

Slips and Skids

Jan 2015



Newsletter for the
Houston Wing
Commemorative Air Force



Leader Report

By Stan Turner

"The debt that each generation owes to the past, it must pay to the future"
Abigail Scott Dunaway

Happy New Year fellow Wing members. 2015 is here and January 1 found yours truly out at the Wing hangar with my warbird staring up at the low cloud cover hoping for Mr Sunshine to pop through so I could bring in the new year with my first flight. The clouds decided to drop some rain instead so flying was out for the day. Some things are not meant to be. I put the aircraft away and returned to the Houston Wing hangar to tidy up before I headed home to watch some football.

As I sat there looking at our wonderful aircraft I started thinking about the stories they could tell. Most of these planes are over 70 years in age. How many people designed and built these machines? How many people have flown in them? How many people have maintained them over the years? How many places have they called 'home' since they rolled off of their respective assembly lines? These aircraft are the survivors of 70+ years of US history. Think about this for a minute-many aircraft, factories, homes, businesses, and people are no longer with us but here we have 5 operational planes that are. We have chosen as CAF members to be their stewards, their guardians, and to speak about their tales.

LEADER Page 4

Operations Report

By John Cotter

Here we are and 2015 has arrived with the Houston Wing is sitting in a great position to start the year. 2014 provided a set of challenges since we did not receive a disbursement from Wings Over Houston at the end of 2013. That required us to work extra hard to make the airplanes pay their way to keep the Wing operating. The hard work paid off and we made it through the year. After the disbursement from the 2014 Wings over Houston Air Show, we are now sitting in a good financial position to start 2015.

Some highlights in 2014: Due to persistence on Jim's part and multiple conversations with CAF HQ and the FAA, the N3N and the C60 were both approved for the Historic Flight Experience program. The addition of these two airplanes will significantly improve our ability to generate revenue. We now have all five flying airplanes approved for rides.

We also added new pilots to our ranks and some of our regulars checked out in new airplanes. We had to formation pilots receive their Lead formation cards and added another two pilots to be able to fly the Wing position during formation flights. Mike Steiger was also approved by TRARON to give formation check-rides. Three of our pilots traveled across town to fly the big four engine bomber under the care of Gulf Coast Wing, with two of our pilots checking out as Captain on the B17. It was a busy year for our pilots.

Our total number of flights during 2014 (not including any data from December) was 298. This compares to 2013 at 266 flights and 2012 at 227 flights.

OPERATIONS Page 5

Inside

• Hangar/PX Report
Page 2

• Members Corner
Page 3

• Marketing
Page 4

Hangar/PX Report

By Bob Linguiti

It's hard to believe it is 2015, a date that, when I was much younger, seemed impossibly far off. Even the "future" depicted in science fiction movies of the fifties and sixties is now in the past. (Think of 2001 or its sequel, 2010.) Be that as it may, with the arctic blast predicted for the next few days, it will certainly feel like January, a month that, in my youth, meant possible snow days off from school (and money to be made shoveling people's walks and driveways). Now, of course, it means racing around the yard covering pipes and shrubbery in an effort to keep away the frost. Still, one's perception of "cold" is relative and, after more than thirteen years here, even a temperature in the 30's seems a bit "nippy."

As various cowlings and other external aircraft parts appear on, then disappear from, the hangar floor, it is clear that our hard-working Maintenance Officer, Jim Placette, must be in the midst of performing annuals to our fleet. This means that visitors to our museum and, indeed, visitors in general will need to use extra care in walking about the hangar. After some four or five months of museum crowds averaging about 80 or so on any given Saturday, the pace has finally slowed. Over the past two "Museum Days," the flow has diminished to fewer than a dozen each time. Whether this is the result of chilly weather, the Christmas and New Year's holidays, or some other cause, is unclear, but I have no doubt the crowds will soon be increasing again. Further, I can state unequivocally that those that have visited have enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

When last I spoke to Sam Hoynes, our injured Safety Officer, he was mending slowly, still in discomfort, but able, at last, to use both arms again. Rumor has it that he is contemplating an appearance at the Awards Dinner. As of a few days ago, quite a few of our members had not yet sent in their reservations. For those that have never attended one of these soirees, I can attest that it is always a very enjoyable evening of camaraderie and mirth, accompanied by some tasty food and, invariably, an outstanding "find" or two at the "silent auction" tables. I don't believe you'll be disappointed, but, time is short, so make those reservations quickly. I shall look forward to seeing you there and let me add, for those unaccustomed to winter weather, bundle up, because, at least as of this writing, it's chilly outside.



