



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HOUSTON WING

January 2019

Slips & Skids

Wing Leader

“Volunteers will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no volunteers.” – Ken Wyman



Welcome to 2019 fellow volunteers. January is the month we all start our New Year Resolutions right? It's time to get in shape, save more money, get better organized, finish that project, spend more time with friends,

and the list goes on. We all know that small improvements can yield big results over time when done consistently. The Houston Wing has some goals this year.

1. **Get in Shape:** The hangar and museum could use some housekeeping and maintenance.
2. **Save More Money:** Before we can build a new hangar on the lot we just purchased we need to raise some money first. The Wing has a member driven Hangar Fund started and our

development team is looking for some outside sponsorship.

3. **Get Better Organized:** As our organization has grown, so has the paperwork. Flight manifests, new member applications, Warbird Weekend handouts and other promotional material require places to be stored and someone to ensure they are stocked.
4. **Finish That Project:** The L-17 Navion and PT-19 Fairchild are our current aircraft under restoration. We have high hopes of completing these challenging projects this year. It takes time, talent and of course funding.
5. **Spend More Time with Friends:** We try to cultivate a positive and welcome atmosphere at the Houston Wing. Our O'Club is a great place to hang out with other members and share stories. It's not all about work and projects. We have a potluck meal after each general Wing meeting to encourage comradery and socializing. Our hangar is open to the public at least two Saturday's each month and often more.

The list can go on and on but I think you get the message here. While the Houston Wing's mission is the same as the CAF mission, we also exist as a place to go to and have some fun, meet up with friends, and generally unwind from the outside world. Being in the presence of 75+ year old historical flying aircraft and other museum artifacts can be a humbling experience. Make it a resolution to come out to the hanger this year and find out how you can contribute your time and talent to better the Houston Wing. -Stan

New Staff Members

Guiding the Houston Wing with all of our aircraft, events, and projects is no easy task. Ensuring we have the resources to come out and play is under the direction and responsibility of your Staff. We are all volunteers and bring talent and experience to the group.

Please welcome four new members to the Houston Wing staff for 2019. They are:

Denise Walker – Adjutant
Suzie Bredlau – Safety Officer
Steve Sparks CPA – Finance Officer
Dave Eagan – Executive Officer

Be sure to thank the outgoing Officers for their volunteer time and effort when you see them:

Tammi Lockwood – Finance Officer 2013-2018
Frank Vargas – Executive Officer 2013-2018
Craig Pridgeon – Wing Adjutant 2017-2018
Michael Kannapel – Safety Officer 2018

Eyes On the Horizon!

Jan. 19

Museum Saturday
(no general meeting this month)

Jan. 26

Awards Banquet

Feb. 18

Flyover- AJCA Golf

Mar. 23

Flyover- Lock n Load

Mar. 23

Proposed- Static Display IAH

Mar. 31

Flyover- Lakewood Yacht Club

Apr. 5

Proposed- Astros Flyover

Apr. 6

Barnstorming- Conroe with TR

Apr. 13-14

Warbird Weekend-All hands on Deck

Apr. 27

Proposed- Orange Fly In

May 11

Smithville Fly In



Operations Update



Houston Wing supported the Wreaths Across America fly over on 15 Dec. The formation was led by Scott Rozzell in his Twin Beech Expeditor 3NM, with me in my T-6, Stu McAfee

in his T-6, Ole Nygren and John Cotter in the Ace, Dave Guggemos in his T-34, and Rob Parrish in his T-34. The report we received was that the timing was exactly spot on for the ceremony. Sam Bulger made the plan and he and Stan Russ supported the operation from the ground.



Photo: Stan Russ

Pilots interested in formation flying should plan to attend a formation ground school led by Dave Guggemos on 19 Jan in our hangar classroom. This is not to be confused with the two day mandatory ground school to fly a CAF airplane in 2019 that will be 16-17 Feb. Watch for further updates soon on the Feb ground school.

The rides program is still proving popular and we appreciate the support of pilots and other volunteers to get these valuable fundraising outreach flights completed. Our coordinator of the rides program position is currently open and we are asking for a volunteer to take over coordination and scheduling.

Future flight operations in the Houston area will require the addition of ADS-B to the transponder system of all aircraft. The BT-13 is the only one of our aircraft currently equipped with ADS-B. Wing Staff has selected the AT-6 as the next aircraft to be modified with ADS-B. The N3N will follow and we are looking at the possibility of doing that modification in-house.

Pilot sponsors and other volunteers can help during winter maintenance as directed by the Maintenance Officer. Please help where you can.

