



# COWLFLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing CAF



## IMPORTANT DATES

- SATURDAY, FEB 04  
0900hrs—Staff Meeting  
1100hrs—Wing Meeting  
1200hrs — Potluck  
1300hrs—Work on TR at TJC  
1730hrs — Awards Banquet  
SHERATON BROOKHOLLOW HOTEL
- TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS—Work on TR at TJC. Help is needed with maintenance assistance and with cooking /serving lunch to the workers.
- SATURDAY, MAR 03  
0800hrs—1500hrs B-17 Ground School at Klein U.M. Church

## Inside this issue:

Wing Leader's Report	2,
Maintenance Report.	3
Adjutant Report	4
PX Report Nomex Gloves FE Information	5
Ground School Reservation Form	6
TOUR TIPS	7
Staff Contacts	8

Volume V Issue II

FEBRUARY 04, 2012

## Importance of Loadmasters & Scanners

Pilots can fly the plane, call out the numbers, read the instruments, adjust the throttles, keep the flight level and smooth, but when it comes to *Eyes in the Back of Your Head*, they instinctively rely on the Loadmasters and Scanners. They can brief the passengers on egress locations, flight destinations, flight-deck responsibilities and weather expectations, but when it comes to noticing the smoke or potential fuel leaks from an engine, they instinctively trust the intercom report from the Loadmasters and Scanners. Col Kevin Hong, Lead Loadmaster notes: *"During air shows, scanners are not just on board to fly...but have a great responsibility to be aware of what TR will be doing...and what is going on as soon as engines start and wheels are up before the act...and especially during TORA."*

The upcoming B-17 Ground School is a concentrated orientation of B-17 flight operations and a required course for conducting Passenger Rides under our FAA Exemption granted to the CAF. This is a chance for the important skill sets necessary for Loadmasters and Scanners.

Back in the late 1990s prior to our FAA Exemption permitting revenue rides on CAF Aircraft, the Loadmaster crew position had a slightly different responsibility from that now undertaken with the onset of passenger acceptance, forms-completion and on-board safety-requirements of a "fare-paying" rider. This crew position has always remained critically important to flight operations, but now has some unique responsibilities not experienced before. As Loadmaster Col Allen Turk notes: *"Certainly, being agile and able to lift heavy loads overhead, pull loading straps tight, helping passengers who might be a bit on the heavy side, being able to move efficiently and quickly through the bomb bay area and especially under the flight deck to the nose section in emergencies would be considered mandatory."*

The CAF and Gulf Coast Wing are subject to FAA "RAMP-CHECKS", and yes, this did happen in 2011 with the B-17, but our paperwork and documents were in proper order. The Loadmaster must be aware and educated on our FAA Exemption relating to passenger carriage, but must insure that the correct manifests are completed (passenger-type versus point-to-point) and sent to the proper source for disposition.

More than ever, following National attention given to aircraft accidents in 2011 and in the past, SAFETY is the CAF's and our absolute number-one priority. Loadmaster Col Vicki Thomas notes *"The Loadmaster will be the eyes and ears of the crew up front. They (the flight deck crew) do not have a view of the rear of the aircraft and, therefore, do not know what's going on in the back, unless the Loadmaster keeps them informed. The Loadmaster's job as a scanner is extremely important..."*

Accurate and solid communication with passengers on board remains a positive attribute of the Loadmaster. Col John Alkire states it well: *"First, be courteous, but firm if you have to, with the passengers. I have also learned a lot just communicating and working with the FE's and Pilots. And I've never seen a passenger get off TR without a smile."* It goes without saying that a headset with "push-to-talk" capabilities is necessary.

Continued Page 3 LOADMASTERS



Loadmaster, Col Dale Morningstar briefs passengers at AIRSHO 2011

## Wing Leader 's Report



### Heading into February.....

**H**ere we are again just three short weeks from our last Wing meeting. My, time flies when you're having fun! It's been a busy few weeks. We've recovered from the Holidays and are making great progress on the many items facing our organization. Winter maintenance on *Texas Raiders* is rapidly coming to a close, thanks to our dedicated maintenance staff. We have been assigned another *TORA Bird*, Kate N2047 (a modified Harvard Mk IV) based in San Marcos and added another *TORA* pilot to our ranks, Col William "Bill" Frier of Austin. We have also added yet another new member this month, Col Mike Thompson of Aurora, Colorado. A warm welcome to Bill and Mike! With help from every existing member, our Wing will continue to grow!

I have had a pretty full plate familiarizing myself with all of our policies, procedures and initiatives. I recently had a very informative meeting with Mark Allen, *TORA LEAD*, to insure that I understand the workings and finances of *TORA* and that GCW provides all the support they need. I am continually amazed that the World Class air show act, "TORA TORA" is planned, choreographed and executed by fewer than 20 people! Congratulations go to *TORA* and their *PYRO* team on this, their 40th anniversary!

On a business note, it is my intention to insure that all of our policies and procedures are easily understood by all members, fair to all concerned and consistently administered. As an "equal opportunity employer" (lol), we encourage all members to join in the fun and contribute their talents in any and all areas! The Wing Staff has formed a committee to review bomber mission requirements and insure that we always have the proper experience levels present on the flight deck for our varying types of missions. Additionally, our policies regarding crew assignments are under review to insure that they are fair, well understood and properly managed.

Now, sort of a fun piece of news: Wow! It appears that there will soon be a major article coming out about *Texas Raiders* in AOPA magazine. Many of you have probably seen the articles on the B-29 and B-24 in the magazine written by author Barry Schiff. Well guess what? Mr. Schiff has approached CAF and GCW to do an article on *Texas Raiders*! We have had preliminary communication with Barry and have approved working with him to secure an SIC rating in *TR* as the basis of his article. WOW, again! We couldn't get a better showing in print than that!

Don't forget about this Saturday's schedule (Feb. 4). We have our Staff and General Membership meetings in the morning and our annual Awards Banquet in the evening. Also, those of you who are planning to attend our Ground School on Saturday, March 3rd, please make your reservations soon.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts, observations, suggestions and questions. Let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you.

Over & Out!

John Stofer, Wing Leader [jlstofer@aol.com](mailto:jlstofer@aol.com)



# Maintenance Report

## WINTER MAINTENANCE REPORT

The light at the end of the tunnel is so big and bright I have to wear shades !! Your maintenance team has spent long hours, making Texas Raiders ready for this year's flying season. Just to name a few of our accomplishments.....

- (1) The AD that has to be done every three years is completed.
- (2) New tires are installed, bearings packed, tail wheel adjusted, starboard wing leading edge bird strike damage, has been repaired.
- (3) The Hobbs meter has been reconfigured to operate on airspeed instead of the battery switch.
- (4) Engine # 4's cylinder number three has been changed out, all four engines have new oil, tail gunners windows have been removed new sealant installed, windows polished and reinstalled, windows over cockpit polished,.
- (5) There's a new floor installed under crew deck, and lots of sheet-metal work accomplished along with replacement of several nut plates and zuss fasteners.
- (6) The fuel tanks installed and aligned properly, snubbers on bomb-bay doors installed, main gear wired to allow selection of right or left main gear up or down from FE's panel, left main deboost valve resealed and reinstalled, fuel pressure transmitter replaced on # 1 engine, all ground straps on all engines have been repaired or replaced, the ELT has been checked and new battery installed. Every zert fitting has been greased (many replaced before getting grease).

This last Saturday all engines were run on the ramp and then TR was taxied to a run up area where all engines were tested to take-off power, brakes and tail-wheel checked at the same time along with instrumentation. When TR taxied back all engines were pressured washed and she was given a complete scrubbing from top of the tail to the nose and wingtip to wingtip. She was then swept and vacuumed out on the inside.

We are working three days a week.....**Tuesday's, Thursday's and Saturday's.** Having started our maintenance in November, I figure that to be about twelve days a month — so to date that would be about 36 days. Subtracting work days lost to the holidays I come up with about 32 work days to accomplish all that we have.

**Your maintenance team is AWESOME !!!!!!!**

Col. Chuck Conway  
Maintenance Officer

LOADMASTERS continued from page 1

While all crew positions are essential in B-17 flight operations, you will be surprised to learn just how important the Loadmaster and Scanner positions are at the B-17 Ground School. The financial outcome of an annual touring season, and the efficient operation mechanically of this very rare B-17 are directly related to a cooperative and educated crew — both on the ground and in the air.

If you have not completed your Payment/Reservation Form for the B-17 Ground School, please do so at the first opportunity. Last year's attendance was around 80, and our printers need accurate numbers for manuals, hand-outs, binders, and quiz/evaluation forms. A form is included with this newsletter, if you have unintentionally deleted it or lost it.

The first half of the day at Ground School is devoted to Tour Operation basics and FAA-Exemption orientation. We also try to include a bit of 381st BG history as well. The second half of the day involves specialized training and "hands-on" for (Approved) Pilots, (Approved) Flight Engineers, Loadmasters and Revenue Ride Coordinators. We hope to see you there !



Cols Rick Baker and Dale Morningstar

Col Sandy Thompson, Editor



## Adjutant's Report

**W**e currently have 232 active members on The Gulf Coast Wing roll. At the close of business January 27, 2012, we have 115 membership renewals including new members. As a gentle reminder, your Gulf Coast Wing Membership Renewals are due to me on or before the close of business February 29<sup>th</sup>. If you do not have your Membership Renewal Letter for 2012, please let me know and I will be glad to send you one. The Membership Renewals for 2012 went out on January 2, 2012 via U.S. Mail, and I printed your contact information on your letter. If you have any necessary corrections, please mark them on the form and send it, along with your \$50.00 renewal check, to me. Let's make this a banner year for renewing wing members.

CAF Regulations require that you must be a member in good standing with your CAF dues current/paid to renew your membership with the Gulf Coast Wing.

We are delighted to welcome new members, Colonels Jerrie Branner, Ken Carpenter, Tom Davidson, Jason Delaney, Joe Fester, Bill Frier, Myron Johnston, Lee Hassin, Doyle Hensley, Craig Langnes, Kevin Motley and Mike Thompson. Some of our new members joined in the last quarter of 2011, and it's high time we recognized them. Others have joined this January. We extend the warmest of welcomes to our new members.

We are very open for business when it comes to recruiting new members, and each of us can do our part in bringing in new members. There is no need to be bashful or hesitant when it comes to recruiting. We have a magnificent organization, a great and fascinating membership, a rare and valuable B-17, and a highly sought after TORA Act. Our purpose stands second to none in worthy causes that help us to recognize and remember the service and sacrifices of those who came before us and defended our country. The Membership Forms for both the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing are in our offices at the Hangar at Tomball Jet Center. The letter holders on the wall in the hallway of our work rooms is where you will find the Membership Forms for both the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing. All of the instructions are printed on the forms. Yes, you can take a small supply to carry with you for on the spot sign up's.

Commemorative Air Force -Gulf Coast Wing  
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### A FEW OF OUR NEW MEMBERS



Myron Johnston



Kevin Motley



Craig Langnes



Jason Delaney

*(More photos to come when the camera catches up with them. )*



## PX UPDATE

*"Inventory on our PX was held after the January wing meeting. The task was somewhat easier this year since we have added some shelving for storage of our PX merchandise.... no more digging through bins! Thanks to all who helped out: --- Jeff Brown, Beverley Brown, Rick Thomas and Jerry Casey. A good time was had by all.*

*The CAF Headquarters staff conducted their annual audit of the PX on February 1. All item counts were verified as correct, so it appears our "counters" did a great job!"*

Col Vicki Thomas  
Commemorative Air Force  
Gulf Coast Wing - PX Officer  
(281) 620 5639 (c)  
(281) 308 8008 (h)

### NOMEX FLIGHT GLOVES

Col Pati Royce has access to Nomex Flight Gloves. She states that these are \$50 a pair and she can have them within two weeks. If you would like more information, please contact Pati at either

[pilot.pati@yahoo.com](mailto:pilot.pati@yahoo.com) or 281 788 3708



## FLIGHT ENGINEER INFO

A reminder that the list of FE's (Flight Engineers) comes from, as voted on by the GCW Staff, Wing members who have maintained an active and current maintenance work record with TR plus a minimum of the \$350 Sponsorship level.

An extensive program is scheduled for the FE afternoon session at the B-17 Ground School, March 3rd. All members on the following approved FE list are urged to attend and be on time:



Ben Anderson  
Gary Barber  
Bud Bearce  
Jeff Brown

George Doland  
Larry Doucette  
Bruce Guest  
R.B. "Doc" Hecker

George Hueni  
Dave Madden  
Curt Rowe  
Lee Brown

Chuck Conway  
Joe Duncan  
Randy Wahlberg

Bud Bearce,  
GCW Supply Officer  
Lead FE

## PAYMENT / RESERVATION FORM

For  
Gulf Coast Wing CAF – Annual B-17 GROUND SCHOOL  
Saturday, March 03, 2012  
8:00am – 3:00pm

KLEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*Christian Life Center*  
5920 FM 2920  
Spring, TX 77388

PLEASE RESERVE B-17 GROUND SCHOOL SPACE FOR THE FOLLOWING WING MEMBERS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CAF ID # \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I need a ring-binder for the B-17 Operations Manual

NO, I don't need a ring-binder, I will bring my B-17 Operations Manual from 2011.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CAF ID # \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I need a ring-binder for the B-17 Operations Manual

NO, I don't need a ring-binder, I will bring my B-17 Operations Manual from 2011.

My Check (at \$15/person) for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (Due not later than FEBRUARY 25, 2012)  
(Payable to Gulf Coast Wing – CAF) My payment is tax-deductible.

I will be paying \$20/person at the door on Saturday, March 3rd, but want to reserve the space now. My payment is tax-deductible.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THE EARLY PAYMENT-and-RESERVATIONS IS Saturday FEBRUARY 25, 2012. If payment is made at the door, I understand this will be \$20/person. I also understand that all attendees MUST be current-dues-paid CAF and GCW members to attend. I understand that there are no exceptions.

