



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HOUSTON WING

April 2019

Slips & Skids

Wing Leader

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."

~Erma Bombeck



Greetings fellow volunteers. This month kicks off the flying season with our annual Open House/ Warbird weekend followed by numerous airshows we will be attending. As the Wing continues to grow, we are

getting busier and have more opportunities for volunteers than ever before.

In my years with the CAF I have noticed some members seem to find a home here and use their talents towards improving the unit. They work tirelessly in their own way with a passion that ultimately furthers the mission of the CAF. There are others who show up occasionally to socialize with other members and offer advice on what we 'should' be doing. Both type are welcome at our hangar.

We offer a place to channel your energies and expertise so don't be shy about letting others know what you can do.

I would like to share a portion of an essay on excellence by the Grenadian short story writer Merle Collins. I have taken some editorial liberty to shorten the piece and modify some of the words as they apply to volunteers.

By Merle Collins

"When we talk of the pursuit of excellence, we are usually thinking of work within corporations. Or of education, of focused study for essays and examinations. But some notion of excellence exists for all. If you are able to give undivided attention to an art – or a science – for which you have a passion, then you have time to study your field, investigate and craft your own ideas, apprentice yourself to the ideas of others, or deliberately break free to choose the path along which you want to develop. This, to my mind, is the pursuit of excellence through a deliberate process of education, study and research into your area of interest. Because of circumstances, however, some have to accept the jobs that are on offer, and not the ones they dream about.

Excellence can be pursued in whatever career one follows. And if the realization

Eyes On the Horizon!

Apr. 13-14

Warbird Weekend-All hands on Deck
No Monthly Meeting in April!

Apr. 20

Hobby Fest @ HOU
PX help needed

Apr. 27

Fly-in: Orange, TX AT-6, N3N
Barnstorming Conroe: BT-13, PX

May 3-5

Temple Airshow: BT-13, N3N, PX

May 11

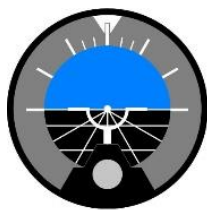
Smithville Fly In: BT-13, N3N, AT-6

May 25

Barnstorming Hooks: AT-6, BT-13,
N3N, PX

May 27

Sugarland Flyover: AT-6, BT-13



comes that interest is lacking and there is no motivation to be the best one can be, then one should plan one's exit, and use the time of waiting to learn as much as possible from the situation one is forced to remain in while waiting. In my estimation, this means pursuing excellence even while waiting. The problem with deliberately turning one's back on excellence, even in a job one dislikes, is that it hurts not only the organization, but the unhappy volunteer as well. It works against the personal growth which should be part of the human condition.

While there is a level at which excellence also involves a commitment to community, each individual, knowing themselves better than anyone else, has to work toward achievement of her/his notion of excellence. I think of how I use the time presently at my disposal. What are the things I do that could well be omitted from my agenda? How can I reorient things to pursue excellence in the areas I really want to work at? These are questions important to one's development. Life is about learning, evolving into the best that we can be. It is, in fact, about the pursuit of excellence. “

When you come out to the hangar or attend CAF events, think about how you can help 'raise the bar' that day. Do you go home feeling satisfaction that you made a contribution to the group or do you leave feeling like you could have been doing something better with your time? The choice is all yours.

Keep 'em flying and be kind to each other,
Stan-

Operations Update



Houston Wing flight operations for 2019 are in full swing! Owner flown aircraft worked to help support the annual Lock-N-Load Sporting Clays Tournament that supports the Texas Sentinels Foundation for wounded military Veterans on 23 Mar. Stu McAfee led in his T-6 with Ed Vesely and Carole flying Ace, Kevin Domingue and Greg Young in the Navion, Chris Dowell and Dave Guggemos in the Cessna U-3, and me in my T-6 with Robert Plunkett. The Blessing of the Fleet flyover on 31 Mar was led by Scott Rozzell in his Twin Beech, with Ed Vesely in Scott's SNJ, and Ryszard Zadow with Stu McAfee in Ace.

Upcoming missions include our support of the biggest event of the year, the Warbird Weekend that serves as our Open House on 13-14 April. We need maximum participation on both the air and land side of this event. It is a major fund raiser for the Wing and a significant part of our public outreach. The Barnstorming day on 6 April has been rescheduled because of weather to 27 April at Conroe.

The addition of ADS-B to the transponder system of all aircraft has begun. Radios have been selected and purchased for the AT-6 and N3N as the next aircraft to be modified with ADS-B. Look forward to the rest of the Wing aircraft also being modified prior to the 31 Dec 2019 deadline.

