



The Flyer

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

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

What A Great AIRSHO!

by Col Bill Coombes

First of all, let me say “thank you!” to all the HSW members who worked so hard to make AIRSHO a success. You all did us proud once again! As you may or may not know, lots of colonels and lots of “regular citizens” think that the AIRSHO is just a production of the High Sky Wing: sometimes it really does look that way to me, too. The entire CAF benefits from your efforts ... just like it is supposed to. Thanks once again.

On the maintenance front, all is well with the assigned airplanes ... and the two tugs (make sure you check out *Beetle Bomb*, the newly refurbished tug (photo back page) ... and the golf cart. Since I coerced Randy into being the Snowbirds liaison, 101X continued her proud tradition of not flying at AIRSHO, but this was not due to mechanical problems. Danny flew the PT-19 in his very first CAF AIRSHO experience and “enjoyed” the opportunity, and the airplane worked well enough. I decided that I would once again fly in the show, and *Tarbaby* was seen to aviate (rather erratically according to some spectators) on Sunday. Of course the big news regarding *Tarbaby* is that she won the Best Liaison/Observation award at the show. The plaque (worth roughly \$47,000) is hanging proudly in the lounge for all to see.

What is new for us after the rigors of Airsho? As detailed in another column, the Wing now has a new detachment, that being the HSW Motor Pool. Col. A. Nonymous donated to the Wing a 1943 GMC deuce and a half truck, which we will now begin to restore. Col. Bobby Meroney, now known as “Bilko Bobby,” and Col. Don “The Wrench” McCracken will head up the restoration team, assisted by Col. Tony “Big Coach” McCarthy. Volunteers who wish to get their hands dirty with a really doable project need to come out and visit with these guys. We are going to rearrange the hangar slightly to accommodate a “truck bay” in order to work on the vehicle. Also, “Big



Our newest project, as it is now (top) and what it may look like in a few months (bottom) — yes, the bottom is a compressor truck but you get the idea!

Coach” has arranged for us to acquire another deuce and a half truck, this one a bit newer than our current one. The HSW will, thanks to all of this generosity, be able to put quite a few unique vehicles in the new “Commemorative Center.”

The airplanes will fly again on 1 November over to Odessa for an open house. *Rudy and Jim’s Aircraft Repair Depot and Dress Shop* will swing into action then to work on my airplane and we will be looking to do the annual inspection on 101X beginning in December. Both of the Fairchilds won’t have annuals due until the Spring. The outlook is bright for spending considerably less money on airplane maintenance in 2004, something that we can all be thankful for!

See you at the Wing meeting? And sign up now to be a part of the “Motor Pool.”

From the Back Office

by Col Ralph Gillette

Greetings to all you survivors. We made it through another AirSho. I don't know what the final tally was on attendance, but anybody that didn't come missed out on a great show and beautiful weather.

Tarbaby missed "Best of Show" by a mere four points, but she is still "Best" in our hearts. I must say, she looked very good making her debut at the AirSho. Now if we could just get 101X into the show. I was reminded that we have never had 101X fly in the AirSho since we got her airworthy. Always broke or no pilot.

I want to thank everyone that helped out around the hangar during the show and especially those that worked in the Cantina. If my memory is working right, the following people deserve special thanks:

Richard Collier, Kathryn Collier, Ernie Webb, Joe Roome, Jim Moore, Ryan Linebarger, Josh Morgan, Bill Smith, Karen McCracken, Sue Becraft, Linda Gisolo, Mary Ann Drennan, Lauri Skinner, Norm Caron, Becky Carter, Carol Claussen, Mary Ann McBride, Megan O'Hearn, Frank Hawk, Marylyn Lavers, David Linebarger, Gena Linebarger, Mary Alice Tidwell, Davy Roberts, Bruce Day, Susie Day, Harry Hugly, Linda Bradshaw, Penny DUEwall, Rudy Arnold, Jim Adams and Peggy Vaught.

To all these people, I say thank you. If I missed your name, I am sorry, but my memory isn't what it used to be and I thank you too.

Exciting things are about to happen. Elsewhere in the Flyer is a picture of our new project. We will be talking about this at the next Wing meeting

Received word from the Desert Squadron that they are planning an open house on Saturday, November 1st. We should have some info at the Wing meeting for anyone that wants to attend.

Remember, our next Wing meeting is Thursday, October 23rd. We have also rescheduled the November Wing meeting to Nov 20th and the December meeting to Friday, Dec 12th with the Dick Rutan dinner, both due to holiday conflicts. Hope you all have a good October and we will see all of you at the Wing meeting. Be careful out there and remember, wear something CAF.



Executive Views

by Col Gena Linebarger

WOW! What an Airsho! How do they keep getting better and better every year? It is, without a doubt, unquestionably, the result of the HSW members' participation. A huge "Thank you" to each and every one of you for your countless and tireless efforts and dedication that you give in the spirit of volunteerism to make the Airsho, the CAF and the HSW such an enormous success. I salute each one of YOU!

Let's show our colors. There is still a selection of HSW shirts available for \$25 each. We would like to sell these before ordering a new batch. Hats are in stock as well.

