

Slips & Skids



December 2015
Volume 12 Issue 1



Houston Wing

A Peek Inside

HOT OFF THE PRESS
Year End!

- ◆ BT-13 - Gets a new engine
- ◆ End of the Year - A few things change
- ◆ Museum and Flight Days - 1st & 3rd Saturdays
- ◆ Cadet Highlights -
- ◆ Tribute to Gale Haskins
- ◆ Chili Cook off



Grab a comfy spot, your favorite beverage and sit back and catch up on the wings happenings!

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Our Wing Leader



"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Thomas A. Edison

December is here and 2015 is coming to a close. This is the month to catch up on paying your membership dues and hopefully contribute a little extra towards keeping our aircraft flying. The BT-13 is getting a new engine this month and that has set the Wing back about \$46,000. If you would like to contribute to the BT-13 aircraft account when you pay your wing dues, just note this on the payment sheet or check and we will make sure it gets into the proper account. Speaking of donating, we are helping the Highland Lake Squadron by becoming an aircraft sponsor on the C-47 Bluebonnet Belle. This beautiful aircraft needs a replacement engine so the Houston Wing has a matching fund drive underway this month to help out with a \$3500 sponsorship. The Highland Lakes Squadron puts on the Burnet Airshow each year and they always invite our unit. We have been treated very well in past years so this is a chance to give something back and help keep the C-47 in the CAF as a flying aircraft.

The awards banquet will be January 16th next year at the Westin Hotel. Be sure to come to this event and honor some of our hardworking volunteers. Tickets for the awards banquet are on sale now.

There is a saying that goes something like "Everything good and bad eventually ends."

My term as your Wing Leader comes to an end this month. Starting January 2016, you will have a new Wing Leader, Operations Officer and Safety Officer. Please give them as well as the other current staff members your full support.

It has been very satisfying to see new volunteers join our ranks and pitch in side by side with the experienced members. We have an excellent staff who dedicate many hours each month working behind the scenes to keep the Houston Wing running. Financing, flying and maintaining five historic aircraft as well as a large hangar and museum is a huge responsibility. I would like to thank the Wing staff, Wing members and volunteers for your support these past four years. The Houston Wing has grown and evolved with the times. I have no doubt that your new Staff will continue to move the Houston Wing onwards and upwards.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your leader these past four years. Being given the responsibility of stewardship over five aircraft that are each over 70 years of age is truly humbling. That is something I will miss.

In parting I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Be kind to one another every day. Keep 'em flying, be safe and have some fun!

Stan



Jim, John and Stan inspecting the new engine

Stan directing the new engine into place



Not even going to try to speculate what they are contemplating on while Jim is hard at work

Operations Officer



It's December and the year is coming to a close. This will be my last update as Operations Officer. Thank you for the opportunity to serve for the past four years. It has been a great experience and I hope you feel you got your money's worth. Please welcome John Bixby as your new Operations Officer starting in January. I am very confident that he will do a fantastic job.

Our Museum days continue to be a huge hit. Many families are coming out to visit and we are now offering Historic Flight Experiences on Museum Days. The option to get a flight in a WW II airplane while visiting the museum is a popular benefit to our guests.

On December 5th, Scott Rozzell led a three-ship flight along with Dave Guggemos and Greg Young over the Battleship Texas. We have been trying to perform this flyover for the past couple years (with the weather not cooperating), but this year we had good weather and the people at the Battleship Texas were treated to a great flyover.

As this goes to press, we will be flying the flyover for the Wreathes Across America event at the National Cemetery. Scott Rozzell, Ole Nygren, John Bixby, Dave Duggemos and Greg Young are scheduled to fly.

During the past few weeks, we have worked with CAF HQ to get Nathan Harnagel approved as an Instructor and Check Pilot in the N3N. Additionally we were able to get Arne Aamodt approved as a PT19 Instructor. Congratulations to Nathan and Arne.

