



## COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HOUSTON WING

February 2019

# Slips & Skids

## Wing Leader

*"There is no greatness  
where there is no simplicity,  
goodness and truth"*

Leo Tolstoy



Down here in Houston, we look forward to February. What you ask is so special about this month? Well Buckaroos, this is not only the month of the Houston Livestock and Rodeo but it is also historically, the last

month we experience any sign of a freeze. Soon we can move the citrus plants outside and start spring cleaning. I'm looking at my messy desk now thinking 'what hit this thing?' The clutter really does make it look complicated and I like simple -time to get busy.

For the Houston Wing, this is the month we have our pilot ground school. As you probably know, CAF pilots are now required to have two days of annual ground school in order to be able to fly our aircraft. February is also the month of our Hangar Dance. If

you haven't bought your ticket to the Hangar Swing dance yet, there is still time.

Preparations are also in full swing for Open House/Warbird Weekend. This will be held April 13 & 14. Look for a volunteer signup sheet in the meeting room and plan on helping your Wing out this year. Frank Vargas has already begun organizing the team and the early work has been started. This is a major fund raising event for the Houston Wing and we depend on our members to come and help out.

The awards dinner was held January 26. I would like to thank all who attended and showed support for their fellow members. Also, my personal thanks to the following people who helped make the Awards Banquet successful. Tammi Lockwood – ticket sales and silent auction; Dave Eagan – check in and dinner ID cards; Chuck Waters – awards procurement; John Cotter – 2018 Wing recap video; Rich Welsh – Master of Ceremony.

In closing I would like to remind everyone to send in their Wing membership renewal dues. If you can spare it, send in your hangar/education facility fund contribution also. We are unable to move forward on

## **Eyes On the Horizon!**

**Feb. 16**

Museum Day

**Feb. 17**

General Meeting @ 2pm

**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



financing the project until we have some seed money in the account.

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

## **2018 Wing Awards**

The Houston Wing is lucky enough to have a large number of volunteers who consistently go above and beyond for the greater good of the Wing. They devote countless hours of their time to 'Keep 'em Flyin' as well as support a number of ongoing projects.

During our January banquet, we were able to thank some of our most dedicated volunteers with the following awards:

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

**Jim Buser-** Museum and tours

**Tom Calpuzous-** L-17 project

**Jason Delaney-** Museum and tours

**Richard Hamilton-** Museum and tours

**Brian Kosior-** Museum, Social Media

**Bob Linguiti-** Museum and tours

**Jim Placette-** aircraft maintenance

**Steve Sparks-** L-17 Project

**Bruce Thomas-** Museum and tours

**Ruth Tucker-** PX on Museum Weekends

**Greg Young-** L-17 Project

### **Special Recognition Awards**

**Chuck Waters**

Chuck continues to work tirelessly in improving and expanding the Wing's Museum collection and expanding its education efforts. He spends one morning a

week helping with the computer inventory of the museum, and plays an important role in selecting and developing new museum exhibits. In addition he is always a major part of our Open Saturdays and all School and other organization visits to the hangar and museum. Comments from our visitors often stress what they learned from Chuck during their visits.

### **Jeremy Wright**

We'd like to recognize Jeremy for all the effort he puts in both behind the scene and as a guide to visitors, supporting our Wing's Open Saturdays and School Field trips to the hangar and museum during the year. In addition, Jeremy is a critical part of our Wing's Sign Team who commit several day of work before our Wing's annual "War Bird Weekend". And for years he has also been a part of the Wings Over Houston Airshow sign team, but this year he stepped up to "apprentice" as Warehouse Operations Coordinator, a role he will take on fully in the next year or two.

### **Ulf Brynjestad**

Serving as Project Manager for the continual daunting task of the L-17 Navion restoration project, Ulf spends much of his time locating various parts new and used for the project. 2018 has seen major progress in the restoration schedule with a likely goal of an airworthy plane before the end of 2019. Ulf's leadership in the project has been instrumental in facilitating other member's consistent participation and subsequent progress.

### **Susan Vaculik**

As PX Officer, Susan spends countless hours organizing and operating the PX during Open House, Wings Over Houston and multiple Museum Saturday's. On the rare occasion that she's unable to attend an event herself, she schedules others to operate the PX in her absence to ensure that this vital source of income for the Wing remains active.

### **Susie Bredlau**

Susie has played a critical part in the L-17 sheet metal work this year. She also spends a lot of time at the hangar keeping up with O-Club supplies and organization as well as operating the kitchen during general meeting potlucks. She has helped oversee cadet safety and education on a consistent basis. Susie also serves a vital role on the Wings Over Houston Airshow Staff, managing the Prime View area setup and operation.

