



The Flyer



March 2010 Issue, Vol. Eighteen, No. 3
High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
On the Web at HighSkyWing.org
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Hangar

From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

First, my apologies for being late this month in getting the newsletter out. The Wing Staff Conference and other matters just required too much of my time for a while. Hopefully, this won't happen again. I have **not** edited any of the staffs' articles to reflect that the March Wing meeting has already happened. Just FYI.

One thing I was hoping to be able to include in this issue has happened. Late last Friday, the CAF and AAHM reached an agreement on the legal actions between the two organizations, and a press release was issued. You can see the press release on the home page of the CAF website.

Basically, the CAF General Staff's argument with the AAHM board of directors has been settled in favor of the CAF, and a meeting will be called very soon to seat a properly constituted museum board of directors. Five members of the prior museum board have resigned from that body. Museum director Tami O'Bannion will be leaving after some special projects are completed. Jeff Wood, AAHM Interpretive Director, was named as the interim museum director to handle the day to day management of the AAHM until a new permanent director can be found.

I can tell you from personal knowledge that steps have been taken to start the healing process between the staffs of the two institutions. Hopefully, both boards of directors will take steps to prevent such a painful process from ever happening again.

As noted in the press release, some specific details of the final settlement remain confidential but I or Bill Coombes will be happy to answer any questions we can at the hangar or at the next Wing Meeting, which is Thursday, April 22nd in the hangar. I do plan on getting another newsletter out before that meeting.

Our next Wing staff meeting will be this Thursday, April 1st at 6:00 p.m. in our Ready Room. For the re-



Steve Brown presents the CAF Unit Retention Award for 2009 to members of the High Sky Wing. Everyone in the photo is a High Sky Wing member!

mainder of the air show season, staff meetings will be held on the first Thursday at that same time and place.

The High Sky Wing won a great award at the Wing Staff Conference for the CAF unit with the best retention of members in 2009. This is a very high honor, as member retention is a major way of keeping the CAF growing and happy. Thanks to all HSW members and especially your Wing staff for their hard work to make this award possible.

We continue to hold work parties at the hangar each Monday and Wednesday evening starting at 6:00 p.m. A great deal of work has already been done on the L-17 Navion and the new fuel tanks are partially installed. The annual on the SNJ is underway, so if you've ever wanted to see what's inside an SNJ, this is a great time to come out and see and lend a hand.

We are still trying to get a six-bolt prop hub yellow-tagged for the J2K's original prop and in the meantime, have moved the prop from the PT-19 to the J2K, as the PT-19 will be out of service waiting for overhauled cylinders to arrive and be installed.

As Steve Bolin mentions in his article, now is the time to step up and pay any sponsorship or other donations to the L-17 Navion. We continue to raise funds to see if we can acquire the T-28A, so again, if you have made a pledge to that aircraft, please talk with

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Steve or myself as to how it can be put into escrow for a final decision. I hope to be able to share some other news related to the T-28A very soon but have to wait a bit more — sorry.

If you want to donate a beef brisket to be cooked for lunch on Memorial Day, May 31st, now is the time to do so, as head cook, David Linebarger, needs to cook them now and freeze the meat due to a very busy EOD\Blastards schedule these next couple of months. Just stick any size brisket in our freezer in the Wing's galley or you can always donate cash. Remember that this is a good fund raiser for the High Sky Wing.

Speaking of lunch, thanks to Mike Hedrick and Ron Stacks for heading up the lunch crew for Friday at Wing Staff Conference. I'm happy to say that we netted about \$500 and provided a great lunch to the visiting Colonels. Thanks also to Tresa Bolin, H.A. Tuck, Tom Kingon, John Echols, Jim Moore, Sue Becraft and Susie and Bruce Day.

Congratulations to Lance Sommers for becoming a CAF instructor pilot in the SNJ. We plan to start the transition of James Martin and some other Wing pilots into the SNJ very soon. Lance will also be a CAF check pilot in our four smaller CAF aircraft.

Our Operations Officer, Chris Aycock, has been sort of tied up recently but I hope we can get some info out very soon on upcoming fly-ins and air shows we will be attending.

I'm still trying to collect e-mail addresses for all our HSW members, so I more easily send all of you email updates as news and events happen. If you aren't sure whether we have your email, please give me a call or drop me a note and I'll get you added to our email distribution list. See you at the hangar!

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Joining us as our guest speaker for the March 2010 Wing Meeting will be Keith Walton, Associate Director, Community Alliances, Boy Scouts of America. Keith works in the Irving, Texas office of the Boy Scouts and I'd like to thank Cols Bob Wray and Clay Francell for their efforts in helping to get Keith to speak to us.