Just a heads up for what is already on the books for 2016:

January 16:	Awards Banquet
February 20:	Lock and Load Flyover
February 25-28:	Winter Staff Conference
April 16 & 17:	Houston Wing Open House
April 23:	Blue Bonnet Airshow

Tribute to a great pilot
Fly High Gale until we see you again
In the great blue skies beyond the clouds!

Lastly, I just want to leave a short thought about the loss of our friend, Gale Haskins. Gale was always there when you needed a hand, he loved sharing aviation with everyone (especially kids), made sure that we were flying safely and was just a wonderful person. He is missed by all that had the honor of knowing him.



https://www.dropbox.com/sh/smzmk8p9xp15hmb/AABD_b_AZpUNmjT-HOe8vog7a?dl=0

John



Gale Leroy Haskins

Gale L Haskins 1934 – 2015

Lt. Colonel Gale L Haskins (ret.) passed into the arms of our Lord on November 30, 2015. Gale was born on March 11, 1934. He is preceded in death by his parents Ira and Alice Haskins and daughter Lori Gay Metts. He is survived by his wife Jackie, daughter Sabra Willbanks, son Bryan Haskins (Sue), step-daughters Sandra Willis, Deborah Willis and Kimberly Gartner (Dan), 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. A Celebration of Life service will be held at Champion Forest Baptist Church, 15555 Stuebner Airline Rd on Wednesday, December 16 at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Gale's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Visit www.brookside-funeralhome-cypresscreek.com for the full obituary and to leave online tributes for the family.

After the service there will be an Honors Ceremony at Houston National Cemetery at 10401 Veterans Memorial Drive. Cars are to come in the main gate and line up in Lane 2 no earlier than 1:00 PM. At that time we will be lead to the chapel for the ceremony. At 3:30 PM the gates to Mike Meadows Dry Creek home at 14250 Skinner Road, Cypress will open for a celebration of Gale. There will be dinner, snacks and flying salutes. A missing man formation salute is planned for 4:00.

Brookside Funeral Home-Cypress Creek

9149 Highway 6 North
Houston, TX 77095-2302
(281) 345-6061

www.brookside-funeralhome-cypresscreek.com



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Happenings in the PX



I will keep it short and sweet. As we come into the winter season we do not have events to attend where we can make money.

That brings us to our PX trailer and Museum Day. We have a good turnout on Museum Days. It is a good time to sell some of our merchandise. I am working on making it easy for anyone to open up the PX trailer and start selling.

A special thanks to Sam B for cleaning it out. I am now trying to organize it and make items easily accessible. The tubs are marked on the outside of what t-shirts are on the inside. I will be ordering shirts soon to restock some of our best sellers.

Thanks to Sam Bulger, Howard Quoyeser and Hanna (cadet) for selling items on Museum Day.

I will need more volunteers to help sell items on Museum Days and Future Events. Please contact me by phone or email px@houstonwing.org if you are interested.



Happy Museum Day Visitors

Susan

News and Other Musings



November has passed and I hope that everyone enjoyed a truly happy Thanksgiving. I know that I certainly did, savoring my turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, etc., and, for once, not overeating. Ah, what a wonderful feeling it was to leave the table without the accustomed moans and abdomen-grabbing that generally accompany the age-old rhetorical question, “Why did I have that extra plate of food?” I even had room for a much-enjoyed after-dinner slice of apple pie and coffee. I hope that all were as blessed.

Our weather appears poised to bring some cool temperatures, not merely overnight, but during the daytime hours, as well. As I am now, once again, a certified dog-walker, - Kris and I have a mixed terrier breed of about twenty-plus pounds – I get to experience those delightfully cool, crisp, often moonless, and sometimes windy mornings of late autumn. Yes, Virginia, even in Houston (or, in this case, Tomball), those late autumn nights can be penetrating.

