



# The Flyer

May 2003  
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force  
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at  
HighSkyWing.org

## Memorial Day Fly & Ride-In Breakfast!

Memorial Day is Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and the High Sky Wing will begin the day with a Fly & Ride In Breakfast at our hangar. Breakfast burritos, coffee and orange juice will be served beginning at 8:00am until the demand or supplies run out. We also invite the folks planning to ride their motorcycles out to the airport as part of the Memorial Day celebrations at the Vietnam Memorial, to stop by for breakfast.

The fly-in is not limited to World War II aircraft or warbirds, and all pilots and types of planes are invited and welcome. Pilots who fly a plane in and their passengers will receive a free breakfast burrito. When you land, just tell Midland ground control that you need to taxi to the High Sky Wing ramp and folks will be there to help you park and provide you with your meal tickets. Just think of it as the \$100 burrito!

At 9:00am, Cols Coombes and Wilson will fly the SNJs over the Vietnam Memorial in support of their festivities. We encourage all our members to attend.

Beginning at 11:00am, we will start serving lunch at the hangar, with Cols Linebarger, Skinner and others cooking up some delicious hamburgers, with chips and drinks available. Lunch will be served until 1:30pm or while the supplies last. Don't be tardy!

At 12:00 noon, the Memorial Day ceremonies will begin in the CAF Memorial Gardens, just across the street from the HSW hangar. Again, we invite all our members and guests to attend the ceremony and we hope to field a four plane Missing Man fly-over, if all works out with both old planes and old pilots!

And last but not least, at 1:30pm in the CAF hangar, Col Bill Coombes will host this month's seminar program, featuring Reynaldo Geyardo, who will share his WWII adventures as a member of the Mexican 201<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron fighting in the Pacific.

Of course, all of these activities are going to require a lot of volunteers and participation by our members. If you want to help, please try and attend the



We're headed to the High Sky Wing Memorial Day fly-in breakfast. What about you!

May Wing Meeting on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, where we will be explaining the final plans for all the Memorial Day events and also signing up volunteers for the various jobs and events. If you can't make the Wing meeting, just show up about 7:30am or as soon as you can on Memorial Day and we'll find you a job.

If you have any questions before the meeting, please call Col Ralph Gillette or Col Gena Linebarger and they should be able to answer them or help you find a volunteer job for the events.

Hope to see you all at the Wing Meeting and then again on Memorial Day!



## From the Back Office

by Col Ralph Gillette

As promised in last month's column, April was a very exciting and busy month. We helped in the "Salute to the Troops" program at the ball park and received a letter from Mayor Cannon of Midland thanking the High Sky Wing for their efforts. I understand the "incredible" pilots group also got special recognition from the Mayor. I must say they deserved it, the fly-by was absolutely beautiful.

The High Sky Wing did its part for Open Cockpit day. We had quite a few members hanging off wings and climbing through interiors to give the public a chance to not only look at but to sit in the planes. I know Jim Adams held forth in the cockpit of the B-25 for the whole six or seven hours. That is dedication, or he just couldn't get out of the seat. Our chefs group did well with the hamburger department that day. They moved a lot of burgers, hotdogs, corndogs, chips and candy bars during the day and we made some money. Well done cooks and servers.

We still haven't had a chance to fly the J2K yet. It was on display at Open Cockpit Day and got several good comments. Check OPS and Maintenance columns for details. As I said earlier, Bill, Randy and Gordon Stevenson did a masterful job on the fly-by at the ball park, so 101X is in good shape. We are doing some minor work on the tail wheel, but that should not keep it out of the air. Speaking of air, Bill and Randy took two of our guests from last month's meeting for a pass over midland. They looked very good as they went over my house, wing tips tucked in close and tracking very well. Impressive.

It has been brought to my attention that there has been some use of the High Sky Wing facilities that was somewhat inappropriate. We are taking steps to make sure the availability of the cause will be eliminated. We will have a bit more to say about this at our next meeting in May. Needless to say, we are all supposed to be responsible adults.

Our next big activity is the Memorial Day fly in and program. We are doing breakfast and lunch at the wing, so we will need lots of help. I'm sure there will be many bended knee requests during our next wing meeting.

Speaking of wing meetings, I am very pleased at the attendance so far this year. We are seeing a slight increase over last year. Keep up the good work, bring a

friend, bring an enemy, bring someone extra. We need new members.

Have a good May and we will see all of you at our next wing meeting which will be Thursday night, May 22nd. Be careful out there.

## Executive Views

by Col Gena Linebarger

As of now, we don't plan on having a speaker for the May Wing meeting, due to all the events planned for Memorial Day, the next Monday after the meeting; We will spend a good bit of time discussing those events at the meeting. We will also need to sign up a number of volunteers to help with not only breakfast, but also with greeting and helping to park our fly-in visitors, plus more help to serve lunch.

See you there and don't forget to bring a covered dish or other donation for the meal!

## From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

A short column this month, as more needs to come from others regarding the activities of Memorial Day and our efforts re: breakfast and lunch duties. The very good maintenance news is that the airplanes are in good shape, with only the weight and balance to be done on the Tarbaby and a bushing/bolt replacement on the SNJ to correct a tailwheel shimmy. Thanks to Col. Randy Wilson, we have the necessary parts for 101X and it should be fixed soon. Aeromod is supposed to weigh the Tarbaby and then we only lack a logbook sign-off from Todd Davis before the first flight.

Again, I must toss kudos to Col. Jim Moore and Col. Rudy Silas for all their hard work during the week to keep ahead of all our maintenance issues. Praise also to the weekend crew of regulars, in particular to Mary Alice Tidwell for the donuts: we were missing you during tax season! Col. Tony McCarthy has examined our tug project and pronounced it "dirty, but generally sound." He has a plan for refurbishing it: get with him on a Saturday to find out what you can do with the ground support equipment.