Thanks again for your support for Wing Operations in 2018 and future support in 2019!



Marketing Report



Well darn Houston Wingsters, as I write this I am very ticked off. For some reason the first version that I almost had finished

has disappeared! I blame the Russians for spying on me. Jo said it was the chem trails.

The business development department is now working to develop programs for the interactive educational facility development. The interactive educational facility committee had a meeting January 12th and there is report from them in this very issue.

In other news the wing has also been in negotiations to receive a P-40 and all we lack is signing the paperwork. The aircraft is going to be donated by a secret donor. Looks like we need to get that new facility sooner than we thought.

Speaking of hangars once again, the 2019 Houston Wing Hangar Dance is going to be February 23rd, 2019. Get your tickets online from our Facebook or website and Eventbrite. 3rd Coast Swing is returning as is the traditional lasagna dinner. Come out and enjoy the sounds and sights of our annual hangar dance. It's byob and I know more than a few of us have had memorable times at this event.....some we can't even remember.

The marketing department has been busy in contacting possible sponsors for Warbird

Weekend 2019. One goal for the marketing dept is to have all the food items donated this year. We have some really really cool, and big planes coming for Warbird Weekend 2019.

Even though it's only January we have a busiest beginning of the year flying season I have ever seen. Check out our schedule in this issue. Between flyovers, fly ins, small airshows and barnstorming we have a lot of events coming up. We are going to need all the help we can get with PX and aircraft support. Please email me for general inquires and Susan Vaculik for PX.

-Sam Bulger

Safety Report

Susie Bredlau has been a sheet metal mechanic for over 40 years and currently she can be seen working on our aircraft around the hangar. Susie was one of the first women to join the Air Force when women were reintroduced to service in the 70's.

In her spare time, she can be found in her yard enjoying her gardens. Susie loves her little terrier mix, who she calls "little bug," for her ability to find bugs. The dog has a certain "bug alert" sound and Susie knows not to ignore it, especially after being alerted about a certain rat.

With her years of working in and around hangars, Susie looks forward to being our Safety Officer.

Maintenance



Happy New Year to all the Houston Wing Members who actually read this.

Seems the New Year is a good time for reflection on the past.

Most of you do not know that I am one of the few remaining original people from the beginning of the unit. I have seen many things, and many things have changed. We have grown quite a bit since those days, and added planes and people. I can gaze upon the "Gone West" wall, however, and remember most of those names as people I knew. Such is the way of life. We are a fortunate bunch to be where we are. We have good people doing their best here. I have to look upon the planes in the eyes of the past though, and think about the men who used them to risk it all against an enemy determined to destroy them. This makes these planes something more than just an airplane. They represent the time that America had to do what was required and answered the call gallantly. They are a living history, and it is a privilege to be able to fly them. Wherever the planes go, they draw attention. Therefore, they too deserve the very best of care and attention. And that brings me to the status of the planes.

The failed left tube on the AT-6 is replaced. My spare tire did an admirable job. That is why I put it together.

The BT-13 finally got to fly again, only to go down for one pilot's squawks. So back to work on that one.

The N3N annual is complete, and I am waiting on some parts to arrive to be installed later. That plane is waiting to fly again.

The C-60 is having her fuel tanks worked on again. It appears the right front is doing ok, but refueling is being taken very slowly to check for small leaks. The left front is re-sealed, but has a bad screw hole to be repaired in the access cover before fuel can be added. I am now back on the left fuel flow problem and will be entering the rear tanks after the fronts are complete.

The PT-19 is still having the fuselage wood fitted and prepared for final finishing. After that is complete, the fuselage will be ready for covering. The electrical system is being reworked, and also the seats.

And on to projects:

This time of year I am getting in full swing for the 2019 Houston Wing Hangar Dance. This project is a special one for me. I am well aware that most are not dancers in this unit. I also know you are being hit up for membership, and the awards dinner this time of year also. I am too. The dance is slightly later this year on Sat 23 Feb 2019. That might help your pocketbook some. Tickets are available through me anytime you see me. I am at the hangar quite often. It is a very fun evening with good dancers and a very good band. If interested, feel free to contact me.

And last, but certainly not least, is the Cadets. You guys are doing some great work



on the L-39 cockpit. The young men have teamed up to install instrumentation in both cockpit instrument panels as well as do some much needed touch up painting. The project is looking really good. I hope we can make arrangements to get it out and on the road before Warbird Weekend, and try and use it as an advertisement in the local community.

