



# The Flyer

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On the Web at  
HighSkyWing.org

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

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## Wing Meeting is Thursday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

### What's Happening

by Col Randy Wilson

With our Wing Leader Gena and most of the "Skinbarger" clan away at an air show in New Braunfels this weekend, I'm going to try and offer a quick summary of upcoming events for the Wing.

The next Wing meeting is this Thursday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, and will be a debrief of AIRSHO 2007. Don't forget to bring a covered dish. Due to a hangar rental on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, we won't be able to set up for the Wing meeting until Thursday morning.

This year, we are also going to collect canned foods to donate to the local food pantry. See Col H. A. Tuck's article for details. We are not having a Wing meeting in November and the next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. A time and place for the January Wing Awards Dinner will be announced soon.

Starting Saturday, Nov 3rd, Wing staff meetings will move back to the first Saturday at 10:00 a.m. each month until air show season returns.

The following Wing staff positions come up for election this year: Executive Officer, Maintenance, Operations and Safety. The nominating committee consists of Cols Bruce Day, Rhonda Burke and James Martin. The election will be held at the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Wing meeting.

Progress continues on the Commemorative Center and with most of the walls up or framed, you can now get a good sense of the rooms and space in the new building. If you come out early for the Wing meeting next Thursday, we'll be happy to take you on a short tour of what will soon be our new home.

Finally, the new President of the CAF, Steve Brown started work last Thursday and is busy getting to know his staff and learning about the CAF. I plan to invite him to join us for the Wing meeting and hope you will get a chance to meet him in person.

### Holiday Food Drive

by Col H. A. Tuck

At the Oct. 4 Staff Meeting, it was agreed that High Sky Wing members will be encouraged to bring foodstuffs to benefit the Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry. Contributions will be accepted at Wing meetings on Thursday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a November Wing meeting.

Especially needed at this time are canned vegetables, although any type of non-perishable canned or dried food is welcomed. The pantry, which is coordinated by Wing member Col. H. A. Tuck, serves approximately 50 families per week, with each family averaging about 4.5 members. The pantry is open Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. and clients are allowed to receive food once each month.

"We receive more than 90% of our foodstuffs from the West Texas Food Bank, but they have been unable to supply all our needs recently in some areas, which has forced us to purchase items on the open market," Tuck said. "Our average cost per individual client is less than \$1.15. In addition to canned or dried foods, we also gratefully accept cash. Checks should be made payable to *Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry*."

***Keep 'Em Flying!***

### Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

During September we gained several new Wing members. These include Ronnie Jones, Douglas Bevins, Philip Goforth, George Tuck, Ronnie Barnett and Judy Galloway. Welcome to the High Sky Wing and we hope to be able to post your photos in the next editions of the newsletter.

[H. A. Tuck probably took their photos but I'm behind getting all the AIRSHO images sorted out. *Ed.*]

## From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

This promises to be one of my last columns as the Maintenance Officer for the Wing, as I've done this enough (and I really haven't done much hands-on stuff since Lance, Eric, James, et al, have come on board) so it is time for a change. I think I've been reelected to the General Staff, and, since we have a new President in Stephan Brown, I have a feeling I'll be involved with the "big picture" of the CAF more than previously. I know that Stephan wants to know how Airsho works: I'm just going to point to all the fine folks across the street at the High Sky Wing and tell him there is a large part of the success we enjoy.

On the wrench-twisting front, the cylinders for the Tarbaby have not reappeared, so we didn't have a J2K in the Dawn Patrol. Airsho did see us fly the other Wing airplanes, as we did have a Stinson (ably flown by flight leader James Martin) and our PT-19 (also well-flown by Sam Strahan) participating in that Airsho activity. Also, Randy flew the O-2 in the show and did a fine job of helping make the Viet Nam segment so cool, and Lance did a great job flying formation in the big T-6 gaggle. He learned about the "fun" of flying close to 11 of your new best friends in some really bumpy air! Steve flew the jet, both with owner Doug, and then with old HSW member Joe Cope. Gregg Baiano had his fleet of helicopters flying in the show, much credit to him for being so supportive of the CAF...and, of course, our very own Blastards created a "half-mile wall of fire" which was VERY impressive. All in all, Airsho was safe, made money, and left most everyone ready to do it again next year.

Of course, next year means that we will be in the new building. We're gonna have some challenges making the building work for us during next year's show, but I'm sure we'll pull it off for the betterment of the CAF and the HSW. We do, however, have to move: like many of you I HATE moving! We've got plenty of stuff to move across the way, and we need to spend the next few months "purging" our facility of stuff we don't want. As flying has more or less wound down as winter approaches, we need to begin boxing things up and throwing things away. I hope to see more of you out when it does come time to move...

