



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HOUSTON WING

April 2020

Slips & Skids

Wing Leader

*"Tough times never last, but
tough people do."*

— Robert H. Schuller



Hello Friends!!!

I hope everyone is staying healthy and well.

I don't know about you, but on the bright side of having to stay home, I'm sure

everyone will be getting the needed deep cleaning done both inside and out. I know, I am! I'm sure there will be more gardens this year than ever. I won't bore you with all the details of the COVID-19 virus stuff because that's all you hear in emails, on TV, and anywhere else you look or go, and I'm sure you have heard enough.

I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to Warbird Weekend. I think by that time everyone will be bursting at the seams to get out and about. It's looking like it maybe one of the first events of the season. How cool will that be! We get to celebrate American Style and honor our Veterans.

Of course, the flight season is all messed up with reschedules and cancelations. So far, we have confirmed the Orange, TX Fly-In has rescheduled to June 6th and the Warbird Expo in Tyler has stayed the same - July 2nd - July 5th. We are still waiting to hear from other Fly-Ins, and Airshows about their decisions. As soon as we know something, we let everyone know.

Are you needing something to do? Don't forget about the online CAF courses that need to be done.

- CAF Youth Protection Program
- Houston Wing Tract It Forward App to log your Volunteer hours
- ** CAF online training Maintenance course for anyone who works on the planes
- ** CAF online training Pilot course for anyone who flies the planes.

I look forward to seeing y'all soon at the hangar.

Stay Well!
Denise

Executive Officer



From the right seat:

As the reality of the Corona quarantine continues progress is being made on the center section of the PT-19 thanks to

Stan and Suzy. The spar repairs are completed and an evaluation is ongoing as to the serviceability of the trailing edge ribs.

They will either be repaired as necessary or rebuilt.

Ed



Eyes On the Horizon!

May 23-24

Warbird Weekend

June 6

Orange, TX Fly-in

July 2-5

Tyler, TX Warbird Expo



Operations Update



Greetings Houston Wing faithful!

April's installment from Flight Ops is being written with careful oversight of a nice dinner and cerveza down in Mexico City. I

never thought I would be thankful for a MEX layover at work. However, this is a nice change from the situation at home in the States where you can't even sit down to a meal in a restaurant. It is amazing what you can get used to and then, what was that song

again? “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone.” The virus is the theme for the year and the status quo has changed yet again. It is somehow a needed reminder to not take for granted that which we hold dear. In our case, the ability to assemble and share in our common love for living history through our Wing and aircraft. I do believe that the tide will turn again and we can get back to making airplane noises. Hopefully that can happen by or before May and just maybe, our Warbird Weekend can take place. Wouldn’t it be kind of cool if it were the first big Warbird event of the year? I know, I’m an optimist...

The flying side of things for the Wing hit the pause button for the last couple weeks with the social distancing reaching a fever pitch and many of our pilots getting a deer in the headlights look about them over the airlines revenue abyss. I’m not going to lie, it has a lot of us spooked. Even me, and I’m the optimist remember? The paperwork and records efforts continue with HQ and some down time for Fortress lately for the pilot group. I am trying to complete adding our new N3N IP records so that can be done this week. If things do not worsen further, I am hopeful that some training can commence again during April. The N3N is still down for fabric and new cockpit combings, but that should be completed soon. The BT and AT are waiting patiently for someone to kick the tires.

Speaking of Warbird Weekend. I have spoken to most of our aircraft invite list regarding the reschedule to Memorial Day Weekend. The good news is almost all of the

guests are eager and ready to come and support our event. Everyone is ready to return to the skies and get this flying season going. It is sad that many have been affected by all the cancelations of events for this year, having a huge financial impact on their units. Take care of yourself and those close to you as this COVID 19 scenario runs its course. Remember, this is not even close to the same level of challenge and hardship endured and conquered by the Greatest Generation that we all hold dear. This too in time shall pass. Shhhh, if you pay real close attention to the winds of change, you can hear the distant rumble of a radial in the distance with the sweet smell of burnt aviation fuel in the air and right up there just above the horizon...can you see it...optimism!

