



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HOUSTON WING

December 2019

Slips & Skids

Wing Leader

**“In the end, it's not the years
in your life that count. It's
the life in your years.”**

Abraham Lincoln



December is here and 2019 is coming to a close. This is the month to catch up on paying your membership dues and hopefully contribute a little extra towards our new hangar. You can pay your wing dues at the general meeting or by

mail. We will have our annual chili cook off following the December general meeting. I'll be cooking up a new recipe this year to place in the competition. I encourage all of you with some culinary ambitions to give it a try and submit a dish. The date is Sunday December 15th with the meeting starting at 2pm.

My term as your Wing Leader comes to an end this month.

One thing I liked seeing were new volunteers who join our ranks and pitch in side by side with the experienced members.

Over time active volunteers turn into experienced members themselves. We have an excellent staff who dedicate many hours each month working behind the scenes to keep the Houston Wing running. Financing, restoring, flying and maintaining six historic aircraft as well as a large hanger and museum is a huge responsibility. I would like to thank the Wing staff, Wing members and volunteers for your support these past two years. The Houston Wing has grown and evolved with the times. I have no doubt that your new Staff will continue to move the Houston Wing onwards and upwards. Please give them as well as the other current staff members your full support.

Houston Wing Staff Elections

The results of the Houston Wing Staff Elections are in. Thanks goes out to Bob Linguiti for leading the Election Committee and the vote counting. Starting January 2020, you will have a new Wing Leader, Executive Officer, Operations Officer and Safety Officer

Please provide your support and patience as they settle into their respective jobs.

Here are your staff officers for 2020:

Wing Leader – Denise Walker

Executive Officer – Ed Vesely (pending staff approval)

Operations Officer – Chris Walker

Maintenance Officer – Ryszard Zadow

Safety Officer – Suzie Bredlau

Museum Officer – Sam Hoynes

Finance Officer – Steve Sparks

Development Officer – Sam Bulger

Adjutant - position open

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your leader. Being given the responsibility of stewardship over five aircraft that are each over 75 years of age is truly humbling. That is something I will miss. The accomplishments and memories of the Greatest Generation are slowly fading in the history books. It is up to groups like the CAF to keep the lessons of that era alive.

In parting I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Be kind to one another every day.

Keep ‘em flying, be safe and have some fun!
-Stan

Eyes On the Horizon!

December 14

Flyover: Wreaths Across America
Member Appreciation Rides Day

December 15

General Meeting @ 2pm
Chili Cook Off
Member Appreciation Rides Day

December 21

Museum Day



Operations Update



Dave Guggemos was back leading a flyover formation for Veteran's Day in Nov. Thanks again for all you veterans out there and what you have done and continue to do. We still have some flyover events coming for this year. The Wreath flyovers are on 14 Dec and that is usually one of our biggest events of the year. Thanks also to the members who fly their own aircraft to support Wing commitments.

Winter maintenance is coming soon and pilot sponsors and other volunteers can help during aircraft maintenance as directed by the Maintenance Officer.

Thanks to all who volunteered for positions in the Wing elections. We are always looking for future staff officers to help us organize and operate the Wing for all our benefits. You will learn a lot about what it takes to keep an operation the size of Houston Wing going and progressing. Please continue to support our new Staff Officers and be willing to throw your hat in the ring next election cycle.

Announcements with details of the coming Awards Banquet have come out and the date is 25 Jan 2020! A good time is always had by attendees and we get a chance to socialize in a civilized way without wind, sun, and oil in our faces!

Ground School will be a two day requirement again this year. The current plan is to do the mandatory non-aircraft specific part with the Gulf Coast Wing on 1 Feb. The Houston Wing aircraft specific Ground School would be 22 Feb. If you want to fly a CAF airplane in 2020 you must attend both.

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

Maintenance



Greetings once again from Hangar B5.

First off I would like to thank all of you for your support and trust in me as your Maintenance Officer. I look

forward to a great 2020 with several of our project planes taking to the sky once again. That is what planes were designed and built to do. It has taken plenty of work and effort over several years by many members to get to this point, and I am happy that we have accomplished so much. For my report I wish to copy an excerpt from an article in a 2011 CAF Dispatch that says so many things so well. So here it is....

"Without question the most valuable asset the CAF owns would be the airplanes in its inventory. However, the backbone of the organization is the legion of individuals who dedicate themselves to keeping these demanding and temperamental old warriors flying. Without these mechanics, the CAF would be like any other static museum waiting for people to come to it, rather than our preferred method: bringing live history to the people.

