

December 2022



houstonwing.org

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

Slips & Skids



PT-19 work continues p. 7 & 9

THE BIG FIVE-OH

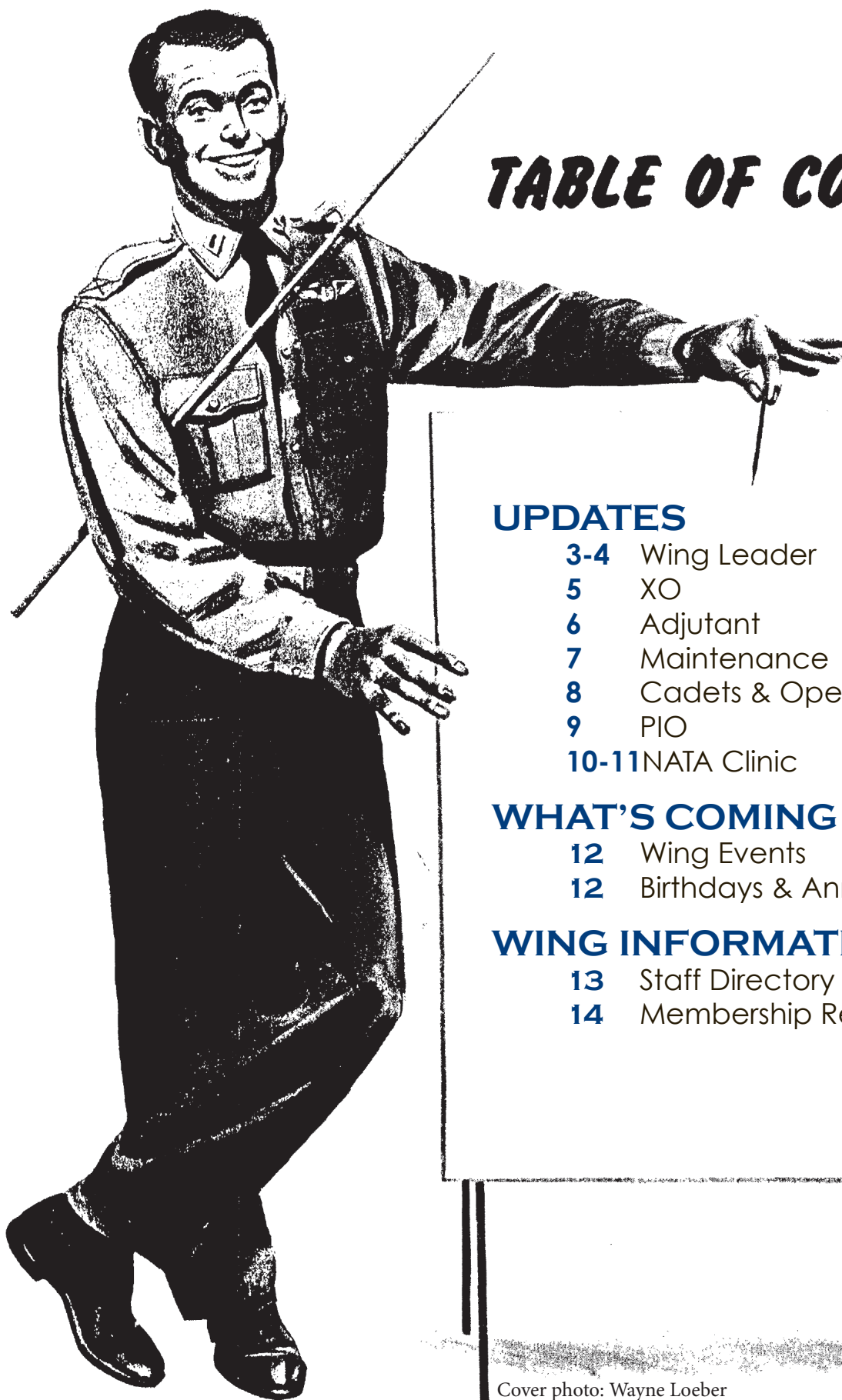


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Cover photo: Wayne Loeber



Wing Leader

BY LISA SANFORD



The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is here. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and survived the madness of Black Friday. It was great to see so many members turn out for the staff elections and enjoy some camaraderie after words at our Thanksgiving

Potluck dinner. I am incredibly thankful for each and everyone of you.