Chris

Adjutant/Membership



How many of you feel like you are trying to put a square peg in a round hole about now? I know that pretty much sums up my life with this COVID 19 business.

This is my 13 year of teaching and I have to say, it’s been a crazy one to say the least. This virus thing is just the icing on the cake. Try teaching choir online.....yea, it’s fun.

Working from home has allowed me to complete my records for membership and produce the rough draft of the membership directory. An email was sent out a while ago asking you to look over your information to

see if it was correct. I have heard from a few of you, but I'm sure there must be more mistakes in there. So if you are bored, please find that email (we can do an updated one) and make sure that your info is correct. I'd like to send out an official directory ASAP.

Hope to see you all soon,

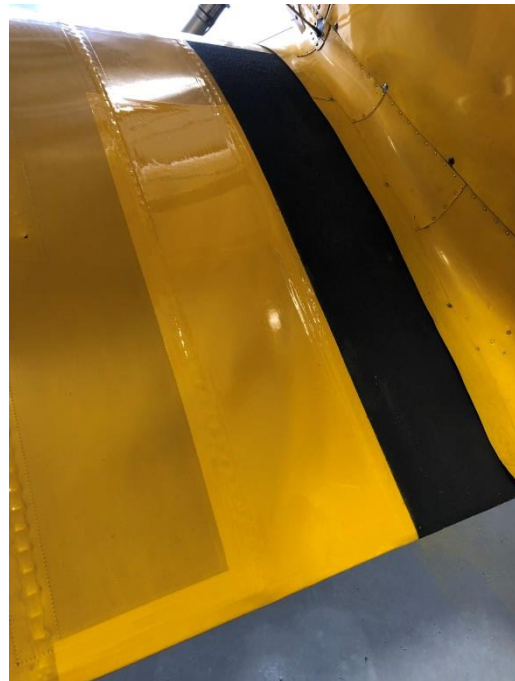
Brian

Maintenance



The most important tool a maintainer has is their mind. When we put our minds to something there are no limits, unless, what we put our minds to is a limit. For the longest time

we heard the lower left wing of the N3N was going to need total recovering. That's no longer the case because we removed a limit from our minds. That limit was there because no one in our organization could figure out how to resolve the issue without totally recovering the wing. The limit was removed because we sought out an expert outside our organization. Some people call this thinking outside the box. If you consider our hangar to be a big box then yes, we did. When we think outside our box we see things differently. When the resources inside the box don't include what's needed to get the job done, then there often isn't a choice, and often that gets expensive. Our goal is to take care of everything ourselves, within reason, through volunteer support.



Volunteer support is more important now more than ever. Lately you may have seen a message in this newsletter, Hangar Happenings and the Maintenance Department weekly message asking for assistance from any members who are

Engineers or Fabricators. We have hundreds of members and my guess within those ranks there are some people with those skills. One of the maintenance department goals is make our tasks more efficient, thus maximizing volunteers time. While we're weathering through these uncertain times, the airplanes are in good shape and mostly idle, we'd love to get some help creating tools and methods to help us work more efficiently. Though these times may be uncertain, one thing is for certain, when the green light comes on again, we can't be caught behind the power curve!

Be safe. Be healthy. Be ready to get busy!

Ryszard

Marketing Report

And just like that the world as we know it changed in seemingly the blink of an eye. Just don't rub your eye.

Last time we visited we talked about the marketing departments work with finding partners for Warbird Weekend. We had a successful eblast campaign searching for partners. And then, well everyone knows what has happened the past 2 weeks. The wing staff met early in the month and formulated a contingency plan for the COVID 19 scenario. It was decided to move Warbird Weekend to May 23-24, which is Memorial Day Weekend. Personally, I'm excited to have Warbird Weekend on Memorial Day Weekend, I can't think of a more appropriate weekend to have our event. Because many airshows have canceled all

the aircraft invited are coming. Now what to do with 5000 postcards with the wrong date?

Speaking of May there might be a really special surprise early in the month. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for clues.

Sam B.

Suzie's Safety Corner



Hello fellow wing members.