Keith will be in town most of the day on the 25th of this month. He'll be meeting with Steve Brown in the afternoon and then he will be our speaker for the Wing meeting. He will discuss our Venture crew, how it integrates with Boy Scouts of America and how we can all communicate with young people. We intend to

record Keith's presentation and distribute it to other CAF wings to assist them in creating Venture crews.

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

Turn and Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

I am writing this month's update as the Editor's deadline is rapidly approaching. We have just finished another successful Wing Staff Conference. While several members of the High Sky Wing attended, I would like to be the first to invite as many local members to plan on attending next year as possible. This is an excellent way to meet other members from around the country without the pressure of AIRSHO. There are lots of great ideas on running CAF activities passed around, and just a good way to reinvigorate any member on this great organization. Plus it's a great chance to show our Wing and members. Let's plan on showing other units how we retained 87% of the previous year's membership. You heard me say before; our greatest assets are our people.

I won't bore you with a lot of details about the bills this month, but bills do still come in. To that point, the work has started on the Navion. If you have pledged support of that aircraft, the time to pony up is now. If you need to spread out the payments, that's fine. However, let's start collecting and bring those dollars in. Thanks to John Echols, Drew Diggins, and Blake Cowart who have already brought their money forward. Talks and negotiations are also under way on the T-28A. We need to start bringing those pledges in as well. I will set any monies for that aircraft aside, and should the assignment not happen, either return or give the donor the option to put their donation toward another use. In any case, we need to start bringing those funds in as well. Any new aircraft assignment will need to show an amount to reach the minimum fund balance for that aircraft. Our first deposit in the T-28A acquisition account was a \$1000 donation from Neils Agather. Thanks to Neils, who wanted the donation to be in honor of Chris Aycock's work for the General Staff. (Lawyer stuff)

I'll finish with good news rather than margin calls. The Bingo operation will deposit at least \$6000 to the Wing account this month. Who wants to go to Vegas?

Safety's Edge

by Col Bobby Meroney

We all look forward to the warm days of spring and summer, yet we all become lax on being cautious around items that have been sitting on the floor, shelves or ground for awhile. Things that sting, bite or strike can take up home in and under these items.

Bees, wasp, spiders, scorpions and snakes will be out and around as the weather warms up. Hangars and homes have great hiding places. Never pick up items that have been sitting for a few days. Look around and under everything. Use gloves and make noise if necessary as you approach. If you are not sure how to handle a problem ask for someone who can help.

Be warned most people who think they can handle a rattlesnake are usually the ones who get bit first, so be careful. If you are bitten or stung never take it lightly. Bee, wasp or scorpion stings of more than five times could be dangerous due to allergic reactions. Brown recluse spider and rattlesnake bites need medical attention. Most severe injuries and deaths do not result due to the poison in the bite but rather from the allergic reaction to the poison.

Again I want to stress that before you reach under, around, on top or behind always first look under, on top, behind and above. Wear gloves and eye protection if necessary and always be careful.



James Martin prepares to "lift off" to place the cables to hang the L-17 Navion's fuselage to demate the Wings. Bob Keating checks a minor problem preventing lift off while Steve Bolin says "It will never fly!" Thank goodness, the lift worked, the cables were hung and the lifting proceeded. Thanks to all who came out for this evening work party to get the Navion's fuselage and wings demated so we could get to the leaking fuel tank. Good job, y'all! Thanks to H.A. Tuck for the photos on this page.



Maintenance Officer Bill Coombes just can't watch as his team, Bob Keating, James Martin, John Paul Cooper and others prepare to lift the aft part of the fuselage.



Success! Left to right, Bob Wray, Randy Wilson, Chris Aycock, Philip Goforth, Paul Cooper, James Martin (project leader) and Mike Hedrick.



Here is the right wing after being split from the left wing. The right main fuel tank can just be seen in the front (left) part of the wing. We decided to replace both main fuel tanks and the accumulator or header tank with remanufactured units. These shots are a week or more old and if you want to see the great progress that is being made on the Navion, you need to come out.

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



At the March HSW meeting, we heard a presentation on the Venturing program from Keith Walton of the Boy Scouts of America. The High Sky Wing Cadet Crew continues to attract members and is now looking at a project involving some of the World War II bombing targets which can still be seen in various parts of the Permian Basin. One thought is to recreate a full-scale battleship target right here at CAF HQ. More on all that later.

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

Apr 1 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)
 Apr 22 - Wing meeting (7 pm)
 Apr 24 - Hops & Props
 May 6 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)
 May 27 - Wing meeting (6pm)

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

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