The tragedy that occurred earlier this month will be with us for a long time to come. The best way for the Wing to honor those we lost is to continue on with the mission they so dearly loved and believed in. Let's continue to honor those who came before us and to educate and inspire the next generation of aviators. v

As many of you saw at our last member meeting, work on the meeting room and museum is almost complete. We still have a few details to finish up over the next couple of weeks but hope to have everything completed before our next meeting. If you are looking for a specific item that was in the meeting room and it's not there now please ask. Most items that are not used on a regular basis can be found on the shelves in the

Fantastic meeting turnout! Lisa Sanford & Field Parsons



storage room behind the meeting room. Sam Hoynes has been diligently sorting through our library to determine which books we want to keep and which books we want to give away or donate to school libraries. If you see a book on the table near the base of the stairs you would like to have please help yourself. Many of the books that I placed on the table in early November were scooped up by a school group that came through a couple weeks ago. I will continue to restock the table until Sam has gone through all the books.

As a reminder, our awards dinner will be held on January 21st starting at 6pm upstairs at the main terminal. I would like to thank Woody for the use of this space. Mother Nature can be pretty fickle at that time of the year, so holding it on the hangar floor can be a bit challenging.



We are still looking for nominees for the various awards so if you know someone in the Wing who you believe is deserving, please submit your recommendations along with a small write up explaining why you think they deserve special recognition to info@houstonwing.org. You will find a description of the various awards below.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you around the Hangar.

Colonel of the Year

Criteria: To the Wing Colonel who has consistently performed work to help the Wing meet its commitments to the CAF goals and objectives. It usually means that the individual has provided support to a broad spectrum of multiple events throughout the Wing and/or CAF and has given consistently and freely of their time and talents towards achieving and sustaining the goals and objectives of the CAF

Airman of the Year

Criteria: To the Wing Colonel who most exemplifies the qualities desired and required of CAF pilots, Maintenance or Restoration personnel. CAF pilots will have given freely of their time in flying one or more CAF aircraft at Wing and/or CAF events in accomplishing the CAF objective of displaying our aircraft to the nation. All flight must have been accomplished in a safe and accident free manner. Maintenance or Restoration personnel will have given freely of their time and talents in maintaining and restoring CAF aircraft in a manner that brings credit upon the CAF by all that view their work.

New Member of the Year

Criteria: To the Wing Colonel or Cadet who most exemplifies the team effort and the qualities desired by all CAF members. They will have given freely of their time and talents. They exemplify the willingness to jump in and help with anything that is needed at the time.

Jim Levine Esprit de Corps Award

Criteria: Esprit de Corps is defined as a common spirit of enthusiasm, commitment and devotion to a cause among a group. In other words, feeling that you are a part of the team. The Jim Levine Esprit de Corps Award recognizes the Wing Colonel whose actions and contributions best foster this spirit within the Wing.

Craig Pridgeon Award

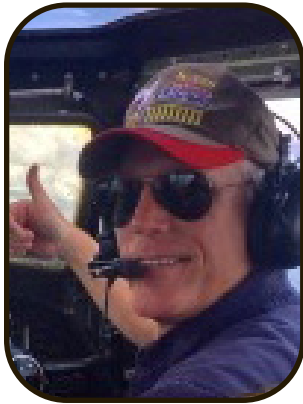
Criteria: Craig Pridgeon was a very friendly and meticulous person. His attention to detail was second to none and he loved to teach. The Wing Colonel who most exemplifies the joy for teaching and the attention to detail. They will have given freely of their time and talents. The Craig Pridgeon Award recognizes the Wing Colonel whose actions and contributions best foster this spirit within the Wing. ✂



An October sunset on Texas Raiders in Denver. Field Parsons



BY ED VESELY

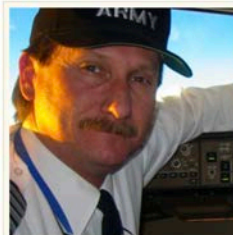


On November 16, Hangar B-5 was visited by 14 middle and high school students from “Southwest Schools” on Westpark. As a former board member and co-founder of the aviation club I had encouraged a visit to both the FBO and our facility. Woody Lesikar gave a great presentation to the students as to the broad employment opportunities that aviation offers and that it is a great time to be a young entrant to the industry. Rich Welch and Jim Placette gave a tour of the aircraft and museum. Later Jim took the group over to the airport shop for an introduction to the maintenance aspect of aviation. It was a fun and educational day for the charter school young adults. In fact we may have inspired several within the group to pursue aviation as a career. ✈️



