



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



Volume III Issue II

FEBRUARY 08, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES

- SATURDAY, FEB 13
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1030hrs—Wing Meeting
1145hrs—Potluck & Lunch
1230hrs—Work on TR at
WR-5 Hangar
- SATURDAY, FEB 13
6:00pm—Hobby Marriott
Annual Awards Banquet
- SATURDAY, MAR 13
Staff and Wing Meeting
details to follow. ALSO—
W. Houston Sqd Hangar
Dance

Inside this issue:

Wing Leader Report	2
Maintenance Report , PX Report	3
Exec Ofcr Report Tomball Jet Ctr.	4
B-17 TOUR TIPS & Opns Update W.S. Conference WHS Hangar Dance	5
Welcome New Members	6
Banquet Info Family Affair	7
Wing Staff Contact Info	8

HANGAR in the HORIZON



Photo by Col Mike Laschet

If you build it, they will come. If you find it they will follow. Or how about ...If it works, it will fit. Whatever the phrase, the day of discovery, signature and head-nodding has finally

arrived. After years and years of ramp-squatting, piece-shuffling, leaky roofs, theft-victimizing, escalating rent-payments, toilet leaking, boiler-room temperatures, and water-cut-offs, the Gulf Coast Wing has found what is believed to be a much more permanent home for TEXAS RAIDERS. An attractive lease has been signed with the Tomball Jet Center located near Tomball (actually Spring, Texas) and we can begin moving immediately. In fact, we've installed some sturdy shelving and have measured each room, analyzing the requirements of this move already. Some of the benefits, besides working toilets are: shared kitchen space (weekends only), office space, expansive storage space, insulated hangar, free parking, no TSA-badging requirements, restaurant on-site, safe and secure neighborhood, and a FBO (Fixed Base Operator) on-site. *Home-Hangar-Home*

Tomball Jet Center is Host to New Tenant
 SPRING, TX—The newest tenant at Tomball Jet Center in Montgomery County will be none other than TEXAS RAIDERS, one of just 12 remaining fly-able B-17s left in the world today. Montgomery County has a population of 429,953, and it's growth over the past eight years increased 46%. The median household income is \$63,500 with 78% of its residents being homeowners (US Census Bureau 2008 statistics). The Airport, known as DWH, David Wayne Hooks, was founded in 1963 and supports more than 275,000 aircraft movements per year.
 (continued page 4)





WING LEADER'S REPORT

Gozentas... Even Non-Profit Organizations have to pay their rent.

There was a popular TV show when I was growing up where a Hill-Billy lad talked about Gozentas. Two gozenta Four Two times, etc. More about that later.

You might recall at a Wing meeting last Fall when I asked the large contingent of members present, "Who wants to stay here at this hangar?" I didn't get many, if any, takers. And then I asked, "Who wants to go someplace better?" That got a much more positive response. Well guess what? I wasn't kidding! And while the Wing had a straw vote on the concept, the Staff was charged with finding alternatives and then voting on which specific proposal best met the Wing's needs. Honestly there were only two alternatives:

1. Stay at Hobby WR-5 and pay \$52,200.00 a year
2. Move to Hooks Airport where we were offered a hangar for \$30,000.00 a year

Other factors were considered, and by the time the Staff finally voted on it I am sure I tried their patience more than a little, but this was an important decision and I wanted to hear from everyone. We factored in the debt that the B17 owes TORA from the Hangar Fund agreement back in 2007. We knew that some folks would be unhappy about such a move and others being ecstatic BOTH because of the distance from their homes. It was settled that we were not going to please everybody. But when everything was said and done the Gozentas pretty much made the decision for us.

