



# New Year, New Tours, New Adventures



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**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **JAN 08, 2011**  
0900hrs—Staff Mtg  
1030hrs—Wing Mtg  
1200hrs—Potluck followed by photo session, then followed by work on TR.
- **FEB 05, 2011**  
0900hrs—Staff Mtg  
1030hrs—Wing Mtg  
1200hrs—Potluck followed by New Members Orientation & work on TR.  
1800hrs—Awards Banquet Marriott Hobby Airport

**W**hat does it take for us to reach the photo on the right? (*Visitors lining up at Chanute Air Museum, Rantoul, Illinois 2010*). Besides money to fly this aircraft into the summer season, it takes knowledge, maturity, hours-and-hours of maintenance work, training, physical stamina and patience.



In case you didn't know it, TEXAS RAIDERS was the first B-17 to fly throughout the U.S. for the sake of preservation. And when touring with this vintage B-17, our crew will be called upon by the public to answer numerous

questions, handle required paper-work, and keep a sharp eye on safety. The Gulf Coast Wing of the CAF has been doing this for some time....but....only since 2001 did the CAF receive an exemption to fly passengers for a source of revenue production. And as a result, each year we are required (under the rules of the exemption) to train crew members in the skill of revenue-rides.



Crew positions of Pilots, Flight-Engineers and Loadmasters are necessary when touring with TEXAS RAIDERS and if you speak with any touring wing member you'll find that everyone contributes by providing important information to the public on the history, heritage, safety, aircraft facts, and financial-operation of this vintage CAF airplane.

Our 2011 B-17 Operations Ground School is targeted for March this year and we hope to have a location and date contracted within the next few weeks, where you can become an integral member of our team, as we step into the summer season of flying.

## Annual Awards Banquet

**T**he date for our Gulf Coast Wing's Annual Awards Banquet is **Saturday, February 05, 2011**, and the location is the Marriott Hobby Airport Hotel. Don't miss it. Not only is this a rare opportunity to visit with your fellow wing members in a relaxed setting, but it's a great chance to honor those who have worked so hard to preserve CAF vintage aircraft while honoring those who flew them. Last year's event was so popular that we filled up our banquet space, so this year we're moving to a larger meeting room at the Marriott (Corpus Christi / South Padre Ballroom). The SILENT AUCTION is an integral part of this event and serves as a valuable source of revenue for our wing. If you have items or artifacts



*continued page 5*     Col Don Outler



# Wing Leader's Report

## HAPPY NEW YEAR to the Wing

I got my December *DISPATCH* in the mail and was amazed and pleased to see all the new members from our area AND the recruiting credits for all of our Agent(s) Ables, Bakers, Charlies through Foxes, with the GCW next to their names. Keep it UP!

To those new members I ask your patience as we integrate all of you into the Wing. Because we are all volunteers it sometimes looks a little chaotic as some of the Volunteer Staff has to take care of careers and family and other distractions. Hang in there and it will all make sense!

Thanks to Howard Quoyeser for taking on the job as Cadet Coordinator and Chris Williams as Cadet Mentor. We are lucky to have more and more young legs helping around the hangar. We are ALL responsible for helping each other stay safe, but it is helpful to have Col. willing to go the extra mile.

The new rudder looks great. It matches the plane and everything! :- ) Thanks Chuck and all the maintenance crew for the improvements on TEXAS RAIDERS.

The next few months will be hectic with the continuing maintenance and the obligatory Flight Schools for ALL aircrew positions for the upcoming season.

Keep an ear open for those dates and locations as we hope to have a busy year flying missions. I know I will not be able to make as many missions as I did last year, so there will be opportunities for other Colonels. I have heard more than one Col. tell about Missions they went on because they were qualified AND they were there!

I am looking forward to our Awards Banquet in February. Don Outler and Suzie Bredlau have been working hard on finalizing the arrangements with the Hobby Marriot. Thank you Don and Suzie! Details for that event are elsewhere in the newsletter.

The latest scuttlebutt is that there will be another warbird at Tomball Jet Center to keep TEXAS RAIDERS company soon. But don't be surprised if this wild un-substantiated rumor turns out to be true.

