



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing CAF



Volume II Issue XIII

January 08, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

- SATURDAY, JAN 10 Staff Meeting and Wing Meeting. Hangar WR-5 Staff Meeting at 0900 hours and Wing Meeting at 1030 hours.
- TUESDAY EVENINGS and SATURDAYS—Work on Texas Raiders at WR-5
- SATURDAY, FEB 07, Staff and Wing Meeting WR-5. 1030hours . AWARDS BANQUET at American Legion Ellington Field. 1830 hours.

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2008: CHANGE, PROGRESS and REWARDS

From sketchy beginnings to its final move across busy Hobby Airport Runways, the Gulf Coast Wing survived 2008 and sees a bright 2009 !



TR sits alone in WR-5 with equipment keeping it company as the final phases of the lease are being completed. Photo by S Thompson

Sitting in the corner of a vacated hangar with what seems like ample space, TEXAS RAIDERS has more assembled parts and pieces attached than experienced in the last seven years. All four engines are hung, but still await needed work before testing. It's expected that #4 engine will be run the last week in January, and from then on we should find the environment "noisy, smoky, loud and member-proud," as each engine goes through its run-through. For those of us who have labored through the last seven years s e v e n years....ohmygosh....this is the year we've been waiting for! We've said it in the past, but it's becoming very clear and into focus: TEXAS RAIDERS will fly in 2009 ! You can bet your rivets on that !

But though we have waited for this moment, we must be quite proud of ALL things accomplished last year. TORA had one of its most productive years in 2008, and has actually lined up appearances into 2010. Col Bill Roach directing the 2008 WINGS OVER HOUSTON air show called it one of the most profitable and successful W.O.H. events to date. Col Ralph Royce continued to serve as the leader in directing Air Show Participants through safe and coordinated skies and was awarded the ICAS (International Council of Air Shows) *Sword of Excellence*. TEXAS RAIDERS received a matching \$17,500 CAF Restoration Grant, based upon strategic planning and project-management. Membership in

Continued page 3

2008 Wing Election Results



Col George Hueni provides election results at the December Wing Meeting.

The results are in and the 2009 slate of elected officers, serving a two-year term are: Col David Carr-Maintenance Officer, Col Jim Ryan-Fighter Operations Officer, Col Wayne Kennedy- Executive Officer, Col Ky Putnam-Safety Officer and Col Bud Bearce-Supply Officer. Serving the remainder of their two year terms through December 2009, the remaining Officers (Col Don Price-Wing Leader, Col Mark Allen-Finance Officer, Col Craig Freeland-Adjutant, and Col Walt Thompson-Bomber Operations Officer) will be eligible for reelection later this year. Thanks goes to all who voted and participated in this recent election. Support the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing by volunteering in any way possible. Each of the elected staff members are prepared to help you. *Continued page 5*



FROM THE WING LEADER

Happy New Year!

Someone called me the “new Wing Leader” this past weekend and I had to point out that my first year is done and gone! What a year it has been. It felt like it was going to kill me a time or two. I acknowledge and thank you, the members of the Gulf Coast Wing, for saving me through your hard work.

I feel a little wiser in some ways. There are some things I would do differently if I had them to do over again, but that is not how life works. But the one thing I would not change is having a go at leading this Wing and seeing so many people doing their best for TEXAS RAIDERS. The B17 is coming along with a new found momentum because of new and veteran Wing members helping speed things along.

The list of what we have collectively accomplished and what we have had to endure is worth a review. The PLAN, the Restoration Grant, the Lease expiring, the most successful Wings Over Houston in several years, the Press Conference, the Move, the Election (of Wing Officers) all interspersed with accomplishments such as installing flight control cables, hanging engines and my ever favorite CLEANING.

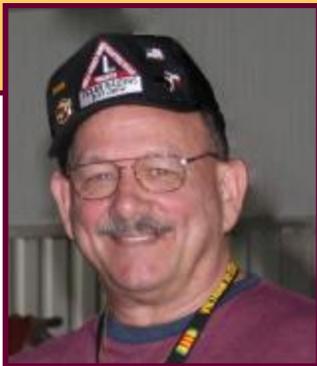
In 2009 we will be faced with the challenge to finish what has been a long arduous task and return TEXAS RAIDERS to the skies. And I hope to start paying down our debt to TORA. Additionally we will have to find a better home for the B17.

There is no particular finish line because once the goal of flying is reached then we have to operate the bomber to make her a tribute not only to the memory of World War Two, but increasingly as a Flag Ship of the Commemorative Air Force and our organization’s own proud legacy.

