



The Flyer

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

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

Tar-Baby Ready for AIRSHO!

Col Bill Coombes is not only the AIRSHO Chairman, but as anyone who reads this newsletter knows, he is also the chief pilot and “father” of our Fairchild J2K, the *Tar-Baby*. In preparation for his second AIRSHO appearance in the plane, Bill applies the name and also poses with his newly painted and marked *Tar-Baby* support golf cart and the *Tar-Baby* ground crew.

Oh, and don't forget that Bill has been nominated for the CAF General Staff, so let's all support the *Tar-Baby* and vote for Bill!



Col Bill Coombes proudly displays the new *Tar-Baby* lettering on the side of the J2K.



Bill and the new *Tar-Baby* support vehicle and ground crew.

AIRSHO 2004 Events

By Col Gena Linebarger

It's already that time again, AIRSHO 2004 is upon us and the High Sky Wing is in full swing. There are a number of events planned so be sure and mark your calendar. The AIRSHO kickoff is the annual **Volunteer Hamburger Dinner** on September 15th in the big hangar. Chefs for the event are our own High Sky Wing members. Remember this is a fund-raiser for the Wing and your help is needed. The BBQ pit will fire up at 5:00 and at that time we'll also handle the food prep in the kitchen at HSW. Come help with the fixin's, the flippin' and the servin'.

Next on the calendar is the **High Sky Wing Cantina** scheduled for operation on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of AIRSHO week from 11:00 to 2:00 each day. Again, this is a major fund-raiser for the Wing but it takes a lot of participation from the members to make it a success. Last year we cooked almost a 1000 hamburgers and 500 hotdogs. WOW! Who knows how many tomatoes and onions we sliced. Each day we need people to cut up and prepare the veggies, beans, drinks, etc. and to set up serving lines. We need to fill positions from money takers to clean up workers. Also needed are cooking team members, especially on Thursday and Friday. Please volunteer whether it's a few hours or all 3 days. Thank you in advance, I know the HSW members will pull together to make this a successful event.

Just think, all of these activities and it's only Friday afternoon of AIRSHO. What's next you ask? Let's all wander over to the O'Club at 5:30 for the **Friday Night Mixer** hosted by the High Sky Wing. This event will be easy on everyone. 150 pizzas have been ordered and all we have to do is set out the boxes and free food for all. We still need a couple of people to pickup pizzas at Mr. Gatti's, 50 each at three different times. I encourage everyone to show their support since we, High Sky Wing, are the hosts. Jerry Dugan and West Wind Band will begin playing at 6:00. If you

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haven't already asked the question to yourself you soon will, "How do we fund free pizza?" This is really exciting and a great opportunity! The High Sky Wing is raffling off the use of a GOLF CART for AIRSHO weekend. Yes, you can roam around in style in your very own golf cart. Tickets will be sold for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. To help ensure the success of the Friday Night Mixer, the winning ticket will be drawn Friday night at 8:00 in the O'Club. You must be present to win, ID required, must be 18 yrs. or older with a valid drivers license. I know, lots of rules. Once again we can turn this into a fund-raiser because it only takes selling 150 tickets at \$5 each to pay for the pizza, the rest will be profit. HSW members are eligible to buy tickets.

High Sky Wing parking passes will be distributed at the September 23rd Wing meeting. This pass is required on Saturday and Sunday of AIRSHO to get down Wright Drive to the High Sky Wing Hangar. Parking will be limited to a first-come, first-park basis.

This is going to be such a great time and money making opportunity for the High Sky Wing. You are needed! Please volunteer at the dinner on the 15th, volunteer at the Cantina on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of AIRSHO, sell raffle tickets and eat free pizza. It just doesn't get any better than this! See your smiling faces soon.

Other AIRSHO Dates & Times

Thursday, Sept. 30 - TraRon clinic 0800-1700 at Schlemeyer Field. Colonel's O'Club tent opens at noon.

Friday, Oct. 1 - TraRon clinic 0800 at Schlemeyer Field. Colonels' O'Club open 0900. Special Show for Special People 1000-1100. Save the Girls lunch 1130-1300 in the big hangar. CAF General Membership meeting 1500 in the big hangar. HSW mixer 1730 in the O'Club tent. ACAHOF dinner 1900 downtown Midland Center.