There is no shortage of stories that typify the quality and character of these volunteer mechanics that stand front-and-center, always ready to do what it takes to keep these old relics alive. It often requires long days and short nights that result in busted up hands and wrecked clothes, but complaints are rarely forthcoming in spite of that.

We were all once outsiders looking in, and what we saw through that narrow field of view was the glamorous side of this warbird gig at airshows. It's doubtful most of us ever gave a moment's thought to the maximum effort it took to get that airplane to the show. Behind every airplane is a legion of people working long hours, often under

less than ideal circumstances, to make it happen. The next time you're at an airshow, after you've greeted the 'Stick Activator,' take a few minutes to thank the people behind the scenes who made it possible for the airplane to be there!"

And on to other things, the BT-13 is almost done with her annual inspection. The brakes linings will be replaced on 7 Dec, and should be the end to the brake problems. Next in the order is the N3N, and it starts on 9 Dec. Right now the PT-19 center section is undergoing repair to the main spar and preparing to reskin the entire wing section. The fuselage is ready for cover, and the materials for that have been ordered. Work on the C-60 continues, and the right hydraulic shut off valve has been repaired. One more part will be installed to make it work reliably. The AT-6 is still operable at last check.

I am planning on holding a swing dance class on Sundays around 5 to 7 pm. If there is a showing, we will work on basic swing steps for the month along with some added moves to make the dance more interesting. Also I will be holding another rib stitching class in Jan. Most likely it will be on Sat Jan 12 in the morning. Please let me know if you wish to attend, so I can have supplies available.

Work around the hangar never stops, and I am thankful for all the help. We all work hard to make these planes fly. It requires more than just pilots and mechanics. It requires all the members who spend their valuable time supporting the wing through

PX, museum and all the work around here. It also includes the cadets, and their efforts to help in any way they can. New members are an asset to the unit too as they bring more skills to the team. Keep up the good work and 2020 will be a banner year for Houston Wing.....Jim

Suzie's Safety Corner



Hidie ho folks. Hope all had a good Thanksgiving. Remember that for December's meeting we have the famous Houston Wing chili cook off and y'all got to beat our reigning champ from last year, Connie Stone!

Now this month is a lesson on our best employee. Clarice the chair. She hauls stuff and people up the stairs with narry a complaint. So to start. Say you want your heavy stuff or your behind hauled up. Step one is call her down. You will find her control sitting on the podium by the stairs. Pick it up and push the down button as you have now become an antenna so point it up at the chair and give it a few seconds and down she will come. Hold it down till she hits the stop at the bottom and makes a beep. That means she is on the contacts. Load her up. Make sure the foot rest is in the down position for loads and sitting. Push the up button on the control box or use the button on the right forward arm rest. Up we go. Let her go all the way up till she beeps. Then she is hitting the contacts and the battery will

charge. If no beep push the up button again to have her all the way up. That way the battery stays charged. Please see me at December meeting for any questions on her use. I use her to haul up cases of water and soda etc. I use her to come down when I am working in the hanger alone. Falling up the stairs not so bad but falling down would entail me doing paperwork. And we all know my first and only rule. Stay safe and don't make me fill out paperwork. –Suzie

1. Clarice's Remote



2. Be an antenna



3. Clarice Beeps at the bottom



4. Lower foot stand for take off/landing



5. Use remote or arm button to go up.



flying our last two flyovers of the year are upon us and before you know it Warbird Weekend will be here.

Warbird Weekend will be April 18th/19th. We are in talks with potential event sponsors and beginning the layout as I write this. As all of you know Warbird Weekend takes everyone in the wing to make it the tremendous success that it is. We are working towards making this the best Warbird Weekend ever.....until Warbird Weekend 2121 of course.

The business development group will be making a more concerted effort on the new Interactive Educational Facility fundraising development. Unfortunately, the business development group has been lax in the new facility project. Hopefully next year will provide more time to do so.

As promised last month, on to something slightly different.....or is it? Last month Roger Penske purchased the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the IndyCar racing series. Roger Penske has 3 IndyCar, 2 stock car (NASCAR) and 4 sportscar racing teams. Every one of them is successful. Penske is so well respected by his peers that no one is concerned about a conflict of interest. The integrity of all of Penske' endeavors is very impressive, integrity in any organization begins at the top. Penske racing has won the Indy 500 18 times. What I find interesting about this is that Penske organization is not only concerned about the success and growth of running one of the most legendary racetracks, but they feel they are stewards of

Marketing Report



Well jeez where has the year gone? As I write this, I'm watching the Grinch that stole Christmas, time flies when you are having fun and having fun is what we do here at the Houston Wing. Speaking of

the Speedway, a historical landmark and to preserve the speedway for the next generation. Sound familiar? Usually we talk about planes, last month we talked about trains and this month we're talking about automobiles. Maybe someone should write a movie with a title like that. When you become passionate about something you become a steward of that avocation by preserving it for future generations to continue the story.

