



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE
HOUSTON WING

April 2018

Slips & Skids

Wing Leader

“If you want to conquer fear, don't sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy” –Dale Carnegie



Greetings fellow time travelers. It's already April and it appears the tree pollen has just about finished its yearly round of misery for some of us allergy sufferers. The weather is starting to warm up and the hangar activities continue. Most of our aircraft are finished with their annual inspections, and the aircraft under restoration are moving ahead at a brisk pace.

This is the month the Houston Wing kicks off the flying season with our Warbird Weekend/Open House. As you know it will be this weekend April 14-15. We have done some targeted advertising this year and we expect a good crowd to show up both days. If you haven't signed up to volunteer it's ok to come out anyway and lend us a hand. We need your help!

Public Information Officer – Open Position

After 4+ years of hard work our Public Information Officer Winona Morton has decided to step down from this position. As PIO she took care of our monthly newsletter, webmaster duties, and Rides Coordinator. When you see Winona around the hangar please be sure to thank her for her service.

We are looking for someone to fill the duties of PIO at this time. This position is broadly responsible for the image of the Houston Wing. This is a non-voting staff position that could include duties for website, newsletter, press releases, etc. The PIO works with the Wing Development Officer and leads small committees when necessary, who have oversight on the website and Facebook presence. If you are interested in volunteering for all or part of these tasks, please contact Sam Bulger or myself for any questions you may have.

Further information on the CAF guidelines can be found at the CAF website in the members section here:

<https://commemorativeairforce.org/manuals-guides-forms-etc/guides>. Click on the Standards Guide.

L-39 Cockpit Restoration Lead – Open Position

I am still looking for someone to step up and finish the L-39 cockpit restoration. This job includes leading some other adult members to clean up, prime and paint the interior of this static display. We can tow the trailer over from airport storage to the hangar on some of the Saturdays each month if someone will take charge of the project.

I want to thank everyone in advance for coming out to help with the Warbird Weekend/Open House.

Be safe and have some fun!
Stan-



Frank Robertson, Steve Sparks, Ulf Brynjestad, and Ryzard Zadow install the canopy on the L-17

Eyes On the Horizon!

April 21

Operation Lock and Load,
Flyover

May 4-6

Central Texas Airshow,
Ground Support/PX needed

May 28

Sugarland/Memorial Oaks,
Flyover

June 8-10

Barnstorming in Austin w/ TR
Ground Support/PX needed

June 16

Barnstorming in Conroe w/TR
Ground Support/PX needed

Operations Update

Houston Wing Pilots conducted a five ship formation flyover of the Lakewood Yacht Club for the Blessing of the Fleet on 25 Mar. Stu McAfee lead in his Texan, with me in my Texan, Skip Harrison in the SNJ “Oh Baby”, Greg Young in his Navion, and Scott Rozzell joining in his Twin Beech filled with girls. Sam Bulger planned and

coordinated from the ground using his characteristically powerful radio.

Please clear your calendar for our Open House/Warbird Weekend April 14-15. We have many participants bringing an interesting selection of fixed and rotary wing flying machines from other CAF units, museums, and member owned aircraft. Plan on being there, participating, and bringing your friends.

Upcoming flying activities in the near term include:

April 14-15, Wing Open House / Warbird Weekend at West Houston Airport

April 21, Operation Lock-n-Load Tournament flyover, Westside Sporting Grounds

May 4-5-6, Central Texas Airshow, Draughon-Miller Airport, Temple

Thanks again for all your support for the Wing and for me as your Operations Officer in 2018.

-Nathan Harnagel

Marketing Report

Welcome back sports fans to the current installment of the ever confident marketing report for April. The marketing/graphics art/flyover department has been working diligently on Warbird Weekend and flyovers this past month.

Well if you like baseball season, our hometown Astros are off to a fantastically confident 6-1 start. As I'm watching them I'm impressed with their level of quiet

confidence. They are behind in the score early in the game, but it doesn't bother the team. As the game goes on they stay with their game plan. The players continue to play to their strengths and at the end of the game the home town Astros win the game. We are striving to be the same way, the Houston Wing staff has set in place what we hope are the right plans for the future and we have to stick with the ground work we have laid. Unless it is totally junk of course. Time will tell us how smart we were....

