



The Flyer

September 2007
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High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Midland, Texas - Hangar: 432-563-5112

On the Web at
HighSkyWing.org

Wing Meeting is Thursday Sept. 20th at 7pm

From the Back Office

by Col Gena Linebarger

High Sky Wing members, the time is upon us, AIRSHO 2007 and our 50th Anniversary are here and the Wing is in full swing for an exciting event. A final cleanup of the hangar is scheduled for Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00 a.m. Please come out and help. Thank you to those that came out on the 15th and helped with that cleanup day.

The High Sky Wing Cantina will be in operation Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of AIRSHO week from 11:00 to 2:00. If you haven't already signed up to help with the Cantina you may do so at the Wing meeting. Remember this is a fund-raiser and your assistance is needed for its success. Please volunteer whether it's a few hours or all 3 days.

There are still a few vacancies for golf cart shuttle drivers on Saturday and Sunday. If you have a few hours to spare please offer to drive. The sign up schedule will be at the Wing meeting.

The High Sky Wing is hosting the Friday night AIRSHO Reception in the O'Club at AIRSHO again this year. The reception is open to all CAF members and their guests, performers and aircrews. It would make an impression if we had a large number of HSW members in attendance wearing Wing shirts! The event will be catered by HOOTERS and will feature a live band beginning at 6:00 p.m.

New HSW polo shirts will be available for purchase the Monday before AIRSHO. These shirts will have the Ghost Squadron logo on the front. Matching hats have been ordered as well. Also, for the first time, we will have navy blue HSW T-shirts with the logo imprinted on the back. Before the men even ask, yes, they will have a pocket on the front. I'll let you know the cost per item as soon as I pick them up. Prices should be very reasonable though.

Parking passes will be distributed at the September

20th Wing meeting. This pass is required on Saturday and Sunday of AIRSHO to get down Wright Drive to the HSW hangar. Parking will be limited to a first come, first park basis. Remember, you will also need an AIRSHO ticket. Colonel tickets can still be purchased at HQ.

Now through AIRSHO will be an extremely busy time for all High Sky Wing members, for not only do many work at the Wing level but also are very involved in duties for the AIRSHO. I know that your enthusiasm, teamwork and can-do attitude will shine strong as we enjoy yet another profitable and fun AIRSHO. See you at the hangar!

From the Flannel Wrench Locker

by Col Bill Coombes

AIRSHO! Yes, it is that time of year when all of our normal activity stops and all hands turn out to make the CAF's AIRSHO the premier air show of the year. I'm continually amazed by the time and effort so many High Sky folks make to help out with the show. From the pyro folks (David, Jim, etc, etc) to the announcer's stand (mini-Boss Randy), from the APU guy (Lyn Fite) to the "do everything" Gena Linebarger, to the pilots like Lance, Steve, Randy, James and (this year, Sam) and "Colonel Starbuck," our own Mary Alice Tidwell who monitors the coffee in the Wing during pilot briefing, chief troubleshooter and gopher Bobby Meroney, barkeep Ed McElrath and his crew of Munchkins, photog HA Tuck...well, the list goes on and on. We are truly privileged to be in a Wing in which everyone pitches in and everyone gets along. The respect each member is accorded by the others is not found everywhere in the CAF: give me the HSW every time!

Many of the HSW came out to prepare hamburgers for the Airsho volunteer BBQ: a huge THANK YOU

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for a job well done. Even my dad, the original Grumpster, was complimentary of the cooking job. I know that the burden of doing this falls on the same people year after year, but, hey, when you're good at something, or at least halfway decent, you kinda get a job for life (said the Airsho Chairman for the ninth year...)

On the maintenance front, we are awaiting cylinders for the Tarbaby's engine. When they appear, hopefully prior to Airsho, we can reassemble the engine. The other Wing assigned airplanes are flying well, with no squawks. Lance and I did a fly-over of the Trinity football game at Grande Stadium, and Sam Strahan got checked out in the PT-19 (congrats to Sam), so the airplanes are being flown. Of course if you've been in the hangar you've seen work being done to the Cessna O-2. I wanted it to be able to fly in the Airsho, during the Vietnam segment, so my friends on the General Staff said "OK" and Eric, Lance, new member Philip, Sam, James, etc, did the annual and Lance, James, and Randy got checked out in it.

At this point Randy will fly it in the show. If there is any interest in helping form an O-2 Support Detachment within the Wing, let me know, as I personally would like to see the airplane stay in Midland, and I know that the HQ staff would like that as well.

Finally, I hope all of you have been over to see the Commemorative Center. Progress has been steady, and our new home should be ready for us in January. We're beginning a campaign to raise funds for new furniture for our area, and I'm rounding up young bodies to help move us in when the time comes. I think it will be a wonderful place for us, and will result in more opportunities to gain members for the CAF and the Wing....and that's good for all concerned.

