



## COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HOUSTON WING

May 2020

# Slips & Skids

## Wing Leader

*"We don't develop courage by  
being happy every day. We  
develop it by surviving difficult  
times and challenging adversity."*

— Barbara de Angelis



Hello Aviation Family and  
Friends!

I'm hoping everyone is  
healthy.

It feels like we are getting a  
taste of life like the Greatest Generation  
experienced. I'm not sure they had to ration  
toilet paper, paper towels and Kleenex, but  
they did have to ration food and gas. We are  
getting a small taste for a short time  
compared to what they went through for  
several years. They got through it and, just  
like them we will get through this too.

### Flight to the Finish on Friday, May 8th

There was supposed to be one of the largest  
gatherings of Warbirds in Washington D.C.  
for the Arsenal of Democracy to honor the

Greatest Generation and to commemorate  
the Victory over Europe (VE Day) or the end  
of WWII on Friday, May 8th. The flight was  
going to fly over the Mall including the  
Capital building and the National  
Monument. Unfortunately, it was canceled.  
However, one of our members Scott Rozzell  
decided not to take no for an answer. He has  
gathered several of our fellow comrades to  
form plus or minus 30 aircraft including the  
Houston Wing AT-6 and BT-13. They will  
be participating in a flight over the Houston  
area. We're calling it Fight to the Finish  
Flyover. You can read more about this on  
our Facebook page. Everyone will take off  
at Ellington Airfield at 11:45 am and fly in  
formation around the city of Houston. The  
flight will take about an hour to complete.  
Thank you Scott for organizing and not  
letting it go by the wayside on the day of.  
Arsenal of Democracy has been rescheduled  
to September 25th in Washington D.C.

### Warbird Weekend 2020 - CANCELED

I am so sad to have to announce that our  
**Warbird Weekend has been canceled** for a  
number of reasons - not knowing what size  
of groups will be allowed to congregate, not  
enough volunteers, not able to get the  
adequate amount of supplies needed,

anticipated low attendance, etc. We will be back next year eager to provide this epic yearly event to our members and the public. So make sure to put April 18th and 19th 2021 on your calendar. When we have more information on upcoming events we will make them known. I know you too are missing your airplane sights, smells, and sounds.

### **Our Plans for Opening Back Up after the COVID-19 Closures**

Our Staff Team has been doing virtual meetings to discuss Warbird Weekend as well as all of the COVID-19 stuff going on. We are in the process of coming up with an action plan for opening up the hangar and museum in compliance with local authorities. Most of our museum crew is older and in the high risk category. So to protect them we have decided to keep the museum closed until the first weekend in June. We will have our action plan out soon.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

On behalf of the Houston Wing Staff we would like to send a big **THANK YOU** to the **BENTON FAMILY** for their donation to the Houston Wing of \$10,000. It is very generous and greatly appreciated. Fox Benton comes out to the hangar and helps work on the Navion project.