On another note I would like to thank Stu McAfee for leading a great and well-timed flyover as well as Skip Harrison and Greg Young for taking two of our longtime members aloft on this mission. Both riding members have long contributed to the success of the wing, thank you for participating,

After 4 years of HW Warbird Weekend events we continue to improve in some areas and certainly still need a lot of improvement in other areas. For next year we look to be more prepared as the marketing department Warbird Weekend will start in October with submitting sponsor requests. We're not smart but we're learning.

Weather willing I'm predicting a successful Warbird Weekend and I predict our success will be in no small part due to our renewed Facebook program, many thanks go to Brian Kosior and Kevin McNulty as they have done a phenomenal job. Presuming the success of Warbird Weekend it will be due to their efforts as this



day and age Facebook is critical in our success.

Now for our encore, guess what our next task is? You guessed it, a new hangar project. I would like to thank John Cotter and the other people involved in our hangar search the past few years. The hangar search has uncovered a few items in our financial operations that we did not recognize previously and consequentially we have tightened our belts and now have a better grasp on our financial operations. As the marketing person my goal is for every event we have at the hangar to be a profitable event. Profitable events will pay off the new hangar quicker and make it our property. Hops and props/hangar dances/photo shoots and movie nights will help lead the new hangar project.

-Sam Bulger

Maintenance



Greetings once again Houston Wing members.

Here is a quick update on what is going on with the aircraft. The N3N and

BT-13 are now back in service, as they are now out of annual inspection and good to go until the next thing breaks. The AT-6 is still down south and no word on when it will return. The PT-19 is making progress as the wood and metal components are either being made new or refurbished. Thanks to Rich Welch for the efforts to paint all the

numerous tubes in the fuselage. That is quite the job. And thanks to the wood workers who are working on the fabric frames and



seats. I am now working on firewall forward and control rod refurbishment. All hardware that is standard AN shall be replaced, as well as pulleys and cables as necessary. The PT-19 engine is completed and

has been test run up in Missouri. It shall be shipped to Texas after Warbird Weekend, and a new propeller is being made at the Sensenich Factory in Florida. The C-60 flight manual is under review currently, and I expect it done this month. Immediately after Warbird Weekend, maintenance on the C-60 starts again. The left carb will be sent out for repairs, and I shall look into sealing the end caps on the main gear actuators.

Work continues on the L-17 also which brings up an important point. Right now two airplanes are being assembled, and hardware needs to be left in the spot it came from so both parties can find it. Please only get out what you actually need and leave the hardware in the storage areas. Also if hardware is used up, please make note of it and inform me, so I can get more hopefully before someone needs it, as shipping delays the progress on either plane.



And due to the occasional flat tire, a spare emergency main gear tire for the BT-13 has been completed, and a spare main

gear tire for the AT-6 or N3N is just lacking a brake disc. I keep tailwheels in stock, but the 27 in mains require extra effort in mounting, so having already mounted spares is important.

The hangar and work shop will be extra clean thanks the Suzie, so please try and keep them that way. I plan to reclaim my desk again soon.....See you at the hangar....Jim

Social Media Report

Another month has gone by, and our Facebook presence continues to grow. We are VERY close to having 1,500 followers. I predict that after our Warbird Weekend, we will be well beyond that number for our page.

This past month has primarily been spent posting about Warbird Weekend. We paid for an ad on Facebook to promote our event. That ad has reached more than 19,700 people at the time of this report. We have also cleverly used aircraft as a countdown to the event, starting with the T-34, B-25, L-17, BT-13, etc. Those posts have also been pretty popular with our followers as well.

We have been working with Tammi Lockwood, our Financial Officer, to promote our new online ticketing system, Eventbrite. I thank Tammi for her work on this, and we are all interested to see how it all turns out.

In the months ahead, I would like to finish promoting the projects around the hangar. We have added more coverage of the L-17, and of course the PT-19, but I also plan to highlight the hard work that Craig Pridgeon has been doing with the engine

restoration project. After that, I would like to capture more stories of our Wing members. We have many members around the hangar with amazing stories from their time in service, or because of the amazing things that they are still doing today. It's time to share those stories with each other, and our followers.