Slips and Skids
Editor
 Houston Wing
Elaine Lockwood

(832) 326-2571
cafwhseditor@aol.com

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/UNICOM 123.05
 APPROACH: 123.8
 DEPARTURE: 123.8
 CLEARANCE: 121.15

Member's Corner

Mark Your Calendar

Jan 17 – Annual Award Banquet

The Westin Houston Memorial City

6:00 PM – Cocktails

7:00 PM – Dinner

Feb 15 - General Membership Meeting

2:00 PM - Hangar B-5

Feb 21 – 3rd Annual Hanger Dance

5:00 PM - Hangar B-5

Mar 15- General Membership Meeting

2:00 PM - Hangar B-5

January Birthdays

By Shirley Hyman

George Watts	Jan 5
Frank Vargas	Jan 6
Mike Phillips	Jan 15
Buck Willis	Jan 16
John Bixby	Jan 19
Elaine Lockwood	Jan 21
Bruce Gispanski	Jan 24
Ed Higgins	Jan 24
Peter Crew	Jan 26
Bob Dunn	Jan 28
Susan Vaculik	Jan 31

Member News

"O" CLUB

By Marilee Turner

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL
OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED
FOOD LAST YEAR.

THIS BEING JANUARY WE
WILL BE HAVING OUR
AWARDS DINNER INSTEAD
OF OUR REGULAR MEETING.

SEE ALL OF YOU
AT THE
AWARDS DINNER

Wing Dues

Yes, it's that time of year...

All wing dues are due in January.
National dues are due upon you national
anniversary month however WING dues
are collected in every January.

The renewal form was included in the
November and December newsletters!

Wing Staff Directory

Wing Leader	Col Stan Turner	T28pilot44@aol.com
Executive Officer	Col Frank Vargas	exec@houstonwing.org
Adjutant & PX Officer	Col Bob Linguiti	linguiti@sbcglobal.net
Operations Officer	Col John Cotter	ops@houstonwing.org
Finance Officer	Col Tammi Lockwood	finance@houstonwing.org
Maintenance Officer	Col Jim Placette	maintenance@houstonwing.org
Safety Officer	Col Sam Hoynes	s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net
Museum and Collections Officer	Col Sam Hoynes	museum@houstonwing.org
Personnel Officer	Col Shirley Hyman	membership@houstonwing.org
Public Information Officer	Col Elaine Lockwood	cafwhseditor@aol.com

Marketing Review

By Sam Bulger

Hiii Deeeee Ho from marketing land. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Safe New Year. All right friends formalities out of the way, put your trays in the upright and locked position and prepare to take off for a fun and exciting 2015! For the first time in Wing history all of our aircraft were flyable for the whole year. Congratulations go out to our maintenance and operations group. We flew a lot of historic experience rides, flew flyovers for National Sporting events, Memorial Day and honor flights for those that have gone west.

In 2014 our friends at Gulf Coast Wing invited us to travel with them to local events for ride days. These were not only profitable for us they were fun to participate in and we made some friends along the way. We want to do more this year and they have invited us back to play along. We need new and smiling faces to join in the fun! If you can come out and help with the “traveling road show” chances are you can fly to the event with one of our fine aerial chauffeurs. We’ll send out an eblast two weeks before we go somewhere. Did I mention, we have fun?

On a similar note, our Museum group has been firing on all cylinders. The wing has been averaging 70-100 people at our bi-monthly free museum days. This is a great opportunity to showcase our wonderful museum, aircraft collection and a great opportunity to sell PX. We need a few new smiling faces for that too. Contact our PX officer or any staff member if would like to join us.