Pilot sponsors and other volunteers can help during aircraft maintenance as directed by the Maintenance Officer. We have already had help with hands on the aircraft and also help identifying and ordering parts. "Keep 'em flying!"

Thanks again for your support for Wing Operations in 2019! -Nathan



Lock 'n' Load Flyover Crew

Tour Planning



Hello Houston Wing!!

How are ya? My name is Denise Walker. I am the current Houston Wing adjutant. I am a pilot as well. Yes, for 26 years now! Crazy how time flies! I was a corporate pilot out of Fort Worth Meacham, before having and homeschooling four amazing children. We now live in the country with a grass strip in the backyard. Back in Denver while attending college, I had the opportunity to grow up with my best friend, Chris Walker (our N3N pilot). When we met

in our 20s, we both had our pilot licenses and were working on building time. We had the amazing opportunity to get to hang out with, be mentored by, and work alongside a group of pilots who owned and loved WWII airplanes - T-6's, SNJ's, bird dog's, etc. They were a part of a little group called AirPower West. Well, you know where my love of WWII planes comes from. However, it was more than that for me, as my Grandfather was an airplane enthusiast and was a WWII veteran as well. Enough about me.

So, after being on staff for a couple of months now I have noticed that a few people have taken on several duties within the wing. Wow! Kudos to them! See a need, fill a need! However, after a while, those people get burnt out. What would happen to the wing duties, if these people weren't available anymore? Hum! Could we pick up the pieces and go on? Yes, for the most part we could. However, there would be several pieces that would simply fall through the cracks. Clearly, teamwork is key, and is not only wanted but desperately needed. One person cannot do it alone. Nor should they be expected to. We are all volunteers here and we should spread the love a little bit. So hopefully, to help Sam, I have joined tour planning. Stepping into any position requires training if you want it to be seamless and uninterrupted. He has taken me under his wing to mentor me in all the aspects of the tour planning department. We are hoping to create a mechanism to maintain the momentum from one year to the next. Utilized by all incoming officers so they can

hit the ground running instead of stumbling and fumbling.

Let me tell you about a "tale of two wings". If you look at our cute little N3N bi-plane you will see there are two wings; one on the top and one on the bottom. Each capable of flying alone, but so much better in harmony together. We have the amazing opportunity to work with our friends at the Gulf Coast Wing. You may not know it, but they help us, and we help them. Two Wings! There is that concept again.

If you had the opportunity to see the Gulf Coast Wing's tour planning work in action, you will see that they are making improvements on their weaknesses and have capitalized on their strengths and they are soaring and profitable. I'm not saying their team is perfect, but they sure are on their way to making their wing very successful. So with our individual strengths, that compliment each other, we are going to build upon their successes for the betterment of our wing - with our own Houston twist, of course!

So from this point forward we will be referred to as the "Tour Planning Team".

As part of the TEAM effort, we need your help!! Please sign up to volunteer and come play! If you haven't been out in a while, come join the team. There are lots of things to do at the weekend events as well as in the hangar. No matter where you jump in, it will be greatly appreciated. We are trying to streamline communications between members and the staff to gain more efficiency. So please let us know you're

coming, preferably before the event, so we can plan accordingly. Help us help you!
It's a Win - Win, Wing!!!

Blue Skies Y'all!!

Sam Bulger and Denise Walker

Safety Moment



Hello all,

My safety talk is about something y'all probably never heard of, at least most of you,...FOD. Now we all go, "What on earth is that?"

Well, the first thing they taught us in the USAF back 40 plus years ago was FOD.....FOD kills! It means **Foreign Object Damage**. Have you ever heard of the concord? It was a passenger aircraft that flew twice the speed of sound. What brought it down? FOD. It ran over a little piece of metal that fell off an aircraft earlier as it was doing its take off run. That metal caused the left side tires to blow out and disintegrate and be ingested into the left side engines which caused the Concord to crash during take-off, killing all on board. Now you probably wondering what our comparatively slow WWII aircraft have to do with this? Well just as a stray piece of metal can take out a tire of a super sonic jet it can also take out the tire of our aircraft and cause damage or death. This means if you see something on the flight line or the hanger floor please pick it up. It also means if you work on or in an aircraft always assume it is in flying status

which means you leave no tools or hardware behind.