A Tribute to the Fallen Six The Last Departure, by Ed Vesely

With eyes closed, the aviator could visualize himself climbing rapidly through a low winter stratus into smooth clear skies above. Looking westward he could see the last vestiges of a spectacular crimson sunset slowly settling into the deep blue horizon. He could hear the ever accelerating wind passing over the windscreen as he zoomed ever upward. Gliding his left hand forward, he pushed the throttles for maximum thrust. With his right hand he gently nudged the stick ever further into his lap for an unrestricted climb. In his headset he could hear the soft melodious voices of his beloved friends and cherished family lovingly embracing his westward journey. As the compass settled on heading two seven zero, a gentle smile came across the aviator’s face. It was then and only then that he could engage the autopilot... reach out with his right hand... and touch the face of God.



****Terry Barker****



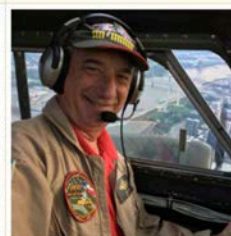
****Craig Hutain****



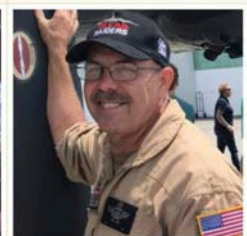
****Kevin "K5" Michels****



****Dan Ragan****



****Leonard "Len" Root****



****Curt Rowe****



Adjutant

BY BRIAN KOSIOR



I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday and I hope that your forthcoming holidays are filled with joy and laughter. Don't forget about your favorite CAF wing this Christmas by choosing something off the tree in the Meeting Room. I'm happy to see that we are

bringing this tradition of giving back to our unit once more. I look forward to seeing all of the "presents" under the tree.

Well, it's that time of year again! Membership renewal time! Several of you have already renewed with the Wing, and we thank you. Everyone else has until January 31st to renew with the Wing and consider yourself a full member with all rights and privilege's assigned to it. Just as a reminder, you renew with HQ during the month that you originally joined, but you renew with each unit at the beginning of the calendar year. Also as a reminder, your National dues will go up this year to \$225. Our unit dues will remain the same, \$50. You can take care of your dues online for both by visiting commemorativeairforce.org and houstonwing.org/membership.

This is my final article as the Houston Wing Adjutant. My time on staff has been insightful, challenging, and a lot of fun. Is there extra work involved? Yes. Is it worth it? Yes. I would highly encourage you to step up and serve on one of our many staff positions now or at the next election. With out our staff, the Wing would not be able to make the necessary decisions that keep our Wing moving forward. It's exciting to be a part of that. I desperately ask you to please consider filling our vacancies or to reach out to an active staff member to ask them if they need any help with the work that they do for the wing. I know that is what I plan to do. I will not be disappearing from the unit, I just plan to be helpful in a different way. Thanks for your consid-

eration in this request.

Finally, I would like us to take a second this holiday to hug one another and your family. Remember that we are blessed to be here and are blessed to be doing what we do. And then I would like you to take a moment to remember the airmen that we lost this year in Dallas and remember their families. May God be with them and with us all. ✈️

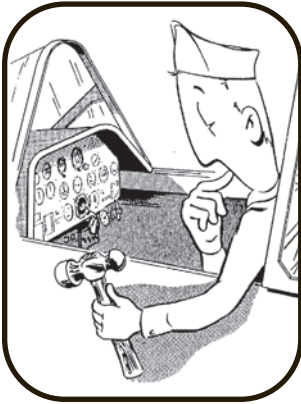


Check out the Wing's Christmas tree with donation requests in the hangar's meeting room. Field Parsons



Maintenance

BY STAN TURNER



Your aircraft and hangar maintainers have been busy this past month. The meeting room remodel is almost complete with the exception of some minor trim work to finish. The room has new windows, a better sealed wall structure for heating and cooling efficiency, new floor, new paint, and electrical sockets replaced. Be sure to thank Dana Cleland and his crew for taking on this job. It was quite a chore with a short timeline to complete, but they pulled it off.