Hope to see y'all soon!  
Denise

## **Eyes On the Horizon!**

### **May 8**

Fight to the Finish- Flyover

### **May 9**

Blue Angels/Thunderbirds Flyover

### **May 23-25**

Memorial Day Weekend

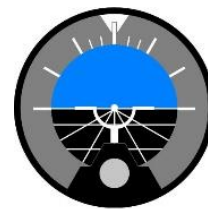
Mon- scheduled flyover

### **June 6**

Orange, TX Fly-in

### **July 2-5**

Tyler, TX Warbird Expo



## **Executive Officer**

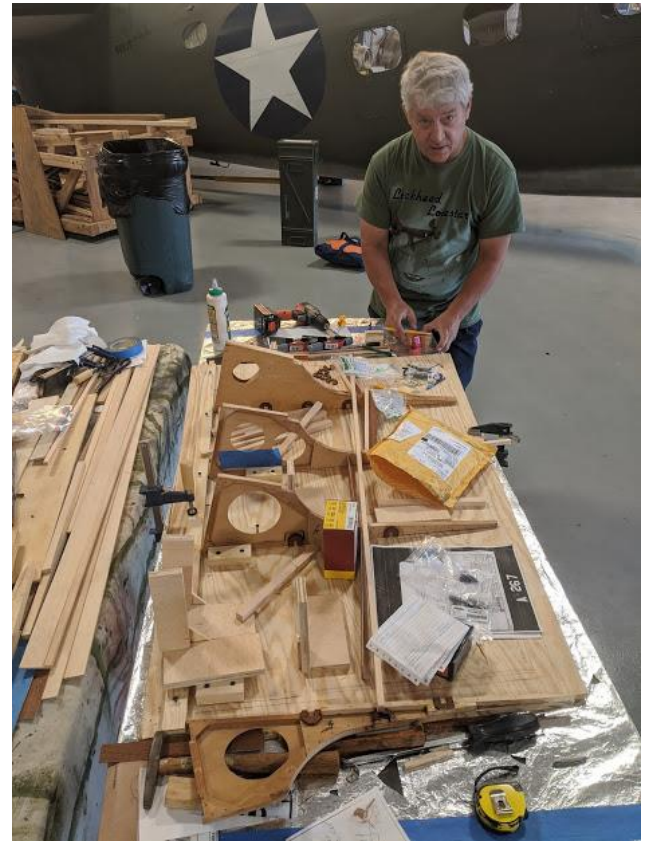


From the right seat:

Great progress is being made on the PT-19 center section while Stan, Lisa, Wolf and I practice social distancing in the hangar. Trailing edge replacement ribs are being jigged and prepared for assembly and eventual attachment to the aft face of the rear spar. Ryszard is working on having a

new fuselage entry handle welded on (the original was removed many years previously). The handle will assist the pilot and passenger to step up on left walk way for entry/exit. Once installed blue paint will be applied to it and the two aft fuselage handles. After the paint cures the fuselage fabric installation can proceed. More to follow.

Ed



## Operations Update



Hello everybody,

Pilot and aircraft operations have been slow lately for obvious reasons. Most all of our Spring flying events have canceled so far. We are seeing some glimmers of hope on the horizon though and that is a good thing. All the pending requests for transition letters for now have been approved. Hopefully, some training can spool up in the near future to make some airplane noise again around West Houston. The BT is popular right now and



we finally have some intrepid aviators interested in tackling the N3N.

The AT-6 and BT-13, along with a dozen Houston Wing pilots will be participating in a large scale flyover of the Houston area to commemorate Victory Over Europe Day (VE) on May 8th. CAF units participating include the Houston Wing, Gulf Coast Wing, TORA, Highland Lakes, Devil Dog, P-63, and West Texas groups. Lone Star Flight Museum is providing some logistics and planning support as well as marketing pull. Many private owners and their Warbirds will be rounding out almost 30 aircraft desiring to honor the 75th anniversary of this historic date. Stay tuned to electronic social media's and probably other local media's for more information. Hopefully this will help our exposure for WOH Airshow in October. Keep your eyes on the skies on May 8th. The Houston Wing is honored to participate in this event.

No egos, just passions!  
Chris

## Adjutant/Membership



Recently we announced that you can renew your membership online from our website. Once on the site ([www.houstonwing.org](http://www.houstonwing.org)) click on the "About" tab, followed by "Join." It will prompt you to pay online as well. I ask that if you wish to renew online, please be sure to fill out the membership form as well so that we know

who to give credit to for the dues. Otherwise it comes across as a donation. Thanks in advance.

If you prefer to renew via the paper version, that is also fine. The membership form is generally attached to this newsletter from the months of November to February. You can always access those past issues from the website under the Newsletter heading. Print that out and mail it in with your check to the Hangar. You can also pick up a paper copy of the membership form from the hangar at any time. Copies are located in the O club. If you cannot find one, please ask a staff member to get one from the office.

**Please be sure that all paper checks and forms get mailed to the hangar.** Mailing them to HQ or past addresses slows down the renewal process. Again, thank you in advance.