And I just want to say welcome to the new staff members. I have been on the staff for around 6 years now, and am looking forward to working with you all. -Jim

New Facility Committee Report

Good day Houston Wingsters. On January 12th the Houston Wing- New Facility Committee met to begin the mission statement and scope stage of the project. The Houston Wing will be creating a world

class interactive STEM aviation and history museum facility for children and adults alike to learn from and enjoy for decades to come. The new facility will also be a great resource for local school districts to have field trips.

The new project is going to be considered an “Interactive STEM Aviation Museum.” The cost is projected to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000 with a completion date of April 2022. This is a considerable amount of money, and unfortunately, our credit card doesn’t go that high. To reach this goal we will need to do some serious fundraising, not only from within our unit, and from outside donors as well.

Do you want to be involved in the most important project in the history of the Houston Wing? You can! We need 100% of our membership to contribute to the project. Doing so gives the marketing/business department a significant advantage when seeking out foundations and corporations for donations. If we are “ALL IN” potential donors will see our units’ total commitment to the project. Keep in mind, the size of the donation does not matter as much as the fact that you DID donate. Please help us reach this crucial first step by making your first donation now. Houston Wingsters, here we go, let’s do this!

But wait there’s more, the facility committee needs a project manager to organize this project and see it through its completion. Please contact our wing leader, Stan Turner if you are interested.

Social Media Report



Happy New Year to all of friends and members! I hope this year has you soaring even higher than the year before.

We are hitting the ground running in 2019. As part of our initiative to raise funds for the new educational facility across the taxi way, we are going to be updating our website so that people can check out all of the hard work that we do around the hangar to “Keep History Alive!” A sub- committee was formed for this task and has done a great job of researching what our site should look like. We are almost finished with the bidding process with several web design companies, and we look forward to a final vote by the staff shortly.

From the Facebook side of things, we are still doing very well. We are closing in on 4,000 followers! Most of our visitors at this point have been thanks in part to our presence on Facebook. We have several ads coming up for the Hangar Dance as well as Warbird Weekend.

More and more of you are beginning to submit photos and short 30 second videos. I greatly appreciate this! Keep them coming! I do ask that you try to include who is in the pictures and who took the picture. In doing so, I can give the proper shout outs on Facebook and in the newsletter. I also need your help with the videos. Please hold your phone horizontally when taking a video.

This gives us a better quality video and helps tremendously with the editing process.

That’s all for now. I hope to see you at the hangar soon, and until then, be sure to “like” and share your favorite Wings’ post! -Brian

Museum Moment

Museum Donations

Our museum has reached the stage where we have to be more careful about items what we accept for display. Our museum currently has a great collection on display but we continue to look for items that will fit within what we are trying to do from an educational point of view. We are also excited when people find us and want to have their family members memorabilia displayed in our museum. The fact of the matter is that we have a full museum and a lot of items in storage so we are now only accepting items that we feel we can display in the future. (Accepting donations that we know we will probably never display is not good for us or for the families who donated the items.)

When contacted by potential donors we meet with them and review the items they wish to donate and then let them know if the items will be displayed immediately or hopefully in the future. We also let them know if the items do not fit into our museum plan or scope so will probably not be displayed.

We would like to ask our Wing members to not accept donations of materials for the museum without checking with the museum staff members (Sam Hoynes, Chuck Waters or James Buser) first.

We have recently been contacted by three families with items to donate from their parents WWII service. Two of these were B-17 pilots and one was a transport pilot during the war.

The first person was Brett Babbitt who has donated many items from his father Captain Jack R. Babbitt. These items include a dress summer uniform, photos, flight records, pilot training documents and pilot training class photos. This is a great collection and something we can make an interesting display from. (Several of these items will go on display immediately and others will be put together to tell the story of this WWII veteran.)



The museum staff will meet with the other potential donors in the next few weeks.

–Sam Hoynes

HOUSTON WING MEMBERSHIP HANGAR FUND RAISING PROGRAM

The Houston Wing has embarked on an important milestone in the history of the wing. As part of the CAF, we are stewards of WWII aviation history. The Houston Wing will be constructing a new hangar on our newly purchased lot, B-6. The new hangar will house a museum incorporating our current and new artifacts as well as Science, Technology, Education and Math (STEM) activities that will engage curious minds. Also planned is a new meeting space than can be used for event rentals and of course aircraft. The wing owns the lot and it is now time to raise funds to build the hangar. Estimates for the concrete pad, metal hangar with full size door run in the \$350K – 400K range. We are starting with a members exclusive fundraising drive program. The goal is to raise \$125,000 from member donations. This internal program will assist our marketing team next year by showing our personal commitment to the new project as they seek outside donations.