Memorial Day does promise to be full of activities. First, there will be a fly-in breakfast at the Wing, beginning at 8:00 am, and we hope to get a number of the participants from the Vietnam Memorial program (scheduled for 9:00) to come and enjoy burritos with us and with those who can fly in. Col. Myles Magness

and his wife Debbie and Col. Charlotte Larson are helping us spread the word to the area airplane drivers, while Rusty McInturf from CAF HQ is helping coordinate with the Viet vets.

There will be the usual noon ceremony in the Memorial Garden as a part of the day's activities, with Wing Leader Ralph Gillette serving as master-of-ceremonies, and Col. Lyn Fite and the Sun Country Gentlemen providing the patriotic music. Our special guest will be Reynaldo Geyardo, one of the last of the so-called Aztec Eagles, the Mexican 201<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron which flew P-47s over the Philippines during the later stages of WW II. He will do a special seminar series program at 1:30 in the main hangar, and we hope to have a big crowd for that. By having the noon ceremony over by 12:30, we should have an hour for people to come over to our hangar for hamburgers.

Randy and I will do a fly-over for the Vietnam Memorial at 9:00 as well as the fly-over for the noon ceremony. I hope to have two other airplanes flying with us for the noon event so we can do the traditional "Missing Man" formation.

Finally, on that weekend we should be welcoming the newest edition to the CAF High Sky Wing fleet. All the financial matters have been settled with the insurance company and with HQ and so we shall have Col. H.D. Butler's immaculate PT-19 in our hangar. Along with the Tarbaby we will have two of the best Fairchild airplanes ever designed, and we are looking forward to giving some rides to all our Wing members who have been so supportive of the Wing over the years.

Final planning will be made at the Wing meeting on Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hope to see you then.

## As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As Bill reported in his article, we again have our SNJ flying and needing only a bit of minor maintenance to eliminate a bit of tail-wheel shimmy. I've purchased the new parts and we will get this done as soon as time permits.

Bill and I had a chance to fly two of our guests at the last symposium in the back of the SNJs Sunday morning before they had to leave Midland. Bill had Walter Boyne in his back seat while I had Sally Tillman, Barrett's wife in the back of 101X.

It turned out that Sally had never ridden in a warbird before and flew very little in smaller aircraft, so we carefully briefed on what to expect and I told

her I'd keep her informed of what was going on via the intercom.

As we briefed for the flight, I asked Walter, who retired from the USAF as a Colonel, when was the last time he had flown in an AT-6 — his answer was 1953. I mention this because after taking off in formation and making one orbit of Midland, I was explaining to Sally in my back seat what Bill's hand signals meant and was just beginning to explain why one of Bill's hands was up on the glare shield of his cockpit and not on the throttle when his other hand joined the first.

"OK, looks like Walter is flying now", I told Sally and we proceeded to make the second circuit of town with Walter on the controls just like it had been 50 minutes and not 50 years since he had done this.

Once back on the ground, there were big grins on both Sally and Walter's faces and they thanked us for a great ride. Of course we may have created a monster for Barrett, as Sally then proclaimed that she wanted to ride in the copilot's seat of Jack Woodul's Bellanca Viking on the trip back to Dallas!

As for the J2K,(a.k.a. *Tar-Baby*), she still sits waiting for some final paperwork to be finished by our mechanics and CAF HQ but is otherwise ready to fly. I'm going to be out of town this next week but I expect by the time I get back, either Bill will have already made the first test flight, or we will then have the great coin toss to see who loses and has to play test pilot ;-)

We are also looking forward to checking out Col H. D. Butler in our SNJ in the next few weeks, perhaps when he brings his PT-19 to Midland for our final inspection before purchasing the plane for the CAF. We are also visiting with one other SNJ pilot about helping fly and support 101X. The Wing staff has discussed allowing Col Butler to take 101X to Central Texas for a few weeks during the air show season, to help campaign the plane and show the High Sky Wing's support of other CAF and Unit shows.

Once the J2K is flying, it will be able to carry a couple of passengers to shows, and when we acquire the PT-19, some lucky passenger in it will be able to fly top down and in full natural air-conditioning!

Please be sure to make the May Wing Meeting and sign up to help on Memorial Day. It will be a busy but fun day as we salute our troops, past and present, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Fly safe, y'all.

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

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## Wing Meeting Schedule Changes?

We rescheduled the April Wing Meeting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday to allow us to have two of the seminar speakers as our dinner speakers. Several High Sky Wing members have suggested a permanent change to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, due to conflicts with several other community organization meetings in both Midland and Odessa. One of these is of course the CAF Desert Squadron own monthly meeting, and several of their members and staff did attend our April meeting.

With all this in mind, the HSW staff voted to change the date of the May meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, May 22nd, and ask our members to comment on making this a permanent change. By giving the staff and newsletter editor an extra week between the staff and Wing meetings, we also hope to get the newsletter out earlier and with more information.

Come to the May meeting and let us know how you feel about making this change. See you there!

## High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Ralph Gillette - 570-8093 ofc  
Executive Officer: Gena Linebarger  
Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell  
Finance: Bob Stine  
Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell  
Maintenance: Bill Coombes - 689-8359 home  
Safety - David Linebarger

**Hangar Phone: (432) 563-5112**

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

## What's Happening & When

May 22- Wing meeting  
May 26 - Memorial Day Fly-In Breakfast,  
Memorial Observance & Symposium  
June 5 - Staff Meeting

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**Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00pm in the Hangar**

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