I would like to offer a parting thought this month by sending my sincere thanks Stan Turner and Nathan Harnagel for their selfless dedication and hard work to the wing the past 2 years. The wing leader and operations officer positions are difficult, time consuming and can frankly be a pain in the butt. I've learned many things from both of you. Thank you both and see ya around the hangar. -Sam B

Tour Planning



'Tis The Season with Greetings of Joy!

Hello All! And Merry Christmas!

Member Appreciation

Rides - On December 14th our flying season will come to a close after we finish our Wreaths over America Flyover. We will be having a Members Appreciation Rides day immediately after the flyover. After this weekend we will enter into winter maintenance on our aircraft to get them

ready for next year's flying season. Next time you are visiting the hangar, give our maintenance, restoration teams, and pilots a pat on the back and thank them for all of their continued efforts. We are a team! We need each and every member here as all jobs count and propel us towards the mission to Honor, Educate, and Inspire.

Tour Planning - As this year's flying season comes to a close, a new one is just around the corner. So tour planning begins for the next year. As soon as ICAS is over and we see what is laid out for the coming Airshow season, we will begin our tour planning for the Houston Wing.

However, don't just think that winter maintenance is for just the aircraft, the Hangar needs some attention too! We are in need of a hangar work day to do the needed day-to-day maintenance squawks, and to tidy up the place. Once the holiday season is over we will pick a date and get to it.

Membership renewals are also upon us. Do you realize it is a choice and a privilege to be apart of this Wing? Sometimes we don't take the time to realize that we are among an amazing group of like-minded people that has a great love for this era, just as we do. Our rewards come from honoring the veterans who once flew the planes that we restore, maintain, and fly. Please consider renewing your membership as soon as possible so we can keep the roster updated. A renewal form is attached to the newsletter. In order to be a member of the Houston Wing, one must also be a current paid

member within the CAF National Headquarters as well.

The Awards Banquet is also just around the corner. It will be held on Saturday, January 25th at the Westin Hotel - Memorial City (same as last year). We will meet for cocktails at 6pm and dinner will start promptly at 7pm. A form for your payment and food selection was sent out in an Eblast. As soon as the Westin sends the menu, it will be sent to the membership. The cost is \$40 per member. Cadets are free with a paid attending parent.

Don't forget during this busy time of year of hustle and bustle to take some time for yourself to reflect upon your own blessings during this joyous holiday season.

My wish for you is to have an amazing Christmas surrounded by the happiness and love of family and friends. Good tidings for a fabulous New Year filled with Peace, Love, Happiness, Health and Prosperity!

Thank you for being apart of the Houston Wing! -Denise

Thank you! -Denise

Museum Moment

Museum – “Little Known Aviation History”

**This Really Exists:
Giant Concrete Arrows That
Point Your Way Across
America...**



Every so often, usually in the vast deserts of the American Southwest, a hiker or a backpacker will run across something puzzling: a large concrete arrow, as much as seventy feet in length, sitting in the middle of scrub-covered nowhere.



What are these giant arrows? Some kind of surveying mark?
Landing beacons for flying saucers?
Earth's turn signals?



On August 20, 1920, the United States opened its first coast-to-coast airmail delivery route, just 60 years after the Pony Express closed up shop.

There were no good aviation charts in those days, so pilots had to eyeball their way across the country using landmarks. This meant that flying in bad weather was difficult, and night flying was just about impossible.

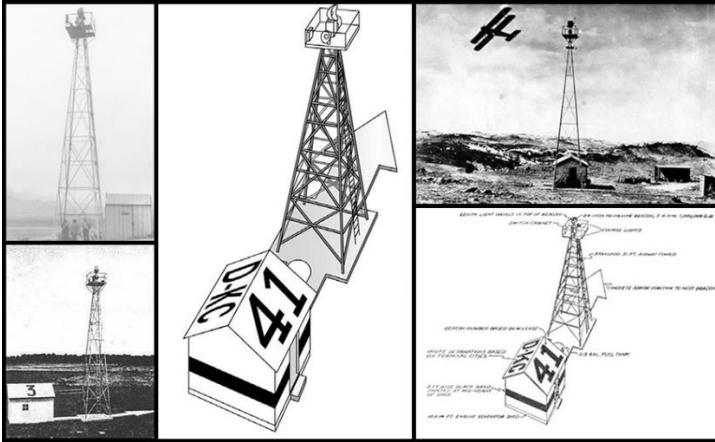
The Postal Service solved the problem with the world's first ground-based civilian navigation system: a series of lit beacons that would extend from

