



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



Volume 1 Issue IX

Date: June 08, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

- TUESDAY EVENINGS at 1800 hours—work party at the hangar
- SATURDAY ALL DAY 0900 hours to 1800 hours—work party at the hangar
- Saturday June 14, 0900 Staff Meeting, 1030 hours General Meeting. Potluck to follow
- TORA participates in ARCTIC THUNDER at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska June 28-29.

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"FIXING" THE FLYING FORTRESS

HOUSTON, TX - As a verb, the word **FIX** means to make firm, stable or fast. When working on a classic B-17, there's an approach which will result in stability and a firm, non-corrosive aircraft, but with only a few flyable B-17s in the world, we want this aircraft to remain "steadfast". The wing members and volunteers of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF know that persistence pays off....and for the past six and a half years, **TEXAS RAIDERS** has gone from this



First, we've got to get her clean! New member, Col Doug Loftin works on **TEXAS RAIDERS**, and learns firsthand what it takes to become a "Fortress Fixer"
Photo by Col Kevin Hong



Photo by Col S. Thompson

to what we see on the right. It doesn't happen overnight and it doesn't happen without thousands of hours of maintenance and money.

The maintenance crew, led by Col Craig Aronson and Col David Carr are strategically



Photo by Col S. Thompson

"fixing" this warbird to once again become an award winner, but more importantly to present an airworthy, strong classic aircraft. Work continues on Tuesday evenings,

some Wednesday evenings, and all day on Saturdays. You can help, even from a distance. The working crew appreciates anything liquid and cool as the temperatures and humidity climb in Houston. Donations of \$10, \$15, \$20, \$30 or more sent to Col Mark Allen *continued page 2*

A Salute to the Membership

Col Craig Freeland, Adjutant



While the Gulf Coast Wing is busy recruiting new members it extends appreciation to its current long-term members who've contributed time and money over the years. We've recently distributed the 2008 Member-

ship Roster electronically and are forwarding the paper version to those who do not have electronic access. Retention of membership is a true accomplishment and it is one in which we strive to succeed. Our recruitment specialist, Col Rick Thomas is working



TOP TURRET ...this will be a new addition for TR. Cols Jimmy Davis and Tom Taylor have accomplished much on this phase.
Photo by Col K Hong

FIXING THE FORTRESS *continued from page 1*

Wing Finance Officer will help with lunches, hydration, tools/materials and cleaning supplies for this intense, hot work. Your donations are tax-deductible and should be noted that your contribution is being made for the maintenance of TEXAS RAIDERS, N7227C.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of other CAF units for stopping by to help in our maintenance project.

Recently, Cols Scott and Ellen Hochstein flew in from Oklahoma to help with this project. Scott has volun-



Scott (above) and Ellen (right) spent a weekend in Houston working on TR.

Photo by Col Kevin Hong

teered many hours on Ol 927 and also on FIFI. The skin-repair work was much appreciated, and it was great to have CAF and warbird expertise in our home court. To help in this project—and any type of help is appreciated—contact any of the staff members listed on the back page for directions, time, or escort assistance into the hangar.



SALUTE TO MEMBERS *continued from page 1*

"It's interesting to note that 65% of our members have remained in the CAF over ten years!"

Adjutant, Col Freeland

to bring new members on board, but the key to retention is "involvement." We have plenty of work in which our members can become "involved." From maintenance to PX, photography to accounting, public information to clean up, and recruiting to cooking—we can get you "involved."

Wing membership to date totals 160. And it's interesting to note that 65% of our members have remained in the CAF over ten years! Our new membership (from one up to 5years) comprises 18% of our total. When you meet one of our new members, welcome them on board. Some are already working on TR and contacting TORA, but our mission is to "Keep 'em Flying" and that takes teamwork and an offer to help.