We try our best to get everyone to renew their Wing dues by the end of the calendar year so that you are set for the upcoming year. But your National dues are yearly from the day that you joined. Please remember to keep current with your National dues as well.

Finally, you must be current with both HQ and the Wing to work around the hangar or participate in events with us. Remember to put your renewal dates on the calendar so that you are always in the clear to help us live out our mission to Educate, Honor, and Inspire.

Brian

# Maintenance



The Maintenance Department has been moving right along despite all the hurdles being presented us these days. On any typical Wednesday or Saturday there seems to be six to eight people working on something. A few of our projects have stalled but that is from lack of parts. Shipping things seems to be a challenge these days. Somehow the Woody tug axle nuts got delivered to HQ in Dallas. When the error was caught they reshipped them but then we only got one!

Our airplanes are doing well. The Ace flew a few times in the last couple weekends. The BT is ready to fly.

Unforeseen issues with the N3N horizontal stabilizer have delayed that project but will be done soon. The PT19 and Navion teams are continuing their steady progress.



Chris Hammond has been putting the AT-6 Plane Captain/Crew Chief preflight/postflight checklist to use and working out some of the bugs. The real validation of the program came I flew an historical experience flight that had the request for a nice “sunset” flight so the ride was scheduled to take off at 7pm. I notified Chris of the flight. He came out early and ran through the AT-6 preflight checklist, towed the AT-6 out to its parking spot, met the passenger when it was time to board, assisted getting him strapped in and giving the cockpit briefing. Chris stood fire guard and waved us out of the parking spot.

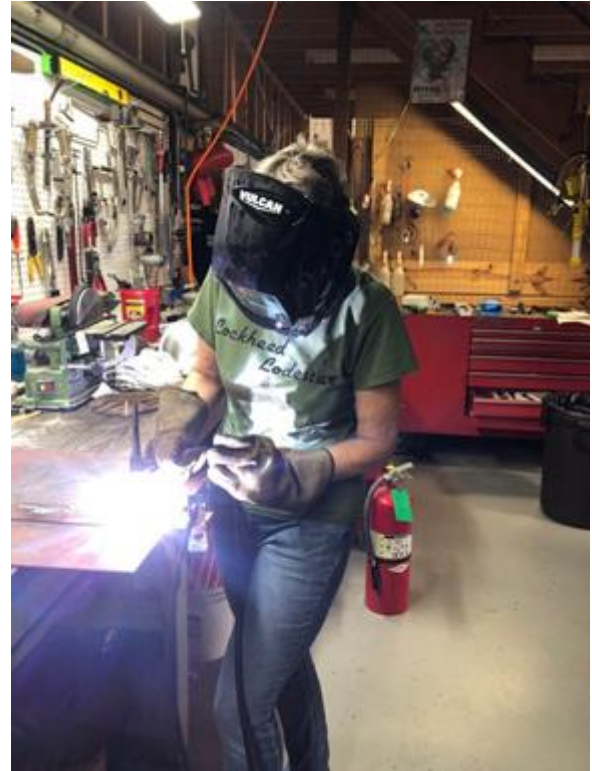


Upon return Chris was there to park us, fuel the aircraft, help clean it and tow it back into the hangar.



Chris's help beta testing the procedures for the AT-6 has really validated how this program works. We will do the same with the N3N and BT-13 and once we have the Handbook completed the applicants for Plane Captain and Crew Chief will be able to start their training.

We don't fix airplanes, we do maintenance training. Last week several people got to try Mig and Tig welding.



If you are directly involved with aircraft maintenance please keep in mind it is a



mandatory requirement that anyone doing maintenance on the CAF airplanes complete the CAF 66-1 online training found at the CAF Operations website and be in the drug testing program.

<https://www.cafoperations.org/>

When things get back to normal we will pick starting our work days with a briefing at 8am each Saturday. The CAF regulations require us to have a safety briefing before any aircraft maintenance begins so accomplishes that. Flight Ops is really backed up and once flying starts back up we will be busy!