Our AT-6 and BT-13 returned from Wings Over Houston without any big squawks. This makes the maintainers happy as we are busy with the fast approaching PT-19 final assembly. While at Wings Over Houston, our BT-13 pilot Wayne Loeber talked with another BT-13 driver John Heitz about some cowl fitting issues he had noticed. John is an IA and owns a BT-15 which has a similar design to our BT-13. He came over to the hangar on Sunday morning to meet with Wayne, Lisa Sanford, and George Ducommum. They found several areas on the cowling that needed attention mostly due to wear and tear. The team will be installing new leather and felt spacers as well as replacing some worn sheet metal parts. John will be available in the future to advise our maintenance team on some of the non-standard issues we face from time to time.

Winter maintenance activities start in December. Several projects need to be completed by mid-Spring, so we are scheduling the Wing's flying aircraft annuals for January through April (AT-6 and BT-13). The idea is to complete several small annoying non-safety repairs prior to the Annual Inspections. This will keep the aircraft on active flying status as long as practical. The Maintenance Department will coordinate with Operations on the schedule.



New cowl seals are installed on the BT-13. Field Parsons

There will be a maintenance meeting on Saturday, December 10, at 10 am in the Houston Wing meeting room. All Houston Wing maintainers are encouraged to attend. I promise to limit the PowerPoint presentation to no more than 8 slides. Topics to include a LIVE DEMO on how to get into the CAF Operations website and navigate the maintenance side, Rally Point from a maintainer point of view, who needs to be on the drug program, and a quick look at CAFR 66-1. We will also look at the project list and seek volunteers to tackle some of the tasks. The list includes aircraft and hangar projects. *[Editorial note: you don't have to be an A&P or an expert car mechanic to help on the maintenance staff. I'm slowly becoming a useful wrench monkey! -Field]*

Keep 'em flying and be kind to each other.

[Editorial note #2: The C-60 was run up to 30" manifold pressure Saturday, December 3rd. According to Wing Leader Lisa, "She purred like a kitten. Tail was bouncing around and you could just hear her screaming let me go!!!! I want to fly!!!!"] ✂



Cadets

BY MATT BRZOSTOWSKI

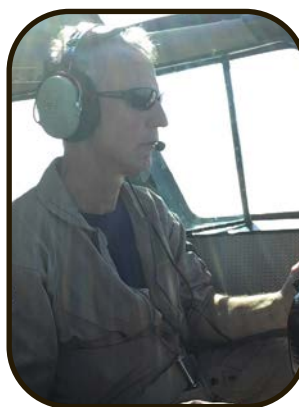


Thanks to all of the cadets who helped out in the PX, the L-39 cockpit, and the dog tag trailer during Wings Over Houston. There is now a focus on taking care of the backlog dog tag order, after running out of blanks during Wings Over Houston. Additionally, it is that time of year

when the cadets elect a new group of leaders. So stay tuned to more details on the election from Jason Morales, the current Cadet Leader. Finally, that long promised N3N systems ground school, and demo flights, will take place, but probably after the holidays. ✂

Operations

BY MATT BRZOSTOWSKI



First and foremost, our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to our sister wing in this time of tragedy and remorse. Needless to say, we stand willing and ready to provide assistance, and support, in any form, to our fellow Colonels, and will continue to reach out in the

months ahead. Let us also remember the passion, and dedication to the CAF mission, those six demonstrated and extolled.

Congratulations to Wayne Loeber for earning his Senior Pilot rating during Wings Over Houston, with valuable guidance provided by Dewey Lockwood! We

continue to work on our N3N backlog of revenue rides, with several accomplished during the past month, and more lined up in the coming weeks. We will also start taking care of Ace's backlog soon.

Planning ahead, please mark your calendars for our required annual CRM and aircraft ground school, scheduled for the last weekend in January, 28th-29th. The Saturday will focus on CRM and other subjects, while the Sunday will cover our aircraft systems. Please be prepared to bring your current Hold Harmless #1, downloaded under Ops Forms in: cafoperations.org/document-resources. Plus complete your 60-1 and 66-1 CAF online training and bring your completion certificates: cafoperations.org/training. Pilots will need to bring photocopies of their current medical, pilot certificate, and flight review logbook endorsement. You will also need to pre-register with me if taking the N3N, BT-13 and AT-6A training, so I can send you the prep work (test questions and slide deck).