Winter is just a stone’s throw away. However, after all, this is Houston and, as we know, the cold – such as it is – does not last more than a few hours and, alarmist weather reports notwithstanding, generally damages little more than our self-esteem and lingering notions of self-proclaimed indifference to the vagaries of weather.

By now, even the casual reader must surely have observed that, in the absence of my usual PX news, - it’s all yours, Susan – I have been drawing out my other observations, so as not to be quite so flagrantly brief.

Allow me, though, to congratulate the winners of the recent hard-fought, bitterly contested wing election and, perhaps a trifle early, to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous new year.

For those of you with cast iron stomachs, I’ll see you at the December chili cook-off, now less than a week away.

Bob

Wing Maintenance



Here we are in full swing winter maintenance. I want to thank "El Nino" for keeping the temps nice for hard work. It definitely could be worse. But enough about the weather as that is not my job. I am aircraft maintenance, so here is what is going on at the old hangar.....

The PT-19 annual got moved up the time line, and has been completed. The plane had no major problems to deal with and all I did was repair the tail nav light and the rear floorboard. The engine is strong and in good shape, and the airframe looks good.

Next I turned my attentions to the N3N, and that plane is in excellent condition. All I had to do was replace the brake linings.

In the meantime, the BT-13 annual turned into an engine change also. This complicated things, but thanks to all the great work and effort by you all at Wings Over Houston, the planned engine change on the BT was moved up one month. As you read this, the engine will be installed. All the hoses firewall forward have been replaced, and the dishpan and cowlings all cleaned with the help and skills of Bill Schultz and Steve Sparks. The tired, but good old engine was removed on 5 Dec, and the overhauled engine arrived 11 Dec. That is very good, as that gives the BT a pretty fair chance to be flying again by Christmas. I am also replacing trim cables in the BT, and that is taking considerable time as well.

The AT-6 had the engine starting booster coil fail on Sat the 5th. A replacement has been ordered and installed. The AT-6 annual still starts in Feb.

The C-60 is still waiting her turn with me. That starts after the new year. Many new things will be going on with the C-60, but be ready to have the interior flooring almost completely removed, and no access to the interior of the plane for Jan and likely Feb. The pilot's Directional Gyro is to go out too. I expect no real problems with the C-60. We are planning to clean up and dress up the right engine, and the right prop is due corrosion inspection. We will be swapping out the prop in Feb.

The Navion work continues, and that plane is coming along well. As with all restoration projects though, there are some setbacks. And that tends to change estimated completion dates. We are still trying for late next year. Keep working, all of you! The Navion will fly again.

Congratulations to all the new 2016 staff, and I look forward to working with all of you. We have the same goal...Keep 'em Flying.....

See you at the hangar....

Jim

Our Museum



WWII Medal Display

We have improved our museum's display of WWII decorations having them sent out to a professional to have them framed, mounted and labeled in the proper sequence. Our display does not include the Congressional Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross but includes most medals for valor and campaign medals that would have been awarded during WWII. (Jim Buser took on this task and I believe you will be happy with the resulting display.)



The medals and decorations now on display include the following and are displayed in their order of importance:

1. **Silver Star**

Criteria: Gallantry in action against an armed enemy of the United States or while serving with friendly foreign forces. Instituted in 1932

2. **Distinguished Flying Cross**

Criteria: Heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. Instituted in 1926 (retroactive to April 6, 1917)

3. Bronze Star

Criteria: The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to individuals who, while serving in the United States Armed Forces in a combat theater, distinguish themselves by heroism, outstanding achievement or by meritorious service not involving aerial flight. Instituted in 1944 (retroactive to Dec 7, 1941)

4. Purple Heart

Criteria: Awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or to any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Forces, since 5 April 1917 has been wounded or killed by wounds received from an opposing enemy force while in armed combat. Instituted in 1932 (retroactive to April 5, 1917)

5. Air Medal

Criteria: Heroic actions or meritorious service while participating in aerial flight, but not of a degree that would justify an award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. Instituted in 1942 (retroactive to Sept 8, 1939).

