



The Flyer



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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
On the Web at HighSkyWing.org
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr

From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

Our next Wing meeting is Thursday, December 2nd in O'Brien Hall in the Commemorative Center. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Please remember to bring a covered dish or favorite deli item to share for dinner.

After dinner, we will conduct the Wing elections for three staff positions for 2011-2012. Once the election is done, we have what I think will be a great program featuring a look back to the CAF in the 1960s, with Col Harry Susan as our speaker. Harry will narrate a short video made in 1966 at the then CAF HQ at Rebel Field, Mercedes, Texas. You won't believe the flying fun shown in the video.

This year the High Sky Wing is supporting *Christmas for OUR Troops*, which hopes to send 2,500 packages filled with goodies, necessities and cheer to our Texas military men and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. For full details, I have scanned their brochure and put it on our HSW website, with a link on the home page. We need to hurry, as the packages have to be completed and in the mail very early in December. You can also call Polo Park Estates at 432-682-5772 and ask to speak to a manager about the program.

Our next Wing staff meetings will be on Saturday, December 4th and January 8th, at 10:00 a.m. in the HSW Ready Room. The annual Wing awards dinner will be on Saturday, January 15th, in O'Brien Hall in the Commemorative Center, with the social hour starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by a catered dinner at 7:00 p.m. The cost for dinner will be \$20.00 per person and you can pay at the door or pay in advance to Col Steve Bolin anytime. Dress is business casual and a HSW shirt and slacks are fine. Please R.S.V.P. no later than Monday, January 10th to Gena Linebarger at 432-528-0997 or iblast4fun@grandecom.net. I hope to see you there!

By now you should have read the results of the CAF elections and know that I will be busy these next three years serving at a member of the CAF General Staff and other boards of our associated corporations. I hope to spend a good bit of my time helping the CAF Airpower Museum develop new programs to increase museum visitorship and participation within the Permian Basin area. Please send any thoughts on this to me.

I have enjoyed being your Wing leader these last two years and I do not plan to disappear in the future. I will continue to be part of the great HSW team. I would like to take a moment to thank all of the Wing staff officers with whom I have worked, for their great efforts to promote and advance the Wing. Of course none of our gains in membership and success in acquiring and maintaining CAF planes would be possible without the enthusiastic hard work of all of our Wing members. A couple of years ago, Col Bill Coombes noted that the High Sky Wing should be one of the biggest and best units in the CAF, and thanks to all, this is exactly what you have achieved! Thank you.

Wing Elections

by Col Randy Wilson

The Wing election will take place at the December 2nd Wing meeting right after dinner, and all High Sky Wing members in good standing in both the Wing and CAF are eligible to vote. The election will run by an Election Committee, as per CAF regulations, consisting of Cols Drew Diggins (Chair), Paul Cooper and Jerry Perales. Nominees are: for Wing Leader, Col Mike Hedrick; for Adjutant, Col Patti Reakes-Collins and for Finance Officer, Col Steve Bolin. Nominations from the floor are allowed, however you must have the permission of the person you nominate, and they must also be in good standing on all their dues.

If you have any questions on Wing elections, please contact me and I'll get you answers.

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Our speaker for the December 2nd, 2010 Wing Meeting will be Harry Susan, CAF Colonel #355. Harry flew several CAF fighters and other planes in the early 1960s and also flew for CAF founder Lloyd Nolen as a crop duster. We will be showing a short video showing some CAF flying in 1966, and Harry will narrate and also talk about some about his experiences flying Stearmans in his work.

As your XO, I always gladly consider any suggestions for future speakers at upcoming Wing meetings, so let me know if you have someone you would like to speak to us. Please join us at the December Wing meeting next Thursday and remember to bring a covered dish. See you then.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

Winter is almost upon us, along with the holidays, and I'm pleased to report that four of the six Wing airplanes are up and going, with significant work having been done to the fifth, the PT-19. Only the T-28 is months away from taking flight, as we wait for the new engine to be delivered. Today, after the General Staff meeting, Randy and I watched as first the Tarbaby, then the Stinson, then the twin Beech, SNJ, and Navion all lifted off in sequence for a mission. Very gratifying, and all credit goes to the volunteer mechanic types, led by Bob Keating, James Martin, and Lance Sommers, for their hard work and dedication.