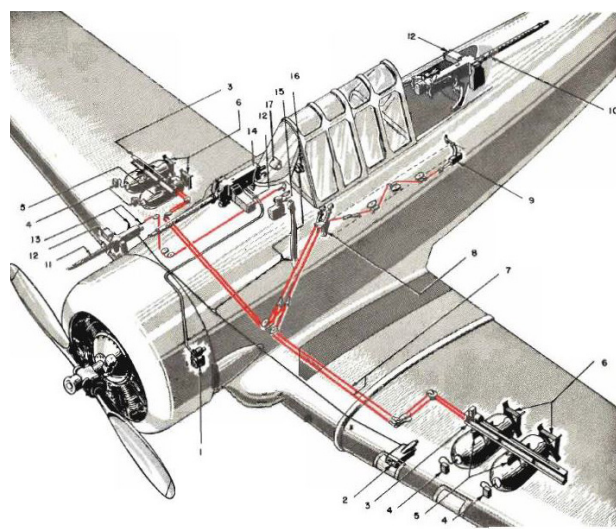


Figure 349 — Armament Installation Diagram

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Gun Synchronizer and Impulse Unit | 10. Flexible Gun |
| 2. Gun Camera | 11. Wing Gun |
| 3. Bomb Racks | 12. Ammunition Boxes |
| 4. Nose Firing Solenoid | 13. Gun Charger and Cable (Wing Gun) |
| 5. Bomb Shackles | 14. Fuelage Gun |
| 6. Bombs | 15. Gun Sight |
| 7. Control Cables | 16. Film Consumption Indicator |
| 8. Front Cockpit Bomb Quadrant | 17. Gunsight Reflector Glass |
| 9. Rear Cockpit Salsio Handle | |

A NATA Formation clinic is planned at TME on 2-5 March. Further details, including registration details, may be found on the NATA web site. We continue to plan our Warbird Weekend on 15-16 April, with invitations already emailed, and a follow up planned for those we have yet to hear back from.

Finally, regarding the armament for Ace, you are probably aware that we have the gun camera (Item 2 in the image). Now, we are working on getting the gun (Items 11-13)! This will bring Ace closer to the RCAF configuration she was initially built for. ✂



Above: The C-60 running up on the ramp. Left and below: work continues on the PT-19 including a leaky left brake and final paint.

Lisa Sanford & Field Parsons



BY FIELD PARSONS

I'll keep this write-up short and sweet — it's my news-letter afterall, so it's less I have to type up!

I've had a ball this past year as PIO and aspiring maintenance wrench-mon-key. A few pictures didn't make it into the previous newsletter or into the write-

ups for the MX section due to publishing timelines, so I'll include them here! 🛠️



Above: Pulled over on the way back from Wings Over Houston for some gas, but Shell was fresh out of Jet-A for our L-39! Right: Ed Vesely peels away the masking to reveal the 50 paint on the PT-19. Field Parsons



Some key issues are:

1. Training logs show key milestones such as single ship check outs, two ship experience and qualifications, and then the four ship qualifications as well as recommendations for a check ride and check rides themselves. NATA requires check pilot approvals to be from NATA approved check pilots.

2. Wing candidates (all of us) should have watched the NATA 2012 Formation video recently.

3. All participants in the clinic should have a copy, read, and study the Formation Knowledge Guide (FKG) version 2.0. This document has been included on the NATA website as well as websites for most other signatories (including cafoperations.org). Signatories can adjust the techniques for accomplishing the required FAST maneuvers by adding aircraft specific Type Supplements (Appendix D's to the FKG). Those have been completed for T-6, T-28, and Navion aircraft. Since many of our formation flights are with dissimilar aircraft, these are required reading for all attendees.

4. The FAST document titled "FAST Airshow and Operations (Revision 2, February 2021)" is available on the FAST and NATA websites. The FAST card entitles the pilot to fly in airshow, so this document has now been updated and will likely be a topic of the oral portion of any checkride. A written test on this material is a requirement for all NATA FAST card reissuances.

The NATA board of directors has issued a requirement for NATA FAST card reissuance that lead pilots must attend a NATA clinic every 2 years (also recommended for wing pilots).

