



# COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



## IMPORTANT DATES

- Mon-through-Fri each week 0830hrs to 1630hrs, work at WR-5 on TR
- TUESDAY & THURSDAY Nights each week, 1830hrs until closing, work at WR-5 on TR
- SATURDAY, SEP 12  
0900hrs—Staff Meeting  
1030hrs—Wing Meeting  
1145hrs—Potluck & Lunch  
1230hrs—Work on TR at WR-5 Hangar
- SATURDAY, OCT 03  
0900 hrs— Staff Meeting  
1030 hrs—Wing Meeting  
1145 hrs—Potluck & Lunch  
1230hrs—Work on TR  
ALSO—Sugarland Open H

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Volume II, Issue XXI

SEPTEMBER 07, 2009

## Target: October Flight



Cols Fitzgerald, Steffel, Linguiti and Hueni attach stripping to the Cheyenne Tail, while balancing several feet above ground.  
Photo— Col S. Thompson

HOUSTON, TX — What are the dynamics of flight? Is it LIFT, is it PROPULSION, or is it HEART? To see the intensity on the faces, the sweat on the shirtsleeves and the nicks on the knuckles, the answer is apparent. TEXAS RAIDERS would be nowhere near certification of flight if it weren't for the devotion, persistence and fortitude of our Gulf Coast Wing members. "It seems like we take two steps forward and then some-

thing happens...and it's one step back. But we're getting there..." says Col Chuck Conway, Maintenance Officer.

Preparing this vintage aircraft for flight not only takes muscle, it takes paperwork, attention to detail, checking and cross-checking log-book entries, inspections, scheduling crew-training, securing check-pilots, required notifications to the FAA & the CAF, lease payments, contract payments, Airframe Inspections, and did I mention lots of paperwork? Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are preparing this warbird for takeoff, and this time it looks more realistic than ever: B-17 Ground School is scheduled for October; Test Flights are targeted for October, and WINGS OVER HOUSTON is intended to be our first Mission. There will be hurdles and unexpected "bumps", however our plans, direction and coordinated efforts are undaunted. Come to our next scheduled Wing Meeting, Saturday September 12th to learn how you can help in this effort.



Jim Fitzgerald & Bill Steffel

This is more FUN than 6-Flags



Bud Bearce & Ole Nygren

Col Sandy Thompson, Editor



## Wing Leader's Report

### What a Difference a Year Makes!

It is hard to believe what the "to-do" list looks like on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 versus what it was Sept. 1, 2008. Providence, hard work, and contributions have seen the Gulf Coast Wing through a lot of the past few years. It is a lot nicer to have to worry about where will we hold the Ground School, rather than where are we going to keep the bomber out of the weather? And nicer distractions yet are working out arrangements to have a Hangar Dance with the 1940 Air Terminal Museum Foundation this Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. Between now and then there is still a lot of B17 work and hangar work to be

done. There is a PX event at Bomberfield on Sept. 19-20<sup>th</sup> with the Radio Control folks in Monaville that is fun to see and profitable for the Wing.

Wings Over Houston is an opportunity that cannot be allowed to be under-played. If you are not already certain where you will be, please get focused and decide. We need PX workers and the Air Show needs all of the support positions filled with volunteers. Every job that is not handled by a volunteer takes money out of our pockets. All Air Show jobs are vital!

The Gulf Coast Wing now has new challenges. They never end and frankly, we don't want them to. We now have to shift gears from a unit focused on heavy maintenance to an Operational Unit, with an Aircraft that will be in high demand on the air show circuit. Harbor no illusions, TEXAS RAIDERS cannot support herself AND GROW THE WING just operating in the Houston area.

We can get away with TEXAS RAIDERS looking a little battle weary for the time being, but we will have to address a new paint-job soon.

There will always be maintenance. Some of it will be "heavy" but after what we have been through even the biggest of jobs should be within our scope.

The search for a long term, dare I say permanent, home for the Bomber, a museum and more is once again on the front burner. This is not a new vision. But to meet it we will need to find new solutions, or they will have to find us. Included in this is the reality that we cannot impose much longer on John Alkire and Doug Loftin for the storage we are DEEPLY INDEBTED to them both for providing. There is going to be another set of moves at some point soon to get the few tons of material back in one place.

We need to grow our Wing. Each of us is responsible for being Ambassadors of the CAF and we have to continue to make this an outfit that people WANT to be a member of.

"We now have to shift gears from a unit focused on heavy maintenance to an Operational Unit, with an aircraft that will be in high demand on the air show circuit."

*Col Don Price on the changing landscape.*

I am careful to say "continue" in my last bullet point because we have improved SO MUCH over the last two years. This has not been easy and it still isn't. But despite some painful losses of members over these years we have gotten new members who are taking on the mission. We must continue to welcome those who would make common cause with us.