Semper Mint Julep  
Ryszard Zadow  
Houston Wing CAF

## Marketing Report

Welcome back friends to the strangest installment of "As the Wing turns." Well who would have ever guessed today we would be in a world war? No shots have been fired (except for the political salvos fired from all directions) and for the most part mankind is united for once against a common enemy, albeit invisible.

Speaking of world wars, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945 marked the end of World War II in Europe. To honor VE-Day, our medical community, first responders and our community as a whole during this COVID19 pandemic the greater Houston area warbird community is staging a massive flyover on May 8<sup>th</sup> encompassing the most populated areas of Houston. Lone Star Flight Museum is

presenting the flyover led by Scott Rozzell. The Houston Wing, Gulf Coast Wing, the B-25 *Devil Dog*, Highland Lakes Wing, West Texas Wing and the Tora Squadron are all contributing with aircraft and crews. As of this writing we have 26 aircraft confirmed to be joining us. All of our Houston Wing warbird owning members are graciously participating. Without them our flyovers wouldn't happen and we are grateful for their dedication and selfless participation. This is a wonderful example of different organizations working together, together we're all stronger. I would like ask all of our members to tell their friends, follow/share on Facebook and follow the hashtag #LOOKUP. If you remember last month I said I had a really special surprise.....how's that? Just remember your social distancing as you go outside on May 8<sup>th</sup> and #LOOKUP.

In other news today, there's not much to talk about. You have all heard the confusing news and I'm not about to add to that. Unfortunately we have sad news about Warbird Weekend being cancelled. All of our flyovers have cancelled for Memorial Day also. However, I'm thinking we're going to have some fun around the hangar on Memorial Day anyway. Hopefully the second half of the year will see our nation returning to a somewhat normal world.

Sam B.

# Suzie's Safety Corner



Hi there fellow aerophiles. Lovers of flying machines. This month I want to touch on safety when jacking an aircraft and doing gear swings etc. Our Navion team has been doing these

tasks and there are a few things all should know just in case they get the chance to be included in this most important job. First thing is to make sure your jacks are in good working condition. They should have locks to keep the jacks in position when raised that are serviceable. There should be no hydraulic fluid leaks. Next check around and under the aircraft to make sure nothing is under the plane. Clear all ladders and stands and all personnel that are not needed for jacking. Make sure the plane goes up evenly on all sides. Keep her level. When she is in the air and power is on and gear is swinging, rope off the area and hang out our brand new DANGER AIRCRAFT ON JACKS signs on the rope/chain. There should be no extra persons except those needed for the job. I want all to get used to doing this even though there are no strangers roaming the hangar. It should be done every time. There are many of our members who have not worked around a hangar. We have cadets and adult members that don't realize the true dangers of working hangars. As I said before, Airplanes are fun but they will hurt you or kill you. They do not forgive complacency or carelessness. So pay attention and be safe in all you do and

remember. Please don't make me fill out paperwork.

Suzie B.

## Museum Moment

Do you know where these Museum items came from?

Over the last year we have been organized the museum and trying to document everything we have on display and in storage. We have two items that we have no idea where they came from or if we knew we forgot. (Contact Sam Hoynes – [s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net))

1. Nikon – Coolpix 8700 camera. (This lost and forgotten camera has been stuck in a cabinet for long time.)







2. WWII Field Telephone - (EE-8-B-GY) This WWII Field Radio is a recent and much appreciated donation but somehow we forgot or didn't know who left it for us.



Sam Hoynes

## Aviator Safety Corner

### What can you do to Safely Resume Flying after a two month layoff?

Now that Coronavirus (COVID-19) is abating somewhat nationwide, everyone is thinking about starting to fly more. We don't know when normalcy will return, but there are some things we can do to better plan for it when it does. Whether it is for traveling or just to resume our normal local flying, we may have to think about how to do that safely.

#### Traveling:

Resuming travel plans which may have been changed during the last two months may take some analysis. While some states have been hit harder than others, it has been assumed that crowded travel conditions enhance the possibility of contracting this communicable

disease. There are a number of things you should consider when anticipating travel.

