



The Flyer

October 2008
Vol. Sixteen, No. 10

High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

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

From the Lead

by Col Gena Linebarger

Ladies and Gentlemen we've made it through another AIRSHO with only the memories remaining. It was a great show with perfect weather. The High Sky Wing once again lent its support in almost every area of the AIRSHO arena and made a huge impact on its success.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the countless hours you spent before, during and after the show. Because of your dedication, enthusiasm and hard work, the HSW showed profits in all of our endeavors. This year seemed more challenging than most, being in our new home meant learning new ways to do old stuff. The tireless workers of the Cantina, however, made this three day event, in uncharted smaller territory, run smooth and flawlessly. I saw pride in all of our members as we took time to show off our new facility. The Ready Room hosted many an aircrew and CAF member with its usual HSW hospitality making everyone feel at home.

Thank you also goes out to those who helped in the areas of the Special Show, Pilot registration, Liaisons to the performers and those that jumped in to do whatever needed to be done. The ramp greeters were appreciated as they shuttled pilots and crew to and from. Thank you to the golf cart shuttle drivers, your continuous flow of transportation provided a much-needed service to the handicapped and elderly. The list of people to thank is endless and I've barely scratched the surface. Each of you were truly recognized as you stepped forth and took on the responsibilities in almost every area of the AIRSHO.

High Sky Wing members, their families and friends are exemplary examples of teamwork, dedication and success. Thank you High Sky Wing. And last but not least, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to Col. Bill Coombes for his outstanding leadership as AIRSHO Chairman for the past 10 years. Please shake

Bill's hand and commend him on a job well done as he steps down.

During the CAF General Membership meeting at AIRSHO several of our members received recognition and awards. Congratulations for Silver Magnolia Blossom Award to Col. Sam Strahan. Letter of Commendations go to Col. Deb Magness, Col. Harry Hugly and Mrs. Theresa Thornton. Individual Maintenance Awards go to Col. James Martin, Col. Lance Sommers and Col. Eric Van Hoff. The most prestigious Lloyd P. Nolen Award was received by Col. David Linebarger. Congratulations to all.

In current business, a nominating committee has been appointed to fulfill staff positions for the 2009-2010 terms. The nominating committee consists of Col. Blake Cowart, chairman, Col. Ralph Gillette and Col. H. A. Tuck. Staff positions up for election are Wing Leader, Adjutant and Finance. The slate of nominees is included in this newsletter and will be presented at the October Wing meeting. Voting will take place at the December 4th meeting. To vote you must be current on CAF and HSW dues and be at the Dec. 4th meeting.

Next Wing meeting will be Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. and our speaker will be CAF Col Dave Miller, the new B-29/B-24 crew chief who will tell us the plans for these two planes and answer your questions about them. He also needs some help, he said.

There will be NO Wing meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Instead we will have a combined Nov. & Dec. Wing meeting on Thursday, December 4th, 7:00 p.m. Remember to bring your favorite covered dish to the meeting for dinner.

Next Staff meeting will be Saturday, November 1st, 10:00 a.m. at the hangar. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Awards Banquet to be held on January 24th in O'Brien Hall. Details will be forthcoming.

Keep 'Em Flying!

Membership News

by Col Lauri Skinner

We would like to welcome the following new High Sky Wing Colonels who joined in the last several weeks: Keith Lawrence, Elise Coombes, LaDonna Worchester, Cindy and Gary Harmon, Terri Brown, Bill Crump, Mike Massey and Kenneth Shanaberger. Please be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to any of our new members at the next Wing meeting or Saturday work day.

Wing Staff Nominations

by Col Blake Cowart

The Nominating Committee; H.A. Tuck, Ralph Gillette and I, submit for nominations of the December Staff election for the High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force as follows: for Unit Leader, Randy Wilson; for Adjutant, Lauri Skinner and for Finance Officer, Steve Bolin.

On behalf of H.A. and Ralph, we thank you for entrusting us with the selection process. Also we wish for the current Staff to encourage and welcome additional nominations from the floor by the general membership. They should be encouraged to become a part of the election process as well.

Holiday Food Donations

For the fourth year, High Sky Wing members are asked to bring contributions to the Dec. 4th Wing meeting. Donations of both food and cash will go to the Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry, which is coordinated by HSW member Col. H. A. Tuck.