The biggest consideration for making the most of a NATA clinic is to come to it fully prepared. Whether you just want to maintain FAST currency or have expectations of upgrading your FAST card, some preparatory formation flights are highly recommended. Perhaps you may need more than one preparatory flight.

BY DAVE GUGGEMOS

NATA is planning to hold a Formation Clinic at KTME on March 3-5, 2023. We held our first Houston area NATA clinic at KTME earlier this year, and the 2023 clinic will be a similar venue.

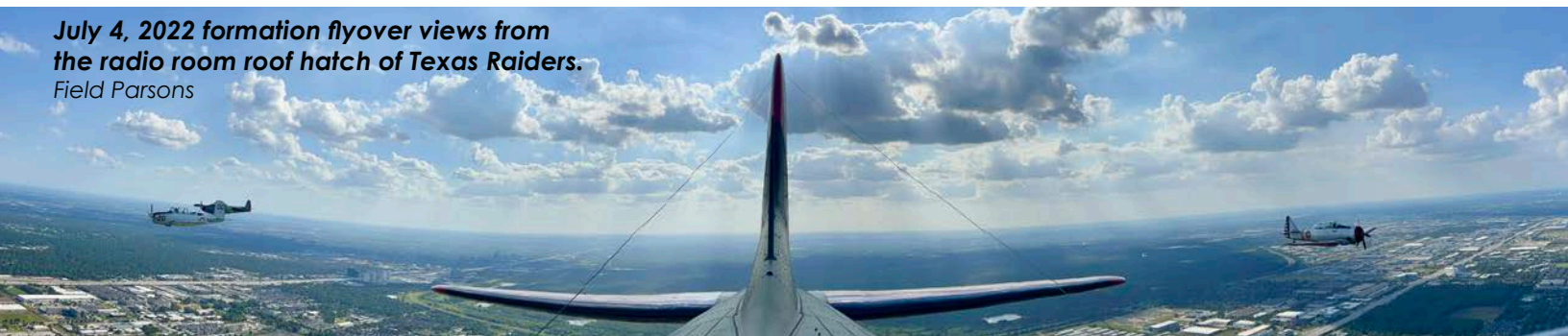


As most of you already know, the CAF is a FAST signatory, also known as TRARON. TRARON pretty much follows NATA's lead in procedures and qualification requirements, including NATA's policies.

The Houston NATA Clinic is scheduled to be held on Thursday March 2, 2023 through on Sunday March 5, 2023. The Houston Executive Airport (KTME) has a long, 6600 ft. x 100 ft. wide runway, good airspace availability, and a control tower. The local FBO, Henriksen Jet Center, has graciously agreed to host our clinic again. The formal advertisement for this clinic should be placed on the NATA website and be run in their *Skylines* magazine at the next opportunity.

One key requirement is that participants need to be a NATA formation member. That can all be done online. The NATA website has some of the best information concerning how they run their clinics and what pilots who attend their clinics should expect. Remember that when you show up for a clinic, all the NATA check pilots and instructor pilots may not be familiar with your level of experience and competence.

July 4, 2022 formation flyover views from the radio room roof hatch of Texas Raiders.
Field Parsons



We will do our best here at the Houston Wing to try to accommodate and schedule some formation flights prior to the clinic for those who wish it. If you get your formation flying documentation and skills up to date, that will also facilitate your clinic experience. How many formation hours do you have, what kinds of formation flights, and are you just flying around with a couple buddies or are you flying rigorous formation training flights with the full “trainer profile”?

Formation flying is serious and demanding business, and requires a high level of devotion to preparation and continuing practice.

I would also like to ask for volunteers to help with the admin duties and food handling at the clinic. Please contact me separately and I will be glad to discuss.

One of the Houston Wing’s major activities is conducting formation flights for various events and clients in the area. It is a goal of mine to try to expand the number of folks qualified to perform formation flights. The visibility we receive from those kind of flights adds to our overall reputation and aids in the performance of our mission statement to “Educate, Inspire, and Honor.”