FOD can be a little tiny nut that has fallen down the throttle quadrant of a C-130. I sent that C-130 in the air for its first flight. It was not found till they took off and all of a sudden, she is coming back around with fire trucks following behind. That little nut was dropped during maintenance and not found till take off when the throttle jammed. Those people were my friends flying that plane. Think of the guilt and sorrow of losing your friends on an aircraft you sent out.

Be safe! Pay attention and think!

Later.... Suzie B.

Marketing Report



Welcome back friends to another exemplary installment of "As the Wing flies." As voracious readers of the excellent publication Slips and Skids, I'm sure the astute readers are wondering what I'm going to expound upon this month. Well to be truthful I don't know yet as of this paragraph but read on and I'm sure I'll dream up something. What could it be? By now I'm sure you have read the April issue of "The Dispatch." This is one of the best and most insightful issues that I remember. Kudos to Leah Block and her assistants. The theme is what would you like to do to contribute to the memory of the greatest generation and historic aviation?

This summer your Houston Wing staff, led by your membership officer, Tammi Lockwood, will be sending out a survey to all of our members. What would you like to do with the wing's activities? Do you like working on the planes? Do you like to do carpentry, graphic arts, video production, museum activities and sharing our story with the public? Frankly we need help in every department from new pilots, mechanics, museum docents and anything else you can think of. Truthfully the CAF and the Houston Wing has done a miserable job of welcoming new members. Pure and simple your staff has honestly sucked at the most important task that we all have. We are working feverishly to fix this problem; however the culture of the Wing must change and that involves every Wing member. The Houston Wing is fortunate as we are active in many different directions. We have a wonderful museum led by Sam Hoynes and his museum docents; would you like to share the stories of the greatest generation? Would you like to work on the planes; contact Jim Placette for that. Would you like to be involved in the marketing, graphics or flyovers; contact Sam Bulger and he will hook you up with the ever-exciting things that we do. The Wing is in desperate need as we speak for a building maintenance person; contact our Wing Leader if you are interested. And last but not least we are desperately seeking a project manager for the new "Interactive Educational Facility." Do you know anyone with project management experience? This is the single most important endeavor the Wing has ever undertaken.

Normally I talk about where we're going or what the marketing and graphics department is doing, but I bet you know we've been working on flyovers and Warbird Weekend, the question is now, would you like to join us in the ever-growing activities of the Wing? The Houston Wing has a very bright horizon and we need everyone's help to create the triumphant success that can be achieved.

In closing I want to thank three CAF members. I want to thank Denise Walker for assuming the role of Tour Planning director; I look forward to you taking this program to the next level. I also want to thank John Cotter and John Alkire from GCW. Both of you have contributed immensely to the current direction of the tour planning department.

Maintenance



Greetings from your beleaguered maintenance officer,

When things get tough, the tough get going, and that is how things sure are now in maintenance. Right now in preparation for Warbird Weekend, the rear fuel tanks on the C-60 have been sealed and are awaiting refueling which should happen on 7 April. Also the trim cables are being reinstalled into the BT-13 as well as a new intercom system. That should wrap up Sat 6 April and some minor reassembly of the plane will make her ready for Warbird Weekend. Also, the transponder is scheduled to be checked

before Warbird Weekend also. The C-60 is still in need of a complete dusting. That was started by me, but will not complete before this Sunday. She is well overdue for another run up, and I hope to find the staff to do that sometime at Warbird Weekend. I think the crowd would like to see and hear her run. As for the other planes, the N3N was successfully test flown with only the hour meter still malfunctioning. More work on that very soon. The AT-6 has returned from annual and has some paperwork issues to correct. The PT-19 front instrument panel has been painted and modified for the instruments, new shock mounts for both panels have been ordered and hopefully those will arrive in time to install before or at Warbird Weekend. I never know what I am doing on those days. I stay ready to repair whatever is not correct, but usually either tour the C-60 or possibly this year I will actually work on the PT-19. We shall see how it goes, but I doubt I will be flying again this year.

I want to again commend the cadets for the work on the L-39 cockpit. Many improvements have been made, and the guys have worked hard on it. I am pleased to see the progress in that project. If you have not taken a look inside of it lately, I highly recommend taking a peek.

As for me and flying, I did make it up to IAH for their 50th Anniversary. Talk about a little fish in a big pond, but the controllers were more than helpful and everything went very well. I shall add a couple of photos from that. As you can see a Bulldog by Devil

Dog. Seems we were all in the pound together.....Jim





Museum Moment

What everyday items cost in 1941, compared to today

This page lists a snapshot of what some everyday consumer items cost when America entered World War II, compared with today, along with a look at how much people made. The costs are national averages, and vary somewhat by region. (What Inflation does to everyday life!)