There are many exciting plans for the New Year so keep up the GREAT work and 2011 will be even busier and better than 2010.

On the late breaking news front. Some of you may remember Col. David Carr from back in the [restoration] day. He announced that his proposal for matrimonial bliss was accepted by Miss Ashley over the Holidays. The wedding is being planned for Summer of 2012 after Miss Ashley finishes reading the law at Harvard and passes the bar and David

finishes at M.I.T. . Best Wishes Ashley and David!

"We are ALL responsible for helping each other stay safe, but it is helpful to have Col. willing to go the extra mile."

Col Don Price

Thanks, See Y'all Saturday, Don

# Happy New Year TORA & T.R. Happy New Year TORA & T.R.



# From Your Maintenance Officer

The new rudder is installed and looks and functions perfectly thanks to Doc Hecker and his crew in San Antonio. The tail section has been installed and the guns with the new mounting rods are being installed by Terry Fogelson. The bomb-bay doors have new splines and covers and have been adjusted to open and close without binding thanks to Doug Loftin. Terry is making new snubbers for the bomb-bay doors as you read this. In case you are wondering what the snubbers do.....they act as dampers (shock absorbers) when the bomb-bay doors are open in flight. Bud Bearce cleaned and painted the top of the wings and they look really good. The instruments that were removed for repair and calibration have been re-installed thanks to Ole Nygren and Jeff Brown. Thanks to Larry Doucette the bombs have all been repaired, painted and are in the final stages of prep prior to being reinstalled in TR.



One of our newest members, Dave Madden (AKA...Col. Col.) spent hours cleaning under the floor walkway and the walkway. Bruce Guest spent hours tying wire bundles, Col. Frits spent hours replacing all the grease fittings and then greasing everything, Ken Hyman spent hours replacing the friction washers for the prop. and throttle controls, Col. Allen Turk welded up the last step on our high lift stand to prevent someone from falling and he has plans to polish the stainless behind the turbos before we fly again.

Then there a guys like Curt Rowe, Joe Sellers, Chris Williams who seem to have a sixth sense about being in the right place at the right time to help when needed. There are many more maintenance folks like....Ky Putnam, Mike Laschet, George & Kara Hueni, Howard Quoyeser, Bill Siros, Bob Brooks, Matthew Fiedler, James Gleason, Wayne Kennedy, Dan Gould, Jim Miles, Pati Royce, Bill Steffel, Tom Taylor, Stan Turner, Dave Winchell, Matthew Yarrison, Stefan Knieling, John Alkire, Randy Wahlberg, Al Feltis, Al Maxwell, Bob Linguiti, Jerry Casey, Susy Bredlau, Ron Dietes, Craig Freeland, Scott Royce, and others who have stepped up to the plate to keep TR safely in the air.

“Then there a guys like Curt Rowe, Joe Sellers, Chris Williams who seem to have a sixth sense about being in the right place at the right time to help when needed.”  
Col Conway

We have lots left to do, but we are on schedule with a target date of 15 Mar. to be back in the air with our magnificent flying museum. I want to thank my Maintenance Team for their outstanding dedication and talent and wish everyone a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR !!!!

Your maintenance officer.....Chuck Conway

## Staff Officers—Election Results

The results of the November Staff Officer Elections have been announced and the results are:



Left to Right: Bud Bearce-Supply Officer // Buddy Cooksey—Fighter Operations Officer // Wayne Kennedy– Exec. Officer // Ky Putnam-Safety Officer // Chuck Conway-Maintenance Officer These officers serve a two-year term expiring December 31, 2012.



Don Price Craig Freeland Walt Thompson Mark Allen

The remaining four officers (Left to Right) Wing Leader, Adjutant, Bomber Operations Officer and Finance Officer are serving the second year of a two-year term and these positions will be eligible for election this November. The Wing Leader position has been filled for four years and is term-limited.