Let's Get the Show Back on the Road!

*Col Don Price - Wing Leader*

## Gulf Coast Wing Staff Elections

**E**lections to fill four Unit Staff positions, as the two-year service expires, will be held on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The staff positions open in this election are: Wing Leader, Adjutant, Finance Officer and Bomber Operations Officer. The Wing Nominating Committee is comprised of Jerry Casey, Kathleen Doucette and Sandy Thompson. The wing members who currently serve in these posts have indicated their desire to run for another term: Col Don Price as Wing Leader, Col Craig Freeland as Adjutant, Col Mark Allen as Finance Officer and Col Walt Thompson as Bomber Operations Officer. If you have a candidate you would like to additionally nominate, please contact any one of the three Nominating Committee members for consideration, by October 01, as the final nominees will be announced at the next wing meeting, October 03 and the slate must be submitted to CAF Headquarters 30-days prior to the election. The wing members serving on the Election Committee are: George Hueni, Bob Linguiti, and Howard Quoyser. Candidates must be CAF and Gulf Coast Wing members in good standing.

# Maintenance Report

## PROGRESS REPORT ON TEXAS RAIDERS

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of time, from a VERY determined maintenance crew, TR has passed some important milestones.....

- The landing gear has been tested and given the thumbs up by the IA.
- The ailerons have been inspected..... cables, fittings, hardware and functionality and OK'd by the IA
- The chin turret has been re-skinned and is at the paint shop
- The new tail wheel has been assembled, painted and installed with the new tire.
- The bomb bay doors have been rigged, aligned and tested.
- The three AD's have been complied with "no problems found".
- All of the aircraft panels that have been removed over the past nine years have been found, cleaned, repaired, and ready for installation.
- Engines three and four have had all of the oil, used for testing the engines, drained and high quality oil put in.
- Engines one and two will be done shortly.
- The fire suppression system has been repaired and installed.
- The completely NEW, (hand-built from scratch) pilots sliding side window is installed and the co-pilots is in work, along with the nav. dome, top turret, and top windows.

This is, without a doubt, a labor of love for this aircraft. We still have a ways to go (you noticed I didn't say Long Way). Wings Over Houston is still not in the bag but I can smell the popcorn. If we can hold up the pace and keep Murphy away, we'll have a good shot at it. In my opinion: better than fifty-fifty.

Your humble Maintenance Officer, *Col. Chuck Conway*



*"This is without a doubt, a labor of love for this aircraft.."*

*Col Conway  
On TR's progress.*

## PX NEWS and UPDATES

**New Item in the PX!** — *A fantastic shirt of our B-17 "Texas Raiders." This shirt shows off the plane and has a close up of the famous nose art on the back. The front of the shirt has the CAF Wings printed on the left chest area. It is available in blue only. Get yours today by contacting the PX Officer or ordering online at the Gulf Coast Wing website at <http://www.gulfcoastwing.org/GCW/WingPX.htm>*

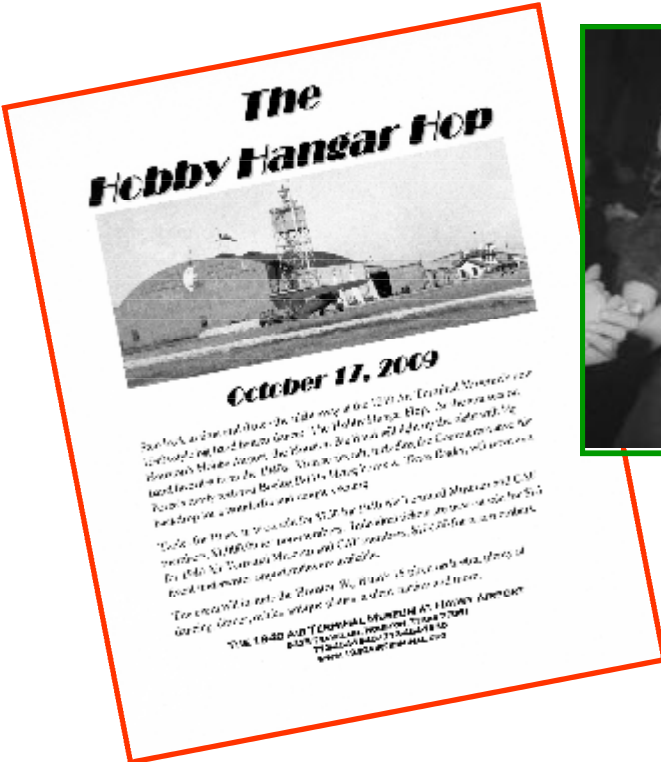


### **Volunteers Needed for WINGS OVER HOUSTON Airshow!**

*Airshow 2009 is rapidly approaching .... only 2 months away! The PX needs all the volunteers we can get to make this year the most profitable year ever! Contact the PX Officer at [vthomas4@comcast.net](mailto:vthomas4@comcast.net) or call **281-620-5639** cell or **281-573-3302** home to volunteer. Thanks — Col Vicki Thomas, PX Officer*

# Hobby Hangar Hop October 17th

This is not only going to “Knock Your Socks Off” but this is also an opportunity to see our WWII B-17G TEXAS RAIDERS in a vintage Big-Band WWII environment. All this, and it’s in our own back-door, at Hangar WR-4, right next to WR-5. So grab your best girl or guy, put your dancing-shoes on and we’ll see you on Saturday night, October 17 th.