1. Wings Over Houston 2009 distribution of \$75,000.00... Wow! Life should be GRAND.
2. The increased Unit ANUAC fee (because the B17 is effectively returned to service) which gets paid before we split a dime with TORA... Unit total 2010 ANUAC... \$43,800.00. Doing our Gozentas we see that leaves \$31,800.00 left-over to cover \$52 K rent; Ruh-Roh. But there's another issue. We technically need to split a good portion of that \$32 K with TORA because how we got into debt with them is spending ALL the Wings Over Houston monies (for TR restoration) that were supposed to be going into a Hangar fund. TORA has been doing its duty, attracting people to Wings to watch them "blow stuff up!" And I have made a commitment to NOT GROW the TORA debt. So that leaves \$16 K to cover our rent, plus income from PX. Fortunately we have had a great year with the PX netting \$17K... All our problems are over, right? Not quite, we are out of stock and have to buy more to make anything THIS year. While it is NOT time to panic because we had money left over in the Wing account from last year, you don't need to be an Atomic Brain Surgeon to do the Gozentas and see that we might be better off paying \$30K a year rent rather than over \$52 K. (NOTE: these income figures are back of the envelope, and the totals are subject to revision, but they give a close representation of the actual amounts.)
3. The Aircraft insurance premium went up because it costs more to insure a flying B17.
4. The fact that we have been without a lease at WR-5 for the entire time we have been there and the discussions about it were going nowhere. Originally we were welcome for nine months.
5. The need to find space to keep the sizable amount of B17 parts stored in two spaces that were originally only to be used for 6-9 months, where we have been over a year. One of those spaces is "going away" and if we were to try and absorb those parts into WR-5 our landlords would be complaining just like they did at ER-7.
6. Have you heard about the SECOND burglary at WR-5? We appear to be the Happy Hunting Ground for some low-life scumbags who are stealing our tools.

So pending approval from CAF-HQ we have entered an agreement to move to a facility called Tomball Jet Center at Hooks airport. The move should commence no later than Feb. 1st and hopefully be completed by the end of the month. We are ALL charged with being good tenants at BOTH facilities because life has a funny way of playing tricks on plans. Who knows? GCW might find itself needing to come back to rent hangar space at Hobby again from the same landlord. And while we are moving to a nicer facility, it is a commercial business and businesses can be sold and Leases made there-by void. THAT can happen at either Airport, by the way! So now the GCW is calling on you to come help move the B17 to a new home! We are confident you will like it, because everyone who has seen it has said, "What an improvement."

Col Don Price, Wing Leader

Maintenance Report



NEW YEAR, NEW EXHAUSTS

Texas Raiders has two new exhausts, engine numbers one and four. Saturday the 23 of Jan. (My Birthday) we ran all four engines one at a time to check for temp. and loudness of sound. Using a calibrated Temperature meter we monitored each engine and found out that the new exhaust is about 40 deg's cooler than the original and using a decibel meter we found out that the new exhaust is ONLY 3 decibels louder than original. The cockpit crew said they could not tell any difference from one engine to another in operation, sound or instrumentation. While running only one engine at a time, we also narrowed down the elusive static in the pilots and co-pilots headsets. It appears to be the generator on engine #2 causing the static. We will replace it and go from there.

*"It's a new year
with new goals and
challenges that we
will face and
overcome ..."*

*Col Conway
On 2010.*

We have almost 10 hours of flight time towards our first 30 hour progressive inspection, so once we receive a green lite from the FAA about our new exhaust, we will certify aircrews for revenue rides and complete as many of them as we can prior to our first inspection. At that time we will try to finish the exhaust on engines 2 and 3. Two weeks ago, on a Saturday, we pulled the panels to inspect the wing and wingtip attachments, everything was tight and in good order. Skilled or not skilled we need you to come out and help!!!

Your Maintenance Officer
Col. Chuck Conway

PX News and Updates

The blue Texas Raiders t-shirts are back in stock, in all sizes! The price is \$18.00.... get yours today before they sell out again. Additionally, the PX is in the market for a 6' x 12' enclosed trailer for a good price, of course. If you know anyone who might have one for sale (or to donate), give the PX Officer a call. There will be NO PX set-up at the banquet this year. If you need anything, you can always contact the PX Officer or place your order online.



PX ITEM OF THE MONTH



Col. Vicki Thomas
Commemorative Air Force
Gulf Coast Wing - PX Officer
281.620.5639 (cell)
281.303-8008 (home)



Executive Officer's Report

Ladies & Gentlemen – or should I say, Fellow Colonels of the Gulf Coast Wing. Here we are already into the second month of 2010. The next thing you know we will be in the middle of Wings Over Houston 2010.

Speaking of WOH, be sure you put the date on your calendar of **October 23 – 24**. The “Thunderbirds” will be back in their full form and we will have another full schedule of flying performances. Needless to say, we will be involved in many more activities throughout this year. Activities that definitely are not successful without the support of each and everyone of you. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle once said *“there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.”* Here at the Gulf Coast Wing, we are blessed with a healthy number of volunteers with strong hearts. With this being said, I know that there are volunteers with us that are dedicated and on top of that, are meeting health challenges. To each of you I offer my prayers that you will overcome your challenges. My thoughts and prayers are with you each and every day. This week I had the pleasure for meeting Debbie & Larry Bristow, Daughter and Son-in-law of Col Royce Mills. As most of you know, Col Mills is no longer with us – but is definitely with us in spirit. As I mentioned to Debbie & Larry, he will always be in the air with us.