As the Props Turn

by Col Randy Wilson

Congratulations to our newest Wing pilot, Col Sam Strahan, who recently checked out in the PT-19 and will fly it in the Dawn Patrol before AIRSHO each day. We also hope to transition Col James Martin, already qualified in the PT-19, into the Stinson 105 within the next few days. James will lead the Dawn Patrol flights.

As Bill notes, the J2K (*Tar-Baby*) is still waiting on cylinders to be made airworthy again and we have been working on the Cessna O-2A, currently assigned

to HQ, and three of us did get checked out in it last weekend. I flew it again today with James in the right seat to test out the rebuilt rear cowl flap motor and a few other tweaks done by our maintenance team and it flies well. I'm looking forward to flying it in the Vietnam segment of the show after a couple more familiarization flights.

This Saturday, we once again held a training session for the JROTC and CAP cadets (below) who help out with AIRSHO Public Safety (formerly known as Security) and crowd control at AIRSHO. This gives them a chance to get up close and personal with some WWII aircraft and see what type of safety issues they pose.



Motor Pool News

by Col H. A. Tuck

In preparation for the Wing's physical relocation sometime in the near future, the motor pool gang has begun the "deconstruction" of the Army 2 1/2-ton truck's bed. The relic from the first half of last century was removed when the truck first arrived several moons ago and placed on a steel support frame just outside the hangar doors.

Not wanting to move many buckets of rusty bolts and slabs of ancient, rotted wood, the bed now is being disassembled. Prior to removing anything, 57 detailed photos were taken, along with careful (well, somewhat careful) measurements. As reusable parts are being removed, they are labeled as to their original locale and installation.

The crew was astounded, and delighted, to find a date stamped on one of the largest pieces of wood, 12-1-43, which corresponds to the manufacturer's plate found in the cab when the truck first arrived. A portion of this timber marked with the date will be removed and preserved for display when the truck restoration is completed.

Among those who have been involved in the disassembly have been Colonels Tom Kingon, Lyle Thornton, Bobby Meroney, Ted Claussen, Jim Moore, and H. A. Tuck.

Welcome New Wing Members

Please welcome the following new or recent High Sky Wing members. Thanks to Col H. A. Tuck for the photos. If you are a new member and we haven't published your photo, please grab H. A. at the next Wing meeting or Saturday work day and he'll make it happen. Welcome aboard!



Col Rick Peterson is a private pilot.



Col Garrett Donnelly is the son of member Robin.



Col Philip Goforth just joined and is a local corporate pilot.

Being Safe!

by Col Lyle Thornton

Well here we are, at this time of the year when the expectation and also the anxiety of getting ready for our 50th anniversary AIRSHO. I have a couple of thoughts that I would like to share with you. First, I would like to encourage everyone to think about how you can do your jobs at AIRSHO safely for you and our guests. I know in the mass confusion that sometimes accompany the start of AIRSHO, everyone is trying to get their assigned jobs accomplished as soon as possible, but please think about it first. We are going to have a lot of guests that are not used to our organized chaos and might wander into areas that might not be safe for them.

So we not only have to look out for ourselves, but a large number of guests that are curious and not always looking where they are going. Secondly, a lot of our visitors are veterans and others who have lost some of their physical abilities and need some special attention. Please, as you are going about your AIRSHO chores, give some of these guests a ride or other help that they might need. These people contributed to protect and defend our country and represent our theme for this AIRSHO; FOR DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY.

Please take care of yourselves and our guests and have a safe and enjoyable AIRSHO.

Last Month's Mystery

By Col Randy Wilson

On 18 September, 1936, the U.S. Navy ordered 54 BT-1s from Northrup. Although designated as Bomber Torpedo (BT) they were primarily dive bombers and were the first to feature the perforated dive brakes, shown below, used by the later SBD and SB2C.

In fact, after Northrup was purchased by Douglas, a modified BT-1 designated the XBT-2 became the immediate forerunner of the famous Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber.



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An Unwelcome Visitor

by Col Randy Wilson

Recently, opening the HSW hangar doors resulted in finding an unwelcome visitor, a baby rattlesnake. Fortunately, the door rollers took care of the baby menace but it does pay to keep an eye on the door tracks if you are opening the doors, especially the first thing in the morning, when it is cool.



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

Sep 20 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Sep 29-30 - AIRSHO 2007

Oct 4 - Wing Staff meeting (7pm)

Oct 6-7 - Wings Over Houston AIRSHO

Oct 25 - Wing meeting (7pm)

Next Wing Meeting is Thursday September 20th 7:00 pm at the Hangar
