



The Flyer

October 2006
Vol. Fourteen, No. 10

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

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

AIRSHO Debrief

The next Wing meeting is Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m. in our hangar, and after dinner (remember to bring a dish to share) we will debrief and discuss the events at AIRSHO 2006. If you have pictures you want to share or digital images you want to project and show, we'll have a projector, laptop and screen set up. See you there!

Commemorative Center News

By Col Bill Coombes

Since the airplanes are all operating normally (which means there are only a few little squawks that we must deal with), and since ASMO Col. Lance Sommers is on board to handle such things, this column will deal with the latest about the Commemorative Center, our new home.

At the time of my last report to you all, we had submitted the revised plans to TxDot for the bid process. We had listed 8 items or parts of the building as "alternates," things that were bid separately, so that we could be sure of coming in with the majority of the structure within our budget. On September 8 the proposals were let for bid and Lee George Construction was the low bidder for our project, and his bid was well within our budget for the base building, and was within \$220K with all the alternates added in. The General Staff, by unanimous vote, chose to include everything in the bid package, even though it will require the CAF to borrow the money to complete the building. (More on that detail later.) On Friday after Airsho Randy and I met with all the principals (architect, contractor, HQ staff, O Club and Museum reps) for a "pre-pre-construction" meeting.

At this meeting Lee George and his on-site construction manager gave us a preliminary time-line for finishing the building as well as some information pertaining to the "finish out" of the structure. According to Mr. George (who seems like a square shooter), the building will take 295 working days to complete, and he sees no big issue in keeping it from being done

and ready for us to occupy by Airsho 2007. Thus our 50th Anniversary Airsho will also be the grand opening of the new facility. We will have a new home!

I want all our members to know that this facility will include dedicated space for our library, lounge, kitchen and two offices: square footage for that will be roughly the size of our existing space without the hangar. We will be located across from the public bathrooms, on the ground floor. We will have a covered patio as well! The airplanes will all fit comfortably in the hangar, along with all the "Ground Transportation Vehicles" currently in the main hangar. (We must maintain them: Bobby Meroney and the Motor Pool guys get ready). We will have one large HSW-only area for tools and equipment, parts, etc, and we will share a large space for other stuff with the B-29 folks. Our shop equipment (parts bath, bead blaster, etc) will be in the hangar as well. For our monthly meetings we will use O'Brien Hall on the second floor.

We have a general agreement with the other parties for operating the facility, apportioning costs, etc. We will NOT get to use this facility for free. How much it costs will have to be determined, but we will be able to rent it out on a regular basis, thereby generating the income necessary to pay for it's monthly upkeep. Mark Baxter and I have already talked about the groups that have rented the main hangar in the past, the requirements, management and staffing issues, etc. Col Blake Cowart I hope will continue as the Rentals Officer in the new facility: I predict he will have lots of calls!

Watch for steel to start going up around January 1, earlier if we are lucky. It will be a first class facility, one that should generate some new members, some new exposure, and some new enthusiasm for the Wing. I'm sure there will be problems, but they pale into insignificance in my mind when I think of the opportunities we will have "across the street."

That's it for this month....Remember, lefty-loosey righty-tighty.

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

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

I want to thank all our High Sky Wing members for the hard work they put into making AIRSHO 2006 a success. A special thanks goes to Col Steve Bolin for briefing and leading the pre-show "Dawn Patrol" both days, and also thanks to Col James Martin for helping out with the Mini-Boss duties. Also, Col Lance Sommers flew our SNJ in his first AIRSHO after attending the TraRon formation clinic. I'm sure Steve, James and Lance will all have some stories to share with you about their "adventures".

It is hard to imagine putting on AIRSHO in Midland without the support of so many High Sky Wing members, family and friends. Y'all done good!

Due to our Wing Leader and a number of other members being out of town at the Houston air show, this month's newsletter is a bit short but with the start of construction of the Commemorative Center and all the stories about AIRSHO, you don't want to miss this month's meeting, next Thursday. Fly safe.

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell

Executive Officer: Ted Claussen

Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell

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

Oct 26 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Nov 4 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Nov 30 - Wing meeting & Elections (7pm)

Note: No Wing meeting in December!

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday October 26th 7:00 pm at the Hangar