This week also kept me in the realization that not only are we wing members, we are also part of an extended family. In my Marine Corps career, a unit is as good as the loyalty of its troops – from the C.O. to the Private and back up the chain. Loyalty is a 2-way street and my prayers are that our unit will hold that loyalty to “Infinity & beyond”. Additionally, I am reminded that we are not immortal and that our mission to report to the Great C.O. in the sky could pop up at any given minute. With this being said, I want to thank every one of you for what you do – for your contribution to preserving freedom, and for your contribution in preserving history. To all of our Vets – thanks for your strong hearts and spirits. The first two letters in each branch of service is U.S. – “US”. We all work together to accomplish the mission of preserving freedom – even though we do have a good time with inter-service rivalry.

Finally, I want to remind y'all about our upcoming Awards Banquet. A good place for all of us to share our camaraderie and have a great time. Kay & I will see ya there.

Semper Fi

Wayne F. Kennedy

TOMBALL JET CENTER at DAVID WAYNE HOOKS AIRPORT continued from page 1

David Wayne Hooks Airport is located at the corner of FM2920 and Boudreaux Road near Tomball, although the address of Tomball Jet Center is physically in Spring, Texas. The Gulf Coast Wing will be moving from three (3) sites in south Houston up to the new facility. Our hangar will be located at 9310 Max Conrad Drive, Spring Texas 77379, and we can use lots of help during the move. We have two storage facilities filled with multiple aircraft parts along with the equipment and tools at hangar WR-5 at Hobby. There are lots of



good, safe parking spaces, and we will have access to more than one office/storage rooms. The rent is considerably less than what we're paying currently, and will save us well over \$20,000 per year. You can help by bringing medium (no large) sized boxes to hangar WR-5 for packaging items to move. **We are in need of a fork-lift**



at Hooks Airport for the big, heavy items. If you have a lead on a fork lift we might use for 3-6 weeks, please let Don Price or Chuck Conway know of the requirements & any associated costs.

Col Sandy Thompson, Editor



B-17 TOUR TIPS

We're on the move to a new hangar home. With the maintenance work continuing on TEXAS RAIDERS, we should have a nicely restored B-17 to fly up to Montgomery County, Hooks Airport in a short order of time. Once the maintenance paperwork has been signed off we'll immediately begin the 2010 crew recurrent training for Revenue Rides.

B-17 Operations Update

TOUR SCHEDULE for 2010— Word gets around quickly and we have been approached by a number of units who wish to have TEXAS RAIDERS appear at their show, fly-in or weekend event. We will analyze each request as we must make each stop profitable or we won't participate. This year is the 75th Anniversary of the B-17 and one event we are finalizing and waiting on agreement-signatures is the August 6,7, and 8th appearance at Ypsilanti, Michigan. This is being hosted by the Yankee Air Museum which intends to sign as many flyable B-17s as possible to attend. I can't share the complete financial details, but it is looking good at this point. We are also discussing an invitation from the EAA at Osh Kosh, which is planning a "Legends B-17" gathering as well. We'll keep you updated as soon as we can.

2010 B-17 GROUND SCHOOL REFRESHER COURSES — Our October Ground School was necessary to introduce past, present and new wing members to the operation of flying, touring and answering public questions about this unique B-17. We'll hold a Spring B-17 Ground School soon and details will follow in a few weeks.

Looking forward to a rewarding 2010 working with the crew members of the Gulf Coast Wing.

Col Walt Thompson, Bomber Operations Officer



2010 WING STAFF CONFERENCE MARCH 18—21, 2010

CAF - Commemorative Center - Midland, Texas

The Wing Staff Conference is open to CAF members and is especially important this year, as the evening's event on Saturday, March 20 will include the first induction of members into the CAF Hall of Fame. This year, Col Van Skiles will be inducted into this special Inaugural H.O.F. The conference itself is an educational forum of meetings on various aspects of wing/unit administration and brings an exchange of information between units at one location. I have been attending these conferences for nearly twenty years and have always come away with something new and informative. The conference (advance) registration is \$89/person or \$110 on site. Lodging has been arranged at the Sleep Inn and Suites at \$80/night and includes breakfast. It is not required that you be a wing staff member to attend. If you need more information regarding this event, please let me know, and I'll help you with registration forms etc.