This month I was going to inform y'all of something about aircraft and hangar safety. Well that kind of went by the wayside. My safety briefing will be about the only thing that is on the news, in the paper (it's something old people read) and on line. The COVID 19 virus. For the last 2 weeks I haven't been to the hangar. Social distancing is the new watch word. Don't know how bad this will get but as a reference I wrote down the infection rate and death rate when I woke up this morning the 24th of March. It was at 6 am 43,530 and dead were at 540. Tonight at 930 pm it stands at 52,946 with 704 dead. Now you may say we have 300+ million people in the United States so that's not many. Well it is not only hitting the elderly it is hitting youngsters too. So even though you don't get the virus from eighty year old airplanes do you want to take a chance on giving it to your parents, your grandma, your neighbors' new baby? All I am asking is please everyone practice washing your hands and social distancing so that this may pass

and we will not have any of these deaths touch us in a personal way. The more serious we take this the sooner we shall get back to what we really love doing. Playing on old airplanes and honoring the greatest generation that flew them. Over and out for now and all take care. And don't make me fill out paperwork.

Suzie B.

Museum Moment

German Helmet (Damaged)

We were recently contacted by Matt Jones who wanted to donate several of his father's items to our museum. His father, Trevor "T.O." Jones, was too young to be in the service during WWII but he was interested in the military and he kept a large scrapbook with clippings about the war and the post war period. In addition to the scrap book, he had a rusted and shot up German helmet that he had found during a camping trip in Libya in the mid-1960s when he was there working for ESSO. He had kept the scrap book and helmet for years and his son wanted somebody to have them.

We are currently reviewing his scrapbook looking for newspaper clippings that would apply or be of interest to our WWII mission. The damaged and rusted German helmet is a unique artifact and we have decided to display it as is in the German display cabinet.



Aviator Safety Corner

NATA Accident Rates Study for North American Aircraft

***Partial Reprint from NATA Website**

NATA conducted analysis of the 10 year mishap database of all North American Aviation trainer aircraft to determine the most common probable causes of our mishaps. The top 3 probable causes of our NATA mishaps are loss of control during landings (22 mishaps), engine failures (11 mishaps), and failure to maintain control in flight (8 mishaps). Only 2 mishaps were attributed to physiological incapacitation (Medical), and only 3 mishaps occurred during formation flights (1 during landing, 1 while taxiing, and 1 during climb-out).

We also scanned the database for the most common causes of fatal mishaps. Not surprisingly, the highest loss of life over the last 10 years came from mishaps caused by loss of control in flight, low altitude maneuvering, or acrobatics (13 fatalities),

followed by mid-air collision (5 fatalities), and forced landings due to engine failure/loss of power (4 fatalities). One mishap was caused by a failure of a flight control component during an air race and resulted in 11 fatalities and 66 injuries.

Mishaps by Probable Cause

22	Landing mishaps involving Ground Loops, Crosswinds, or Loss of control
11	Engine Failures leading to forced landings
8	Failure to Maintain Control in flight (Scud running, loss of control while maneuvering, failure to maintain sufficient airspeed)
5	While Taxiing (3 incidents)
4	While Taking off
3	Formation related mishaps:
	1 involving collision during landing (2 reports)
	1 involving collision while taxiing (2 reports)
	1 involving mid-air during take-off (does not specifically state in formation, but assumed)
2	Maintenance related mishaps (1 inflight (elevator hinge), 1 while landing (tailwheel assembly))
2	Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT)
2	Physiological incapacitation

Fatal Mishaps by Probable Cause

13	Loss of Control in flight, Low Altitude Maneuvering, or Acrobatics
5	Mid-air Collision
4	Engine Failure/loss of power
2	Physiological incapacitation
2	Controlled flight into terrain (CFIT)
1	Hard Landing

So what do all these numbers tell us? The most likely mishap in a NATA aircraft occurs during the landing phase of flight (22 mishaps) but landing mishaps are the least deadly with only 1 fatality. The second most likely mishap - Engine Failure (11 mishaps) – resulted in 4 fatalities. And the third most likely mishap - Failure to maintain control in flight (8 mishaps) – was the most deadly with 13 fatalities. This data also indicates that we are generally in good health and we generally safe when flying formation. This data points us to 3 areas needing improvement:

1. We need to improve our safety record in the Landing phase of flight;
2. We need to improve our safety record during low altitude maneuvering and acrobatic flight;
3. We need to determine the primary causes (if possible) of our engine failures.