NEW MEMBERS:

- Col John Alkire
- Col Mike Anderson
- Col Dana Atkinson

- Col Mark Cartwright
- Col Mike Conley Jr
- Col James Fry
- Col Dale Garber
- Col Doug Loftin
- Col Royce Mills
- Col Charlie Rowan

RETURNING MEMBER:

Col Steve Campbell (Former Adjutant & W.O.H. Volunteer) Welcome Back, Steve

SALUTE TO MEMBERS INVESTING TIME AND MONEY to KEEP 'EM FLYING:

(Anniversaries in 2008)

5 up to 10 YEARS :

- Col Mark Allen— 6 Yrs
- Col Bud Bearce—6 Yrs
- Col Bob Brooks—8 Yrs
- Col Jerry Casey—6 Yrs
- Col Bruce Creighton - 7 Yrs
- Col Marsha Daly—9 Yrs
- Col Dawn Derr—6 Yrs

- Col Doug Derr—6 Yrs
- Col Chris Ebdon—8 Yrs
- Col James Ebdon—8 Yrs
- Col Peter Green—6 Yrs
- Col Bruce Grubham—8 Yrs
- Col Gary Hurta—9 Yrs
- Col Kay Kennedy—7 Yrs
- Col Bob Linguiti—5 Yrs
- Col Mark Livesay—7 Yrs
- Col Robert Oden—6 Yrs
- Col Walt Prewett—8 Yrs
- Col Betty Scheck—6 Yrs
- Col Joe Sellers—8 Yrs
- Col Dan Stim—6 Yrs
- 10 up to 20 YEARS:**
- Col Bill Buchanan—14 Yrs
- Col Steve Campbell—10 Yrs
- Col Bob Cason—10 Yrs
- Col Phil Covington—10 Yrs
- Col Mike Daly—10 Yrs

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ENGINE LOOKING MORE LIKE AN ENGINE !

Photo by Col Kevin Hong

SALUTE TO MEMBERS *continued from page 2*

Col Gene Dickinson—14 Yrs
 Col Ron Dietes—11 Yrs
 Col Ken English—17 Yrs
 Col James Evans Jr—12 Yrs
 Col Al Feltis—10 Yrs
 Col Jeff Foltz—16 Yrs
 Col Morgan Gibson—15 Yrs
 Col Kent Gillum—16 Yrs
 Col Bruce Gispanski—14 Yrs
 Col Jerry Hobbs—14 Yrs
 Col John Hotopp—12 Yrs
 Col Ken Hyman—16 Yrs
 Col Shirley Hyman—12 Yrs
 Col Tim Johnson—12 Yrs
 Col Barbara Johnston—14 Yrs
 Col Wayne Kennedy—13 Yrs
 Col Marcel Ledoux—10 Yrs
 Col Ron MacKay—11 Yrs
 Col Al Maxwell—14 Yrs
 Col Karen McClure—11 Yrs
 Col Pat McClure—12 Yrs
 Col Barney Meredith—15 Yrs
 Col Steve Monigal—10 Yrs
 Col Billy Parker—16 Yrs
 Col Anna Ruth Putnam—18 Yrs
 Col Greg Radler—14 Yrs
 Col George Ricketts—17 Yrs
 Col Bill Roach—18 Yrs
 Col Tracy Roberts—15 Yrs
 Col Dean Robnett—10 Yrs
 Col Judy Robnett—10 Yrs
 Col Scott Rodkey—11 Yrs
 Col Len Root—15 Yrs
 Col Tom Rush—13 Yrs
 Col Craig Salerno—10 Yrs

Col Carl Schwobel—13 Yrs
 Col Steve Sehnert—10 Yrs
 Col Gene Sharp—16 Yrs
 Col Stuart Stein—11 Yrs
 Col Rebecca Swinford—14 Yrs
 Col Charles Szalkowski—19 Yrs
 Col Tom Taylor—10 Yrs
 Col Sandy Thompson—19 Yrs
 Col Wouter vanden Broek 14 Yrs
 Col Bill Van Osdol—14 Yrs
 Col William Wetzel—12 Yrs
 Col Greg White—13 Yrs
 Col Tom Whitworth—12 Yrs
[20 up to 30 YEARS:](#)
 Col Jack Amuny—20 Yrs
 Col Frank Aldrich—21 Yrs
 Col Hugh Alexander III—26 Yrs
 Col Gene Armstrong—28 Yrs
 Col Jesse Bootenhoff—22 Yrs
 Col James Bradford—20 Yrs
 Col Jimmy Davis—24 Yrs
 Col Pat Elliott—29 Yrs
 Col Gene Endres—20 Yrs
 Col Dick Frazier—20 Yrs
 Col Everett Gibson—20 Yrs
 Col Frank Godek—22 Yrs
 Col Jerry Grizzle—24 Yrs
 Col Glenn Gross—24 Yrs
 Col Frank Hale—23 Yrs
 Col Jack Hall—29 Yrs
 Col Ray Hendershot—20 Yrs
 Col Ed Higgins—29 Yrs
 Col Robert Higgins—22 Yrs
 Col Irby Hughes—28 Yrs
 Col Art Johnston—21 Yrs