6. Army Good Conduct Medal

Criteria: Exemplary conduct, efficiency and fidelity during three years of active enlisted service with the U.S. Army (1 year during wartime). Instituted in 1941

7. American Defense Service Medal

Criteria: 12 months of active duty service during the period of 1939 – 1941.
Instituted in 1941

8. American Campaign

Criteria: Service outside the U.S. in the American theater for 30 days, or within the continental United States (CONUS) for one year. Instituted in 1942

9. Europe-Africa-Middle East Campaign

Criteria: Awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces for at least 30 days of consecutive (60 days nonconsecutive) service within the European Theater of Operations between December 7, 1941 and November 8, 1945 (lesser periods qualify if individual was in actual combat against the enemy during this period). Instituted in 1942

10. Asiatic-Pacific Campaign

Criteria: Awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces for at least 30 consecutive (60 nonconsecutive) days service (less if in combat) within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946. Instituted in 1942

11. WWII Victory Medal

Criteria: Awarded for honorable service in US Armed Forces between 1941 and 1946. If a veteran served at least 1 day prior to 31 December 1946, he/she is eligible for this award. Instituted in 1945

12. Army of Occupation Medal

Criteria: 30 consecutive days of service in occupied territories of former enemies from 1945 – 1955.

Areas of Occupation are: Germany (excluding Berlin) between 9 May 1945 and 5 May 1955; Austria between 9 May 1945 and 27 July 1955; Berlin between 9 May 1945 and 2 October 1990; Italy between 9 May 1945 and 15 September 1947; Japan between 3 September 1945 and 27 April 1952 in the four main islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. Instituted in 1946

The museum volunteers will continue to try to improve the quality and labeling of our collection as well as improving the variety of items displayed. We have reached the point where we will soon begin to rotate items that are currently in storage to display.

Sam H.

Senior Citizen's Group Visited the Hangar – Monday, November 16th.

On Monday the 16th we hosted a visit by 10 senior citizens from the “The Plaza at the Buckingham” retirement home. Several of these visitors were on walkers or in wheel chairs but we were able to accommodate them easily and I believe they had an enjoyable visit.

The 10 visitors, the bus driver and two accompanying staff members spent close to two hours in the hangar and museum and seemed to really enjoy the museum tour given by Jim Buser dressed in his dad's WWII Navy uniform.

One of the visitors had been in a tank crew under Patton at the Battle of the Bulge and another was a B-29 crew member. All of them were of the age to know more about WWII than any of our docents do, but they enjoyed the museum.

The Buckingham is trying to organize another tour with a group from their independent living residents but that will probably be sometime after the first of the year.

I wanted to thank Jim Buser, Chuck Waters and Bill Schultz who assisted me during our time with this very enthusiastic group of visitors.

Sam H.

Cadet Program



With the successful completion of Wings Over Houston activity at the Wing resumed its normal pace during November. Our cadet members have principally been assisting at Open Dates during the month. Fabian and Adrian Sisso assisted on several such occasions and Khalil Moss continues to actively involve himself in the Navion project. Schon Cormack and Hannah Haney came out for the Open Date on December 5 and, along with Fabian, were most helpful on a date when we were short on Museum staff. Hannah assisted Sam Bulger in the PX and was responsible for sales of a number of items.

This report periodically highlights one of our cadet wing members. This month's cadet is Matthew Young. Matt, shown here on his Dad's T-28, describes his love of and involvement in aviation in his own words:



I am 19 years old and am currently a freshman at Lone Star College. I've been involved in the Commemorative Air Force for a couple of years now, but I only became a cadet earlier this year. I've been interested in aviation for as long as I can remember and I've been flying since I was about 3 in my grandfather's airplane. A few years ago I met my step dad, Mike Steiger, and since then I have been exposed to more aviation than I could have ever imagined. He introduced me to the CAF and to many airplanes that I never could have dreamed of being able to fly. I obtained my private pilot's license last May and have been flying almost nonstop since then, primarily in a J-3 Cub. Eventually, I aspire to become an airline pilot and to be able to fly some interesting warbirds. Hopefully, someday, I will be able to pilot some of the incredible airplanes owned by the CAF.