What's new in the kitchen? Maybe it's you! We're asking for 2-3 volunteers each Wing meeting to man the kitchen. Notice I said "man" the kitchen, because men can handle this task as well. The requirements are simple. These KP Cols. handle the plates, cups, utensils, ice, tea, food, etc. set up. At the end of the meeting cleanup is also easy. Members pick up their own dishes and leftovers while the KP Cols. cleanup utensils. A calendar is available for sign up.

Do you have a funny story from Airsho 2003? ... then the HSW wants you! The program for the Thursday, October 23rd Wing meeting will feature as special guests – Our Own HSW Members. This is an Airsho debrief like none you've ever experienced. Don't miss out on this and other highlights of Airsho. All of you who have a story to tell from this years Airsho experience, please contact me at 528-0997 to be placed on the program. It's going to be great. Grab a chair, hold your sides and don't be late!

Be sure and bring your favorite covered dish to Wing meeting to share with the troops.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As Brother Coombes has told you, I was on the ground for AIRSHO 2003 taking care of the Snowbirds, and I must say they were a lot easier than some other jet teams I've worked with. They also put on great shows both days, even if the Saturday show was a "low" show due to the clouds. I'd vote to invite them back in a couple of years, as they are good for the show and our bottom line.

All of our planes are flying but I have to go get my biennial flight review to be legal again — something

called AIRSHO kind of got in my way, followed by low clouds and rain. Hopefully I'll be back and legit in a few days. Fly safe — see you at the Wing meeting.

Wing Members Awarded

We would like to congratulate the following High Sky Wing members who won CAF awards at this year's annual meeting.

Awarded the **Silver Magnolia Blossom** were Cols Bob Stine and Blake Cowart. **Individual Maintenance Awards** were presented to Cols Jim Moore, Rudy Silas and Rodney Jackson (a.k.a. the *Tar-Baby* team) while Col Don McCracken got a well deserved **Letter of Commendation**.

Plans will be announced for our own Wing awards banquet, to be held in January, as soon as they are finalized.

Nominations for Wing Staff

by Col Jim Moore

I was asked to chair the Nominating Committee to find candidates for High Sky Wing Executive Officer, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer and Safety Officer for 2004-2005. Other members of the committee were Cols Bruce Wallace and Bob Stine.

We recommend the following Colonels for nomination to these positions:

Executive Officer — Ted Claussen
 Operations Officer — Randy Wilson
 Maintenance Officer — Bill Coombes
 Safety Officer — Don McCracken

Elections are planned for the November Wing Meeting, the date of which will be decided (due to a conflict with Thanksgiving) at this month's meeting.

Dollars and Cents

by Col Bob Stine

I am happy to announce that the Wing is in the black with a net profit of \$1,394 for the 3rd Quarter of 2003, due to several successful fund raising projects, plus our activities in support of AIRSHO.

Wing activities that made money include the Robin Olds dinner rental (\$300), AIRSHO volunteer dinner (\$1,160) and AIRSHO Cantina (~\$1,700). The silent auction for the two CAF highway signs brought in another \$2,200 (Col Earl Parks bought both), while a new program to help pay the hangar rent (see details in

another article) has gotten donations paid or pledged of \$2,500 — that is five months of our hangar rent! We are still waiting on a final accounting for the golf tournament but should have the details on that by next month.

In addition, our new Wing project, the 1943 GMC 2½-ton truck, was also purchased with a donation of \$2,500, by Col A. Nonymous (yes, he really does want to remain anonymous, so hush up if you know who) and did not come from existing Wing funds.

With the restoration of the *Tar-Baby* finished, we should be able to look forward to more quarters in the black in the next year. Thanks to all who have helped make this all possible.

I Paid the Rent Club

by Col Randy Wilson

As we all look for ways to raise money for the High Sky Wing, the staff has come up with a new challenge to the membership to help pay one of our recurring monthly expenses — the \$500 rent on our hangar.

Any member who donates \$500 will be made a member of the ***I Paid the Rent*** club, will be given a badge with “their” month shown and have their name added to a list of special Wing supporters. In addition, a front table will be reserved for club members at our regular Wing meetings.

As Col Bob Stine noted in his article, as of now, we have had three Colonels step up and pay the rent, with two more having pledged to do so. Since this is a new fund raiser, we will wait until next month to publish a list of the folks who have stepped up to help pay our rent and what month is “theirs”.



Part of the newly formed HSW Motor Pool is this nicely done ersatz-Kubelwagen VW Thing, and it runs!

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



Blue Angels *Beetle Bomb*

After mechanical restoration and repair by our fledgling Motor Pool gang, including custom bucket seats, the finishing touches were applied by that Krylon genius Col Bill Coombes, complete with *Maverick* and *Goose* labels! If you don't know what *Beetle Bomb* refers to, ask Col Coombes at the next meeting.

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

Oct 23 - Wing meeting
 Nov 1 - Wing staff meeting
 Nov 20 - Wing meeting (date changed)
 Dec 6 - Wing staff meeting
 Dec 12 - Wing meeting and dinner
 with Dick Rutan (date changed)

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00pm in the Hangar