Col Don McIver—20 Yrs
 Col Richard McLelland—22 Yrs
 Col Rob Milford—21 Yrs
 Col Doug Peoples—23 Yrs
 Col Ky Putnam—27 Yrs
 Col Curt Rowe—27 Yrs
 Col Jim Ryan—25 Yrs
 Col Nina Sanders—20 Yrs
 Col Herb Sappington—20 Yrs
 Col Dick Shaeffer—22 Yrs
 Col Richard Sharpe—29 Yrs
 Col Bill Siros—26 Yrs
 Col Ron Springall—26 Yrs
 Col Walt Thompson—27 Yrs
 Col Frank Wheeler—21 Yrs
 Col Chris Whiting—21 Yrs
 Col Ron Woodall—28 Yrs
 Col James Woodford—26 Yrs
[30 up to 40 YEARS:](#)
 Col Bill Ackermann—30 Yrs
 Col Mike Burke—36 Yrs
 Col H D Butler—30 Yrs
 Col Buddy Cooksey—36 Yrs
 Col Ken Crites—30 Yrs
 Col Paul Finnegan—30 Yrs
 Col John Hess—30 Yrs
 Col Charles Hutchins—33 Yrs
 Col Patrick Hutchins—30 Yrs
 Col Ron Iberg—35 Yrs
 Col "Flash" Neeley—32 Yrs
 Col Skip Rawson—32 Yrs
 Col Ralph Royce—31 Yrs
[40 + YEARS:](#)
 Col Van Skiles—46 Yrs



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Pat McClure



Tom Rush



Jerry Hobbs



Marsha Dady



Ralph Royce



Buddy Cooksey

SALUTE TO MEMBERS *continued from page 3*

Some of the folks in the photos you may not recognize, however that doesn't mean they don't or haven't contributed to the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing. We're taking this opportunity to thank ALL members who continue to support the mission of the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing. Your time and money spent toward keeping these airplanes flying is appreciated.

I believe that I joined in 1976 or 1977. Back then you had to be vetted: someone had to approve you for membership. My CAF number is 2797. I was sworn in at Harlingen by Tennessee Ernie Ford. Also at that ceremony was Bob Hoover and the photo of him with his arm around me is hanging in a special place here at home. - Skip Rawson

My commission date into the CAF was 1978. Two months after I turned 18. Just a few months away from 30-years. - Patrick Hutchins

Special thanks is given to our newest members who are providing the energy to keep the rest of us on our toes !! As updates, additions and edits to the 2008 Roster are received, we will be forwarding the changes both electronically and by paper. In the meantime...Keep 'em Flying !

"I started this building project one year ago...notice the "N" numbers on the tail: N34 "TR" !"

Col Bud Bearce on his single-seater plane.



TORA continues to thrill audiences nationwide. May 3 & 4th was busy for the TORA group. They flew 4 different airshows at three venues...Dyess AFB, Temple and Lake-wood Yacht Club. Tora—Tora—Tora !!!

SUPPLY OFFICER'S DEDICATION

Col Bud Bearce



Besides his professional duties, keeping tabs on critical supplies for TR and tracking down needed parts, Col Bearce has been busy with another project:

Dedicated to the persistence and hard work of the TEXAS RAIDERS Maintenance Crew, I started this building project one year ago—notice the "N" numbers on the tail: N34"TR"! With 425 hours of construction time, the aircraft was finished out in pre May 1942 PT-17 type color scheme and markings. The plane is a RANS designed single seater with a Rotax 503 engine at 52

HP—cruising speed 75 MPH. I received my airworthiness certificate week before last and have started working off the 40 hours of test flying time.

LOOKS GOOD TO US, BUD !



Dateline from CAF HQs - Dates to Remember

CAF Headquarters announces a Summer Advisory Board Conference to be held in Addison, Texas Friday July 18th through Saturday July 19th. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison. Room rates of \$65 are available by calling 800-593-5434 by June 27th. (Mention the

Commemorative Air Force Reunion and registration code of CIF).