Happy New Year,

Don Price- Wing Leader
Commemorative Air Force – Gulf Coast Wing

“There are some things I would do differently if I had them to do over again, but that is not how life works.”
Col Don Price



ADJUTANT’S REPORT

Atumultuous end to 2008 with the elections and world events leads us to count our blessings with the wonderful group of members in our CAF unit, The Gulf Coast Wing. We ended the year with 176 members and now begin the Renewal process. You should have received by now, your 2009 Renewal forms, and we thank you for your continued support and trust in this wonderful organization which helps maintain and keep these great airplanes flying. Without your support we’d be just another low-profile organization with no tangible proof of success. But you’ve stepped up to the plate and have contributed. As they say at NASA....“No Bucks, No Buck Rogers”. Your rapid return of the Renewals, your additional contributions and continued financial support help make us the great CAF unit that we are. There is a blank Renewal form with this newsletter. If you’ve not completed your renewal, we ask that you complete it soon. Don’t miss out on the 2009 events. Stay Active & Renew. *Craig Freeland, Adjutant*

MAINTENANCE OFFICER'S REPORT



This month the maintenance team has really surprised me. Despite the distractions of the holidays and being forced to work in virtual darkness on Tuesday nights, our progress has been stellar.

Much effort has been focused on bringing engine number four back to life in short order. The mighty (try to pick one up!) Bendix PD12-H2 pressure carburetor and intake plenum are installed. The test prop has been hung. The throttle, mixture, and propeller cables have been ten-

sioned. Most of the engine hoses have been routed and connected. Even a brand new external oil tank and cooler have been constructed. At this point, we're getting pretty close...

Outside of number four, good things have also been happening. The last of the elevator control cables has been installed and now both yokes stand in the cockpit. The bomb bay actuators have been reinstalled in the bomb band and we've even finally completed reconditioning the right wing flap actuators. Efforts to calibrate the cockpit instruments and prepare engine number three have also made good headway.

2009 is clearly the year for Texas Raiders to return to the air. Today we are in a good position to make that happen, but ultimately that will be a decision left to all of us. To achieve that goal we must work at a grueling pace. Each week that we leave a task uncompleted will delay our victory by one more week. We have until the end of July – 7 months. It will be rough, but it will be worth it.

David Carr, Maintenance Officer

"2009 is clearly the year for Texas Raiders to return to the air. Today we are in a good position to make that happen..."

Col David Carr

2008: CHANGE, PROGRESS and REWARDS *continued from page 1*



Test-Club Installation in preparation for testing.
Photo by Col Stan Turner

our Gulf Coast Wing reached 176 and more importantly we maintained a 90% membership retention. The pulse is high and the expectations are reaching an all time positive vibration. When members of a like-mind, take on a like-mission for a like-objective ...the results are pretty "LIKEABLE."

You can help in making the 2009 mission a successful one. It will take your time, sweat, money, efforts and muscle.

We've come a long way from the photo to the right. You are to be congratulated for helping to "KEEP 'EM FLYING", by investing your time with both TORA and TEXAS RAIDERS. Contact any staff member for work assignments or for contribution information. *We Can Do It !!*



2009 Annual Wing Awards Banquet



Col Don Outler

It's time for our annual Awards Banquet and you know what that means...it's time for some fun and relaxation with our fellow wing members and their families while we pay tribute to deserving wing members. This year's event will be held at the American Legion Post #490, which is located directly across from the main entrance to Ellington Field.

We need your RSVP to advise the cook on the number of meals to prepare, and we do have a great menu for you including: Salad / Roast Pork / Bar-B-Que / Veggies / Bread / Dessert and Beverages. A cash bar will also be available.

Here are the details of this special event:

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2009
TIME: 1830 hours (6:30 pm)
COST: \$22.00 / person (CASH or CHECKS only)
LOCATION: AMERICAN LEGION #490
 11702 Old Galveston Road 281-481-5686
SPEAKER: Col Lanny McNeeley,
 Ellington Base Commander
RSVP to: Don Outler 281-486-1830
djoutler@comcast.net

If you need overnight lodging, we've arranged discounts for you at the CLEARLAKE HOWARD JOHNSON HOTEL, 15313 Gulf Freeway, Exit #30 on the I-45 Ellington/Dixie Farm Road Exit. \$62.99 for a Double/King or \$53.99 for a Single/Queen. To secure these special rates, please call 281-484-1500 and ask for the **Commemorative Air Force Rate**. Rooms are limited, so reserve your lodging early.

And now for the always entertaining, ever exciting, and never dull fundraising event of the year, it's the famous return of the SILENT AUCTION. With some of the most unique items ranging from old warbird -gyros to birdhouses, to Airline Tickets, we have them all at the Gulf Coast Wing SILENT AUCTION. Last year's auction raised over \$800, and this year's event promises even more.