The donation program is modeled after the aircraft sponsor program outlined in the CAF Unit Manual. It will be composed of three donation levels:

1. **Hangar Full Sponsor - \$3500**
*The Highest Member Donation
Level of Support for the New
Hangar Project*

2. **Hangar Constructor Sponsor- \$1750**

*A Second Level of Donations
Where Members Show Their
Significant Support for the New
Hangar Project*

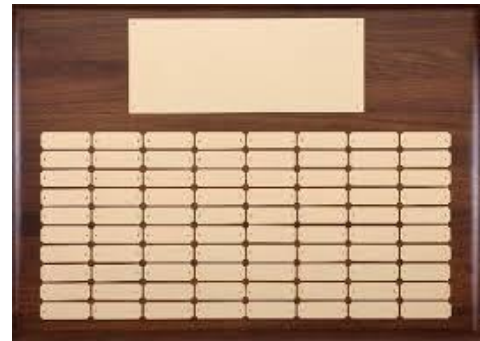
3. **Hangar Supporting Sponsor - \$350**

*The Third Level of Donations
That Allows Members to Support
the New Hangar Project*

A member can start at say the Supporting Sponsor spot, have his/her name on the Supporting Sponsor Plaque. As they add to their donation over time, he/she can move up to Restoration Sponsor and so on. Their nameplate will then be moved to the appropriate plaque. Like the Aircraft Sponsor Program, if someone were to make a larger donation, they would have multiple Full Sponsorships. Double, triple and so on... This happened in the past when we needed a new engine for the N3N. The wing did not have sufficient funds available at the time so some of the sponsor pilots donated additional full sponsorships to help cover the cost of the new engine. The Houston Wing also donated a full pilot sponsorship to Bluebonnet Belle when she needed a new engine a few years ago.

The Wing will be purchasing plaques showing names of our member donors and the levels they have supported. Any donation is welcome. There are several ways to make a hangar donation. One is to add it to your wing membership renewal form under 'other'. Another way is to send a donation check to the finance officer. In both cases

note 'HANGAR FUND' on the paperwork or check so we know what it's for.



Dave Eagan will be the Member Hangar Fund Administrator. He will keep track of the donations and keep the plaques updated accordingly.

I would like to thank everyone in advance for helping out the Houston Wing with this major milestone.

Stan Turner
Houston Wing Leader



HOUSTON WING DUES - \$ 50.00



You must be a current CAF regular, life, or Honorary member to be eligible for Houston Wing membership.

Tax deductible contributions will be accepted by the Houston Wing for any specified Commemorative Air Force aircraft or project. If you wish to make a contribution along with your Wing dues, please specify the aircraft and/or project along with the amounts(s) and include in your check total.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Houston Wing Dues	Amount: \$50.00
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to: _____	Amount: _____
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the AT-6	Amount: _____
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the BT-13	Amount: _____
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the N3N	Amount: _____
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the PT-19	Amount: _____
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the C-60	Amount: _____
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the L-17	Amount: _____
	TOTAL: _____

Please make your check payable to the
HOUSTON WING - CAF
and mail with this form to:

COL. STEVE SPARKS
18000 Groeschke Road – Hangar B-5
Houston, TX. 77084

Name: _____ Nickname: _____
First MI Last

RENEWING MEMBERS - Please fill in any information which has changed in the past year
NEW MEMBERS - Please fill in all applicable information

Address: _____ Phone numbers (include area code):

Home: _____
City State ZIP Office: _____

Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

Spouse: _____ Cell: _____

CAF Col. Number: _____ CAF Life Number: _____ Birthday (mm/dd/yy): _____

WHS Staff _____ Past Unit Staff _____

Office Interest: _____ Office: _____

Note : Phone Numbers and Email Addresses will be published in the Directory. If you do not want a phone number or email address published, do not provide it!

CAF Aircraft Sponsored: _____

WWII Aircraft Owned: _____

Other Aircraft Owned: _____

Squadrons, Wings and Detachments: _____

Interests: _____

Staff Directory

Wing Leader

Col Stan Turner

wingleader@houstonwing.org

Executive Officer

Col Dave Eagan

exec@houstonwing.org

Adjutant

Col Denise Walker

adjutant@houstonwing.org

Cadet Program Officer

Col Jim Placette

cadets@houstonwing.org

Development Officer

Col Sam Bulger

development@houstonwing.org

Finance Officer

Col Steve Sparks

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

Col Brian Kosior

editor@houstonwing.org

PX Officer

Col Susan Vaculik

px@houstonwing.org

Safety Officer

Col Susie Bredlau

safety@houstonwing.org

Rides Coordinator

Open

rides@houstonwing.org