I can remember a time when the High Sky Wing had no flyable airplanes, then a terrible time when we lost three friends and two of the three airplanes, and then to a time when it seemed that all the airplanes would never be put back in flying condition. Through it all the members of the Wing have hung together and carried on. We should all take pride in what the Wing has, and what we have accomplished.

Now that the B-29 has left, Jim "Scramble" Moore and Tom "Tomcat" Kingon have decided to come back to little airplane world and help us out. They have graciously consented to fix up the bead blaster and the parts bath and to sort and reorganize the toolboxes. When we get a bit further along on the T-28, Jim and Tom will be part of the crew that begins a thorough cleaning of the airframe. I've asked Bob and Lance to be the lead dogs on the T-28 project: please do not go out there on your own and just start to do something

on it. The T-28 is a bigger, more complex version of the SNJ, and I want us to approach all work on it in a systematic manner, with proper supervision provided by our resident IA, Col. Keating. There will be plenty of jobs for all of us on that airplane but those tasks will be assigned by Bob and Lance. Please don't be offended if you are asked to do something you consider "beneath you." Every job is important in the grand scheme of things, so just put a shoulder to the wheel and help push: the Wing and more importantly our fleet will be the better for it.

Several of our guys received maintenance awards at AIRSHO, including Paul "Buffy" Cooper. The smile on his face when he picked up his plaque was priceless: I have the same smile every time I see one of our airplanes fly.

Until next time, lefty-loosey, and righty-tighty.

Seminar Series Returns

by Col Bill Coombes

After a two year hiatus, the Museum's Seminar Series is back. In September we hosted the Setnor family, grandfather Joe, a Mustang pilot in the CBI, Chip, an F-117 pilot in Desert Storm, and Thomas, currently serving as a Marine in Afghanistan. These three generations of American military men each told an inspiring story of service to our nation, and I was proud to be the moderator for their presentation. Coming at 2 p.m. on December 11th, the second of the 2010 series will be held in the CommCtr hangar. Entitled "Hellcat to Tomcat," this program will feature four (and possibly five) Naval aviators who will describe their experiences winning and wearing those "Wings of Gold." The F-14 Tomcat will be in our hangar, hopefully nose to nose with the F6F Hellcat, and we will be giving cockpit tours of both airplanes before and after the program.

Scheduled to speak will be Chris "Skyler" Kyler, former Marine Harrier pilot and now a civilian instructor with the Navy's T-45 program, Emory Brown, former skipper of VF-84, one of the most well-known Tomcat squadrons, Al Fox, new Wing member and former Navy CAG who flew fixed wing as well as Navy rotor-wings, and my father, George Coombes, who flew Hellcats with VF-15 right at the end of the war. A special "mystery guest" might appear as well, and his story would make him unique amongst many Naval aviators. I hope that you all will plan on attending, and please tell your friends about it. I'll need help, as always, so if you would like to serve as an "aide d'camp"

for any of our guests, or if you would like to help with the cockpit tours of the Tomcat and Hellcat (or SNJ as our stand-in), please let me know.

On a related subject, I would urge each of you to consider joining the museum and come to the programs. Our mission is “education,” and a strong vibrant museum is critical to accomplishing that mission. The Seminar Series will continue next year as well, entitled “Above and Beyond,” and I hope to present an interesting and unique program almost every month. Already in the works is a program featuring Rich Graham, who flew the SR-71 Blackbird, a program featuring three of the currently best-known and widely-read military history authors, Barrett Tillman, Jim Hornfischer, and Bruce Gamble, and a special classified (at this moment) program featuring “Tug” and “Evil” and the story of the Air Force’s Red Star aircraft. I hope to see you at all of them.

HSW Motor Pool News

Many new members may not realize that the HSW has two military vehicles that need restoration. One is a 1943 GMC 2-1/2 ton truck, and the second is a 1954 Dodge three-quarter ton truck. Both vehicles need work to run again, one much more than the other. We have also been offered a 1941 Dodge M37 three-quarter ton Command Reconnaissance car which will be in running condition when donated. We may also be able to do some cosmetic work on the CAF’s half track.