Saturday, Oct. 2 - Gates open and pancake breakfast in the big hangar 0730. Pilot briefing 0900 in the High Sky Wing hangar. New Colonel commissioning 1200. Airsho flying begins 1300. Colonels' BBQ 1800-1930 in the O'Club tent.

Sunday, Oct 3. - Gates open and pancake breakfast in the big hangar 0730. Pilot briefing 0900 HSW hangar. Airsho flying begins 1300. Survivors' Party 1900 in the O'Club tent.

From the Back Office

by Col Ralph Gillette

I'm glad to be back in West Texas after the 6000 mile trek through the near North. We did enjoy some great weather, saw some really pretty scenery and had a chance to visit some of our relatives not fortunate enough to live in West Texas. We also made it over to the Southern California Wing again. We got a very warm reception and had a chance to chat with several of the folks there.

AirSho is coming. We are going to need a lot of help in the Cantina on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before the show. We will also need some help at the Volunteer hamburger feed on September 15th. See Gena's comments. High Sky Wing parking will be at a premium, so make sure you pick up your parking passed at the next wing meeting.

While on the subject of AirSho, if you are in or around the hanger during the show, please be especially watchful of people coming and going. This is a security matter plus we want to make sure nothing happens to anything in the hanger and that nothing disappears.

We will be commenting on 101X elsewhere in the newsletter, but let me just pass on my thanks to Dan Linebarger for arranging to get Randy Wilson and Ed McElrath to Breckenridge to pick her up after the all work was completed, and to Randy and Ed for making the round trip. Randy says it is great to be able to steer on the ground as good as in the air.

Jeremy Linebarger has set up the date for the next High Sky Wing sporting clay shoot. It will be May 21, 2005 at Windwalker range. We will be talking more about this next year.

Our next Wing meeting is Thursday night, September 23rd. Come prepared to volunteer for AirSho duty. In the mean time, remember we are stressing safety this year like never before. Please be careful out there and wear something CAF.

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

AIRSHO approaches! I hope that all of you are as eager as I am for AIRSHO 2004. Not only is it a great display of the classic airplanes of WW II, it is also an opportunity for the High Sky Wing to generate some funds (through the Cantina in the hangar on Weds-Fri and the silent auction in the O'Club on Friday night) and some "bon homme" amongst the other members

of the CAF. So many people in our Wing do critical jobs for the Airsho: as Airsho chairman it is my privilege to work with you and to salute your efforts.

On the maintenance front, all three of the Wing's airplanes are up and ready to go for Airsho. Randy and Ed went to Breckinridge and retrieved the SNJ and it is, to quote Randy, "flying better than ever." The steerable tail wheel mod will make it a much more pleasant airplane on the ground, and the work done on the carb (it had the wrong jets installed) means that it is not a gas hog any longer. The PT-19 has a bit of an oil leak, from a location that we haven't located, but it is more an aggravation than a serious problem. The Tarbaby is running very well, although we still haven't figured out the nav side of the radio. Since it flies slow enough, an Exxon road map works just peachy for the cross-countries we've been on!

I know that Tom Kingon, Bobby Meroney, and Lyle Thornton have been hammering away at our truck project, with parts going back together. Although it won't be running at Airsho, I'm sure that it will be moving next year. "Big Coach" Tony McCarthy has been busily trying to get a handle on a new class of sophomores at Midland High (he's a vice principal) so he hasn't been out to work on the other truck, but he tells me that "soon" he'll get back to work on it.

My itch to use Krylon resulted in a newly reconfigured golf cart (paint scheme like that of the Tarbaby) and I believe that it will be the cart we will use for the "Get a golf cart for the weekend" raffle for an Airsho fund-raiser. (See the front page for photos of the Tar-Baby support vehicle and ground crew - Ed.)



Work continues in the Motor Pool area on the deuce-and-a-half. Cols Tom Kingon, Bobby Meroney and John Meyer contemplate their next move.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to urge all of you to vote for me for General Staff. You should have received info about getting an absentee ballot. If not, you can request one from Keith at CAF HQ, or you can vote in person at the General Membership meeting Friday afternoon of Airsho weekend. The four other people nominated are all well-qualified and would do a fine job, but, with the looming construction of the Commemorative Center and some other issues facing the CAF, I think it would be good for the local units to be represented on the GS. I will not do anything too active in "campaigning," but would ask that you encourage your friends to vote for me. Thanks.

