



The Flyer

October 2005
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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 Thursday Oct 27th is a *Thank You* for your hard work at Airsho 2005. We will provide the meal, so just come out and have fun with your friends.

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

Hats off to the High Sky Wing. There is not a better group of volunteers or more dedicated individuals than our very own High Sky Wing members, and the 2005 Airsho proves that statement. I want to personally thank each one of you for your time, efforts and hard work, not only for the Airsho, but also for ensuring the success of all the High Sky Wing events before and during the show.

The pre-Airsho Volunteer Dinner went off without a hitch. This years Cantina looks to be one of our most profitable yet. The man and woman power behind the Cantina are to be commended for a job well done. What a great crew! The "Friday Night in the O'Club" was also a success, due not only to the raffle ticket sales, but to the generous donations from our members. All expenses were met, plus. The winner of the O'Club table was our own Rhonda Burke.

A pat on the back to the people who made the table and chair shuffle work for the Cantina and then Pilot Brief. Thank you to members who helped fill bags for the "Special Show". Let's not forget the "Coffee Queen". Only Mary Alice Tidwell has the proven expertise to meet the demanding coffee needs at Pilot Brief each morning. How many pots did you make? Every High Sky Wing member played a vital role during Airsho. Thank you so much for being there and making this year another successful event!

Yes, there is life after Airsho. As a "Thank you" for all of your hard work, let the Wing provide dinner at the next meeting on October 27th. That's right, dinner on us! No need to bring a dish. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.. I hope that each of you will be able to attend the meeting for a fun debrief of Airsho.



Bill Coombes leads a formation of SNJs on a special photo mission. Our own SNJ 101 is flown by John Currenti and SNJ 44 is owned and flown by Jim Munn. Photo ship is the CAF's SBD flown by Doug Matthews, so it was a true all Navy flight!

The November staff meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 3rd at 7:00 p.m., and there will not be a December staff meeting. The January staff meeting will be Jan. 7th at 10:00 a.m. and for the rest of the winter, will be the 1st Saturday of each month. All members are welcome to attend staff meetings.

Due to the holidays, we are combining the November and December Wing meetings into one on Dec. 8th at 7:00 p.m. in our hangar.

A nominating committee has been appointed to fulfill staff positions for the 2006-2007 terms. The nominating committee consists of Cols Blake Cowart, chairman, Ed McElrath and Lauri Skinner. Staff positions up for election are Executive, Operations, Maintenance and Safety. The slate of nominees will be presented at the October Wing meeting.

Keep 'Em Flying!



A lot of HSW members worked hard to make Airsho a success. Many are the ladies of the Wing, including Becky Carter, Lauri Skinner, and our own Wing Leader Gena Linebarger and son Ryan, providing some manpower.

Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

Airsho 2005 was good! Most of you already know that because many of the wing members were extremely busy working. We served a lot of burgers and dogs in the cantina. Friday's special show brought in a large group. We want to thank all who helped prepare, serve, clean and sell tickets and a special THANKS to our new wing members, newly active wing members and those who worked and aren't even wing members. All help is appreciated more than words can express.

I hope I didn't miss anyone, but the names I have are as follows: Mary Alice Tidwell, Richard & Kathryn Collier, David Ingrham, Bruce & Susie Day, Jim Moore, Tom Kingon, Billy & Betty Barnhill, Bill Smith, Theresa Thornton, Sue Becraft, Harry Hugly, Elise Coombes, Karen McCracken, Bruce Boitz-Fura, Amanda Yeary, Blake Cowart, Jill McCracken, Kelly Stout, Amanda Houdashell-Dombovari, Tonya Houston, Ed Fredricks, David Linebarger, Pat Wilson, Charlotte Samuel, Rudy Arnold, Becky Carter, Bob Stein, Lois Harrington. All those who work the Airsho in whatever area make it work. Thanks to ALL.

Our next wing meeting is October 27th and we want to thank you by providing the meal. **THAT'S RIGHT! YOU DO NOT BRING A DISH.** We'll provide the food. Join us for a meal, good friends and a little information about how this year's show went. Because of Thanksgiving, there will be no November meeting but a combined Nov/Dec meeting on December 8th.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

THANK YOU HIGH SKY WING! As always, the members of the Wing stepped up and did an incredible job during Airsho 2005. I can't begin to tell you how gratifying it is to see so many Wing folks holding critical positions on the Airsho team, and doing such a superlative job. The Airsho was a success, and I know that the Wing's endeavors were successful as well. All in all, a good week's worth of activities.

On the maintenance front, Danny flew the PT-19 on both days of the show, and it sure looked good in the air. The wind put the L-birds on the ground for Sunday's show, so that is why I didn't fly the Tarbaby. However, we once again were awarded the Best Liaison Airplane award at Airsho, so the weekend was good for her. I put together a photo mission for Thursday afternoon of Airsho week, with #24, #101, and Jim Munn's SNJ #44, with the SBD serving as camera ship. I hope Randy will put a pix in of the resulting formation flight. It is something I've always wanted to pull off, and thanks to Doug Matthews and John Currenti (who flew 101), it happened.

