch in.

Next Wing meeting is Thursday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy fellowship, dinner and our guest speaker Lt. Col. Dick McFadden, USAF (Retired)

Please make a note on your schedule of events that the April Staff meeting has changed to Thursday, April 3rd, 7:00 p.m.



A partial grouping of HSW members and family at the Goodfellow AFB Air Show in San Angelo last weekend. Others were there but not available for this shot.

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

At our March Wing meeting, Lt. Col. Dick McFadden, USAF (Retired) will be our speaker. After enlisting in 1957, Dick became a commissioned officer and during his career, flew 494 combat missions in Vietnam. In addition, Dick was an Instructor Pilot in various trainer aircraft (T-33, T-38, T-39) as well as the O-1A Birdog. He retired from the Air Force in 1977 and has lived in Midland since 1993.

See you at the March Wing meeting and don't forget to bring a covered dish or other item to share for dinner.

Don't Forget!
Your 2008 Wing Dues
Are Now Due



From the Tool Box

by Col Lance Sommers

I would like to start off by thanking all of you for coming out and cleaning the aircraft for the air show in San Angelo — they looked great. The air show was a success, we arrived early Saturday morning and made a impressive appearance on the ramp with all four of the wings aircraft and James's 195. We also sold two rides in the SNJ before the show was over which paid for the trip with a little profit to boot. All in all a great show by the HSW and waving of the flag for the CAF.

As many of you have noticed we have started the annual on the SNJ. Gary Austin came by on a "Staff Assistance Visit" to inspect the aircraft and offer any advice on maintaining our aircraft. He has been going around to all the units looking at their aircraft to help keep our warbirds maintained in top notch order. We found some minor squawks and a little corrosion on the fuselage. With help from Cols James Martin, Sam Strahan, Brad Bond, Rick Peterson, Phillip Goforth, and the trusty Eric Van Hoff we have removed the faulty part and are installing the new one.

Come on by the airplane sometime and I will be happy to show you what we did. Other than that 101 is healthy and will be back in the air for flying season shortly. The other Wing airplanes are up and running great, and now that it is warmer, we will be looking forward to taking members up for rides on Saturdays at the hangar. So long for now, lets see now, what did I do with that screw driver...



Lance Sommers, inside the SNJ, and faithful helper James Martin tackle replacing a part with a bit of corrosion under the baggage compartment. CAF President Steve Brown stopped by last Saturday and looks on as he prepares to make a move into a new home in Midland.



While Lance works in the bowels of the SNJ, other critical cleaning and maintenance continues in the wings and other parts of the plane. Here Brad Bond has had his arm swallowed in the wing of the SNJ doing err, well, I'm just not sure what!

More 2008 Events

Mar 27 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Mar 29 - Seminar Program (2pm)

Apr 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Note date & time change

Apr 12 - Seminar program (2pm)

Apr 12 - Blue Bonnet Air Show, Burnet

Wing Aircraft Attending

Apr 24 - Wing meeting (7pm)

May 3 - Dyess AFB Air Show, Abilene

May 3-4 - Central Texas Air Show, Temple

May 8 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

May 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)

May 26 - Memorial Day events - **Wing Cooks**

June 5 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

June 6-8 - TraRon Clinic, Midland

June 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)

July 1 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Note date change

July 24 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Aug 7 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Aug 28 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

Sep 4 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Sep 18 - ACAHOF Dinner

Sep 19 - Special Show, Save the Girls lunch, CAF Membership meeting, Aaron Tipon Concert

Sep 20-21 - AIRSHO 2008

Sep ? - Wing Meeting (TBD)

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

Our outing to the Goodfellow AFB air show was a lot of fun for many of our members and their families. Despite having to arrive at our hangar at O-dark thirty on Saturday due to very high winds on Friday, we all got away and arrived safely. Kudos to the pilots in our flight who arrived in an orderly manner, even winning us a thanks and well done from the Mathis Field tower. Col Bill Coombes commanded the J2K (a.k.a. *Tar-Baby*), flying my wing in the Stinson 105, with Sam Strahan in the PT-19A with two jackets on still cold, followed by Ronnie Jones flying a loose four in James Martin's DA-20.

On landing the DA-20 suffered a flat tire on the right main but Ronnie did a very good job getting clear of the runway and main taxiway before shutting down. It was quite a site as we went out to help him push the plane into the static display area, as we must have had over a dozen active military helping and I think we had enough help to carry that little plane, let alone push it! As always, our maintenance gurus came through and replaced the tube so that the plane was able to fly home the next day.