Come to the meeting on the 23rd, help out with Wing activities at Airsho, and remember, lefty-loosey, righty-tighty.

Help Support Our Troops

By Col Lauri Skinner

As many of you know, our son Jason is now in Iraq. The Midland-Odessa chapter of the Marine Moms Support Group is looking for donations to help these young men be a bit more comfortable while deployed over there. Some of the items they are asking for are: baby wipes, sunscreen, sample size shampoos and lotions, chap stick, foot powder, hand sanitizer, note paper, envelopes, ink pens, pre-sweetened Koolaid, hard candies, pop tarts, hot chocolate mix, pop-top cans of pudding, beef jerky, powdered seasonings, toothpaste, bug spray, eye drops and q-tips.

Another Marine Mom has suggested that anything being shipped to Iraq be put into ZipLock-type plastic bags, to protect other items from spillage in shipment. The bags also can be reused. Phone cards are another popular item that you can send but it can take as much as 200 minutes credit off a card just to make a single call from Iraq, so cards for 500 minutes or more are probably best.

Any item you would like to donate may be placed in the box in the High Sky Wing Lounge. Money is also needed to help offset the costs of shipping these care packages to Marines from this area.

If you have any questions call me at 432-694-5136 or email me at pyroblonde@grandecom.net. Thank you from a Marine's Mom.

Lest We Forget!

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

As mentioned by others, our SNJ 101X has returned home safe, sound and steerable. The carburetor was found to have jets that were too large and other issues which could explain the past high fuel burns, so hopefully that is resolved, too.

Col Ed McElrath provided the next article on our trip to Breckenridge and back, so I'm going to keep it short and let him tell the rest of the story.

Oh, by the way, Ed just told me that he is a new grandfather! Talison Ruth Vaneman was born on Sept. 11th in Spartanburg. South Carolina. Be sure and congratulate Ed at the Wing meeting.

From the Back Seat

By Col Ed McElrath

On Monday I had a unique opportunity, at least unique for me. The wing's SNJ, 101X, had been in Breckenridge for some time for repairs and a modification and was now ready to return home. Dan Linebarger had arranged for a friend of his, Charles Adkisson, to fly Dan and Randy to Breckenridge to pick up the SNJ. There was an extra seat in Charles' airplane so I begged a ride and then got to ride in the back seat of the SNJ with Randy at the controls.

Charles' airplane is a 1961 Comanche 250 that is in pristine condition and very comfortable. We took off from Sky West at about 8:45 a.m. and headed east. We ran into a cloudbank about 30 minutes out and had to descend to 5500 feet. The flight was extremely smooth. I likened it to going to the lake early in the morning and finding the water dead calm, getting in a boat and skimming across the water. During the flight we passed over two windmill "farms." That is an awesome scene from the air. The flight also took us over Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene and we could see many B-1 bombers and support aircraft on the runway.

We arrived in Breckenridge and Randy discovered the master switch in the SNJ had been left on leading to a dead battery. The battery was charged and Randy prepared to take a test flight prior to our return. He was like a kid with a new toy as he taxied around and around the parking area trying out the new steerable tail wheel. While flying he discovered there was a problem with the fuel pressure so this was corrected quickly before we left. Randy and I departed Breckenridge about 11:45 a.m. and headed home.

During the return trip we could hear quite a bit of chatter from the Dyess/Abilene approach control. We were both looking for aircraft in our area. Randy raised his hand and pointed below us. There about 1500 feet below, crossing under us, was a B-1 bomber. Another awesome sight. We arrived back at our hanger about 1:00 p.m. and put 101X back in the hanger. I swear I could see a smile on her cowling. I know Randy and I were glad she was back home and ready to grace the sky in West Texas once again.

Your Vote Does Count!

We encourage all Wing members to cast their vote for the leadership of the CAF in 2005 and beyond. This year one of our own friends and members, Col Bill Coombes has been nominated for election to the CAF General Staff, our board of directors, and we encourage you to consider voting for Bill, as we feel he will be an excellent addition to the General Staff.