# B-17 Tour Tips

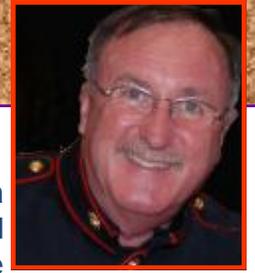
## B-17 Operations Update

1. **CAF WINTER STAFF CONFERENCE**—This is a reminder of the CAF Headquarters event that is scheduled for February 24—27, 2011 and held at the CAF Commemorative Center at Midland, Texas. The conference is held every year, and encompasses the administrative spectra of aircraft operations, finance, unit-merchandising, membership recruiting, and public relations. All CAF members are invited to attend with unit-officers being highly encouraged to attend. The headquarters hotel for this event is the Hilton Garden Inn in Odessa (432) 366-5800 at a discounted rate of \$85/night. When reserving the lodging, request the “CAF” rate. Remember — expenses you incur to attend are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
2. **“NEW MEMBERS” ORIENTATION**—Originally, we had hoped to conduct this session in January, but will be postponing it to the February 5th wing meeting. If you are a new CAF-Gulf Coast Wing member and want to receive more information regarding the foundation of the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing, the expectations of touring with TEXAS RAIDERS, the timeline of crew member training and volunteer opportunities in our wing let us know of your intention to attend this orientation session. Depending on the size of the class, we anticipate holding this in the business-conference room at TJC around 1:30pm on Saturday, February 5th. Due to my flying schedule it would be best to contact Col Sandy Thompson at either 817 304 0393 or [thompsonb17@uwmail.com](mailto:thompsonb17@uwmail.com) to advise of your intention of attending this session.
3. **B-17 OPERATIONS GROUND SCHOOL**—I hope to have a date and location for this training session within the next couple of weeks. We have inspected a couple of locations in and around the Spring and Tomball area and as soon as we settle on an agreement with a location, we’ll broadcast the date and location announcement. The general session of the Ground School will focus on Revenue Rides, since this is a requirement of our exemption. Following that morning session we will split up into specialized crew-training sessions with Pilots, Flight-Engineers and Loadmasters. One of the most important crew-positions is that of the Loadmaster. We need as many Loadmaster crew members as we can train. Once the training is complete and testing is complete, Loadmaster candidates will receive a certificate of accomplishment. Flight Engineer and Pilot training are ongoing procedures with required testing and practical exams on-site and conducted over a period of time.
4. **2011 FLYING SCHEDULE**—The B-17 is a popular aircraft and in demand for appearances at a variety of air shows and flying venues throughout the U.S. We are working on this schedule and look forward to your participation as crew members on the tour. To prepare for flying this year, continue to attend wing meetings, volunteer at the hangar, read your email-bulletins and become involved in the upcoming training sessions. Crew assignment priorities are published in our B-17 Operations Manual and will be offered for bidding in advance of each mission.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the flight operations, please feel free to contact me at [txraidern@uwmail.com](mailto:txraidern@uwmail.com) or 817 341 1541.

*Col Walt Thompson, Bomber Opns Officer*

## Executive Officer's Report



Fellow Colonels,

December was a very busy month for all of us. It started with Wreaths Across America on December 11<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank all of you the attended from both Gulf Coast Wing and West Houston Squadron – particularly, Ole & Mary Nygren, Bob Brooks, Sam Hoynes and the members of West Houston Squadron that attended. There were a total of six of us there but I am sure that the spirit of CAF-GCW and CAF-WHS was there. A total of between 10,000 and 12,000 people were on hand to help formally lay over 21,000 wreaths and pay respect to our Vets that have given their love and devotion to our country. This year, you will be hearing more about Wreaths Across America and how we can be part of what we represent.

Now we are in a new year – not only a new year - but a new decade. 2011 will bring us all sorts of opportunities – opportunities that will help spread the knowledge of the Commemorative Air Force, the Gulf Coast Wing, “Texas Raiders”, and “Tora, Tora, Tora”. Some of these opportunities will be in the form of talking with and spreading the knowledge of who we are and what our Unit and our aircraft represent and encourage new members and fresh faces to be part of what we represent. I encourage and challenge each and every one of you to talk about the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing to people you meet and become associated with. With growth comes health and opportunities of our Wing.