Aside from James Martin flying his Cessna 195 as a support plane, plus his already mentioned DA-20, Steve Bolin also brought the L-39. In addition to our Wing planes, the CAF Corsair and B-25 *Yellow Rose* also participated in the show, making it a rather big CAF event.

One thing I would like to remind all our members who fly as passengers in our CAF planes to air shows or fly-ins, is your responsibility as part of the plane's crew to help watch over the plane and visit with the crowd that stops by. While the pilots have the primary responsibility for the safety of the planes, let's all be sure to help them whenever possible.

Hopefully, we will have details of the next few air shows and fly-ins at the Wing meeting next Thursday. Bring a covered dish and we'll see you there.

Idle Musings from the GS

by Col Bill Coombes

Just when you all thought it was safe to pick up the High Sky Wing newsletter and not see something with my byline, here I come again with more ramblings. Rest assured this will not be a reoccurring column on my part, but I did want to touch on a few things that are pertinent to the HSW.

First of all, I want all of you to realize how truly lucky we are that our "little band of happy campers" (the HSW) all

get along so well and have so much respect for one another, so much talent in so many different areas, and work so well together for the common good of the CAF. That is not always the case within the CAF! I consider our unit a particularly good example of what a CAF unit should be: dedicated to the mission, well-led, well-staffed, and run according to the CAF's guidelines. I will also add one very key ingredient, and that is "well-funded." We are so fortunate that bingo has provided us a revenue stream: it is my goal, while Chief of Staff, that we explore means to provide bingo opportunities to other CAF units within the state. Having that source of income has made all things possible, including operating four airplanes that are in top-notch condition, and being able to do so much to improve our new "home" in the Commemorative Center. Our efforts there, spearheaded by David Linebarger and Randy Wilson, are already being talked about throughout the rest of the CAF. The "CommCtr" will be showpiece, and we can all be proud of what we've done to enhance it.

Second, our presence in the "CommCtr" will present us with some new opportunities, primarily in recruiting. Recruiting is VITAL to the long-term health of the HSW, but also to the CAF. We simply must have more members, and that is going to require each of us to "get somebody" to join up. If we want to operate another airplane, if we want to make additions to our area of the CommCtr, we need more members. When we get into our new digs, let's be especially aware of our "meeting and greeting" role with the public as they wander through. If Jake Tryon *alone* with the Dixie Wing can recruit 50+ colonels a year (!), then we ought to be able to get at least 25. We need to have 200 members of the HSW by 2009's Airsho.

Finally, I'm working hard to change the General Staff into a nonprofit Board that concerns itself with "governance" and not "management." Steve Brown is a dynamic leader, and his vision for the CAF is one that we all share. He will make mistakes, but I'm willing to bet that his hits will far and away outnumber his misses. He's going to be counting on us to "do things right," as tenants of the new building (remember, we share it, we don't own it), and as the first folks visitors encounter when they tour the facility. We have to keep the place clean, we have to make sure the hangar is neat, and we have to keep that "esprit d'corps" that is the hallmark of the High Sky Wing.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see some pictures from our first adventure of the year to San Angelo. It was fun, and it is just the beginning. I hope all of you are excited by the opportunities we have in 2008 and beyond.

HIGH SKY WING - CAF
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Turn & Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

Tax time is right around the corner, and most CAF expenses are deductible on your personal income. I am not an accountant, but I have stayed at a Holiday Inn Express! So, here's what I can do for you. If you have given me a check or cash greater than \$250, I fill out a form that goes to HQ. They send you an official letter acknowledging your donation. Under \$250, it is up to you to track.

Here's the Holiday Inn magic. If you need help, I do track all of the checks, and cash that I know where it comes from, by name. Let me know, and I will print out a report of your donations to the High Sky Wing. Hope, if you need that info.

Lest We Forget

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell

Executive Officer: Rick Peterson

Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell

Finance: Steve Bolin

Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell

Maintenance: Lance Sommers

Safety - David Linebarger

Hangar Phone: (432) 563-5112

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Mar 27 - Wing Meeting (7pm)

Mar 29 - Seminar program (2pm)

Apr 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Apr 12 - Seminar program (2pm)

& Burnett Air Show

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May 3 - Dyess/Abilene Air Show

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