Since many High Sky Wing members are busy helping to setup up or run the show during the time of the CAF General Membership meeting and election held Friday at 3:00pm in the big hangar, we suggest that you all submit a **Request for Absentee Ballot**, to ensure you have a chance to vote this year.

We will again have request forms at the next Wing meeting and a form is also included on the next page of this newsletter. By submitting a request for an absentee ballot, you will receive a ballot by mail, which will include any floor nominations made at the general membership meeting. When you receive your absentee ballot, be sure to read the instruction for its use carefully, to ensure your ballot is not invalidated by the auditors, who receive and count them. Be sure to complete your ballot and mail it back with a post-mark no later than October 30, 2004.

Remember, this is our annual chance to have a say in the leadership and direction of the Commemorative Air Force. Let's not waste it.

Last Month's Mystery

By Col Randy Wilson

The photo of the Mystery Airport last month was of Dallas Love Field sometime in the late 1930s. While the runways and terminal areas have changed greatly in the ensuing years, the tip off for those familiar with the area is Bachman Lake, which is clearly visible in the photo just north of the airport.

Request for Absentee Ballot

Please print clearly and legibly. Send completed form to: Keith Lawrence, Director of Administration, Commemorative Air Force, P.O. Box 62000, Midland, Tx 79711. Thank you.

Name: _____
(please print)

Colonel Identification Number: _____

Signature: _____

In accordance with CAF bylaws, requests for absentee ballots must be **RECEIVED** at CAF Headquarters in Midland, Texas by **SEPT. 26, 2004**. Any requests received after that date will be invalid.

New PA System

The Wing now has a new set of speakers and new speaker and microphone wiring installed in the hangar, thanks to Randy Skinner, David Linebarger and Ryan Linebarger.

David and Ryan hung the new speakers from the roof supports, positioned well in front of the normal speaker's podium, so feedback should be a thing of the past. Initial tests suggested we could probably talk to the control tower without a radio with the volume cranked up on the new speakers.

Not only will this be a great improvement at our own meetings but it should keep anyone from going to sleep on the Air Boss during the AIRSHO pilot briefings! Be sure to come out to the next Wing meeting and check out our new sound.

Think Security!

We all know that airport security is a big issue these days, so we need to be aware of how this affects us and our own Wing hangar.

First, any time that the hangar doors are open onto the ramp and any of the personnel doors on the street side are open, we must have a member with an airport security badge on duty in the hangar to prevent unauthorized folks from just walking through and out onto the active ramp and taxiways.

TSA and other folks are looking to do just that as a test of our security, and if they do it and are not

challenged and stopped, we could be in for a fine of up to \$10,000. If you think a person has managed to get out onto the active ramp or taxiway area, call the airport police and report the intruder. It is better to be safe than sorry these days.

If you in the office or lounge area of the hangar and nobody is in the main hangar area, be sure to keep the main hangar doors closed and secured or close and lock the personnel doors coming in from the street. For staff meetings and other gatherings inside the office area, we suggest leaving the main personnel door locked and then unlock the glass doors along the side of the hangar, so members without keys can still come in but we can keep an eye on the door.

We don't yet know what the drill is going to be during Airsho and the days right before but we will try and have more information for you at the Sept. 23rd Wing meeting. So be alert, wear your airport badge when in and around the hangar and watch out for folks trying to test our security, real or otherwise!

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome new Wing members, Cols Andrew Swartz, J. C. Cope, Sam Strahan and Paris Paul Sharp. You and a couple of other members who did not get their Wing membership cards in the mail last month should find them inclosed with this newsletter. See you at the next Wing meeting!

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



High Sky Wing Elected Officers

Wing Leader: Ralph Gillette
Executive Officer: Ted Claussen
Adjutant: Mary Alice Tidwell
Finance: Bob Stine
Operations: Randy Wilson - 352-4258 cell
Maintenance: Bill Coombes - 689-8359 home
Safety - Don McCracken
Hangar Phone: (432) 563-5112
all numbers are Area Code 432 unless indicated

What's Happening & When

Sept 15 - AIRSHO volunteer dinner (6:30pm)
Sept 23 - Wing meeting (7pm)
Oct 2-3 - AIRSHO 2004
Oct 7 - Staff meeting (7pm)
Oct 16-17 - Wings Over Houston
Oct 28 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00pm in the Hangar