Improving our safety record is a priority in NATA, and we will invest our time and resources to the areas that will have the largest positive impact on our safety record.

Now is the time for each of us to take stock of our own flying skills – Am I current? Am I proficient? When was the last time I performed a complete stall series? When was the last time I practiced a no-flap landing or a simulated engine out landing? The last time I flew formation, was I as good as when I first got my qualification? Now is the time to consider what proactive steps YOU will take between now and when you get back in the air.

None of this is rocket science – but it does require discipline and a commitment to periodically hit the books, seek refresher training in the cockpit, and take a closer look at our aircraft.

For the remainder of this article and access to additional safety information, please see the NATA website.

Safety is a part of our culture.

Dave Guggemos

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

Denise Walker	March 6
John Szalkowski	March 9
Mike Steiger	March 10
Fabian Sisso	March 15
Tom Calpouzos	March 16
Dan Leone	March 17
Pat McGinnis	March 19
Gary Hutra	March 21
Chris Yannessa	March 23
David Yannessa	March 23
Jason Delaney	March 25
Michael White	March 27
Zach Bean	March 31
John Rudd	March 31

April

Johnnie Painter	April 1
Charlie Lindley	April 5
Ed Bergmann	April 10
Scott Rozzell	April 12
Charles Szalkowski	April 14
Jolene Meldrum	April 15
Philippe Heer	April 21
Kristy Maslanka-Shutter	April 21
Kerry Oury-Kauffman	April 21
Chris Dowell	April 22
Stanley Russ	April 22
Aaron Jakobson	April 24
Nathan Harnagel	April 25
Aric Adrich	April 30

Wing Anniversaries

Volunteering for the Wing takes commitment and we want to celebrate the following members for all of their help over the years.



March

Stan Turner	3/30/04
Mary Nygren	3/08/06
Sherry Johnson	3/30/06
Jeremy Wright	3/21/07
James Bulger	3/13/15
Chris Dunin	3/10/16
Mike Dunin	3/10/16
Tony Bohert	3/7/17
Chris Walker	3/16/17
Chris Yannessa	3/27/17
David Yannessa	3/27/17

April

Charles Hutchings	4/12/75
Michael White	4/22/98
Richard Hamilton	4/23/99
Joe Kudrna	4/05/07
Barbara Britt	4/16/07
Stanley Russ	4/21/09
Jason Delaney	4/23/09
Ulf Brynjestad	4/06/10
Bill Schulz	4/06/11
Thomas Maunder	4/30/12
Jolene Meldrum	4/02/14
Steve Sparks	4/11/16
Colin Walker	4/24/17
Conor Walker	4/24/17
Denise Walker	4/24/17

Kate Walker	4/24/17
Kelly Walker	4/24/17
Christine Kauffman	4/30/19

Around the Hangar





Staff Directory

Wing Leader

Col Denise Walker
texflyers@gmail.com

Executive Officer

Col Ed Vesely
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Adjutant/Membership

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Cadet Program Officer

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Development Officer

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Finance Officer

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Maintenance Officer

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Museum and Education Officer

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Marketing Officer

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Operations Officer

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Public Information Officer

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PX Officer

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Safety Officer

Col Susie Bredlau
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Rides Coordinator

Col Denise Walker
texflyers@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.

WARBIRD WEEKEND

2020



www.houstonwing.org or
Facebook [cafhoustonwing](https://www.facebook.com/cafhoustonwing)



May 23-24

At West Houston Airport

\$15/advance online

Tickets available at www.houstonwing.com

\$20/per car at the gate

10:00AM- 4:00pm

- OVER 25 VINTAGE AIRCRAFT
- PLANES FROM THE MOVIE "TORA TORA TORA"
- THE WORLD'S ONLY FLYING SB2C HELLDIVER
- WARBIRD RIDES
- 6TH CAVALRY RE-ENACTORS
- BATTLESHIP TEXAS
- ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN
- LIVE 1940's MUSIC
- FACE PAINTING
- FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

www.houstonwing.com

WARBIRD WEEKEND 2020



- OVER 25 WARBIRDS
- INCLUDING the B-17 "TEXAS RAIDERS"
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- THE WORLDS ONLY FLYING SB2C HELLDIVER
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www.houstonwing.org or
[Facebook cafhoustonwing](https://www.facebook.com/cafhoustonwing)



