



The Flyer



March 2011 Issue, Vol. Nineteen, 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 March 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr

Loose Formation

by Col Mike Hedrick, HSW Leader

The first few months of the year at the High Sky Wing are filled with accolades for those members who need to be acknowledged for their efforts supporting the Wing and the CAF, education and organization for those preparing for their jobs and staff positions in the new year, renewal for all of us paying our CAF and HSW dues and updating our personal contact information, and maintenance and planning for our airplanes and activities in the new year. And of course there is Steve Bolin, our faithful Finance Officer, who day-in and day-out tracks our income and expenses so that we can continue our Mission to Educate and Keep 'Em Flyin'.

Awards Banquet

The Awards Banquet was held on January 15th and was well attended by members, spouses, family and friends totaling over 85. Gena Linebarger and a crew of volunteers provided an excellent catered Mexican supper from "On the Border". Members of the Wing Staff leaving office, Randy Wilson and Lauri Skinner were acknowledged for their service, and new Staff Members Patti Collins and Mike Hedrick were introduced. The awards for service in 2010 were given to H.A. Tuck, *Colonel of the Year*; Lance Sommers, *Spirit of the Eagle*; and a new award proposed and presented by Drew Diggins, the *Gary Austin Memorial Award*, to John Paul Cooper, for over-the-top efforts in maintenance and restoration.

Super Bowl Party

The Super Bowl Party was a hit again this year. Organized by Gena and David Linebarger and faithful volunteers, our members and guests brought their favorite game-watching foods, and beverages were provided by the Wing. Televisions were set up in the Ready Room and the Gunfighter Pub with over 60 in attendance.

New Operations Officer

Chris Aycock was elected Operations Officer in 2009 for the 2010-11 term, and served diligently and with distinction through his first year in office. Besides his duties as OPS Officer, Chris provided many hours of invaluable professional legal counsel (free of charge) to HQ as it worked through the American Airpower Heritage Museum difficulties. Unfortunately, as an Midland attorney in a booming oil industry economy, Chris has found that the demands of his job have reduced the time that he can devote to Operations, so he asked to step down and recommended a replacement, Brad Bond. Chris' request and choice of replacement were unanimously supported by the High Sky Wing Staff. Brad Bond was appointed by the Staff to serve out the remaining OPS Officer term through the end of this year. Brad is not only a professional pilot flying private jets and turbo-props out of Midland; he also manages the operations of those aircraft. Brad has asked Drew Diggins to assist him with the work load of operating the six Wing aircraft. Please join with the Staff in welcoming Brad to his new position, and thanking Chris for his service to the Wing and the CAF.

February Wing Meeting

The February Wing Meeting was held a week early to accommodate the Wing Staff Conference. The speaker was Diane Tangen of Odessa, who was accompanied by her Special Services dog Bella. Diane related the story of Bella as a military combat participant that protected her unit by sensing threats through her hypersensitive canine sight, sound and hearing, and of course, her superior training. Bella served for three years in Iraq and in other secret locations for the Army, Marines and Navy Seals, in an environment where service dogs rarely live longer than three months. Unfortunately, Bella was eventually wounded

by a sniper and shipped back to the States for recovery. Since Diane had previously made friends with her handler while overseas, she became the safe haven for Bella, who now appears to be fully recovered, and in her spare time is teaching Diane the appeal of Hummers (which look like the vehicles that she traveled in) and drug and physical threat detection. Diane and Bella were both very entertaining, and we hope to have them back soon.

Wing Staff Conference and Award

A week after the Wing meeting, HQ held the Wing Staff Conference on the CAF campus, with most activities in the Commemorative Center. This was a chance for the HSW to show off its facilities and serve up some West Texas hospitality to the 118 Colonels that were visiting from across the country. In another reprise of their legendary cooking and organizational skills, the Linebargers and a small handful of Wing volunteers served a fajita lunch Friday to over 100 as a fund raiser. Throughout the weekend the Ready Room was open to participants as a place to rest and refresh. For these efforts we received many sincere compliments. On Saturday night the second annual CAF Hall of Fame Banquet was held in the Comm Center Hangar. Service commendations were awarded and the High Sky Wing was recognized with the Distinguished Unit Award (see citation on page 6), given primarily for our unit's support of HQ's use of the Commemorative Center, and volunteers who fill out the ranks during Memorial Day and AIRSHO each year.

Coming Events

- March 24th - March Wing Meeting featuring the film *The Defender*
- April 2nd - Staff Meeting
- April 9th - Burnet Air Show
- April 16th - Hops & Props
- April 16-17th - Fort Worth NAS Air Show
- April 30th - Abilene/Dyess Air Show
- May 30th - CAF/HSW Memorial Day Fly-In and Celebration

Important Announcement!