## **The Jim Levine Esprit de Corps Award**

In a year of great personal stress, **Sam Bulger** has remained focused on the mission of Houston Wing. His efforts actually expanded to helping with informing pilots of fly over needs and taking over much of the ride program coordination. And just as important as his efforts were, of equal importance is the fact that he remained positive and upbeat throughout this difficult time. He has been an inspiration to other wing members when other factors in life have become time-consuming and made CAF work more burdensome.

## Airman of the Year

The selection of an individual to receive this award is always difficult, as the Wing is blessed with a cadre of enthusiastic pilots and maintenance volunteers. This year, the section of a single person was deemed too difficult, and so for 2018 we have two Airmen of the Year.

The Wing would like to recognize **Dave Guggemos** for organizing the formation training and scheduling for the Houston Wing. He continues to work with instructor pilots to incorporate training with flyover events whenever possible. He frequently participates in these events as well, volunteering the use of his personal aircraft in support of the Wing.

We'd also like to recognize **Chris Walker** for doing the lion's share of the N3N rides as well as attending many of the Wings flying events. He has driven four hours each direction from his home to fulfill N3N rides which have been our mainstay this past year for the program. The N3N has always been a visitor's favorite, and Chris's willingness to go the extra mile (or 200) has helped many of them create a lifetime memory associated with the aircraft, the Wing and the CAF.

## Colonel of the Year

Our Colonel of the Year for 2018 is **Craig Pridgeon**. Craig has continued work on the R985 engine display, bringing in new volunteers as this project moves toward its end goal of turning a dirty home for spiders into a top-notch museum display. In

addition, when it was determined that the PT-19 center section had to be rebuilt, Craig stepped up to construct a work stand and led the effort to disassemble and catalog the leading edge wooden frames. This has saved the Wing at least half of the \$40,000 estimate given by a local repair facility. Craig was also instrumental in vetting several catering companies for the Dinner with Patton event. He has found a company that we hope to continue a good relationship with for future events. The Wing has been very fortunate to have Craig's many talents this year.





# Operations Update



Houston Wing has been hard at work completing ground training for formation flight and planning for the mandatory Annual Ground School 16-17 Feb. This ground school to fly a CAF airplane in 2019 will be 16-17 Feb. Start time for pilots will be 0900 on 16-17 and those interested in supporting PX/Ride/barnstorming operations will have their own ground school after the Wing monthly meeting on Sunday, 17 Feb. Contact Sam Bulger if you want to attend his classes on Sunday.

Upcoming flight operations include a flyover of the AJCA Golf Tournament on 18 Feb and our support of the annual Lock-N-Load Sporting Clays Tournament that supports the Texas Sentinels Foundation for wounded military veterans on 23 Mar.

Denise Walker has volunteered to take over the Tour Planning duties for coordination and scheduling Houston Wing tours. Operations is looking forward to all the help we can get on planning!

Future flight operations in the Houston area will require the addition of ADS-B to the transponder system of all aircraft. Wing Staff has selected the AT-6 as the next aircraft to be modified with ADS-B. We are coordinating to enable the Annual Inspection and ADS-B modification during the spring operations period. The N3N will follow next.

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 2019!

## Marketing Report



Welcome back friends to another exemplary installment of “As the Wing flies.” You just never know what you might read in these pages.

The flyover team is getting into the swing of things. Because of the excellent work our flyover team does our clients are now beginning to book us in advance. Our pilots always do an exemplary job of exquisite airmanship. Formation flying is a difficult business that our pilots make look easy. In 2019 we will be adding more pilots to the flyover team thanks to formation clinic that Dave Guggemos has set up. Dave and his instructors have made a great contribution to the individual pilots in training and the wing.

Speaking of a great job, Brian Kosior has done an exceptional job leading the website committee to get the website up to date. When you see him around the hangar give him a pat on the back because he did the job in a thorough and timely manner. Hopefully by now you have purchased your tickets online or from Jim for the soon to be

famous Houston Wing Hangar Dance. If you haven't, get them quick as they are going fast! Jim and his team do a great job with this event and deserve your support and it's a fundraising event for the Wing. 2018 was a difficult year for the Wing financially so every event the Wing produces is very important.

