



The Flyer



October 2010 Issue, Vol. Eighteen, No. 10
High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
On the Web at HighSkyWing.org
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-561-5581

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday October 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Hangar

From the Lead

by Col Randy Wilson

What great weather for an outstanding AIRSHO! Initial reports are that this show was the largest AIRSHO here without a major jet team. We are still waiting for a tally on advance ticket sales and other final numbers but will report this as soon as possible. Thanks to all who made the show such a success. We will have a debrief of AIRSHO at the Wing meeting next Thursday, October 28th, with the social hour starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Please remember to bring a covered dish or favorite deli item to share for dinner. I hope to see you there.

Initial reports on how the Wing fared during AIRSHO include signing up nine new HSW members, including Cols Orin Wade, Pat Thixton, Nancy Swallow, Brenda Hansler, Jim and Mary Jane Goad, Ray Farmer and Thomas (Tom) Lobaugh. Our paid Wing membership has now reached at least 220 members! Y'all done good.

On the finance side, Col Steve Bolin reports that the Cantina lunch operation netted \$2,323 in profit for the Wing. This is our best AIRSHO cantina ever! Look for a picture of the cantina crew later in the newsletter. In addition, the bar in the Ready Room made a profit of about \$325 dollars after our split with HQ. T-28A donations were \$313 including a \$100 check from Col Charlie Wood. We'll be thanking a lot of folks at the Wing meeting for all these great accomplishments.

Thanks also to all the pilots and maintenance team that made it possible for five of our six CAF planes to fly in AIRSHO! Included later are photos of our planes and pilots at AIRSHO, courtesy of Col H. A. Tuck.

Thanks also to Col Lance Sommers for giving a ride in the SNJ to Wayne Gregory's assistant with U.S. Specialty Insurance, who insure the CAF planes and pilots. Good P.R. job, Lance!

I can't tell you how pleased I am with the coopera-

tion and help of so many HSW members and family members in making this a fun, safe and profitable AIRSHO. Enjoy some photos from the show in the rest of the issue. See you next Thursday.

Wing Elections

by Col Randy Wilson

This year, three of the seven HSW staff positions are up for elections. In accordance with the CAF Unit Manual, the staff formed a nominating committee consisting of Cols Blake Cowart (Chair), H. A. Tuck and Susie Day, and they have presented the following slate of nominees: for Wing Leader, Col Mike Hedrick; for Adjutant, Col Patti Reakes-Collins and for Finance Officer, Col Steve Bolin.

The election will take place at the December 2nd Wing meeting right after dinner, and all High Sky Wing members in good standing in both the Wing and CAF are eligible to vote. Nominations from the floor are allowed, however you must have the permission of the person you nominate, and they must also be in good standing on all their dues.

If you have any questions on Wing elections, please contact me and I'll get you answers.

Executive Offerings

by Col Rick Peterson

Well, I hope all our members had a great time at AIRSHO this year, and what a great show it was.

As we did last year, we will forego having a guest speaker, and use the time for a debrief of this year's AIRSHO. Looking ahead, I'm working on our speaker for the December 2nd, 2010 Wing Meeting.

As your XO, I always gladly consider any suggestions for future speakers at upcoming Wing meetings, so let me know if you have someone you would like to speak to us. Please join us at the October Wing meeting next Thursday and remember to bring a covered dish. See you then.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

A short column this month, as AIRSHO and my real job have taken much of my time: next time I'll provide a lengthier effort.

First of all, we had FIVE Wing airplanes up and flyable for this year's AIRSHO. This is quite an achievement and credit goes to all of you who have worked on the fleet during our work party evenings. I must, of course, single out Bob Keating, James Martin, and Lance Sommers as without them none of the airplanes would have been finished up and flying. I was proud to see that Bob and James were among several High Sky Wing members to receive recognition at the General Membership meeting for their efforts on behalf of the CAF and the HSW.

Secondly, as is the case with all things mechanical, the post-AIRSHO report on the flying status of the fleet wasn't so bright and beautiful. The Tarbaby had a limp pitot tube (but, then again, don't many of us???), the Stinson leaked fuel (same comment), the Navion had intake or carb problems, and the PT-19 engine still isn't quite broken in. The good news is that all but the PT engine break-in and Stinson fuel issue have now been resolved!

The SNJ continues to soldier on with minimal complaints. Both the PT and the SNJ saw considerable flying time at the formation clinic prior to AIRSHO: the other three airplanes spent much time droning around in a circle during the show itself. So, we have only a bit more work to do on the fleet to take care of these little nagging problems.

Third, the T-28A project is going to accelerate now that AIRSHO is over. We understand that the new engine may be ready in a couple of weeks. Once we have the engine, we shall be hitting the T-28 hard, with the hope we can be flying it in the Spring. Thanks to Col Aycock's father-in-law (he manned the airplane while it sat on display in the big hangar) we made more than \$300 in donations and generated lots of photo ops for many visitors at AIRSHO. Also thank you to Col Diggins for the fine sign that hung on the prop....it tugged at everyone's heartstrings ☺

Remember, evening work parties are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays....the more folks the merrier we all are!

Until next month, righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.

Lest We Forget

AIRSHO 2010 Images

Thanks to Col H. A. Tuck for these photos.



This year's AIRSHO Cantina was the biggest and most profitable ever! Above are shots of our porch during cantina operations showing the great turnout all three days. Special thanks to the cantina crew shown above. Left to right, Cols or Cols spouses Betty Barnhill, Lanetta Cooper, Theresa Thornton (Cantina Lead), Carol Gillette, Tresa Bolin, Sue Becraft, Ralph Gillette, Lois Harrington, Harry Hugly and Kathryn Collier. Thanks also to Col Blake Cowart for cooking all of the briskets for the cantina.



Above, the T-28A got attention and some donations. Below, Col Lance Sommers does a great job in the HSW SNJ and is now a TraRon formation instructor!



Above, Col Bill Coombes in the J2K *Tarbaby* and below, Col Bob Keating at the controls of the L-17.



Above, Col Sam Strahan in the PT-19 and below, Col Steve Bolin in the Stinson 105. Great job guys!

Above, Col James Martin in his beautiful Beech SNB.



Congratulations on earning his Wingman rating at TraRon. Left, Cols Greg Gutting and H. A. Tuck took on the job of managing the media at AIRSHO. Below, my perch with the announcer for three days.



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

The Star of the Show

There is no doubt that the CAF B-29 *FIFI* was the star of this year's AIRSHO. Her return to flight was noted as a reason many local folks attended. You have to admit that her big photo pass was outstanding! Photo by Col H. A. Tuck.



High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell
Executive Officer: Rick Peterson
Adjutant: Lauri Skinner - 553-2316 cell
Finance: Steve Bolin
Operations: Chris Aycock
Maintenance: Bill Coombes
Safety - Bobby Meroney

New Hangar Phone: (432) 561-5581

all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Oct 28 - Wing meeting (6pm)
Nov 4 - Wing Staff meeting (6pm)
Dec 2 - Wing meeting & election (6pm)
TBA - December Wing Staff meeting

Aircraft Work Parties every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. until done

Next Wing Meeting, Thursday October 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Hangar