The HSW will once again assist HQ in putting on the Memorial Day celebration. Our Wing will be responsible for organizing the Fly-In, a (fund raising) cookout to feed the attendees, manning membership booths and selling rides. A four ship fly over is planned for the opening ceremonies, and again later in the afternoon for the National Anthem at the Rock

Hounds game. Picture in your mind a casual "mini air show", which will require the help of all of our faithful volunteers, and then some. Please watch for email blasts and communications in the next few weeks from the folks organizing the event, and seriously consider volunteering your time to make the CAF and the HSW the place in the Permian Basin to celebrate Memorial Day and the sacrifices made by our Service men and women.



Diane Tangen tells the story of Bella, the war dog with three years service in Iraq and other hostile areas.

Turn and Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

Quite a few things have been going on financially with the Wing this past month. Here are the highlights, call, email or talk to me for any further details.

Almost \$4,000 in general donations, and over \$10,000 in T-28 donations. The latter thanks to Steve Brown and Sam Strahan fulfilling their pledges to the T-28. Also thanks to Bob Keating and John Williams for completing their pledges. The Blastards need a big Thank You for their unsolicited donation to the T-28. The noisy group has made sponsor sized donations to at least 3 of our current Wing aircraft. Thanks to all that gave toward the rent, over \$2,600 has been raised so far. If you made a pledge at the Awards Dinner, now is the time to come forward.

Speaking of the Awards Dinner, this fun night out paid for itself once again. Enough was raised to buy

dinner, awards, and some drinks and goodies. I was pleased to announce that Bingo is once again writing checks. So far this year, Bingo has distributed around \$6,300 to the Wing and \$4,200 to the Museum. More is on the way.

Over half of our members have sent in their dues for 2011 so far. If you were waiting for me to announce the new credit card option, wait no more. We now can process any donation or expense via my QuickBooks program. Contact me if you are interested. For the present time, no extra fees will be charged for this option. I foresee we might add 2% in the future to offset the additional cost. On the horizon, being able to debit your checking account from the convenience of my office. As Drew Diggins has found out, just give me all of your financial information, and I will be able to retire next year.

Expenses over the last month and half have been normal. Aircraft maintenance \$1,000, cleaning/postage/food \$556, utilities \$350. ANUAC (the admin charge to fund HQ) was \$7,963. This was originally \$9,682, however since we pay prior to the deadline, I save the Wing 5%. Also this year, we collected \$1,300 in credits that have accrued for members who renew their membership twice. When a member is in their third year of CAF membership, we are eligible for \$50 in ANUAC credit. Fill out those membership forms completely so the High Sky Wing gets the credit.

The Wing has \$43,000 in our account, of which \$20,500 is dedicated, and \$20,000 in the aircraft accounts. We only have one major fixed expense (airmeet insurance) still due this spring. Then flying season and the restoration of the T-28 will come due. We are standing on our own, but we will find ways to spend the accounts down. Remind your friends to renew their dues, and get new people in. We should have new ways for members to participate soon. Make yourself invaluable. Because, our members are our most important resource.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Spring is...well...springing, and with it comes the wind, Randy's allergies, and most importantly, AIRSHOW SEASON! We are already getting a good list together of flying opportunities for our fleet and I hope to be able to say that all of our airplanes are "up," and that we can display them at many different venues this year. However, to make sure that happens,

we simply must have more help in doing the annual inspections that are coming due on all of them. I will ask the pilots to take the lead in joining our maintenance team of Bob Keating and Lance Sommers in assuring we have workers to do the scut work of annual inspections. This also means that you, the rank and file, need to help out if you feel the least bit able. Cleaning the belly of an airplane isn't glamorous, but it is necessary. Please come out and help. After Winter Staff conference we will have a busy month of March to get the SNJ, PT, Tarbaby, Stinson, and Navion all in tip-top shape.

A quick update on the T-28....we are waiting for a "club prop" to put on the new engine in order to run it on the test cell. Ray Anderson and Lance have talked and things will happen. In the meantime, Bob, Lance, Drew Diggins, Brad Bond, John Meyer, Paul Cooper, Jerry Perales, Jim Moore, Tom Kingon, and some other folks have been doing inspections and clean-up of various parts of the bird. Biggest achievement was in fixing the balky sliding mechanism on the canopy. Apparently this has now been solved and the canopy is back on the airplane. If anybody out there wants to take the lead in building up an engine stand for a Wright 1300, your efforts will not be in vain....