I gave a cadet ride this past weekend and noted that the flaps on the PT are not working correctly again, so we have some work to do on that airplane. John Meyer did some needed touch-up repair to the Tarbaby prior to the show, and then Steve Bolin took the radio out of the Tarbaby after the show for some minor work. 101 flew flawlessly during the photo mission and John Currenti said it was a "good performer" which is nice to hear. Randy once again helped me (and the whole CAF) out by being mini-Boss during the show, so he couldn't fly 101. However, we did fly both 101 and 24 for the pre-Airsho Chamber of Commerce mixer, giving two rides to four lucky folks.

Probably the biggest news as far as I'm concerned is that H.D. Butler will be buying my airplane. After two years of hinting, talking, and looking, he's made an offer that I've accepted, so #24 will be leaving the Coombes' family after 25 years. It's not like I lack for airplanes to fly, and this will enable me to become a flying sponsor of one or more of the Wing airplanes, thereby helping out the Wing a bit more. I know that H.D. will take good care of #24 and I'll see her regularly, but I know there will be some pain involved with the sale, too. If I'm not too cheerful in November you will know why.

Again, thanks for all your efforts for the CAF at Airsho. In the meantime, righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.

Safety Is No Accident!

by Col Lyle Thornton

I would like to thank everyone for contributing to make Airsho 2005 a safe and successful event. We have the tendency to rely on certain inanimate objects to provide protection, work assistance, and emergency help. Fire extinguishers can provide us with protection from fire if used properly. Hand tools provide us with a way to make work easier and safer. A flashlight can provide us with a light in the dark to show us the way to avoid hazards. All of these can provide us with very valuable services, but can they be counted on to be available in an emergency?

Unless we make sure that the fire extinguishers are charged and are currently inspected, we can't be sure that they will be ready for use. Worn and broken tools can not be relied on and can cause injury and possible mechanical accidents. Unless we check and replace the batteries in the flashlight, it can become useless in the dark. Basically, we all need to be aware of conditions that could cause problems with the objects that we rely on to keep us safe.

Safety is not something that we can put the shelf or on the wall and look at every so often to determine if we are being safe, it is a full time job to be aware and participate in the safety process. Please be careful out there.



Photo flights put a lot of planes into the air before Airsho and Col Randy Wilson, with the help of the other pilots, helps organize such a flight Friday morning.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

I'd like to add my own thanks to all High Sky Wing and other CAF members who made Airsho 2005 safe and successful. While I had planned to make it

over to TraRon on Thursday, my job as Mini-Airboss required that I take care of Airsho business, including helping Eric with getting arriving planes parked somewhere near their planned position before we had enough Marshallsers on site. Photo flights were another task, with as many as three photo aircraft wanting to get photos of a number of CAF planes for Dispatch and other publications.



New member Col Lance Sommers takes a first ride in our PT-19 behind Randy Wilson. Lance has a lot of tail-wheel time and also instructs as a CFI.

We have two new pilots who will be flying our planes in the near future, Cols Steve Bolin and Lance Sommers. In fact, Lance was "volunteered" to fly the tow plane for Manfred Radius at Airsho and did a great job working with an interesting performer. Steve was a big help with arriving planes while on duty in the tower and also helped with other tasks. We held an FEB (Flight Evaluation Board) meeting this last Saturday to interview both Steve and Lance and will be submitting their paperwork to CAF Operations next week.

Lance has also jumped into (literally) the PT-19 to try and fix our flap issue, being not only a CFI but also an A&P. Steve has also been working with Mary Alice Tidwell and the Museum on getting all the paperwork in order for the Wing to participate in bingo again. Be sure to say hi to both Steve and Lance at the next meeting or work day at the hangar.

Aside from the minor work on the PT-19 flap mechanism, our planes are in great shape and Bill and I will be flying the two SNJs, weather permitting, next Wednesday morning over the grand opening of the new Wal-Mart store.

I have a couple of discs with Airsho photos from H.A. Tuck and also Stuart Small and plan to have the projector set up to show photos at the Wing meeting next Thursday. If you have Airsho photos, digital or prints, bring them to the meeting and well try and share them with everyone. See you there and fly safe!

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Welcome New Members!



Please welcome Col Ed Fredericks of Midland (left) back as an active Wing member and new Col Lance Sommers of Andrews (right) who just joined the CAF and the High Sky Wing. Please introduce yourself and say hello to both at the next meeting or Saturday at the hangar.

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

Oct 27 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Nov 3 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Nov 12 - Slipstream Session (2pm)

Dec 8 - Nov/Dec Wing Meeting (7pm)

Jan 7 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)

Jan 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, October 27th at 7:00pm in the Hangar