



The Flyer

May 2007
Vol. Fifteen, No. 5

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

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

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

The next several weekends are going to be busy ones for the High Sky Wing. Monday, May 28th is the Memorial Day event in the CAF Gardens and big hangar. The HSW will be cooking and selling hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks again this year. Last year's turnout was exceptional and I would expect the same this year. Please arrive by 9:00 a.m. to help with the setup, food prep and organizing. We need lots of volunteers to help make this event run smoothly.

On June 8, 9, 10 the High Sky Wing will be hosting a TRARON Clinic at the CAF hangar. We will be serving dinner Friday and Saturday night and lunch Saturday and Sunday to the TRARON pilots, check pilots and marshalls. Their meals are included in their registration fee. Any HSW member that wishes to help with this event, please RSVP to Gena Linebarger so we have an accurate head count for food. Meals, however, will cost members \$5 per meal.

I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the High Sky Wing. You are the reason we have a successful Wing. There is not a better group of volunteers or more dedicated individuals than our very own HSW members.

Next wing meeting is Thursday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to come join us and bring your favorite covered dish to share. Next staff meeting will be Thursday, June 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Don't Forget!
Your 2007 Wing Dues Are Now Due

Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

Col Kay Nehring will be our guest speaker for the May meeting. Her father flew a C-47 and she has the film showing some of the missions. I think everyone will enjoy the presentation, so come on out to the hangar for our meeting on May 24th. Thanks to Col H. A. Tuck for the referral.



Above, Col Gary Austin proudly displays the new nose art for the B-24A, unveiled at the Twin-Tail fly in event. The HSW provided rides to a couple of lucky visitors in our PT-19 with Col Steve Bolin at the controls while Cols David Linebarger and Steve Hanson cook for the crowd.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

I noticed that some folks have built a replica of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat in Turkey...do you suppose they could bring one here? Seriously, I've not seen so much rain in Midland in all the years I've lived here, excluding the great flood of 1967. Obviously the weather has interfered with some of our flying, and this is annoying, but still and all, I'd rather have green underneath the airplanes when we do fly 'em than that lifeless brown.

The airplanes are all up, and we flew them in support of two of our CAF folks' funerals. Sadly, Bill Gates from our Wing passed away last month, and we were able to put all four HSW airplanes plus James Martin's Cessna 195 overhead, and then, a week or so later, Ruth Florey, a WASP who was a member of the Desert Squadron, passed away. Randy and I flew with the Desert Squadron folks for her services. I believe H.A. got some really nice air to air shots during the flying for Bill Gates. I hope to write an article about our liaison airplanes for publication in either the EAA Warbirds magazine or our CAF Dispatch, and H.A.'s photos will be helpful. Although we don't operate any of the "flashy" WW II airplanes they are all unique in their own way. Maybe we can get some publicity for the "warbugs" of the CAF.

The great B-24 make-over is concluded, and Gary Austin and the B-29/B-24 guys were very complimentary of ALL the hard work that the HSW did for that project. I believe, when it is all said and done, that we put in well-over 600 man-hours. A special thank you has to go again to Lance, Eric, and James Martin for the tireless work they put in the last ten days prior to the roll-out of the airplane. Working until 3 A.M. (!) is not normal! I bailed out by 10 PM on several nights, but those "young guns" just kept on working. The results are wonderful, and "Ole 927" will now be able to generate some income on her own merits.

Come to the Wing meeting! We hope to flange up plans for the Hondo fly-out and the day trips to Snyder on the 16th of June and Hobbs on the 23rd of June, as well as all the stuff the HSW will be doing for the TRARON Formation Clinic held at MAF on the 8th/9th/10th of June. Much is happening with the Wing, both with the airplanes (annuals coming up in July for the two Fairchild's) and with the new Commemorative Center, our new home. Get involved, get excited,

bring a potential member, and we'll try to do some flying prior to the Wing meeting. See you all then.

Remember, righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As most of you know, our plans to take our planes to air shows in Burnet and Temple these last few weeks were thwarted by the weather. We are still hoping to fly to the EAA fly-in at Hondo June 1-2, which is being organized by Col Bill Coombes. We'll have more news and details at the Wing meeting this Thursday.

Other events and fly-ins that I know about include Big Spring on June 9th, Snyder on June 16th and Hobbs on June 23rd. Again, we'll try and have more info on these and other flying events at the Wing meeting and also offer rides before the meeting if the weather permits.

We have, unfortunately, had to fly a couple of memorial flights in the last few weeks, one for our own Col Bill Gates and another in support of our friends in the Desert Squadron. On the Gates flight, Col H.A. Tuck managed to get a couple of new photos of some of our planes, both on the ground and in the air, and these are shown below.

We did have a minor problem with a dead battery in the Stinson 105 (which has now been replaced) resulting in passenger Col Ed McElrath doing a very good imitation of Col Jim "Scramble" Moore's technique in rapidly mounting the J2K, which had started and had no passenger. Good job Ed!



Col James Martin's very nice Cessna 195 now joins our support fleet of aircraft and on this flight, Cols Gena Linebarger and Sue Bowen prepare to board.



Cols Lance Sommers and Ted Claussen mount up in the SNJ for the Bill Gates memorial flight.



On our return to the airport, H.A. snapped this photo of the new Commemorative Center construction. Since then, even more of the building is in place as Col Ralph Gillette will report and show you at the meeting.



Cols Bill Coombes and Ed McElrath crew the J2K (a.k.a. *Tar-Baby*) on the flight. Ed started out in the right seat of the Stinson but as noted on the previous page, made a quick change of planes to make the flight.



Col H.A. Tuck's self portrait in the back cockpit of the PT-19. H.A. - you really need to smile more!



After a dead battery caused his passenger to abandon him, Col Steve Bolin, with a bit of help from Eric Van Hoff, got the Stinson 105 running and was able to rejoin our loose gaggle for the memorial flight and a few photos.



The CAF PBJ *Devil Dog* flew in to be part of the Twin-Tail roll-out of the B-24A. Thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success. Our own Ed McElrath poses with the crew of the "Dog" or maybe he just likes to be next to its pilot, Col Beth Ann Jenkins.

HIGH SKY WING - CAF
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A Couple of Mysteries?

We haven't had a mystery plane in a while, so how about two of them? Answers at the Wing meeting.



High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell

Executive Officer: Ted Claussen

Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell

Finance: Steve Bolin

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 24 - Wing meeting (7pm)

May 28 - Memorial Day events

June 1-2 EAA Hondo fly-in

June 7 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

June 9-11 - TraRon formation clinic

June 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)

July 5 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

July 9-11 - CAF Rally in Las Vegas

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday May 24th 7:00 pm at the Hangar