Once again, Wings Over Houston has donated Continental Airlines tickets for two, valued at \$600/each and valid between the continental US and Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Caribbean and Central America. Expiration is 11/05/09. Who'll take this on?

Please let Col Suzie Bredlau know of the items you wish to donate for this special event. Her phone is 281-398-6977 and email rikkysue@aol.com



Col Bredlau

We've had excellent attendance and participation at this event in the past, and you really must clear your calendar to plan on attending. It's fun, it's addictive and it reduces stress.

Help us KEEP 'EM FLYING, by participating with an evening of family fun, Saturday, February 07.

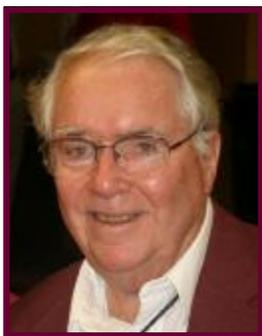
2008 Gulf Coast Wing Election Results *continued from page 1*



Officers From Left to Right

Col Jim Ryan-Fighter Operations
Col Wayne Kennedy-Executive Ofcr
Col David Carr-Maintenance Ofcr

(Terms expire 12/31/10)



Col Bud Bearce—Supply Officer
Col Ky Putnam — Safety Officer
(Terms expire 12/31/10)

Col Mark Allen—Finance Officer
(Term Expires 12/31/09)



Col Walt Thompson—Bomber Ops
Col Don Price—Wing Leader
Col Craig Freeland—Adjutant

(Terms expire 12/31/09)

Note: The next wing elections will be held November, 2009.

Guess Who's Flying at W.O.H?



You'd better start making plans right now, because the 2009 WINGS OVER HOUSTON air show is going to knock your socks off. Better yet....plan on volunteering, because not only will the Blue Angels be headlining, but TORA and TEXAS RAIDERS will be pairing up in the air and we'll need help on several fronts for this.

OCT 31 — NOV 01

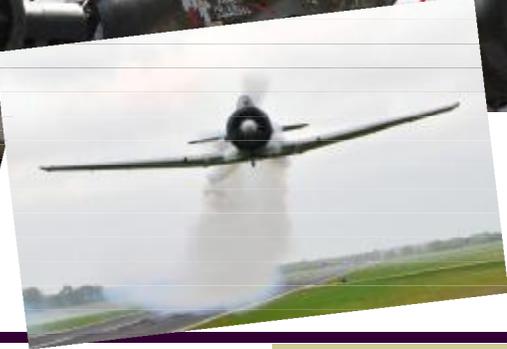
Ellington Field

www.wingsoverhouston.com

Snapshots from 2008



More from 2008





WINGS OVER HOUSTON

**OCT 31—NOV 01 2009
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW !**

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Gulf Coast Wing—CAF
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We're on the Web!
www.gulfcoastwing.org

If you've received this newsletter by mistake, but you are happy with what you see, please feel free to contact any one of us listed in this document, to join our group. The Commemorative Air Force is dedicated to the educational preservation in flying condition of WWII and combat aircraft. Our mission extols the sacrifice made by veterans from all wars who have helped us live in freedom.



Gulf Coast Wing
Of The
Commemorative Air Force

Your business tag line here.

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....Col Don Price.....	don_price56@hotmail.com	713 988 2765
Adjutant.....Col Craig Freeland.....	craig@swtrgroup.com	281 298 1818
Finance Officer.....Col Mark Allen.....	mark.allen@ips.invensys.com	832 493 1368
Bomber Opns.....Col Walt Thompson.....	txraiders@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
Executive Officer.....Col Wayne Kennedy.....	wfkennedy@swbell.net	281 855 2520
Fighter Opns.....Col Jim Ryan.....	tora113@yahoo.com	979 233 5919
Safety Officer.....Col Ky Putnam.....	713 683 8930
Supply Officer.....Col Bud Bearce.....	budk5jgu@hal-pc.org	713 864 7435
Maintenance Ofcr....Col David Carr	dc@dcarr.org	817-907-1998

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Morale Officer.....Col Suzie Bredlau.....	rikkysue@aol.com	281 398 6977
Development Ofcr...Col Don Outler.....	djoutler@comcast.net	281 486 1830

Gulf Coast Wing Hangar is located at 8429 Travelair, Houston, TX 77061 ph:713 649 7227

Volunteers and wing members are dedicated to the preservation in flying status of WWII aircraft which include the TORA fleet and the B-17, TEXAS RAIDERS. Interested parties are encouraged to visit, volunteer and, of course, join our organization. CAF memberships with full-voting privileges are \$200/year. Supporting/Associate memberships provide benefits without voting privileges and are \$55/year (effective 03/01/08). Cadet memberships for ages 13-23 are \$45/year. Membership forms are found on our website at www.gulfcoastwing.org



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