

## Wing Leader

*"Volunteering is so pervasive it's invisible.  
We take for granted all the  
things that have been  
pioneered by concerned,  
active volunteers. "*  
Susan J. Ellis

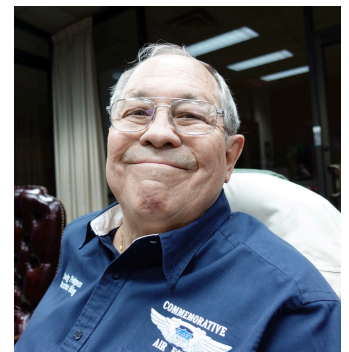


It's finally June and the CAF is participating in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy. Several CAF C-47s including "That's All Brother" will be displayed throughout the Northern European Theater both as static and flying aircraft. Stop for a minute and think about what it takes to be able to fly 75+ year old aircraft across the Atlantic, house flying and support crew, provide maintenance, scheduling, fuel, oil, and a host of other logistical items. It's a staggering task to say the least and as far as the CAF is concerned it is done with volunteer labor and donations. The details and contingencies needed would fill a book. Planning and fundraising for this event started well over a year ago. Once

again volunteers, many on various wing staffs, built outside relationships and found ways to get the money.

This is what the CAF is about. It's about keeping the aircraft flying so we can tell the story and share the experiences of the past with the public. It is not an easy task especially when we have six aircraft that require maintenance, pilots, ground personnel and a hangar to protect them. This is done many times 'after the day job' is over. Some people seem to find time in their busy lives to volunteer and contribute.

This past month, one of our own very active volunteers has gone West. Craig Pridgeon picked the Houston Wing as a place where he could give his time and talent after he retired. While a member for only a short time, Craig found himself a project to take on. He started restoring the R985 display engine and recruited members and cadets to help him. Most Saturdays, he and his helpers would be cleaning and



painting engine parts at the workbench he built and brought to the hangar. His enjoyment was contagious as shown by the members who would gravitate past the C-60 to Craig's 'restoration bench'.



Craig also volunteered to serve on the Houston Wing Staff as Adjutant for a two year term. When the Wing was trying to figure out how to get started on the center section of the PT-19, Craig used his wood skills to construct a work stand and started disassembling the ribs and plywood covering. What I remember best about Craig was his "let's do it" attitude. We have many members who talk about what needs to be done but rarely jump in and do it. Craig jumped in with both feet and one could see he truly enjoyed working on aviation projects. Craig Pridgeon will be greatly missed.

Vaya con Dios  
my friend...



All Photos of Craig are curtesy  
of Sam Bulger



# Operations Update



Houston Wing flight operations kicked in to high gear with barnstorming for rides, air show appearances, and formation fly overs. Our volunteer pilots responded to a short notice request for an Armed Forces Day

flyover on 18 May. Dave Guggemos lead the flight with Ryszard Zadow, Rob Parrish, and myself flying wing. We had a fly over of Craig Pridgeon's memorial service at the request of the family. Dave Guggemos lead Ryszard Zadow, Kevin Domingue and Greg Young in the Navion to honor our long serving friend. Our biggest formation of the year is usually the Memorial Day flight and Scott Rozzell led us over two different commemorative events. Rob Parrish, Ryszard Zadow, Chris Dowell with Ed Vesely instructing, Greg Young and Kevin Domingue in the Navion, Dave Guggemos, and myself flew the Memorial Day flight. We have received much favorable feedback from the participants in these events which included senior political officials. Barnstorming included an event with Texas Raiders at Hooks on 25 May. We have also had revenue rides given by our pilots at West Houston airport. Thanks to Chris Walker, Ole Nygren, Dewey Lockwood, and Ryszard Zadow for volunteering to fly rides for hire at all times of the day and days of the week. Again, special thanks to all our members and

friends who brought their personal warbirds to support CAF formation flyovers.

Annual recurrent flight training for pilots is being conducted throughout the year to ensure we continue to meet CAF Regulations and keep our paperwork with CAF HQ up to date. Dave Guggemos worked to straighten up the pilot room in the hangar and have repacked parachutes available for formation and aerobatic training. Also thanks to Chris Walker and Sam Hoynes for setting us up with some new and some very good used headsets to use for revenue riders.

Special thanks also from me to Jim Placette for some quick maintenance right before engine start on one flight. We were moving like a NASCAR team that day!

The addition of ADS-B to the transponder system of our aircraft has begun. Radios selected and purchased for the AT-6 and N3N are being installed during the period 1-22 June.

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.