Chuck

As the Wing Flies



Please stay tuned for the Christmas edition of "As the Wing flies." But first a message from our sponsor.

(Sam) Why do you look so down Jim?

(Jim) Christmas is coming and I don't know what to get my girlfriend.

(Sam) Fear not my frightened shopper the Houston Wing gift shop is here to save the day. They have fine shirts of all styles and colors, hats, toys and signed limited edition books. If you can't find something in the Houston Wing gift shop then she probably won't want it.

(Jim) Gee thanks Sam, that's a great idea, I'm on my way to the Houston Wing gift shop right now!

Welcome friends to another exciting episode of "As the wing flies." This month we'll talk about an exciting current project and plans for next year.

This month Houston Wing has mobilized to help the Highland Lakes Wing with their C-47, Bluebonnet Belle. The C-47 was on a peace keeping mission in Oshkosh when rogue axis spies put metal shavings in one of her motors. Highland Lakes Wing has Bluebonnet Belle in a secret location right now putting a motor on her to get her home before blizzard season. HW would like to help our friends at HLW with a \$3500 sponsorship. HW staff would like to challenge our members to raise \$1750 and the wing will contribute \$1750. For those that have already contributed, thank you.

In other news around the hangar today preparations have begun for the 2016 Houston Wing Open House. A new program we are going to try next year is we are going to have a salesman for sponsorships. If you have any leads please forward to me and we'll pursue them.

I would like to take a moment to thank Stan Turner for his hard work as Wing Leader for the past 4 years. That job doesn't look like much fun. And I would like to thank Sam Hoynes for his many years as Safety Officer, great job to all.

2015 has been fun and exciting working with GCW and other local units doing traveling road show events. Stay tuned, 2016 is shaping up to be even better !

Sam B.

Finance and Membership



Happy Holidays everyone, as you read this Dewey and I are off to our Lockwood family ?Christmas in Indy, a few days with the family and the cold and maybe a little snow. The kind I like, see it and leave it!

Just wanted to remind you all of your dues, I know you are still busy with holiday planning but put a sticky on the calendar for the first of the year and send in those dues. The form is on the website as stated in last month's newsletter.

E-mail Addresses and E-Blasts

I believe I have everything corrected with the e-blasts issues, but if you are still having a problem be sure to let me know and I will take care of it asap! finance@houstonwing.org.

Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

Reminder: **Awards Banquet** is scheduled for **January 16, 2016**. This is a fun event and a great time to get together and enjoy catching up on what has happened though out the year. This is one of the times each year we can all get together and enjoy each other's company without having to volunteer to do a specific job.

While you are out and about getting ready for the upcoming holidays please keep in mind the Silent Auction. We really do need some unique and different items this year. For the new members, these items do not have to be flying related. As always, please bring your items with you to the banquet. Also please send an e-mail to me at finance@houstonwing.org with the specifics of your item(s) so I can have the auction cards written up prior to the banquet.

I am so sorry I will be missing the Chili Cook-off but be sure to attend and compete and let's build this up to be a regular event to wind down the year! Bring a friend show them how much FUN we have!

Tammi

Houston Wing 2015 Awards Banquet And Silent Auction Saturday, January 16, 2016

The Westin Houston Memorial City
945 Gessner, Houston 77024 – Tel. 281-501-4300

Cocktails: 6:00PM
Dinner: 7:00PM

Menu Choices:

1. **Petaluma Farm Chicken Breast.** Rosemary jus, glazed root vegetables, garlic potato leek gratin.
2. **Pacific Salmon.** Shitake mushroom crusted salmon, Lemon fennel emulsion, braised artichoke barigoule, truffle whipped potatoes, or
3. **Homemade Vegetable Lasagna.** Wilted greens or brown rice with balsamic glaze

All meals start with chopped kale salad with roasted pear, dried cranberries, goat cheese and herb vinaigrette

For dessert, red velvet cake with spiced chocolate sauce and chocolate wafer.