New York to San Francisco. **Every ten miles**, pilots would pass a bright yellow concrete arrow. Each arrow would be surmounted by a 51-foot steel tower and lit by a million-candlepower rotating beacon. (A generator shed at the tail of each arrow powered the beacon.)



No, it's...

**The Transcontinental
Air Mail Route.**



Now mail could get from the Atlantic to the Pacific not in a matter of weeks, but in just 30 hours or so.

Even the dumbest of air mail pilots, it seems, could follow a series of bright yellow arrows straight out of a Tex Avery cartoon. By 1924, just a year after Congress funded it, the line of giant concrete markers stretched from Rock Springs, Wyoming to Cleveland, Ohio. The next summer, it reached all the way to New York, and by 1929 it spanned the continent uninterrupted, the envy of postal systems worldwide.

Radio and radar are, of course, infinitely less cool than a concrete Yellow Brick Road from sea to shining sea, but I think we all know how this story ends. New advances in communication and navigation technology made the big arrows obsolete, and the Commerce Department decommissioned the beacons in the 1940s. The steel towers were torn down and went to the war effort. But the hundreds of arrows remain. Their yellow paint is gone, their concrete cracks a little more with every winter frost, and no one crosses their path much, except for coyotes and tumbleweeds.

But they're still out there.



Frank Vargas and Sam Hoynes

Meeting Potluck

Fire up those crockpots everyone, it's time for our annual Chili Cook Off! Who will be victorious? Who will be utterly crushed with defeat? Who will be brave enough to taste them all????? Join us in the O Club after the meeting to find out all of the answers!

Gate Entry Process

Here are a few options:

1. If the gate is down and the guard is in the shack, all you need to do is tell the guard that you are going to Hangar B-5 with the CAF and they will open the gate.
2. The gate is supposed to remain open if there is no guard in the shack. Simply drive on in. If this is not the case, then see option 3
3. If the gate is down and there is NO guard in the shack, simply press the "Call Button" on the silver box near the guard shack. When they answer, tell them that you are with the CAF in hangar B-5 and they will open the gate for you.



Membership Renewal

It's that time again! You will find the renewal form on the last page of this issue. Please make sure to renew your membership with the Wing to be in good standing.

Member Birthdays!

December

Turner	Stan	12/5
Hamilton	Richard	12/8
Roach	William "Bill"	12/11
Tucker	Ruth	12/22
Welsh	Noel "Rich"	12/25
Brown	Kathleen "Patches"	12/26
Wallace	Tyler	12/26

January

Vargas, Jr.	Frank	1/6
Kauffman	Christine	1/8
Schulz	William "Bill"	1/9
Phillips	Michael "Mike"	1/15
Willis	Buck "Doc"	1/16
Bixby	James	1/19
Bixby	John	1/19
Sisso	Carlos	1/22

Parrish	Robert	1/23
Gispanski	Bruce	1/24
Dunin	Chris	1/25
Bohnert	Anthony ("Tony")	1/31
Vaculik	Susan	1/31



