



The Flyer

November 2007
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

Wing Meeting is Thursday Dec. 6th at 7pm

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

At the last newsletter deadline I was out of town and unable to get an article in for October. Therefore I will seem rather long-winded in this writing because I wanted to go ahead and share my thoughts from AIRSHO 2007.

What a tremendous and outstanding 50th Anniversary air show we put together. The attendance was incredible and the weather cooperated. The High Sky Wing once again lent its support in almost every area of the AIRSHO arena and made a huge impact on its success. I want to thank each and every one of you for the countless hours you spent before, during and after the show. Because of your dedication, enthusiasm and hard work, the HSW showed profits in all of our endeavors. The three day Cantina ran smooth and flawlessly under the direction of Theresa Thornton and her many tireless workers. The Friday night AIRSHO Reception had an attendance that far exceeded my expectations. Thank you to the members that donated funds to cover the cost of food and the band. The lounge hosted many an aircrew and CAF member with its usual HSW hospitality. Thank you Ed McElrath and crew for making everyone feel at home.

Thank you also goes out to those who helped with Pilot registration as well as Colonel registration. The ramp greeters were most appreciated as they shuttled pilots and crew to and from. Thank you to the golf cart shuttle drivers, your continuous flow of transportation provided a much-needed service to the handicapped and elderly. The list of people to thank is endless and I've barely scratched the surface. Each of you were truly recognized as you stepped forth and took on the responsibilities in almost every area of the AIRSHO. You my dear Wing members and friends are an exemplary example of teamwork, dedication and success. Thank you High Sky Wing.

During the CAF General Membership meeting at AIRSHO several of our members received recognition and awards. Congratulations for Silver Magnolia Blossom Awards to Col. Steve Bolin, Col. Jim Moore and Col. H.A. Tuck. Letter of Commendations go to Col. Wayne Bissett and Col. Bobby Meroney. Individual Maintenance Awards go to Col. James Martin and Col. Lance Sommers. Col Randy Wilson received the CAF Lloyd P. Nolen Achievement Award.

I know many of you are watching progress of the new Commemorative Center with great anticipation. A new facility and new home for the High Sky Wing doesn't come without a price tag. A part of the HSW's financial obligation is concrete work around the perimeter of the building and the HSW patio area, along with the purchase of a new air compressor.

Several of our members and friends have already begun to rally for the cause and have given donations to the Wing. A big thank you to Van and Joe Mabee for their generous support. Also a thank you to a large donor who wishes to remain anonymous. A heartfelt thank you to HSW member Edd Vanden Bosch for his extremely gracious financial support to our new home. Further gifts have come from Stuart Small, Pat and Randy Wilson, along with various pledges that will be forth coming.

Also remember that we are taking donations for new furnishings for our new home. Each time you're at the Wing, drop a few dollars in the Bomb to help contribute to the furnishings. All amounts are welcome! Thank you to Deb and Miles Magness, Bill Moler, Purple Sage Chapter Ninety-Nines and the Lounge for your donations.

It is once again time for HSW staff elections. The elections committee consisting of James Martin – Chair, Rhonda Burke and Bruce Day have presented a slate of officers to be voted on at the December 6th meeting as follows: Executive Officer – Rick

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Peterson; Maintenance Officer – Lance Sommers; Operations Officer – Randy Wilson; Safety Officer – David Linebarger, Ronnie Jones. To vote you must be current on CAF and HSW dues and be at the Dec. 6th meeting.

There will be NO Wing meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Instead we will have a Wing meeting on Thursday, December 6th, 7:00 p.m. Don't forget to bring your nonperishable foods for the conclusion of the Food Pantry Drive, donations going to Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry. Remember to bring your favorite covered dish to the meeting for dinner.

Next Staff meeting will be Saturday, December 1,

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Winter, and the doldrums of cold weather and clouds...ah, it must be time to do some maintenance on the fleet! After a successful year of campaigning the Wing's airplanes, now we face the prospect of doing some preventative maintenance and annual inspections on the SNJ, Stinson, and PT-19. We are, by the time you read this, involved in rebuilding the Tarbaby's engine. I don't anticipate much in the way of problems with the first three airplanes, but, then again, I didn't think we'd be rebuilding an engine either!