Tuck said the pantry operates weekly, serving an average of more than 250 persons each week. Clients are authorized to visit the pantry once each calendar month after they are certified eligible based on family size and income.

“At present we are making significant food purchases each month from retail sources, as supplies from the West Texas Food Bank have been limited, especially as some of their normal supplies have been diverted to areas of Texas hard-hit by hurricanes and floods,” Tuck pointed out.

The pantry particularly needs canned vegetables, such as green beans, corn, and ranch style beans, plus soup. In lieu of canned or dried goods, cash contributions should be by check directed to Memorial Christian Church Food Pantry.



Col Chris Aycock took this beautiful shot of our SNJ flown by Col Lance Sommers on a fly by recently.

Being Safe!

by Col David Linebarger

Thanks to all who helped out with Wing functions this year at AIRSHO, as without all of your hard work during this event would not have been the success that it was this year. At the hangar you will be seeing some improvements in the patio area, there are plans for grass and a fenced area for next year's AIRSHO to be in place.

This past Saturday the work started by removing most of the rocks from the area. With the help of Jim, Tom, and Tuck we picked up about 50 buckets of rocks from our area. There has been PVC pipe laid for a sprinkler system for this area. Mark from HQ has made arrangements to get some fill dirt to be placed on the area and we will have to get it leveled out. Once this is done there needs to be a 2 rail white PVC fence with gates from the building to the airport fence. This will make us our own area to be used as we want to at air show or anytime we are out there.

Ceiling fans installed under our patio would be a nice touch to finish out this area. Anyone can help out with this project with your labor and/or your check book in the form of donations for the material for the fence and fans. Thanks to all who help out with what the Wing does to make it one of the premier Wings in the CAF.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

Please congratulate Col Chris Aycock as our newest Wing pilot! Chris checked out in our PT-19 and flew it in the Dawn Patrol at AIRSHO. In other pilot news, Col Sam Strahan has added the Stinson 105 to the CAF planes he can command. Thanks to

both and to Col Lance Sommers for his hard work as the Wing Instructor Pilot.

Our rides for hire program continues to do well but with the recent increase in avgas prices, we have had to raise the prices for rides in the SNJ to \$300 and in the PT-19 to \$200. Of course, this was all before the very recent "adjustment" in oil prices downward, so stay tuned for further news, as they say.

I'd also like to comment that our XO Col Rick Peterson has several speakers lined up for next year's Wing meetings, and he will have more information on that for you in the next newsletter.

Col Lance Sommers is in the process of changing the oil we use from straight mineral oil in the SNJ, PT-19 and J2K to ashless dispersant or "detergent" oil. This will require some extra checks of oil screens and filters for a while but should ensure our engines run cleaner and longer. Before adding oil to any of the planes, please check with Lance or the pilot to ensure you are using the correct type of oil.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Wing meeting or Saturday work day. Fly safe, y'all.

AIRSHO 2008 Images

Photos by Col H. A. Tuck



Above, the O' Club balcony was popular while below, HSW members and guests enjoy our patio. Photo below is Col Chris Aycock flying his first dawn patrol in the PT-19.



Col Steve Bolin waves to the crowd after being the bad guy in the Vietnam segment in the L-39. Below, Col Bill Coombes is awarded for his ten years service as AIRSHO Chairman by CAF President Steve Brown.



Our cantina operation was a big success and helped to feed Colonels and workers in the three days before AIRSHO. Thanks to all HSW folks who made it work.



Below, Col David Linebarger receives the CAF's highest award, the Lloyd P. Nolen Achievement Award.



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At AIRSHO 2008, we remembered our friend and hard-working member Col Miles Magness, who passed away suddenly just before AIRSHO. The M42 Duster that he worked so hard to restore for display bears wreaths in his memory. Fly safe, Miles.

Lest We Forget

High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Gena Linebarger - 528-0997 cell
 Executive Officer: Rick Peterson
 Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell
 Finance: Steve Bolin
 Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell
 Maintenance: Lance Sommers
 Safety - David Linebarger

New Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Oct 23 - Wing meeting (7pm)
 Nov 1 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)
Note: No Wing Meeting in November
 Dec 4 - Wing Meeting & Election (7pm)
 Dec 6 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)
 Jan 3 - Wing Staff meeting (10am)
 Jan 24 - Wing Awards Banquet (tbd)

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