1940's period attire is encouraged.



Love the hose

The **HOBBY HANGAR HOP** is hosted by the 1940 Air Terminal Museum and offers tickets

to CAF members at \$75/person. Admission includes Dinner, Dancing, Beverages and a Silent Auction. The 1940 Air Terminal Museum, (like the CAF) is a non-profit organization. Your donations are tax-deductible. Tickets may be purchased in advance at 713 454 1940, or at the door.

## Macy's "Shop for a Cause"

In cooperation with MACY's Department Stores, I have secured 100 Discount Coupons ( I can get more if needed) and I'm asking for your help to raise money for the Gulf Coast Wing in this effort. Each coupon/ticket permits the holder to up to 25% discount on select items at Macy's Stores nationwide. The charitable event when these tickets may be presented for discounts is Saturday, October 17th. These coupons/tickets are to be sold for a \$5-donation to your charity....which in our case is the Gulf Coast Wing. We keep all the money we raise through the sale/donation of each coupon along with additional sales made in-store on the 17th of October.



If you can help, please tell me how many coupons/tickets you would like to sell to your friends, family, associates etc. We have a potential here of \$500.....or more if we are super sales-persons. Thanks for your help with this. Let me hear from you either by phone **817 304 0393 cell** or email at

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

**Col Sandy Thompson**—Public Information Officer



## ***B-17 Tour Tips***



To: All Gulf Coast Wing Members  
 Subject: B-17 Ground School Date and Update

1. **DATE**— The Annual B-17 Ground School for Flight Engineers and Loadmasters will be held on **Saturday, the 24th of October from 0800 hours to 1730 hours.** Considering the flight certification status on TR, our pilot training will be held on a different date being planned at this time in coordination with CAF Headquarters, the FAA-designee and pilot scheduling. More information will follow soon.
2. **LOCATION** — The Loadmaster training will be conducted in two locations: onsite at the hangar and at the “special-events” classroom at the 1940-Air Terminal Museum. The Flight Engineer training will also be conducted in two locations: onsite at the hangar and at an Airport boardroom location being negotiated at this time. **All attendees should meet at 0800 hours at Hangar WR-5 for registration, materials collection and agenda specifics.**
3. **LODGING** —If you are attending from out-of-town, special CAF rates have been offered at some of the Hobby Airport Hotels: Holiday Inn at 8611 Airport Drive \$79/night (includes breakfast), the Courtyard by Marriott at 9190 gulf Freeway \$65-King/night or \$75-Queen/night and also the Hobby Airport Hilton Hotel at 8181 Airport Blvd \$79/night. Each hotel has a courtesy shuttle bus to/from Hobby Airport and if you request transportation to our Hangar at 8249 Travelair on the shuttle bus and “tip” the driver, these hotel properties are usually amenable to transport you to our hangar on the west side of Hobby. The telephone numbers for these hotels are: Holiday Inn 713-946-8900, the Courtyard by Marriott 713 910 1700 and the Hobby Hilton 713 645 3000.
4. **COSTS** —Considering the economics and other conditions present for this Ground School we anticipate our expenditures will require a \$15/per attendee charge. Attendance is restricted to CAF members, and CAF-cadet-members only. Non-CAF-members must join the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing to attend. This restriction is based upon space and class-materials limitations. Your understanding is appreciated.
5. **UNIFORM/ATTIRE**—No special attire is required, however some of the class-experience will involve aircraft exposure such as moving in/out/around the B-17 where bending, squatting, reaching and identifying various parts will be required. Comfortable, safety-type shoes should be worn.

This Ground School is being held just one week prior to WINGS OVER HOUSTON Airshow, where we intend on flying. Your participation is an important and required part of completing the training identified in CAFR60-3 the guideline for conducting Revenue Rides. Each participant will receive a certificate of class completion.

Since “selling” the mission of the CAF is important, when we fly, we want to present a professional uniform public image. Identifying ourselves closely with the history of this WWII Bomber, flight crewmembers will need to secure a “Sage-Green” Nomex Flight suit and if possible a 50-mission “Crush-Cap” (optional) as shown in the photo top left. The Nomex flight suit should have the CAF Shield on the left sleeve, the American Flag on the right sleeve, leather name tag on the left and an optional GCW patch (older wing patch here can be replaced with the “Lest-We-Forget” wing patch) on the right. You can buy these patches at our PX or our PX online.