Thanks again for your support for Wing Operations in 2019!

-Nathan



# Marketing Report



Marketing/Tour  
Planning June, 2019,

Welcome back friends  
to reflective  
installment of “As the  
Wing flies.” As usual I’m sure you’re  
wondering what retrospective insight we  
have to share this month. Read  
on.....

As I sit at the pub writing this I’m having a  
ESB. The ESB is a English Style Bitter by  
beer style and of course it’s English. I’m  
watching all the D-Day flying and  
remembrances. I can only imagine the  
planning and financial resources that mission  
has taken. “*That’s All Brother*” and “*D-Day  
Doll*” are doing a wonderful job of  
representing the CAF along with all the other  
C-47’s doing the Daks over Normandy  
mission. Wow, what a mission.

I know you’ve been wondering what’s  
happening to the new Interactive Educational  
Facility. Well you’re at the right place.  
Unfortunately, the business development/  
marketing/graphics art department has been  
busy completing other projects but this  
summer we should get back on the big  
project. We need to establish the purpose of  
the new facility and fervently proceed in that  
direction. Once we establish this direction  
then fundraising will be easier since we will  
have something solid to present not only to

our members but perspective foundations  
and donors.

Unfortunately, you all know by now that  
Craig Pridgeon has gone west. A wonderful  
man of magnificent talent, great passion for  
aviation and simply a great and humble man.  
I imagine Craig’s wish would be for us to get  
the PT-19 flying again and build a first class  
museum to teach the future generations  
about history and the science of flight. On  
this D-Day remembrance week I remember  
Craig always being at our field trip days for  
the local schools. He loved being at the back  
of the C-60 being the jumpmaster for the  
students. Craig made the story of the D-Day  
jumpers come to life in the back of the C-60  
for those kids with his passion for history.  
We are diminished. - Sam Bulger





## **Eyes On the Horizon!**

**June 1**

Museum Day

**June 15**

Museum Day

**June 16**

Membership Meeting 2pm, Hangar B-5

**June 28**

Sugarland Skeeters Flyover

**July 4-7**

Cedar Creek Warbird Expo

**July 20**

Barnstorming at Conroe



Photos Curtesy of Sam Bulger





## **Katy ISD Field Trip** **Pattison Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Graders**

On May 16 and 17 we hosted 189 fifth grade students from Pattison Elementary school for one of our annual field trips. On the 16<sup>th</sup> we hosted a group of 50 at 9:00 and another 50 who arrived at 11:30. This was repeated again on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the kids and teachers were amazing.

The CAF is moving more toward education and we are currently working with three Katy ISD elementary schools doing annual field trips and this initiative has been going on for 8 years. This effort could expand in the future but it takes at least 9 volunteers to host 50 students in the type of educational field trip we try to provide.

This year several of my usual volunteers were not available and luckily several new members came forward to help with this worthwhile effort: Members working this field trip included: Sam Hoynes, Chuck Waters, Jason Delaney, Frank Vargas, John Rudd, Jeremy Wright, Rich Welsh, Bruce Thomas, Howard Jones, Robert Henry, David Egan and Bill Stone.

I also wanted to thank Frank Robertson for coming out to start his PT-22 for the classes on Tuesday and Dewey Lockwood for starting and taxing the AT-6 both days. The sound of these classic radial engines running and watching the aircraft taxi is a highlight for students. (This engine start part of the field trip is not always possible as most of our pilots work and it is hard for them to schedule time for these events.)



Parachute Exercise  
Chuck talking about the Home Front





How an aircraft works  
Getting into AT-6 Cockpit

**THE HOUSTON WING WISHES  
ALL THE DAD'S A VERY  
HAPPY FATHERS DAY!!**

## PX Report



Susan will catch up with everyone next month

## Suzie's Safety Corner



Suzie will catch up with everyone next month.

## Maintenance



Jim will catch up with everyone next month.

## Social Media



Brian has taken the opportunity to crew on Texas Raiders for 3 weeks.

Have Fun!!

We also are hosting a Bay City homeschool group for a field trip for 30 students, ages 6-17, on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. This is the second Home School group we have hosted so this effort may also expand in the future.

If you think you would enjoy being part of next year's school field trip effort let me know.

- Sam Hoynes

## Meeting Potluck

As always our Potluck lunch will take place after the 2 pm Membership meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

This month's theme will be Hamburgers and Hot dogs - Picnic style in honor of Fathers Day. Please prepare your favorite dish - potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, etc. and bring it to the meeting.

We Look forward to seeing you there!

# Staff Directory

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