We have a lot of exciting events coming up. Please remember to take some pictures and send them to me so that we can keep sharing all of the wonderful things our members do for the Wing!

-Brian Kosior



We need YOU!

PX Volunteers Needed

Apr. 21st -10am-3pm Museum Day

May 4-6 – Central Texas Airshow

June 8-10 – Barnstorming, Austin w/TR

June 16 – Barnstorming, Conroe w/TR

Museum Moment

The Fairbairn–Sykes Fighting Knife

We are lucky to have an original Fairbairn –



Sykes fighting knife developed for the British during WWII, in our museum.

The Fairbairn–Sykes (F-S) fighting knife is a double-edged fighting knife resembling a dagger with a foil grip developed by William Ewart Fairbairn and Eric Anthony Sykes in Shanghai based on concepts which the two men initiated before World War II while serving on the Shanghai Municipal Police in China.



The F-S fighting knife was made famous during World War II when issued to British Commandos, the Airborne Forces, the SAS and many other units, especially for the Normandy landings in June 1944. With its acutely tapered, sharply pointed blade, the F-S fighting knife is frequently described as a stiletto, a weapon optimized for thrusting, although the F-S knife is capable of being used to inflict slash cuts upon an opponent when its cutting edges are sharpened according to specification.

The F-S fighting knife was designed exclusively for surprise attack and fighting, with a slender blade that can easily penetrate

a rib cage. The length of the blade, 7 inches, was chosen to give several inches of blade to penetrate the body after passing through the 3 in (7.6 cm) of the thickest clothing that was anticipated to be worn in the war, namely that of Soviet great coats. The vase shaped handle grants precise grip, and the blade's design is especially suited to its use as a fighting knife. Fairbairn's rationale is in his book *Get Tough!* (1942).

“In close-quarters fighting there is no more deadly weapon than the knife. In choosing a knife there are two important factors to bear in mind: balance and keenness. The hilt should fit easily in your hand, and the blade should not be so heavy that it tends to drag the hilt from your fingers in a loose grip. It is essential that the blade have a sharp stabbing point and good cutting edges, because an artery torn through (as against a clean cut) tends to contract and stop the bleeding. If a main artery is cleanly severed, the wounded man will quickly lose consciousness and die.”

The F-S knife in our museum’s collection is a Third Pattern thin blade version that was produced in the last two years of the War.

Third-pattern knives have a standard seven-inch blade, but the handle was redesigned to be a ringed grip. This ringed grip was used by the manufacturers as it was simple to produce and could be cast from a cheaper and more plentiful alloy instead of using up scarce quantities of brass stock which were of course required



for ammunition casings and other such vital applications.

The F-S Fighting Knife's leather sheath was designed to be sewn to the boot or clothing where it could be easily reached.



-Sam Hoynes



-There will not be a General Meeting in April because of Warbird Weekend.

-We do need donations of water, soda, and baked goods for the food service line. Thank you in advance!

-Members like YOU make everything the Wing does, possible. Please make sure you have signed up to volunteer for Warbird Weekend.



Staff Directory

Wing Leader

Col Stan Turner

wingleader@houstonwing.org

Executive Officer

Col Frank Vargas

exec@houstonwing.org

Adjutant

Col Craig Pridgeon

adjutant@houstonwing.org

Cadet Program Officer

Col Robert Plunket

cadets@houstonwing.org

Development Officer

Col Sam Bulger

development@houstonwing.org

Finance Officer

Col Tammi Lockwood

finance@houstonwing.org

Maintenance Officer

Col Jim Placette

maintenance@houstonwing.org

Museum and Education Officer

Col Sam Hoynes

museum@houstonwing.org

Marketing Officer

Col Sam Bulger

marketing@houstonwing.org

Operations Officer

Col Nathan Harnagel

ops@houstonwing.org

Personnel Officer

Col Tammi Lockwood

membership@houstonwing.org

Public Information Officer

Open Position

editor@houstonwing.org

PX Officer

Col Susan Vaculik

px@houstonwing.org

Safety Officer

Col Michael Kannapel

safety@houstonwing.org

Rides Coordinator

Col Robert Plunket

rides@houstonwing.org