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Postal Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Social Security Administration; 1941 Commemorative Yearbook, Times Passages, Inc.; Kelley Blue Book; National Association of Realtors.

Milk (per half-gallon)

1941: 27 cents

2016: \$1.57

Eggs (by the dozen)

1941: 40 cents

2016: \$1.39

Coffee (per pound)

1941: 24 cents

2016: \$4.31

Sugar (pound)

1941: 6 cents

2016: 63 cents

Bread (pound)

1941: 8 cents

2016: \$1.34

Butter (Pound)

1941: 41 cents

2016: \$2.00

Bacon (pound)

1941: 34 cents

2016: \$5.38

Car (new)	Gasoline (gallon)
1941: \$925	1941: 19 cents
2016: \$34,663	2016: \$2.18

Apples (pound)	Hershey bars
1941: 13 cents	1941: 5 cents
2016: \$1.54	2016: 99 cents

Movie tickets	Gold (per ounce)
1941: 25 cents	1941: \$33.85
2016: \$8.43	2016: \$1,176.50

Postage stamp (first class)
1941: 3 cents
2016: 47 cents

Stock market (Dow)
1941: 111
2016: 19216

House Purchase (single family)
1941: \$6,900
2016: \$275,200

Average annual salary
1941: \$2,050
2016: \$48,098

Minimum wage (federal rate, per hour)
1941: 30 cents
2016: \$7.25

U.S. Population
1941: 133.4 million
2018: 327.2 million

Sam Hoynes

Social Media



With one week still remaining before Warbird Weekend, I'm proud to announce that we have reached over 4,000 followers on Facebook! Let's give each other a pat on the back for that! It's thanks to our members and their many activities around the Wing that make this possible.

Our hard working volunteers are always busy working on the L-17, the PT-19, the BT-13, museum displays, flyovers, barnstorming events, and so much more. Pictures and videos of these events get the public excited about what we are doing around the hangar. My hope is that it will also encourage so more of our current members to come on out and join the fun! Get involved! I promise there is a job to be done around the Wing that suits any skill set. If this choir teacher can find a way to help out, imagine what you can do!

One of my favorite events to volunteer for are the barnstorming events. I enjoy sharing the story of our planes with the public and watching their eyes light up when I tell them that they can go for a flight in one if they are interested. That thrill, that excitement is intoxicating I think for all of us. If you haven't done a barnstorming mission yet, I highly encourage you to look at the calendar and choose which one you are going to attend this year. These events are another great way to meet more of your fellow Wing

members as well as getting to know members of other CAF Wings.

We are always looking for new ways to promote our Wing online. If you happen to know of a great website that will allow us to post an event or a little blurb about us, please let me know! I would love to check it out. On the other hand, please do NOT post events for the Wing without contacting me first. We need to make sure that our message stays consistent on all platforms. Sometimes there are things going on behind the scenes that you may not be aware and could cause harm to the Wing if something is said without our knowledge. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

I can't wait to see you all at Warbird Weekend. –Brian



Chris Walker blowing some dust off of the N3N.

Cadet News

On March 3 several cadets of the CAF Houston Wing visited Sugar Land Regional Airport (KSGR). They watched a video about the work of ATC and later toured the control tower. The cadets will make a presentation to other cadets and wing members on what they learned from the video and the control tower tour.



From left to right: cadets Adrian Sisso, Felipe Borrero, Samantha McKee, Fabian Sisso, and Chris Dunin. Also attending but not pictured was Cadet Juan Font.

The Houston Wing of the Commemorative Air Force would like to thank David Edwards and Douglas Boyd with the FAA Safety Team for making this trip possible.



Congratulations to our Cadet Katie Walker, who will be graduating soon from Homeschool High and from Trinity Valley Community College with her Associates Degree.

Meeting Potluck

The Houston Wing is very fortunate to have a hangar with many amenities including our meeting room and O'Club complete with a kitchen and dining area. These are climate controlled areas where members can socialize and cool down during the Houston summer weather. After our general meetings, we use the O'Club for a potluck meal where we share friendship and war stories. Lately, member contributions to the potluck meal have been dropping. Please look at the food theme in the newsletter and bring a dish to share with your fellow volunteers. (Just as a reminder, we do not meet in April) This is your wing and small things like this count.

Stan-



Ulf, Ben, Carlos, Tom, and Stan attached the prop to the L-17. Looking good guys!



Jim, Greg, and Chris working on the BT-13

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: _____

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