Lastly, I hope you have seen at least one or more of the new Ken Burns documentary "The War" on

PBS. It is simply wonderful. The story of WW II is so vast, yet Burns was able to tell it "from the bottom up" in a way that makes you realize that **individuals** did all of that, the ordinary men and women of the Greatest Generation who we all have gotten to meet because of our involvement with the CAF. Seeing the series made me realize that we truly are members of the "COMMEMORATIVE" Air Force in the truest sense of the word, and we have gotten to know dozens and dozens of folks whose stories could easily be in any series about WW II. Those people have been guests of the Seminar Series, have been speakers at our Wing dinners, are our own members, friends, and family. It is for them, and for what they did, that we must continue to make the CAF work. I'm so thankful that young folks like Lance, James, Sam, Philip, Rick, Wayne, and others are now on-board to carry the responsibility.

Until the meeting, lefty-loosey, and righty-tighty.

## As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As Bill has noted, once again the High Sky Wing stepped up and made a lot of AIRSHO 2007 happen. I'm very proud of all of our pilots and appreciate the very professional attitude they all demonstrate. I can't tell you how great it is to be able to ask our Wing members for a bit of help at AIRSHO and not only get the job done but with a smile. That's one of the things that makes our Wing special to me.

Bill has already summarized our AIRSHO flying activities but I'd also like to thank James Martin and Sam Strahan for helping out with AIRSHO "Ground" ops, helping to get the arriving show aircraft directed to their proper parking areas and providing other help on the ramps. James also spelled me on the announcer's stand as Mini-Boss on Friday and when I had to fly on Saturday and Sunday. Another great help was Col Bruce Day, who agreed to jump in and help with everything from moving the school busses to getting water and ice out to the crowd for the special show. These are just a few of the many I would like to thank.

Congratulations to Col Lance Sommers for getting his TraRon Wingman formation rating and flying in his first "big" formation. I should tell you that in training, the largest flight is four ships and once at altitude for practice, the leader sets his throttle and

doesn't touch it again until they return to land. In a 16+ ship flight, unless you are in the lead 4-ship flight, your leader will have to be constantly adjusting his throttle to keep your flight in position on the lead flight. Just ask Lance if this isn't interesting, especially the first time. How many P&W R-1340s can you hear going from idle to full throttle at a time!

Col Sam Strahan also flew his first AIRSHO, flying the PT-19 in the dawn patrol, very well briefed and lead by James Martin in the Stinson 105.

Next year's AIRSHO is going to present some new challenges, as we will then be in the new Commemorative Center and we will need to do many of the things such as pilot registration and briefings, special show briefings, EOD ops, perhaps golf cart assignments, etc. out of that building, while the O'Club is in operation upstairs and around the building. It is going to take some careful planning to adjust to the new arrangements and space but I'm sure the High Sky Wing members can make it all work, as you always do.

Fly safe and I'll see you at the meeting Thursday.

## Executive Views

by Col Ted Claussen

I would simply like to THANK everyone who pitched in on the work to make AIRSHO 2007 another great one. You are the best!



As you probably know, the High Sky Wing hosted the reception for all CAF Colonels and air show pilots and their guests in the O'Club Friday evening. New member George Tuck is caught giving some sort of advice to two of the ladies from Hooters, who catered the event. We'll have to ask brother H. A. for details!



Everyone had a chance to unwind after the show was over Sunday, including Cleo and her "father" Cheyenne.



New members George Tuck (left) and Barbara and Douglas Bevins caught by George's brother H. A. at AIRSHO. Barbara is an Air Force LTC involved with the local JROTC. Welcome to you all and we hope you enjoyed your first AIRSHO as HSW members.



Bob Rice watches his last AIRSHO as CAF President with AIRSHO Chairman Bill Coombes. Obviously whatever they are looking at is interesting.

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



Col Taylor Stevenson, pilot of the Piper J-3 Cub, seems to enjoy meeting the twin Miss AIRSHO 2007s, Hailee and Heather Frederick. Don't ask me to try and tell them apart!

### 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

Oct 25 - Wing meeting (7pm)  
Nov 3 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)  
NO November Wing Meeting!  
Dec 1 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)  
Dec 6 - Wing meeting (7pm)  
Jan 5 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)  
Jan - Wing Awards Banquet - TBA

**Next Wing Meeting is Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm at the Hangar**