



The Flyer

May 2006
Vol. Fourteen, No. 5

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

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org



What a fireball! Part of the pyro show put on at Temple by our own HSW, EOD and Blastards members. See David Linebarger's article inside for details.

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

April was a busy month for the High Sky Wing. Thank you to those that supported and worked Open Cockpit Day. There was a great crowd and we sold out of hamburgers and hotdogs – Well done team! The seminar series and luncheon in the hangar was also a success, thanks in part to a large HSW turn out.

Monday, May 29th is Memorial Day and another opportunity to recruit members and do some fund raising. The day's events will begin with a fly over and ceremony in the Memorial Garden at noon, followed by the opening of a new museum exhibit at 12:45 p.m. and then the seminar program in the big hangar at 1:15 p.m. We will once again cook and sell hamburger plate lunches to the visitors. The current plan is to cook and server in the big hangar, where the bulk of the activities and people will be headed and the helicopters will be parked, starting at 11:00 a.m. and going until just before the seminar program starts or we run out of food. As always, your help is definitely needed to ensure the success of the event. Be sure to wear a Wing shirt to help folks learn more about the High Sky Wing and the CAF.

The next Wing meeting is Thursday, May 25th in

our hangar. As a reminder, please don't forget to bring a covered dish or other item to share with everyone for dinner, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:30. Donations for dinner are \$5.00 per person. If the weather permits, come out early and we will try and provide rides in our Wing aircraft. We will also have the latest news and plans for Memorial Day.

The next Wing Staff meeting will be Saturday, June 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the hangar. Any member is welcome to attend staff meetings. It is also time to do some clean up to the front of our hangar and the flower beds and walkway. If anyone wants to help with this, please bring your gloves and tools and we'll try and get the work done early one of these next Saturdays before it gets too hot.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of our second big blue electric fan? We used to have two in the hangar and now we can only locate one. With the temperatures rising, we need to locate it and return it to the hangar. Thank you. See you all at the Wing meeting.

Being Safe!

by Col Lyle Thornton

During the past two months, we have hosted two public dinners and programs in our hangar. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make these occasions' safe and pleasant experiences for our guests. It is not easy to have the general public in our hangar and be able to provide a safe environment among our various aircraft and other vehicles. Speaking of aircraft, I just want to remind everyone that the annual inspection of our SNJ has started and our other aircraft inspections will soon follow so please be aware of the various parts and pieces that are lying about. We have been trying to fly our aircraft to some air shows recently, but the weather has not been very helpful. I want to congratulate our pilots and crew for their foresight to forgo flying to assure the safety of the aircrews and the aircraft.

Now for a word from our sponsor; The High Sky

Wing Motor Pool; we would like to have our 1943 GMC ready for Airsho 2006. We want to accelerate our progress on the truck, but we need HELP. We have openings for body work, drive train, and engine workers, previous expertise not required, but willing to help is needed. Thanks for your support. Please be safe

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Spring is definitely upon us, and for those in the school business, the natives are increasingly restless as summer looms ever nearer. What this all means to me is more time to spend with the airplanes in the hangar...hopefully flying them more than fixing them.

The above was how I began my column for last May's newsletter, and it is even more true this year that the natives are restless! However, it has been a good school year for me and it is always a bit bitter-sweet to see some of the kids leave. Wing member Wayne Bissett's son James, who many of you will remember as a little tyke who loved to push the vacuum cleaner around the hangar, will be in one of my classes next year...makes me feel even older! It is a good thing we have the ASMO, that is, our Assistant Maintenance Officer Lance Sommers, since he is a young sprout and is so competent and experienced that I no longer worry about fixing the airplanes.

Speaking of which, the annual inspection on 101X is on-going, and Lance can use some help in the process. Remember that Saturday's are work-days, although most Saturdays we don't have much work to do. The two Fairchild's will be in need of their annuals in July, and, thanks to an excellent idea from Jim Moore and Bobby Meroney about establishing "crew chiefs" for all our vehicles (air and ground), we will have work to do on "something" every Saturday. Thanks to Mary Alice, the donuts are available and the conversation at lunch is usually worthwhile, so come on out.

Randy will be recounting the adventures of not-flying to various shows....seems the weather has really impacted our best laid plans to take the airplanes places. Still, we are planning to take at least two airplanes to the Odessa Schlemeyer fly-in, the Big Spring fly-out on June 10, and the Snyder airshow on June 17. We have more qualified pilots now, so, if the weather cooperates, we'll go. Come to the Wing meeting and check on the availability of a back-seat,

or make a deal with Steve Bolin to hitch a ride in his Beech Baron: it's a practical traveling airplane (something unusual in this outfit!). Rumor has it that new Wing member James Martin has purchased a Cessna 195, another "almost" practical airplane. Of course my SNJ replacement, the QGC-1B Swift is sitting, ready to go in all her Hooter's Orange splendor. We'd love to see all our members with airplanes bring them to one of our Wing meetings: maybe do some serious ride-giving?

Remember the big Memorial Day events, featuring our Wing's delicious hamburgers, the moving flag ceremony at noon featuring Ralph Gillette as MC and Lyn Fite's guys singing patriotic songs, a fly-over by the Wing's airplanes AND Wing member Gregg Baiano's helicopters, and the seminar series program with noted author Joe Galloway. It will be quite a day.

Until the meeting, remember, lefty loosey, and righty tighty....