In the past, the vehicles fought for space in our old and current hangar with the aircraft and rentals in the new hangar. To resolve this problem, it has been proposed that the HSW motor pool work area be set up in the main CAF hangar with space dedicated to the vehicles while they are being restored. With the departure of the B-24, B-29 and other large aircraft from Midland, more activities in the main hangar would help the museum, and we have been offered one of the lockable work bays along the side of the main hangar for storage of motor pool tools and parts.

If you are interested in helping reform a Wing Motor Pool and seeing some if not all these vehicles restored to running condition, please contact me. We are also looking for leadership for the motor pool.

I’ve included some photos of the type of vehicles discussed but please note that these are not photos of the actual project vehicles. Just think if the High Sky Wing had its own fleet of ground vehicles for local parades and AIRSHO!

Safety’s Edge

by Col Bobby Meroney

With the end of the year coming up I wanted to take this time to cover a few things that has been covered this past year.

Fire Extinguishers - Every hanger should have at least one Class A-B-C extinguisher for the express use in and around the hanger. This type of extinguisher is used on trash, wood, paper, liquids, electrical wiring and equipment. The aircraft also have specific fire extinguishers. **DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED AND HOW TO USE THEM?**

Eye Protection - Whenever you are working on cutting, grinding, scraping or sanding be sure to wear safety glasses.

Respiratory Protection - If you are sanding, using paint strippers, solvents, etc. always use the appropriate mask to do the job.

Eliminate Clutter- According to the Home Safety Council most accidents in a work area are caused by tripping on hoses, cables, tools or other objects. Always make sure to leave work areas free of clutter. When work is done put all tools and other items back where they belong rather than on the floor.

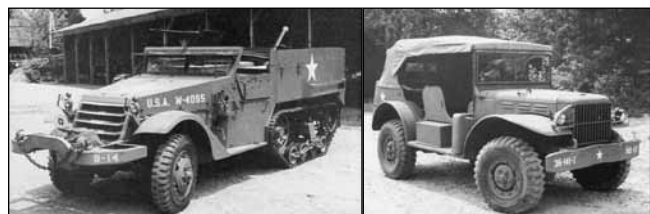
Lift and Support Safety - Nothing will ruin your day faster than having something fall on you or a fellow worker. Use a proper jack and place jack stands. Never lift anything up with inappropriate items. A jack is a lifting device only.

We have a new year coming up. A lot of work is going on in the hanger and safety should be on everyone’s mind. Let’s look out for each other and be safe.

REMEMBER: YOUR MOTHER DOES NOT WORK HERE!!!!



Top left, Dodge M37, top right, GMC 2-1/2 ton, bottom left, M4 half track, bottom right, WWII Dodge command car.



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What Governs a CAF Unit?

by Col Randy Wilson

With many new members over the last 2-3 years, I thought I'd mention what rules, regulations and guidelines govern a CAF unit like the High Sky Wing.

First, there is the CAF Unit Manual, which has detailed chapters on unit membership, unit staff and elections, and the operations and maintenance of unit aircraft. It also has a copy of the CAF Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the CAF Member's Code of Conduct. You might find these interesting reading.

If you would like to view these manuals and regulations, simply log into the Members' Only section of the CAF website at <http://commemorativeairforce.org>. Then look for the heading on the main Members' Only page of **Member Services** and click on CAF Unit Manual, CAF Regulations or CAF Guides to view the various manuals, regs and guides under which we operate. If you have any questions about accessing the CAF Members' Only site or about the various documents, feel free to give me a call or drop me an email.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell

Executive Officer: Rick Peterson

Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell

Finance: Steve Bolin

Operations: Chris Aycock

Maintenance: Bill Coombes

Safety - Bobby Meroney

New Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Dec 2 - Wing meeting & election (6pm)

Dec 4 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)

Jan 8 - Wing Staff Meeting (10am)

Jan 15 - Awards Dinner & Election (6pm)

Aircraft Work Parties will continue after the holidays.

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the ComCtr