Thankfully, we have a skilled and dedicated maintenance crew to oversee all of this activity. You might have noticed that our hangar has been full of some unusual airplanes lately. James Martin's beautiful Cessna 195 as well as his Diamond DA-20 have been in the hangar due to construction over at Schlemeyer Field in Odessa. Wayne Bissett's Bellanca Scout has been in the hangar for an annual inspection, and Lance Sommers has taken ownership of a Beech Baron, whose parts are scattered hither and yon, just like the parts and pieces from the Tarbaby. It is actually pretty neat to have our hangar full of airplanes: it shows that we are an active and dynamic Wing and that we FLY, not just sit around. One caution is, of course, please don't move stuff or touch airplanes on jacks, etc. The mechanics, while generally a passive group, can get testy if they can't find stuff!

This will be my next to last column as your maintenance guy: Lance will take over those chores in January. I feel as if our Wing and our airplanes repre-

sent what the CAF should be, that is well-maintained and operated airplanes, showing "the way it was" to the public at different venues, supported by enthusiastic volunteers who toss in sweat equity and cash money to enable us to fulfill the goals of the CAF. I want the High Sky Wing to continue to be that "shining example" as we move across the street into a multimillion dollar facility that will give us much more visibility and opportunity to recruit more members.

And speaking of that new facility...new CAF President Steve Brown has embraced the project and has given a "go ahead" to add bathrooms for the upstairs area. This will probably slow down construction to the extent that we won't be moving in as quickly as I anticipated. However, that might not be the case: we shall know more within the next few weeks. I want to thank Randy for taking on some duties involving the big hanging display model...David for risking life and limb to suspend our mock-up, and other members for stepping in to build it. David has also been heavily involved in planning for "stuff" that will enhance the building and our area of it. If you haven't been over to visit the project as construction continues, I would encourage you to go.

Until our December 6 meeting...lefty-loosey, righty-tighty.

Turn & Bank

by Col Steve Bolin

The Wing's finances continue to be healthy thanks to the assistance of many members. Hangar rentals, aircraft demos, and aluminum cans have contributed \$1200 over the last 3 months. Bingo has made \$6800 for the Wing and \$4100 for the Museum. Ed McElrath recently turned over \$1723 from the Lounge's operations. (Keep emptying those Coke cans). And the Wing's Cantina garnered a net operation of over \$1800. Thanks to all of the unsung heroes that make that operation run. It not only brings money in, but provides a much needed service (on site lunch), while Airsho is getting ready to go.

Donations toward our new home at the Commemorative Center have topped \$8900. Some is earmarked toward our concrete expense, and some toward the furniture for the new building. Please feel free to feed the furniture bomb in the current hangar. It feels kind of light to make a dent in our furniture

bunker. Let's load it up, to blast away that expense.

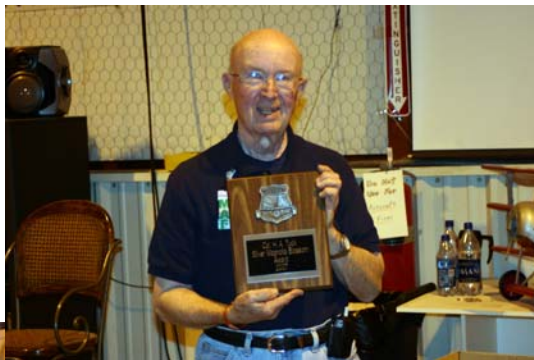
Other expenses we've had: cylinder chroming for the J2K Fairchild, yearly aircraft insurance was \$7112, fuel and oil to Keep Em Flying. Our electric bill for Oct. was \$700. However, Rick Peterson and I have made some changes to the Wing checking account that will earn extra funds to pay some of these expenses. I will continue to guard your funds and make the most out of what you generously provide.

HSW Members Win CAF Awards

At the CAF general membership meeting at AIRSHO 2007, several High Sky Wing members received awards for their dedication to the CAF and its goals.



Cols James Martin (above) and Lance Sommers (below) received the CAF Individual Maintenance Award for their work on the Wing's Stinson 105 and other aircraft.



Cols H. A. Tuck (top), Steve Bolin (below) and Jim Moore (not shown) each received the CAF Silver Magnolia Blossom Award.

Keep 'Em Flying!



Cols Bobby Meroney (above) and Wayne Bissett received CAF Letters of Commendation for their support of the CAF and the High Sky Wing.

Col Randy Wilson received the CAF's highest member award, the Lloyd P. Nolen Achievement Award for 2007, presented by Col Gordon Stevenson, CAF Chief of Staff.

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

New Wing Members

Please welcome new members Cols Sally and Randal Papasan to the High Sky Wing.



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

NO November Wing Meeting!
Dec 1 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)
Dec 6 - Wing meeting & Elections (7pm)
Jan 5 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)
Jan - Wing Awards Banquet - TBA

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday December 6th 7:00 pm at the Hangar