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As Bill said, the weather has not been good to our fleet of light aircraft, with either high winds and/or bad weather preventing us from launching to the last couple of air shows. We did break our spell last week-end, flying both Fairchild's all the way to Odessa for the first annual fly-in sponsored by the Schlemeyer Airport Association.

Col Bill Coombes, ably assisted by Ralph Gillette, lead in the Tar-Baby while I, with the help of Lyle Thornton, flew as his wingman. Upon arriving, we enjoyed a very nice breakfast provided by the airport association with none other than our own Col Lance Sommers finding out how much fun it is to cook for a bunch of freeloading pilots!

Col James Martin and his wife Sarah were also helping with chores and had their newly acquired Cessna 195 on display. James says that as soon as a few engine issues are ironed out the 195 will be showing up on the High Sky Wing ramp regularly and even available to transport folks to shows and the like. James will also begin checking out in the PT-19 as soon as time permits and we hope he will be our next new Wing pilot in a short while.

Both Lance and James came out to the hangar last week and we finished more of the annual inspection on the SNJ, including the compression check and changing the oil and filters. Once Eric does his final

inspection, we will be able to start putting the pieces back together and have an airworthy plane again. With any luck, we hope to have the SNJ ready to fly for the Memorial Day ceremonies.

On Memorial Day, we will be joined by the Desert Squadron's PT-13 and PT-26 for our fly overs, so look for them to arrive about 10:00 a.m. that day. That gives us our three planes plus their two, followed by the Huey and Cobra if all goes well. That should be quite a sight for our visitors. No — we are not all flying together, thank you!

Dollars and Cents

by Col Bob Stine

We recognize and thank the following members for donations so far this year:

Bill Combes (General)	\$500.00
Bill Combes (Hangar Rent)	\$250.00
Dan Linebarger (General)	\$500.00
Dan Linebarger (Hangar Rent)	\$500.00
Blake Cowart (Hangar Rent)	\$500.00
David Roberts (Hangar Rent)	\$500.00
Bob Stine (Hangar Rent)	\$500.00
Randy Wilson (Hangar Rent)	\$500.00
Randy Wilson (General)	\$50.00
Jim Moore (Hangar Rent)	\$500.00
Harry Hugly (Hangar Rent)	\$250.00
Bill Stella (Hangar Rent)	\$250.00
David Linebarger (Hangar Rent)	\$500.00
Bobby Merony (Hangar Rent)	\$250.00
Clyde Watson (Hangar Rent)	\$550.00
Tom McKnown (General)	\$50.00

It is only through these donations that we can cover the cost of increased rent, insurance, and utilities. We are always happy to receive donations throughout the year.

Temple Airsho 2006

by Col David Linebarger

On the weekend of May 5-6-7 several members of the High Sky Wing changed their hats to red and yellow to support the Central Texas Air Show on the Pyro field. The team did an impressive night show on Friday with an A-Bomb, 2 100 ft. walls and 20 ground explosions. Then Saturday and Sunday a WWII show with ground troops fighting in front of the crowd and airplanes in the sky, if you have not been to this show you should put it on your calendar for next year. There was also a Vietnam show with the O-2s, T-28 and

A-26 doing the flying.

HSW members filled in several places on the field Gregg and Eric Ulvestad work on bomb spreads as well as Susie Day. Working the Tora line was Mary Ann Drennan and Lauri Skinner. Patrick and Rhonda Burke worked the wire team and then helped out on the field. Bruce Day and Cody Furlow did the strafes and fought the fire ants. Clyde (Doc) Watson had 4 sets of walking bombs. Tom Horton and his trusty side kick Steve Hanson were there to help any where on the field that needed and extra hand.

Gena Linebarger took care of the cutting party and managed the bunker while Ryan Linebarger delivered material and what anyone needed to the shooters. I was the shooter in charge for the show. A great time was had by all who attended this show and all will be back next year.



From left to right, High Sky Wing members who also like to blow things up at air shows are Lauri Skinner, Rhonda & Patrick Burke and Gena Linebarger. So why haven't you guys recruited Christi Shull (right) yet!



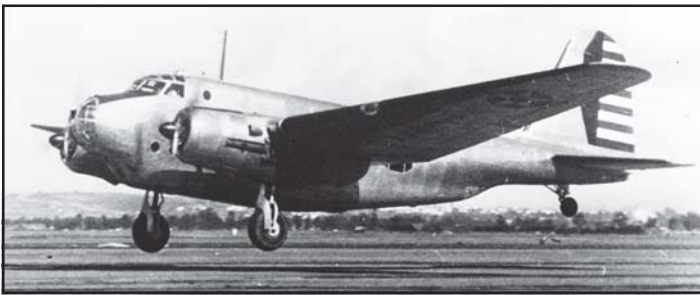
David reports that the night pyro show at Temple was fantastic. If you aren't getting your copy of the newsletter from our website in color, you are missing out on a spectacular photo.

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Another Mystery?

by Col Randy Wilson

Well, after being roundly abused for not including a mystery plane last month, here's one for you to all ponder. Of course, being a bomber, this should be a simple one for Col Bruce (Bomber) Day, eh?



**Don't Forget!
 Your 2006 Wing Dues Are
 Now Overdue**

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

May 25 - Wing meeting (7pm)
 May 29 - Memorial Day events
 June 3 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)
 June 22 - Wing meeting (7pm)
 July 1 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)
 July 15 - Summer Advisory Board

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday May 25th 7:00 pm at the Hangar