Warbird Weekend 2019 is shaping up to a really exciting event. We have a really strong lineup of headlining aircraft coming to the event, starting with the B-17 "*Texas Raiders*", SB2C Helldiver, a few from Tora will be here, Dulcinea, and the ever popular really cool CH-46 big chopper. This year the Lone Star Classic Chevy Convention car show will also take place during the Warbird Weekend. The Classic Chevy Convention will include over 50 classic Chevrolet cars from 1955-1957. By the time you read this the graphics department should have posters available for distribution for members to take to work, school, church, neighborhood associations or where ever you go to get happy.

I would like to announce that Denise Walker is taking over the Tour Planning position in the wing. I'm excited to be working with her and look forward to Denise taking the Tour Planning to the next level.

In closing I would like to send our condolences to the Thompson family. Sandy Thompson passed away January 28<sup>th</sup> after a long a courageous battle with cancer. As you see *Texas Raiders* today she leaves an incredible legacy of commitment and love

for the aircraft and the CAF. We are diminished. –Sam Bulger

## Maintenance



Greetings once again fellow Houston Wing members! I shall vary from the usual topic of the aircraft for a few moments and wanted to remind you the hangar dance is just a few days away. I am now working hard on it, and with cooperation from the weather, it will be a very good fun night. I want to thank in advance all my helpers and look forward to another excellent night. I still have some tickets left to sell. If you enjoy good vintage music and some fun people, you might consider just coming out to see it.

I also alluded to some excellent hard working folks we have as members, and on my maintenance team, I would like to let the whole unit know exactly how amazing it is. We have perhaps the very best sheet metal structural mechanic in the world on the team in Suzie Bredlau. We have electrical expertise in Stan Turner. We have three airframe and engine mechanics with inspection authorizations. And I am one of them, and also have more than 30 years experience as mechanic / inspector working daily in the GA market. I have also worked on Warbirds that long and now have worked on every major engine manufacturer's product from World War Two. Now how many can name all the aircraft engine manufacturers of World War Two still making airplane engines? If you think you

know, come see me. We also have incredible wood working masters in Craig Pridegon and Ed Vesely. And about every weekend, we have faithful volunteers and cadets who turn out to learn more about the planes, and how they are maintained. With this group, there is little we cannot do. I thank all of the volunteers who come out and help make the Houston Wing a shining example of the CAF.



And now the planes. The C-60 fuel tanks are still slowly being worked on. It is unclear when that will end. The BT-13 is still being worked on. It is also not clear when that will end. The PT-19 is being worked on, and progressing steadily. The old gal got some official Fairchild marked forward rudder pedals. New hardware is going in with each reinstallation. The rear rudder pedal bridge is next to be cleaned, repainted and official pedals installed. Also the new to that plane forward instrument panel is getting ready for refinishing and installation. The AT-6 was scheduled for Annual on 25 Feb, but seems my maintenance schedules mean little. I try to plan on working on the planes when they are flying the least, and I have the time myself. By the spring I want to fly, and so do the pilots. Having a plane down then is not convenient. Plus this year I hope to be reassembling the PT-19 over spring and summer and have the C-60 to Annual again. And finally the N3N is still waiting on parts. We also have ADS-B installations to do on all but the BT-13 this year. When will I find the time to fly? Where there is a will, there is a way.....Jim





## PX Report

Hello,

I hope all is well. Hopefully, winter will be over soon. As I am typing this message, it is sleeting outside on this Friday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. Most of my co-workers have left early. Not because it is sleeting but because the boss (owner) has left for the day. I will be closing the office soon and am ready to start my weekend. I look forward to the Museum Days because I enjoy greeting the visitors and meeting new people. However, I cannot attend every Museum Day because I am still in the process of trying to get rid of some of my mom's things. I need to start having garage sales again. This is where I need your help. Not with the garage sales, but with the PX on Museum Days and/or upcoming events. If you are able to help out with the PX, even if it's just for one day or a couple of hours, please let me know. I need your help.

Warbird Weekend (Open House) will be here before you know it. I will have a sign-up sheet (to volunteer for PX) at the next two meetings. Please come out and support your Wing. Thanks to all the volunteers that have helped in the past and that will help in the future. I could not do this without you. See you at the hangar!!! -Susan Vaculik

## Social Media Report



I'd like to thank Sam Bulger, John Cotter, and Frank Vargas for their help with our website redesign. We created an outline of what we would like to have on the new site and then sought out bids for the creation of the site. This small committee then made a proposal to the Wing Staff for approval of the contract to Netweave Social, run by our very own Kevin McNulty. The staff approved and we are now under way in the creation of our updated website. This project will take many more weeks, but the ball is rolling behind the scenes.