OK, I’ve blabbered enough and have not even mentioned the weather. I hope to see all the usual suspects at our events and around the hangar but I really look forward to meeting new smiling faces, come along with us, we have fun everywhere we go. If you have any comments or need any information contact me at sabulger@sbec.com or 832-859-1164.



Leader

Continued from Page 1

These aircraft have souls: they have many stories to tell and a few secrets we will never know about. In this disposable society most of us have grown up in, these planes represent somewhat of an anomaly in that they never made it to the recycle bin. They are still here thanks to guardians like us to love and respect what they are and what they represent. The next time you are at the hanger, go up and touch one of the planes and think about how remarkable all of this is. And the next time you wipe up some oil from the hanger floor, think about it as tears of joy from a radial engine that knows it will fly another day.

Houston Wing Cadet Program

The CAF Cadet Program offers a chance for younger men and women ages 12-23 to participate in Wing activities. The program can offer opportunities for younger Wing members to learn about safety and aircraft operations. Currently the Houston Wing has one Cadet, Clay Waters. Wing member Chuck Waters has agreed to take on the position as Cadet Advisor. Chuck will be responsible for Cadet safety briefings and other training as well as coordinating Cadet activities within the Houston Wing. CAF Cadets are permitted to fly on CAF aircraft in accordance with CAF regulations. If you know of someone in this age group who would be interested in joining the CAF as a Cadet and would like to participate in Wing activities, please contact Chuck or myself.

Dick Harper and his RP-63s

Houston Wing’s WWII pilot Dick Harper as written an article in the December addition of CAF Dispatch magazine about the RP-63 ‘Pinball’ aircraft. Be sure to look over the article and the accompanying photos to get an idea of one of Dick’s pilot jobs during the war years.

keep ‘em flying,

Operations Report

Continued from Page 1

Once we get December's number, it is going to show a strong increase in our number of flights.

Additionally, we flew 83 Historic Flight Experience in 2014 which compares very favorably to the 47 in 2013. That is a 75% increase. Put another way, the flights in 2014 generated over \$21,000 in revenue. This shows how important these flights are to the Wing.

Sam Bulger beat the bushes all year and drummed up several paying Flyovers for the Wing in 2014. Sam Houston Horse Track, The Gran Prix of Houston, the Skeeter's baseball game, and two flyovers on Memorial Day are just a few of those performed last year.

We ended the year with our flyover of the Wreathes Across America. This year we flew the C60 (John Cotter & Stan Turner), AT-6 (John Bixby), along with Scott Rozzell (SNJ), Nathan Harnagel (AT-6), Rob Parrish (T-34) and Dave Guggemos (T-34). It was a great flyover and greatly appreciated by those on the ground at the National Cemetery. On our flight back to IWS, we actually flew over another Wreathes Across America event and even though it wasn't planned or scheduled to happen, those at the second location were very excited by our flyover.

Looking ahead to 2015, we are already working on booking shows and flyovers. Our first mission in 2015 will be a flyover for the Texas Sentinel's Lock-n-Load. We will send out a gaggle of trainers to honor our veterans and entertain those at the shooting event.

Open House will be April 18 & 19 and we have already confirmed that Texas Raiders will participate.

The Blue Bonnet Air Show will take place on April 25 and we are in negotiations with the organizers in Burnett. Hopefully we will send the entire fleet to their show.

I want to thank Jim Placette and everyone that kept the airplanes flying. I also want to thank all of our pilots that made my job much easier. Lastly, we could not have performed many of our flyovers without the support of those with privately owned Warbirds, so thanks to all those that brought their personal airplanes out to support the Wing.



Wreathes Across America

L to R: Dave Guggemos, Nathan Harnagel, John Cotter, Stan Turner, John Bixby, Anthony Olivieri

(Not pictured): Jim Placette, Scott Rozzell and Rob Parrish

Photo By: Sam Bulger