I look forward to a great year for us and am very proud of every one of our members and their contributions to our Wing. May we all have a Happy, Safe, Healthy and Prosperous 2011.

Semper Fi **Wayne F. Kennedy**

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### Annual Awards Banquet—continued from page 1

you would like to donate, please advise Col Suzie Bredlau of your donation at [rikkysue@aol.com](mailto:rikkysue@aol.com) or **281 398 6977**. On the 5th of February, please bring the donated items to Col Bredlau early (before 6:00pm) at the Corpus Christi / South Padre Ballroom at the Marriott. Setting up the SILENT AUCTION takes an amount of organization and work. If you are able to assist her in this part of the program, please contact Col Bredlau. Examples of items donated in the past: books, framed art, bomber-jackets, birdhouses, jewelry, bottles of wine, framed artifacts, china plates, crystal, and many more unusual items. This has been a great revenue producer for the wing. When donating an item, please indicate the value of the item and a starting bid amount for your item. And remember, that any money you donate in the bidding process is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



**BANQUET SPEAKER:** We are fortunate in that Col Outler has arranged informative speakers who have covered a range of aviation topics in the past. This year, USAF Col. Ken Wisian will provide insight into the C-130 combat missions in the war. I'm sure you will find this interesting and intriguing.

**RSVP DEADLINE:** To secure the proper number of meals for the banquet, we need an accurate count of who will be attending by FEBRUARY 01, 2011. So if you have not sent your RSVP to Col Outler yet, please do so at the first opportunity. When sending your RSVP, identify whether you want the Champagne Chicken or the Beef Ragu. Sign-in at the banquet will begin at 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Cocktails may be purchased at the hotel lounge nearby the banquet room.

Col Outler's email is [djoutler@comcast.net](mailto:djoutler@comcast.net) and his phone is **281 486 1830**.

**LODGING INFORMATION:** Since a number of participants at the banquet live up on the north-side, lodging at the Marriott becomes attractive when considering a long drive home after the event. The Marriott has provided a discount rate of \$79/night (single or double). To reserve this rate, call the Marriott at 713-893-7979 and request the **Commemorative Air Force Rate**.

This is a very special event honoring your fellow wing members. Plan on attending if you can.

# Commemorative Air Force - Gulf Coast Wing



Wings Over Houston Air Show OCT 15-16, 2011

David Wayne Hooks Airport  
Tomball Jet Center  
9310 Max Conrad Drive  
Spring TX 77379

Phone: 817 304 0393  
Fax: 817 341 2075  
E-mail: [info@gulfcoastwing.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastwing.org)

We're on the Web!

[www.gulfcoastwing.org](http://www.gulfcoastwing.org)

Honoring American Military Aviation

## Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....Col Don Price..... [don\\_price56@hotmail.com](mailto:don_price56@hotmail.com).....713 988 2765  
Adjutant.....Col Craig Freeland..... [craig@swtrgroup.com](mailto:craig@swtrgroup.com).....281 298 1818  
Finance Officer.....Col Mark Allen..... [mark.allen@iinvensys.com](mailto:mark.allen@iinvensys.com).....832 493 1368  
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Executive Officer.....Col Wayne Kennedy..... [wkennedy@swbell.net](mailto:wkennedy@swbell.net).....281 855 2520  
Fighter Opns.....Col Buddy Cooksey..... [b17\\_tora@hotmail.com](mailto:b17_tora@hotmail.com).....214 215 2946  
Safety Officer.....Col Ky Putnam.....713 683 8930  
Supply Officer.....Col Bud Bearce..... [budk5jgu@hal-pc.org](mailto:budk5jgu@hal-pc.org).....713 864 7435  
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## Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

Webmaster.....Col Herb Duncan..... [duncanenterprises@gmail.com](mailto:duncanenterprises@gmail.com).....  
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Development Ofcr...Col Don Outler..... [djoutler@comcast.net](mailto:djoutler@comcast.net).....281 486 1830

Gulf Coast Wing Hangar is located at 9310 Max Conrad Drive, Spring TX 77379

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).



Col Sandy Thompson  
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