Steve Clinton, previously the big noise in the local EAA chapter, has joined our happy group of campers. Why that is a maintenance issue, you ask? Well, Steve has some wrench-twisting skills, a positive, but he also shares, like me, the desire to see a closer relationship between the High Sky Wing and the EAA folks. For various not-so-logical-reasons (which predate Steve Brown's tenure for all of you inclined to blame him for everything from global warming to MSG in Chinese food), we do not seem to have good rapport with the other aviation groups in the Basin. That is silly. I hope that we can do more to promote mutual activity, and I'd suggest that step one will be to really encourage all of the GA pilots we know to come to our fly-in breakfast on Memorial Day. Let's build some bridges to the other community. Sermon over.

On a personal note, I'm reprinting information from the April 2006 newsletter here:

Next, I think most of you have seen the "orange pumpkin," as my new Globe Swift is lovingly known as. Of course it is "really" a Globe QGC-1B Navy drone control airplane used at China Lake NAS, home of the Navy's Weapons Test Center. It is much more economical to operate than a certain SNJ, but

it does lack the good sound of that big P&W engine! Rides will be given as I gain more "comfortable-ness" in it.

If you have been in the hangar in the last two weeks you will note that the "Pumpkin" has a brother, the "Tomato," a bigger engined Globe Swift. Sure, everyone needs two Swifts (not), and I'm excited to get this one. Gonna be fast enough to live up to its name! Of course, it does have some engine difficulties, which James and Bob and Lance have been addressing. I'm hopeful that, by tossing enough money at it, it will soon be up and flying. And it is "really" a Globe YGC-1B used as a prototype drone airplane by the Air Force at Edwards AFB. Watch for more of its story later.

See you at the hangar, and, remember, lefty-loosey, righty-tighty...

Safety's Edge

by Col Bobby Meroney

The Fire Marshall paid us a visit in February during the set-up for a rental event in the Commemorative Center, and he found a few problems with our maintenance and storage areas. Open containers of flammable fluids, oily rags lying about and compressed gas cylinders not secured properly were a few of his citations. Our volunteers, along with HQ Staff, addressed the situation immediately, and we have some precautions to share with you.

1. Rags: following use, dispose of them in the closed container provided for this purpose. Don't leave any flammable materials out at the end of the work session;
2. Open Containers: empty flammable liquids into the proper disposal receptacle after use each day;
3. Compressed Gas Cylinders: secure them with a chain or strap against a wall or brace so that they cannot be knocked over or exposed to an open flame or heat source;
4. General Storage: when storing chairs and tables following an event, do not block access to the fire suppression equipment, electrical transformers and breaker boxes in the storage closets.

When in doubt about what to do with cleaning materials and equipment, use common sense to determine if your actions are creating a fire hazard or will prevent first responders from addressing an emergency situation. Let's all work together to make our facility a safe zone that we can all enjoy.

Membership Connections

by Col Patti Reakes-Collins

Let me first say thank you for the honor of serving the High Sky Wing in the capacity of Adjutant. I am fairly new to the High Sky Wing, but not to aviation. My dad was a B-24 pilot in WWII, and I started attending air shows at a very young age. He passed on the gift of flight by sponsoring me through Flight School. I earned my Private Pilot's License in 2006 and was fortunate enough to take my dad up as a passenger before he passed on to the "wild blue yonder." He used to sing that in the background when I gave him a debriefing of every class and flight during my training. I have attended the CAF AIRSHO each and every year since the CAF made Midland its home. My husband and I decided that joining would be a great way to share time together doing something we both love... gawking at the Warbirds! OK, enough background for now...

Thank you to those members that have already paid your renewal dues. By now, you should have received your renewal notices in the mail. If you have not done so, please take a few moments to write out a check for your dues which are due each January; however if you've joined since September 1st, 2010, your dues are good through December 31st, 2011. By paying your dues each year, you remain an active member of the High Sky Wing. In doing so, you have a voice in what the HSW does in support of our aircraft and you are able to participate in the many activities this Wing has to offer. The High Sky Wing has always promoted hospitality to those who walk through the doors. Our Ready Room is a welcoming place for all of our members and guests, not only during AIRSHO, but throughout the year. By being a member of the HSW, you will have opportunities to possibly hitch a ride in a warbird, participate in keeping history alive, enjoy a variety of speakers and topics, build friendships with people who have similar interests, plus you have access to the best viewing area for AIRSHO. Join us at the March 24th meeting and feel free to renew your membership at that time. If you should ever have any questions about your dues, feel free to contact me at (432) 631-7072 or email me at collinsp5@yahoo.com.