I would also like to thank Winona Morton for her service of our current website, which will serve as the building block for the new site. I appreciate your help and guidance over the past year.

This time of year is very busy for me at work and I cannot escape to the hangar as much as I would like to. Please send me your photos of the things that you are involved with around the hangar. -Brian

**Warbird Weekend**  
**April 13 & 14**  
**10am to 5pm**

**Mark your calendar now!!!**



# Museum Moment

## Museum Item of the Month

### Ice Order Card

We recently acquired a large collection of WWII memorabilia belonging to Captain Jack Babbitt who was a C-46 pilot during WWII. This collection consisted of uniforms, photos, books and a lot of other WWII era items.

One of the more unusual items was an “Ice Order Card” which would be put outside of a house and would indicate the amount of ice needed when the Iceman made his deliveries.

These blocks of ice would be used in an “Icebox” which was used to keep food fresh before the refrigerator. These Iceboxes were still in wide use throughout the U.S. during WWII.

The Ice Order Card on display shows #10, #25, #50 and #100 and indicates the number of pounds of ice to be delivered to the home. This card was from the French Ice Company in Drumright, Oklahoma.

This unusual Ice Order Card is now on display in the Museum’s Home Front display cabinet. -Sam Hoynes



Icebox



Ice Order Card

**Pattison Elementary Field Trip**  
**Thursday, May 16 and Friday May 17**

We will be hosting 175 Pattison Elementary Fifth Grade students for their annual field trip over these two days in May. During the field trip we break the students into four sessions with less than 50 students over two days. One group will arrive at 9 and will leave at 11 and another arrives at 11:30 leaving at 1:30 both days (exact timing may vary some but this is the basic plan.)

During each of these field trip sessions we break the students into 5 groups of less than 10 kids each and we rotate them through five educational stations spending 18 minutes at each station.

The five stations are:

1. Museum (concentrating on the Home Front),
2. C-60 & Parachute Exercise,
3. AT-6 Cockpit tour,
4. BT-13 lesson on how an aircraft flies, and
5. Aircraft Recognition exercise and showing them the other aircraft.

If possible we also try to get one of our pilots to come and start and taxi the AT-6 so the kids can hear these wonderful old engines run, but this is not always possible.

These school field trips are one of our Wing's primary annual educational activities during the year and they require 8-10 of our people to do them properly.

If you would like to get involved in these activities and think you can get free to help on one or both of the scheduled days of this field trip let me know and we will train you

on what to do during these field trips. The kids are great and the field trips are a lot of fun.

If you would like to help contact Sam Hoynes ([s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net))

## **Meeting Potluck**

We expect to have a large crowd at this month's meeting due to our Ground School Training sessions. The meeting begins at **2pm** followed by lunch and then our final ground school session.

Since it's still going to be on the cool side, let's warm up with some homemade soups, stews, gumbo or whatever warms you up on a chilly day. Maybe some fresh corn bread, rolls, or a salad would be some nice sides for us to enjoy.

Please consider sticking around for this meal. It's a great time to get to know some of your fellow Wing members, sign up for Warbird Weekend jobs, or solve world peace. We look forward to seeing you in the O Club after the meeting!

## **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.

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.

Three new plaques have been placed on the second floor wall at the top of the landing. Each plaque lists members who have already sent in a sponsorship for the new building.

Our goal is to have the majority if not all of our members names on the plaques. This will show prospective business donors that the membership is behind the program.

If you have already sent in a donation I would like to say thank you very much in advance and if you don't see your name on the plaque please contact me so I can ensure you are properly recognized.

If you have any questions I can be contacted on my cell phone: 281-753-4982.

Dave Eagan  
Hangar Fund Administrator  
Houston Wing Executive Officer



# WARBIRD WEEKEND 2019

## April 13-14

At West Houston Airport  
Presented by the

FEATURING  
THE B-17



Over 25 vintage aircraft

WARBIRD RIDES

GET YOUR TICKETS  
ONLINE TODAY OR  
\$20 AT THE GATE  
PRE CAR



**WWW.HOUSTONWING.ORG OR  
FACEBOOK CAFHOUSTONWING**

and INTRODUCING



"LITTLE RAIDERS"

Rides available



"CH-46"

PLANES FROM THE



TORA SQUADRON



SB2C  
HELLDIVER



COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE



CAR SHOW



LIVE MUSIC



6TH CAVALRY





## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
*City State ZIP*

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

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