This years American Combat Airman Hall of Fame, ACA-HOF, dinner and ceremony will be held on THURSDAY, September 18th. Tickets are \$100/person. This year's

FINA-CAF AIRSHO is September 20 & 21. Featured acts are the Golden Knights, F-15 and F-16 Demonstration Teams. **CAF members are admitted Free.**

Family members are admitted at a discount price of \$5 for children 6-to-12 and \$15 for adults (ages 12 and up). www.airsho.org

From the Wing Leader

Col Don Outler



Don't You Know There's A War Going On?

During WWII the nation recycled and it is time for GCW to get committed to the program too! We need all your aluminum cans that can be recycled. The last batch was taken to the scrap man and the money turned into more sodas and bottled water at the hangar for the Maintenance Team, as well as the Monthly Lunches !

AND don't be bashful about donating full cans of soda or bottled water. Some of the crew even said they would "take one for the team" and help empty any full cans of beer that anyone donates. (Where do we find such heroes? I ask you? ;-D).

We are also going to put a "kitty" out at the lunches to help defray the costs involved with the Burger Society and any other extracurricular items.

TEXAS RAIDERS is starting to look like a Satin Doll due to the cleaning and rubbing that has been going on. But it is currently only about 30% clean, because the inside needs to be as clean as the outside. I am taking the advice of "Wild Bill—The Ladies Man" Siros in regards to sprucing up. When he goes to a square dance he shaves and gets all cleaned up and puts on his String Tie, "Because you never know what Lady is going to show up!" Likewise, at the hangar we have had some potential donors and workers drop in and the better the Bomber looks, the more people will go out of their way to help us in whatever capacity they are inclined.

Speaking of drop-ins, CAF B29/B24 members Scott and Ellen Hochstein dropped in, or rather flew their Mooney in, from Bartlesville, OK to spend Saturday and Sunday working on TR. Scott is an A & P with American Airlines and has put in many an hour on Ol' 927 and the FIFI in Midland. They liked what they saw, and I loved the work they did. Scott cut a new piece of skin to repair some corrosion on TR's turtle back. Ellen pulled the air cooler covers and the fasteners for the landing lights and cleaned them up. She, and new Col Doug Loftin are the NEWEST members of the Human Q-Tip Club. All three say they will be back ASAP.

Almost next to lastly, Col Bud Bearce should have his home built Sport Category airplane inspected by the time you read this. Fair tailwinds BOTH directions AirBud !

And our collegiate word of the day is Penultimate, because we have a new graduate with us. The next time you see Flight Control Team Leader, Col Stan Turner, congratulate him on his shiny new Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Diploma from UH! Go Coogs, and Way to Go Stan !!!

And LASTLY...TEXAS RAIDERS has two missions in the Fall of 2008. On October 18th, the B-17 is invited over to the 1940 Hobby Air Terminal Museum for "Hobby Fest" and then four weeks later, the Museum is having a Tribute to the CAF Day on November 15th. We are going to make arrangements to tow TR over to the Terminal and set up tours, as well as promote the CAF and GCW to the public! Jim Ryan hopes to bring a TORA bird or two and we hope to have a GCW presence worthy of the kindness that the Museum is extending to us.

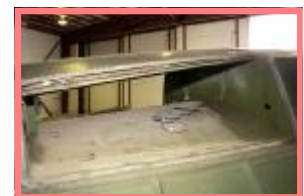
My sincerest THANKS to ALL who are making good things happen.

Don



New repaired skin on TR's turtle back, thanks o Scott Hochstein.
Photo by Col K. Hong

"...congratulate him (Stan Turner) on his shiny new Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Diploma from UH!"



Ellen Hochstein from the B29/B24 Sqd pulled the coverings on the the landing lights and cleaned them up. Mr Clean would be proud !

Photo by Col K. Hong

OCT 25 & 26 , 2008
 Mark Calendars Now !
Wings Over Houston
Air Show
 To Volunteer, Call
 Bill or Janis Roach
 281 579 1942

Col Sandy Thompson
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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

COWL FLAPS

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Gulf Coast Wing Hangar is located at 8411 Nelms Road, 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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