Also, just a note about Memorial Day, 2011, at the High Sky Wing. We will be cooking for the crowds that attend the festivities on the CAF campus as a money raiser, and would appreciate your donation of a fresh or frozen brisket (or more than one) or a dona-

tion of \$20 for each brisket that you would like to contribute. Deliver the real thing to the HSW kitchen freezer, or write a check to the High Sky Wing, clearly marked for brisket purchase, and mail to Steve Bolin at the Wing P.O. Box, or drop off when you come out.

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Well, unfortunately, I'm having a bit of trouble with getting a guest speaker lined up for our March 24th Wing meeting. I have contacted a few potential speakers and, while one will be speaking to us later this year, the other has medical issues that will prevent him from speaking any time soon.

Instead of a speaker for March, it has been suggested that we show the 1988 film documentary *The Defender*, a 55 minute story about Bob Diemert, a warbird restoration expert from Carmen, Manitoba, who apparently had a rather inspirational life. A part of this film chronicles his restoration of the CAF Mitsubishi "Zero" and his delivery of the finished product to Harlingen. Randy Wilson has prepared a few personal and historical remarks for this part of the film which you will find reminiscent of the "old" Confederate Air Force days.

So, please join us at the March Wing meeting on the 24th and remember to bring a covered dish. See you then.

Changes

by Col Brad Bond

March is normally the time of year for changes. This March is no different with warmer weather, longer days and a new face among the HSW Staff. For those who may not know me, my name is Bradley Bond and I have been asked to step in and fill a vacancy as the Ops Officer when Colonel Chris Aycock reluctantly had to resign his duties as the elected Operations Officer. I would like to take the time to thank him for his considerable contributions to our Wing, and I know that he will continue to be involved when and where his time allows. I am very enthusiastic about my new position and the challenges that it may bring in the near future.

With flying season already upon us, I want to encourage all of our many members and volunteers to come out and enjoy the airplanes. We are planning to attend many fly-ins and air shows this spring and summer, so if you would like to ride on one of the airplanes please let me know. Very soon there will be

a sign-up sheet with the dates and locations of these events in the Ready Room for folks who would like to go along, so be on the lookout! If you can't make one of the shows, Saturdays are a great time to come on out and snag one of our pilots and go for a ride (provided we are not at one of those air shows). It is usually not too hard to convince one of us to go out for a quick hop! See you on the Flightline!

From Col H. A. Tuck

For a person who made his living with words and speech, I had neither during the Wing's Awards Dinner. However, I've now recovered enough to express my most sincere thanks for being honored as the Wing's Colonel of the Year. I feel that many others could have received the award. Since joining the Wing, I have tried to follow examples set by so many dedicated volunteers who turned out and did what was necessary to complete the goals, no matter how menial or difficult. Thanks for adding me to that distinguished list of willing members who show up week after week.



Outgoing Wing Leader Randy Wilson presents the High Sky Wing Colonel of the Year award to a slightly stunned H. A. Tuck. Well done H. A.



Your old and new High Sky Wing staff officers for 2011.

Distinuated Unit Award

To: The High Sky Wing
 Date: February 26, 2011
 Subject: Commemorative Air Force Distinguished Unit Award

Under the provisions of Commemorative Air Force Regulation 900-1, the above named Unit is presented the Commemorative Air Force Distinguished Unit Award.

CITATION

THE CRITERIA FOR THIS AWARD IS THAT A UNIT MUST HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED EXTRAORDINARY, MERITORIOUS AND EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE. THE HIGH SKY WING HAS A PROVEN RECORD THAT FULFILLS ALL OF THE CRITERIA.

THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS OF THE HIGH SKY WING HAVE CONTINUED THEIR LONG STANDING RECORD OF EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE. DURING 2010, THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FOR CAF HEADQUARTERS AND THE CAF MUSEUM'S ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN TRULY ENHANCED THROUGH THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE HIGH SKY WING. THE MEMBERS OF THE WING HAVE GONE FAR ABOVE NORMAL IN THEIR SUPPORT OF AIRSHO, "HOPS AND PROPS", MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES, AND MUSEUM SEMINAR SERIES ACTIVITIES. THE ASSISTANCE OF THE WING'S MAINTENANCE CREWS HAS HELPED ENSURE THE COMMEMORATIVE CENTER'S RENTAL ACTIVITIES HAVE REACHED THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL. THEY HAVE WILLINGLY ASSISTED HEADQUARTERS STAFF BY MOVING THE AIRCRAFT TO THE MAIN HANGAR AND ASSISTING WITH HANGAR CLEAN UP TO ENSURE RENTAL EVENTS WERE SUCCESSFUL. THE WING'S VOLUNTEERS HAVE PLAYED KEY ROLES IN THE AIRSHO STAFF AND IN THEIR SUPPORT OF ALL ASPECTS OF MUSEUM ACTIVITIES. THE HIGH SKY WING HAS ALSO DONATED MANY RIDES FOR PRESS AND VISITORS TO ASSIST IN PROMOTING THE CAF IN THE PERMIAN BASIN COMMUNITIES. ALWAYS