Advance Reservations are **REQUIRED**
and **MUST** be postmarked by
Monday, January 4, 2016.

Cost: \$30 per person; cash bar

Send reservations and payment by
check made out to **Houston Wing** to

Arne Aamodt
405 Allan St
Friendswood, TX 77546

List names of persons attending and indicate menu preference

Name:

Chicken; Fish; Lasagna (Veg.)



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS
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Midland, TX 79711-2000
(432) 563-1000 • Fax (432) 563-8046
Toll Free (877) 767-7175
www.commemorativeairforce.org

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE MEMBERSHIP DUES DONATION DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION (U.S. ONLY)

MEMBER NAME _____ I.D. _____

APPLICATION DATE _____

BANK _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ACCOUNT # _____

ABA ROUTING # _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE SAVINGS CHECKING

I hereby authorize you to deduct from my account \$19.00 on the 5th day of each month. I understand that this deduction shall cease: (1) upon termination of my membership, or (2) upon written notice by me to the Commemorative Air Force of the cancellation of this authorization, or (3) upon termination of this program by the Commemorative Air Force under which you have agreed to remit dues donations.

A current member may vote at the next General Membership meeting provided he/she has been a member for twelve consecutive months.

I understand this authorization may be terminated at the sole discretion of the Commemorative Air Force. This authorization supersedes all previous similar authorizations and is to be retained by the Commemorative Air Force.

I have remitted \$19.00 with this application. I understand that deductions from my account will start on the 5th day of the month immediately following Commemorative Air Force Headquarters receipt of my authorization.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

THE CAF IS A PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION
OF THE WORLD'S GREAT COMBAT AIRCRAFT

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAF ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

BANK DRAFT DUES DEDUCTION

January 2013

Member News

"O" Club

KITCHEN NEWS

BY: MARILEE TURNER

HELLO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Chili Cook off

Come out and Enter

Or

Come eat and vote!

See you there!

Birthdays

Kathleen	Brown-Hanna	12/26
William "Bill"	Roach	12/11
Ruth	Tucker	12/22
Stan	Turner	12/5
Noel "Rich"	Welsh	12/25
Richard	Hamilton	12/8
Clayton (Clay)	Waters, Jr.	12/22



See you all in

2016

Staff Directory		
Wing Leader	Col Stan Turner	wingleader@houstonwing.org
Executive Officer	Col Frank Vargas	exec@houstonwing.org
Adjutant	Col Bob Linguiti	adjutant@houstonwing.org
Cadet Program Officer	Col Chuck Waters	cadets@houstonwing.org
Finance Officer	Col Tammi Lockwood	finance@houstonwing.org
Maintenance Officer	Col Jim Placette	maintenance@houstonwing.org
Museum and Collections Officer	Col Sam Hoynes	museum@houstonwing.org
Marketing Officer	Col Sam Bulgar	marketing@houstonwing.org
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Public Information Officer	Col Winona Morton	editor@houstonwing.org
PX Officer	Col Susan Valucik	px@houstonwing.org
Safety Officer	Col Sam Hoynes	safety@houstonwing.org



Commemorative Air Force,

Houston Wing

West Houston Airport

Hangar B-5

18000 Groeschke Rd.

Houston, TX 77084

(281) 579-2131

info@houstonwing.org

West Houston Airport

FAA ID: IWS

Latitude: 29°49'05"N

Longitude: 95°40'21"W

Elevation: 111 ft

Runway (1): 3973 x 75 ft

CTAF/ 123.05

APPROACH: 123.8

DEPARTURE: 123.8

CLEARANCE: 121.15