\$15/advance online

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\$20/per car at the gate **May 23-24**
10:00AM 4:00pm At West Houston Airport

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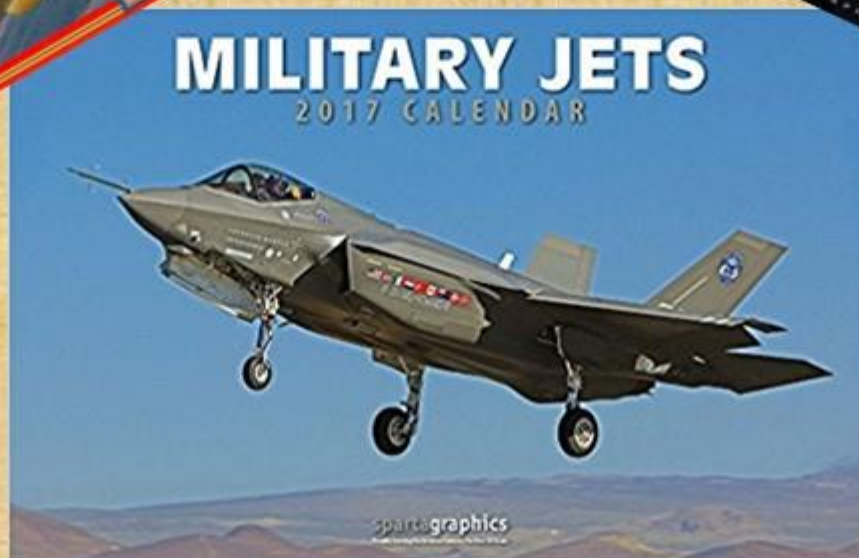
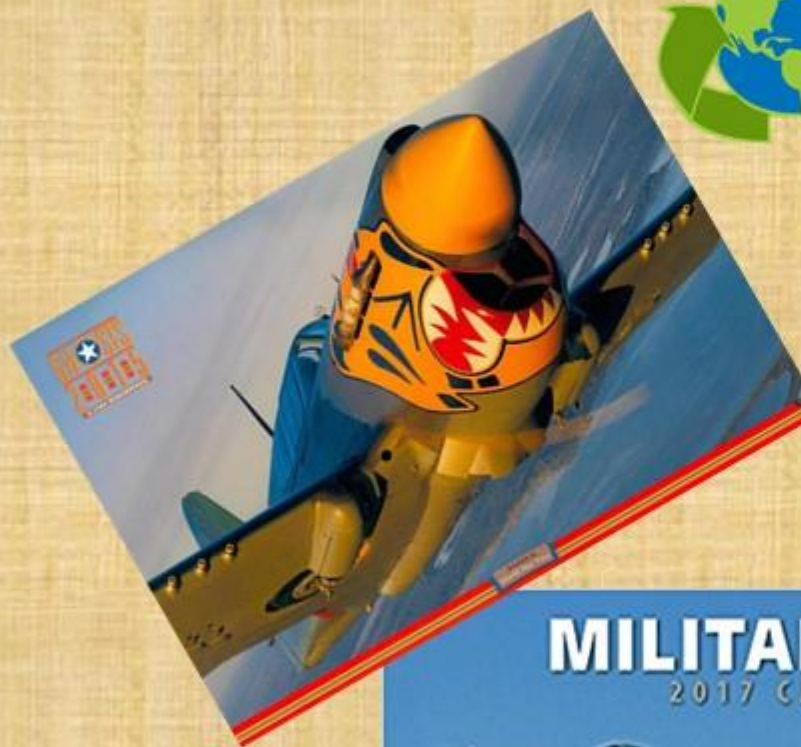
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10:00AM 4:00pm At West Houston Airport

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