WILLING TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY THEY CAN, THE HIGH SKY WING IS SETTING A VERY HIGH STANDARD OF UNIT PERFORMANCE.

THE HIGH SKY WING IS HEREBY PRESENTED THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE DISTINGUISHED UNIT AWARD FOR 2010 IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND ENTHUSIASM TOWARD SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE.

Awards Banquet Photos

photos by Col H. A. Tuck

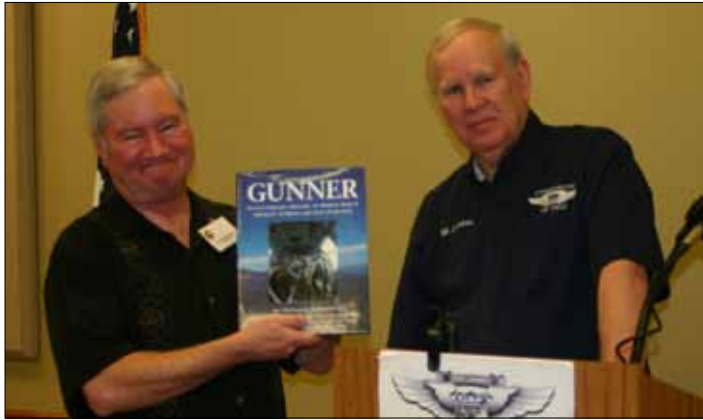


Above, Randy Wilson thanks Lauri Skinner for her many years of service as the Wing Adjutant. Below, the Wing presented a special Appreciation Award to Mark Baxter for all his help around the hangar and ramp.



Left, Paul Cooper is awarded the first Gary Austin HSW maintenance award by Drew Diggins, on behalf of all HSW pilots.

Lest We Forget



Good friend Bill Coombes presents Randy Wilson with an eclectic book on aircraft turrets, signed by the Wing Staff and others as a thank you for Randy's leadership the last two years.



Left to right above, Cheryl Wray, Ann & Jerry Perales and Drew Diggins enjoy the social hour. Below, Mike Hedrick visits with John Williams and a friend over a drink.



New Wing Leader Mike Hedrick's family, wife Debbie, daughter Claire and son Alex.



The dinner from *On the Border* was enjoyed by all and there was certainly plenty to eat thanks to Gena Linebarger and her crew.



Cadet Addison Larson poses with Bob Wray, who is very active with the Wing's Cadet Crew program.

Don't Forget! Your 2011 Wing Dues Are Now Due

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

Amanda & Kyle Franklin

By now, most of you know that this husband and wife team, who were at our last AIRSHO, were injured and suffered burns in a crash during their performance at the air show in Brownsville last weekend. ICAS (the International Council of Air Shows) has created a "Kyle and Amanda Fund" to help pay for their medical expenses. Every penny will go to them.

You can send a check to ICAS Foundation, 750 Miller Dr, Suite F-3, Leesburg, VA 20175, or donate online at www.icasfoundation.org, or call the ICAS Foundation Chairman, Caroline Trinkwalder at 734-595-0864 with your credit card info.

You can also call ICAS headquarters at 703-779-8510 with your credit card info and they will make sure it is passed on to Caroline securely.

Due to the peculiarities of IRS regulations, a direct contribution to the Kyle and Amanda Fund will not be tax deductible. We hope that will not deter you from making a contribution, if you can.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Mike Hedrick - 638-6552 cell
Executive Officer: Rick Peterson
Adjutant: Patti Reakes-Collins
Finance: Steve Bolin
Operations: Brad Bond
Maintenance: Bill Coombes
Safety - Bobby Meroney

HSW Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Mar 24 - Wing Meeting (6pm)
Apr 2 - Staff Meeting (10am)
Apr 9 - Burnet Air Show
Apr 16 - Seminar Series (2pm)
Apr 16 - Hops & Props
Apr 16-17 - Ft. Worth NAS Air Show
April 30 - Dyess Air Show
May 30 - CAF Memorial Day

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday March 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr
