



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing-CAF



IMPORTANT DATES

- Work Days at Hangar WR-5
NEW Mon-thru-Friday 0830—1630 hours and all day Saturdays from 0900 hours until closing.
- SAT MAR 07 and SUN MAR 08 , CAF Wing Staff Conference, Odessa TX at MCM Grande Hotel.
- SAT MAR 14 GCW Staff Meeting 0900 hours, General Wing Meeting 1030 hours with potluck to follow and work on TEXAS RAIDERS at Hangar WR-5.
- SAT MAR 21—HANGAR DANCE at West Houston Squadron.

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Volume II Issue XV

MARCH 08, 2009

One for the Money...



Col Chuck Conway adjusts the test prop into position for testing on #2. Photo by Col Kevin Hong

Two for the show. Three to get ready and four to...GO! Yes, TEXAS RAIDERS IS really that close to moving away from her static status to flying status. Engines #4, #3 and #1 have been successfully tested. All that is left on the engine testing side is #2 and that is expected right away.

Work has continued on the interior of the aircraft and several of the cockpit parts are reconditioned, and being readied for installation. The weekly routine for volunteer hourly efforts has nearly doubled recently and it is a pleasant surprise for someone who has not visited Hangar WR-5 recently to see the dramatic physical changes in this very unique B-17 warbird. Our next general wing meeting will be Saturday, March 14th at 1030 hours. Please plan on attending if you can to see the changes for yourself! It has been a long seven years and you do not want to miss a chance of hearing the planned schedule for reassembly and eventual flight testing. If you've not visited the new temporary hangar, it is located off Telephone Road at 8249 Travelair and is accessed from street-side by doorbell.

Wing Awards Night Spotlights our Member Talent

Stepping back into the 1940's with Pinks and Greens, svelt garb of the era and videos of the highlights of 2008, wing members enjoyed an evening of camaraderie, fundraising and of course tributes to our most talented wing members. Col Lanny McNalley of Ellington's 147th Reconnaissance Wing, Texas Air National Guard, gave an overview of the security forces and reconnaissance efforts in keeping our country alert and safe. The Annual event raised over \$600 from the always entertaining Silent Auction, and the live auction for 2 Continental Airline Tickets netted another \$600. The presentation *continued page 4*



Photo by R. Dietes

From the Wing Leader



Col Don Price,
Wing Leader

"I used to wake up in the middle of the night worrying...so we have adopted some procedures for engine test-runs and ground operations and I am back to sleeping like a baby."

*Col Price regarding
Safety on
Engine-Testing*

February has just been THE BEST!

Engines # 3 and #1 were tested one week after the other and both ran well. And David Carr has moved up the test run on Engine #2 for March 7th providing there are no GOTCHAS! We are getting better at our operations. I used to have "wake up in the middle of the night worrying" nights during the Hangar dilemma. I had not been having those since then, but after one loosey-goosey Engine session I awoke with all the worries about how we could have done things better. So we have adopted some procedures for engine test-runs and ground operations and I am back to sleeping like a baby.

We now use a Minimum Required Crew for engine test runs. There is the CAF (and common sense) required Fire Guard, the Pilot In Command in the cockpit at the controls and a Ground Marshall monitoring the external condition of the engine for those places where the PIC cannot see. This makes it safer for everyone AND the airplane.

As everyone with email is aware, the Warbird Community is under threat of over-regulation by the Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP) proposed by the Transportation Security Administration. If those Regulations are adopted all of our members can expect thorough background checks and prohibitive restrictions on not only riding in the airplane, but even approaching it on the ramp. I hope everyone did his or her part in contacting their Legislators to oppose those proposals.

The biggest news is that the GCW Staff approved bringing on Terry Fogelson to be our on-site licensed A&P. Terry was in the Navy and worked as a contractor afterwards on helicopters in Vietnam. Terry will open the Hangar during the daylight hours during the week so that he can supervise additional Contract A&Ps and keep us on schedule for returning TEXAS RAIDERS to service. The Badging Office has his information and he should have his badge by the time you read this. I cannot say exactly when they will have Terry's badge but I can say...Watch for an announcement regarding the new *Hangar work schedule* from Sandy Thompson soon.

I would like to thank Sandy for editing and everyone else who contributes material to both the Website and the newsletters. I am getting good feedback on both.

And more thanks to Don Outler and Suzy Bredlau for the excellent work on the Awards Dinner. I was prepared to be bored by Col. McNeely from Ellington until I learned that the folks on Dixie Farm Road are on the frontline of the wars of both Iraq and Afghanistan. And THANKS to everyone who is helping bring TEXAS RAIDERS back!

Don



Cols Don Price, Ole Nygren and Chuck Conway guide the test prop.

TSA's Proposed L.A.S.P.

TSA has proposed a Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP)... *"The program would require operators of aircraft above 12,500 pound maximum take-off weight ... to ensure that flight crews have undergone criminal history checks and that passengers have been matched against the terrorist watch list."* Although the public-comment deadline was FEB-27, you may be interested in sending personal concern letters to members of Homeland Security, TSA or to your Congressional Representatives. Refer to Docket #TSA2008-0021

Wing Maintenance Officer Report

Just more than one month ago, we were proudly celebrating the first start of engine #4. Looking back, that seems like ancient history.

Our goals for February were lofty, but once again I am proud to say that our maintenance team has delivered. In the shortest month of the year we cranked up engines #3 and #1, installed the rudder (several times), completed the #4 nacelle oil system, finally closed out the #2 air box, installed the rebuilt right wing flap actuators, gained a magnificent tow bar, and even got a key to the front door!

With our new full time A&P, Terry Fogelson, on board and our increasingly efficient team, I expect that we will achieve even better results in March.

Look for an engine start early in the month, significant advances towards a working brake system, a new windshield, working #1 and #3 oil systems, the right wing flap, and maybe even a little surprise.

Of course, all of this won't happen without your help--we need you at the hangar to succeed. We are now open for business six days a week: at least 8:30-4:30 M-F, and all day Saturday.

David Carr, Maintenance Officer



Col David Carr,
Maintenance Officer

"I am proud to say that our maintenance team has delivered."

Col D. Carr regarding success in February.



PX Upcoming Events

Here we are in March already and we have a great opportunity to make some good PX revenue in 2009. One of our "festive" PX activities is our GULF COAST WING first ever T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST. Announced last month and also detailed at the Awards Banquet, this contest explores your talents, skills and creativity. The contest runs through March 31, 2009.

Send your designs either in JPEG format or sketch the design on paper to me; and please refrain from using copyrighted material or catch-phrases, and trademark-designs. I can always use help when it comes to volunteer efforts with the PX. Our first PX outing will be Saturday and Sunday, April 04 & 05 at the Brazoria County Airport for the TORA practice. Armed with some new TORA T-Shirts and of course toys, we hope to bring in some money for the Gulf Coast Wing. If you can help by volunteering at this event, please email me at vthomas@comcast.net or call me at 281-620-5639 (cell) or 281-573-3302 (home).

Vicki Thomas, PX Officer



Col Ken Hyman and Col Ron Dietes have volunteered many hours on TEXAS RAIDERS. Here, they relax at the Awards Banquet.

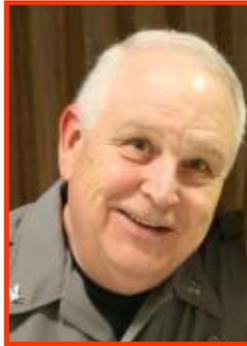
Photo by S. Thompson

WING AWARDS BANQUET *continued from page 1*

of awards, by Col Kent Gillum and Col Ky Putnam focused on the young and senior talents in the wing. These members have worked tirelessly to bring the mission of the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing into focus through their ongoing volunteer hours. The awards given:



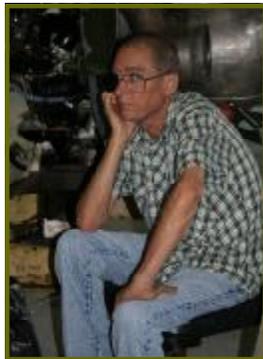
Col Craig Freeland
Ky Putnam Leadership
Award



Col Buddy Cooksey
Van Skiles Airmanship
Award



Col Kara Hueni and Col George Hueni
Platt Thompson Maintenance Awards



Col Doug Loftin
Newcomer of the Year
Award



Col Bill Siros
HM & Frances Hancock
Service Award



Col Matthew Fiedler
Special Award



Col Jim Ryan
TORA Gray Eagle Award

Another special award was given to volunteer Ben Quoyser, young son of Howard Quoyser. Ben was given the "Broom Pilot" award, for his non-stop efforts in keeping the hangar floor clear of debris. The evening was full of fun and fellowship at the American Legion Post #490.

Lana & Craig Freeland



Curtis & Debra Hall



David Carr & Ashley



Rick & Vicki Thomas

More photos on page 5

WING AWARDS BANQUET continued from page 4



Van & Betty Skiles

Many thanks to Ron Dietes, Kevin Hong and Sandy Thompson for these Photos.



Bud Bearce Marnel Thompson



Kent Gillum, Jim Ryan, Ky Putnam



Mark Allen, Dean Robnett, Ken Hyman & Walt Thompson



John Stofer



Bud Bearce & Sandy Thompson



Bob Linguiti



Anna Ruth & Ky Putnam

TORA, TORA, TORA

This year's TORA practice and formation clinic will once again be held at Brazoria County Airport Saturday and Sunday April 04, and 05. Come out to support this incredible display of aerodynamic skill, teamwork and synchronization when TORA takes to the sky in Lake Jackson.



RIVET CERTIFICATES

Good news! We have already taken in \$450 through our Rivet Certificate program, and this includes sales from our website as well. If you would like to purchase a piece of history from this eventful seven year restoration project, send a check or money order in the amount of \$25 or \$30 (matted) for each certificate to Col Sandy Thompson, Wing Public Information Officer at 113 Coldwater Creek Lane, Weatherford, TX 76088-6402.





WINGS OVER HOUSTON

OCT 31—NOV 01 2009

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We're on the Web!
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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

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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



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