Future Pilot! Photo: Sam B



December 7th Flyover. Photo: Suzie B



Monthly Meeting. Photo: Sam B

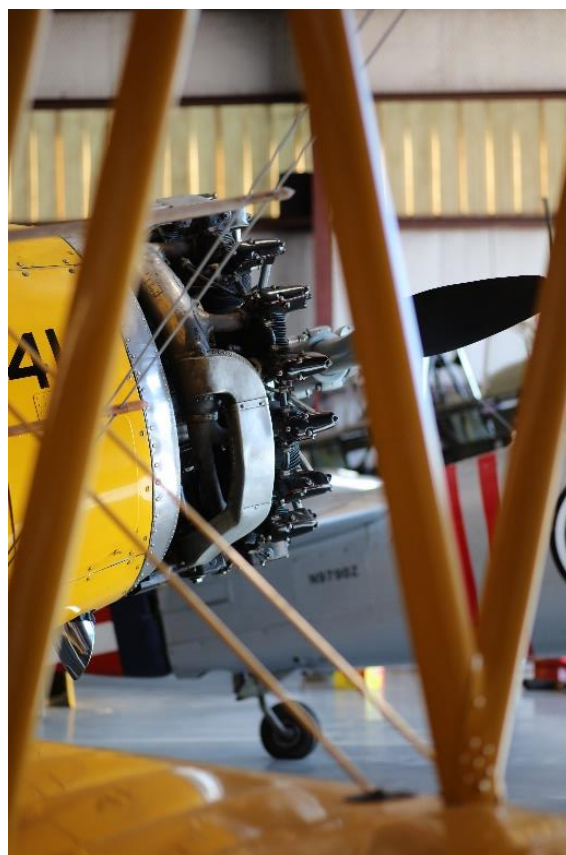
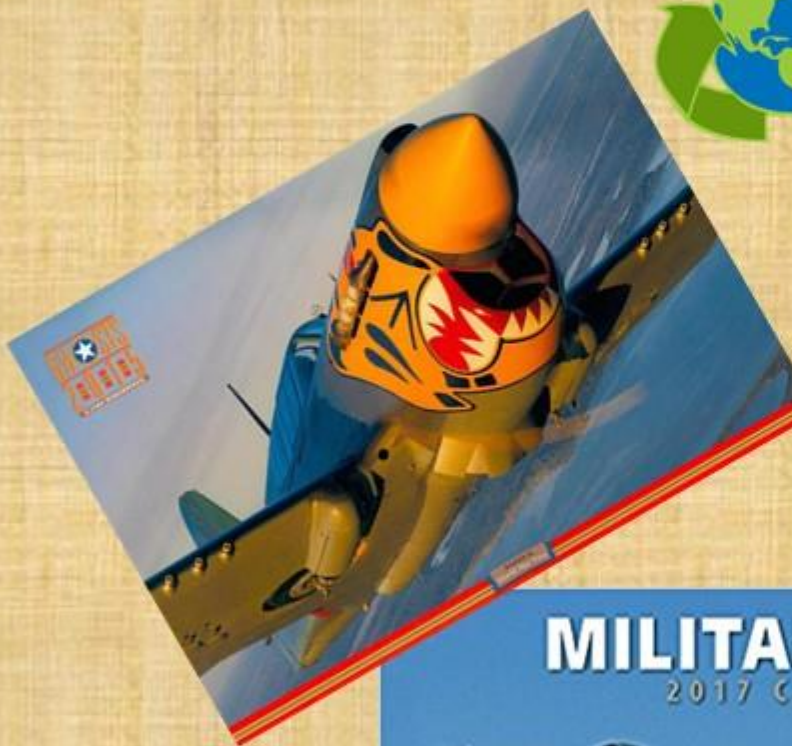


Photo: Sam B

We ask that you please consider recycling your old aviation calendars so we can hand out the photos at the gate to the children who will be attending Warbird Weekend



Leave them in the
"O" club and we'll
do the rest



* In reality
whoever we give
these too will
probably throw
them away in the
trash.....but
John, we tried

Staff Directory

Wing Leader

Col Stan Turner
t28pilot44@aol.com

Executive Officer

Col Dave Eagan
deehz4ever@yahoo.com

Adjutant

Col Denise Walker
texflyers@gmail.com

Cadet Program Officer

Col Jim Placette
j_placette@yahoo.com
Col Frank Vargas
fjvargas2@gmail.com

Development Officer

Col Sam Bulger
wohphotopit@gmail.com

Finance Officer

Col Steve Sparks
bgsnet1a@aol.com

Maintenance Officer

Col Jim Placette
j_placette@yahoo.com

Museum and Education Officer

Col Sam Hoynes
s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net

Marketing Officer

Col Sam Bulger
wohphotopit@gmail.com

Operations Officer

Col Nathan Harnagel
nathanharnagel@yahoo.com

Personnel Officer

Col Tammi Lockwood
tamlockwood13@gmail.com

Public Information Officer

Col Brian Kosior
briankosior@yahoo.com

PX Officer

Col Susan Vaculik
svaculikjm@gmail.com

Safety Officer

Col Susie Bredlau
rikkysue@aol.com

Rides Coordinator

Col Tammi Lockwood
tamlockwood13@gmail.com

Mission Statement

The Houston Wing of the Commemorative Air Force is an organization that Educates, Inspires, and Honors our Veterans through the use of our vintage aircraft and our collection of artifacts to tell the story of the brave men and women that have served their country in times of war.

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:

Houston Wing-CAF
Attn.: MEMBERSHIP
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: _____