Sandy Thompson - GCW Public Information Officer

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON

Hangar Dance - Saturday, March 13

SAVE THE DATE, Because this is always FUN !

www.westhoustonsqdn.org



Welcome New Members

We are genuinely blessed with new 2009 Gulf Coast Wing Members, and these folks have stepped right up to help in the restoration effort with TEXAS RAIDERS, serving as liaisons to other companies, working bare-knuckles into the mechanical restoration, assisting with promotional efforts and providing suggestions, support and technical assistance in every phase of Wing operations. We have other new members, but I've not had the opportunity to "catch-them-off-guard" with a photo yet. Please help me welcome these great members into our unit the next time you see them.



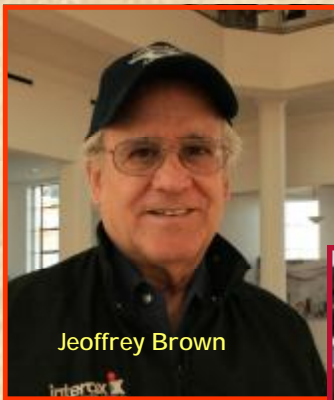
Brett Noake



Ron Turtzo



Mary Wenninger



Jeffrey Brown



Ed Bacon



Mike Laschet



Art Shaddix



Rick Baker



Phil Smith



Awards Banquet Update

The Annual Gulf Coast Wing Awards Banquet being held Saturday, February 13th from 6:00 pm until 10:30 pm appears to be our largest attended function to date. We are no longer taking RSVPs since our commitment is full, and will accept payments at the door if you have not previously paid for your RSVP'd attendance. Prices are \$26-per person and cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. The Banquet is being held at the Marriott Houston Hobby Hotel in the Pasadena Room. Please bring your Silent Auction donations to our wing meeting on Saturday morning at 11:00 am for Col Suzie Bredlau, as it will be nearly impossible to sort, log and organize the donations at the last minute prior to the banquet. We're looking to an enjoyable and productive evening, with great food, an informative speaker and fun with the auction items. See you there!

Col Don Outler, *Wing Development Officer*

The CAF - A Family Affair

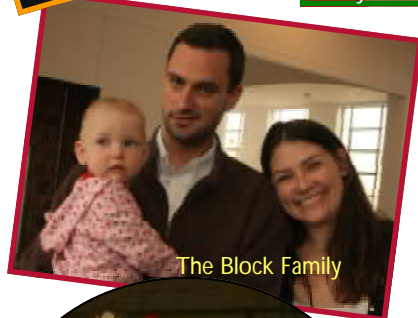
When you join the C.A.F. you Join more than an Organization. You Join us as an extended Family member and We share your Ups and downs, your victories and losses. We're glad you joined this great unit.



Ole & Mary Nygren



Jerry Hobbs & Grandson Tyler



The Block Family



Janet and Jeff Foltz



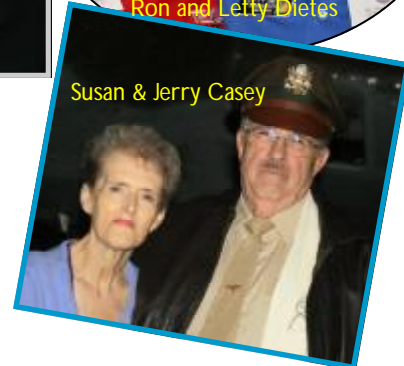
Ron and Letty Dletes



Ken & Shirley Hyman



Kent Gillum and the Fitzgerald's Grandson



Susan & Jerry Casey



WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW

OCT 23—OCT 24 2010
www.wingsoverhouston.com

Col Sandy Thompson
Gulf Coast Wing—CAF
Public Information Officer
113 Coldwater Creek Lane
Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

Phone 817 341 1541
FAX 817 341 2075

Email
B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org
info@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

COWL FLAPS

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.....	wkennedy@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 Chuck Conway.....	chucksautoelectric@sbcglobal.net	281 482 8980

Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

Webmaster.....	Col Herb Duncan.....	duncanenterprises@gmail.com	
Public Info Officer...	Col Sandy Thompson...	thompsonb17@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
PX Officer.....	Col Vicki Thomas.....	vthomas4@comcast.net	281 807 7765
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 8249 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



Col Sandy Thompson
Gulf Coast Wing CAF
113 Coldwater Creek Lane
Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