Happy Flying! Safety is a part of our culture. ✈️





December

3rd: Museum Day
10th: Maintenance All-Hands Meeting
17th: Museum Day
18th: Membership Meeting

January 2023

7th: Museum Day
21st: Museum Day & Awards Banquet!
22nd: Membership Meeting
28-29th: Ground School

February 2023

4th: Museum Day
18th: Museum Day
19th: Membership Meeting

March 2023

2-5th: NATA Clinic at TME
4th: Museum Day
18th: Museum Day
19th: Membership Meeting



Airbird Annie Sez

Birthdays

12/5 Stan Turner
12/11 Bill Roach
12/13 Manuel Cachutt
12/15 Field Parsons
12/19 Don Phillips
12/22 Ruth Tucker
12/25 Rich Welsh

Anniversaries

12/18/11 Greg Young
12/27/11 Tammi Lockwood
12/18/12 Susan Vaculik
12/30/13 David Guggemos
12/03/14 Ruth Tucker
12/29/16 Kevin McNulty
12/12/17 Tom Calpouzos
12/21/21 Wayne Loeber





Wing Leader

Col Lisa Sanford
hwingleader@gmail.com

Executive Officer

Col Ed Vesely
aviatored@comcast.net

Adjutant/Membership

Col Brian Kosior
briankosior@yahoo.com

Finance Officer

Col Tony Bohnert
financehoustonwing@gmail.com

Rides Coordinator

Col Denise Walker
texflyers@gmail.com

Education Officer

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

Cadet Program Coordinator

Col Matt Brzostowski
mbrzostowski@comcast.net

Maintenance Officer

Col Stan Turner
t28pilot44@aol.com

Operations Officer

Col Matt Brzostowski
mbrzostowski@comcast.net

PX Officer

Col Gonzalo Morales
pxhoustonwing@gmail.com

Safety Officer

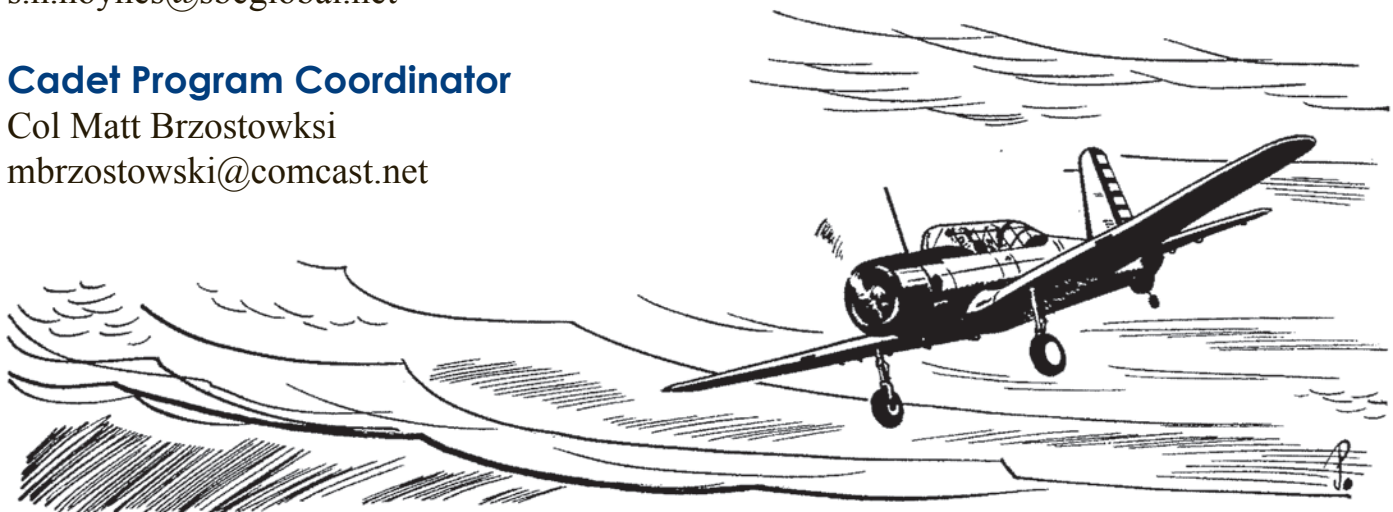
Col Ed Bergmann
bergma55@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor & PIO Officer

Col Field Parsons
fieldp@me.com

Marketing/Development Officer

Open



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!

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WWII Aircraft Owned: _____
Other Aircraft Owned: _____
Squadrons, Wings and Detachments: _____
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