**MAIL THIS FORM WITH (Preferred) PAYMENT TO:**

Col Sandy Thompson – GCW Public Information Officer  
113 Coldwater Creek Lane  
Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

[thompsonb17@uwmail.com](mailto:thompsonb17@uwmail.com)

817 304 0393 cell / 817 341 1541 home  
817 341 2075 FAX



# B-17 TOUR TIPS

**T**hanks to our great maintenance team effort, it looks like Texas Raiders will be ready for duty in early March. Before flight operations begin, training, qualification exercises and our B-17 Ground School are necessary. I'm looking forward to a successful 2012 touring season with our crew.

## B-17 Operations Update

1. **B-17 GROUND SCHOOL**— We will again hold our annual recurrent B-17 Ground School at Klein United Methodist Church (KUMC), **Saturday, March 03** from 8am to 3pm. KUMC is located at 5920 FM 2920 Road, Spring, Texas 77389. If you have not completed your Payment/Reservation form for Ground School, please attend to this soon. The preparation for this training requires adequate materials-ordering and that has to be accomplished in advance. We had a “full-house” last year and expect the same again this year. So don't wait. A form is available in this newsletter, if you have misplaced or deleted it from our previous transmissions and mailings.
2. **CREW UNIFORMS**— Our first touring event is the Jasper Air Show March 16th—18th. I will soon send a request for trip-bidding on this, and it is important to have a prepared crew with acceptable flight suits, headsets and equipment. Don't wait until the last minute to scramble for flight attire and equipment. The public expects a professional crew and that starts with a professional appearance on tour.
3. **CAF WINTER STAFF CONFERENCE** — This year's conference is scheduled at CAF Headquarters, Midland Airport February 24-26, at the Bush Commemorative Center. This event is followed in the evening by the CAF Hall of Fame Banquet when members both current and posthumously are honored. One of our members, Col H.D. Butler who joined the CAF in 1973, is being inducted this year, and it would be great to have a healthy attendance from the Gulf Coast Wing to honor H.D. Advance registration cost is \$99-per CAF member or \$120 at the door.
4. **2012 TOUR** — We have begun negotiations for the 2012 year and the schedule can be found on our website at [www.gulfcoastwing.org](http://www.gulfcoastwing.org) But here is a list of what we have so far:



- MAR 16—18.....Jasper Air Show.....Flying, Rides, Static
- APR 13—15.....Conroe, TORA Practice.....Flying, Rides (no Static)
- APR 21.....W.Houston Open House.....Static Only
- MAY 04-06.....Temple, Central TX A.Show....Flying Rides, Static
- MAY 18-20.....Hondo Armed Forces Day.....Flying, Rides, Static

Other locations are still under negotiations, and of course we will fly the Midland CAF AIRSHO October 13-14 and Wings Over Houston October 26-28. Prior to each event, I will be forwarding a “**Request for Bids**” to trained/qualified Pilots, FE's, Loadmasters and Rides Coordinators.

Touring with Texas Raiders can be a physical commitment, and your willingness to spend your free time traveling with the B-17, working long hours on the road and in the summer's scorching heat is something that can be described as hard work but very rewarding.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the flight operations, please feel free to contact me at

[txraiders@uwmail.com](mailto:txraiders@uwmail.com) or 817 341 1541.

*Col Walt Thompson, Bomber Opns Officer*



**WINGS OVER HOUSTON  
AIRSHOW**

**OCT 27—OCT 28 2012**

FEATURING—THE BLUE ANGELS

[www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com)

Col Sandy Thompson  
Gulf Coast Wing—CAF  
Public Information Officer  
113 Coldwater Creek Lane

Phone 817 341 1541  
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Email  
[B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org](mailto:B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org)  
[info@gulfcoastwing.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastwing.org)

We're on the Web!  
[www.gulfcoastwing.org](http://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

**COWL FLAPS—FEBRUARY 04, 20112**

**Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff**

Wing Leader.....	Col John Stofer.....	<a href="mailto:jlstofer@aol.com">jlstofer@aol.com</a> .....	713 503 0160
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Supply Officer.....	Col Bud Bearce.....	<a href="mailto:budk5jgu@hal-pc.org">budk5jgu@hal-pc.org</a> .....	713 864 7435
Maintenance Ofcr....	Col Chuck Conway....	<a href="mailto:chucksautoelectric@sbcglobal.net">chucksautoelectric@sbcglobal.net</a> .....	281 482 8980

**Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff**

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Development Ofcr...	unassigned.....		

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. Cadet memberships for ages 13-23 are \$45/year. Membership forms are found on our website at [www.gulfcoastwing.org](http://www.gulfcoastwing.org)



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