1. Is COVID-19 a bigger problem where you are going than here at home? You can check with local and state health departments where you want to travel to in order to assess the conditions at your proposed destination. Some people have traveled somewhere and then been required to undergo quarantine for 14 days, either where they traveled to or upon their return home.

2. What about your travel companion's state of health and their likelihood of contracting the disease? Crowded places like conventions, public transportation, stores or malls where you may have to go could be a problem for you or your companion.

3. What about others at home who may not be traveling with you? If you are exposed to the disease while traveling, you may bring it back home to others around you, such as children or parents living at home with you.

### **Local Flying:**

If you are just resuming local flying, it may be just as it is every spring when you resume flying after the winter slow down.

1. That means preparing your airplane with a detailed pre-flight inspection, as well as a brief review of its maintenance log to reassure yourself that your plane's maintenance requirements (Annual inspection, etc.) are up to date.

2. Take a look at your own routine pilot requirements such as dates of medical, flight review, 90 day landings in order to take passengers, etc.

3. Schedule a couple of local training or solo hops to get your landings and overall proficiency back up to speed.

4. When we start normal local CAF flying again, that will be a real test of normalcy regained. Re-enter our local formation flying with a formation work up flight or two to regain your formation proficiency.

Safety is a part of our culture.

Dave Guggemos

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

### **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

## May

Cory Baldwin	May 2
Bob Henry	May 5
Jane Copeland	May 6
Joe Hyatt	May 9
Erin Seidemann	May 10
Kate Walker	May 14
Ricky Baker	May 19
Mike Dunin	May 23
Miles Turner	May 24
Thomas Maunder	May 27
Ken English	May 29
Steve Sparks	May 30
Charlotte Brownlee	May 31
Danny Schnautz	May 31

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

## May

Ryszard Zadow	5/21/98
Don Johnson	5/10/99
Dan Leone	5/19/99
Bill Stone	5/09/08
James Buser	5/18/11
Fabian Sisso	5/11/15
James Bixby	5/18/18
John Rudd	5/29/18
Charlotte Brownlee	5/31/19

## Wing Anniversaries

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



## 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



See [www.lonestarflight.org](http://www.lonestarflight.org) for more details, including a map with times for the flyover.



# Staff Directory

**Wing Leader**

Col Denise Walker  
[texflyers@gmail.com](mailto:texflyers@gmail.com)

**Executive Officer**

Col Ed Vesely  
[aviatored@comcast.net](mailto:aviatored@comcast.net)

**Adjutant/Membership**

Col Brian Kosior  
[briankosior@yahoo.com](mailto:briankosior@yahoo.com)

**Cadet Program Officer**

Col John Ryan  
[Jr51xx@comcast.net](mailto:Jr51xx@comcast.net)

**Development Officer**

Col Sam Bulger  
[wohphotopit@gmail.com](mailto:wohphotopit@gmail.com)

**Finance Officer**

Col Steve Sparks  
[bgsnet1a@aol.com](mailto:bgsnet1a@aol.com)

**Maintenance Officer**

Col Ryszard Zadow  
[ryszardzadow@att.net](mailto:ryszardzadow@att.net)

**Museum and Education Officer**

Col Sam Hoynes  
[s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net)

**Marketing Officer**

Col Sam Bulger  
[wohphotopit@gmail.com](mailto:wohphotopit@gmail.com)

**Operations Officer**

Col Chris Walker  
[rcwflyer@gmail.com](mailto:rcwflyer@gmail.com)

**Public Information Officer**

Col Brian Kosior  
[briankosior@yahoo.com](mailto:briankosior@yahoo.com)

**PX Officer**

Col Susan Vaculik  
[svaculikjm@gmail.com](mailto:svaculikjm@gmail.com)

**Safety Officer**

Col Susie Bredlau  
[rikkysue@aol.com](mailto:rikkysue@aol.com)

**Rides Coordinator**

Col Denise Walker  
[texflyers@gmail.com](mailto: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.