Thanks for your continued support of the CAF mission.  
 We'll see you at Ground School



*Col Walt Thompson, Bomber Operations*



# Welcome New Members



**I**t is with great pleasure that we can welcome new members into the Gulf Coast Wing of the CAF. For that is where our future lies. We have tremendous talent in our midst.

Just ask the Maintenance Officer, Col Chuck Conway or our Safety Officer, Col Bud Bearce. Without the help of new GCW members Cols Matthew Yarrison, Howard Quoyeser, Jim Fitzgerald, David Winchell, Larry & Kathy Doucette, Dr. Mark Gregg & Kim Eisenbeis, (Sorry, Mark & Kim I don't have a photo of you yet) we wouldn't have made the progress that we have at this point. See how important it is to recruit new members? THANKS for your help !



Howard Q



Jim Fitzgerald



The Doucettes



Dave Winchell



Matthew Yarrison

## TORA's 2009 Schedule



Photo: Col C. Ebdon

Date	Location
September 19-20	Scott AFB—Belleville, IL
October 02-03	Jackson, MS
October 10-11	Sheppard AFB—Wichita Falls, TX & Midland, TX
October 17-18	Edwards AFB—California
Oct 31-Nov 01	Ellington Field—Houston, TX
Nov 07-08	Randolph AFB—Shertz, TX & Monroe NC

Photo: Col K. Hong



Photo: Col C. Ebdon

## Big Thanks—To More Hard Working Colonels

**S**ome folks work nearly nonstop in our effort to get TEXAS RAIDERS flying again, and if it weren't for the limited space in this newsletter, the issue would be filled with nothing but giant THANK-YOUs! Our Maintenance Officer, Chuck Conway, who runs his own company, somehow finds the time to build devices and parts for this old B-17 Warbird that have proven invaluable. Bud Bearce NEVER Stops ! Another face who now has rejoined the wing, is 92-year old Scott Royce (Father of our Air Boss, Ralph Royce). Terry Fogelson, volunteers nearly every weekday, when he can and as an A&P, we

NEED his help tremendously. Then there's Ron Dietes who drives from San Antonio to climb up onto TR's engines and work; he doesn't say much 'cause he's working all the time he's on duty. THANKs to even more folks who work nonstop!



Terry Fogelson



Bud Bearce & C. Conway



Scott Royce



Ron Dietes



Many THANKS to Col Everett Gibson for providing the above photos on that historical day in 1991. The photo to the left above displays James Michener, Everett Gibson and Walter Cronkite. The photo to the right above, contains some of the GCW crew that day: (Left-to-Right) James Michener, Everett Gibson, Dellon Bumgardner, Hugh Alexander, Walter Cronkite & Grandson, Chip, Walter Thompson, Ben Anderson, Dave Morgan and Mrs. Michener. You'll barely see the old "stylized" nose art on TR which later changed during the '92-'93 restoration.

## *Remembering Walter Cronkite*

Austin, Texas – May 1991

**W**ith the passing of one of America's most trusted news anchors recently, memories of a 1991 mission flown by the crew of TEXAS RAIDERS comes rushing in to mind. It was May 11, 1991 when the University of Texas at Austin and the Admiral Nimitz Museum produced a 3-day symposium culminating in a CAF aviation reenactment of the attack on Pearl Harbor at Fredericksburg, Texas.

Notable speakers at the Symposium, included Walter Cronkite and James Michener (author of *South Pacific*, *Texas* and many other novels). On that morning, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Cronkite, Mr. and Mrs. James Michener, and the crew of Texas Raiders took a ride back into history. Mr. Cronkite recalled one of his WWII assignments which took him over Schweinfurt, Germany in a B-17. Sitting in the nose of Texas Raiders, he reminisced on what it was like to be a correspondent in the 1940's. This was his first B-17 ride since WWII and accordingly..."It was just like I remembered it."

The reenactment of the Pearl Harbor attack was preceded by an overhead flight of CAF aircraft down the main-street of Fredericksburg delighting the community and participants from the symposium. The Gillespie County Airport runway was nestled in between corn fields, and became the launching pad for TORA and TEXAS RAIDERS. During the reenactment, Texas Raiders' #3 engine malfunctioned and caused a quick return to the airfield. The engine repair lasted two months, and during that period Texas Raiders gained several new friends and CAF members including our very own Col Sam Smith.

It was an event we all still remember and will never forget. As Walter Cronkite would say..."And that's the way it is."

Note: The crew of Texas Raiders on May 11, 1991 ..... Cols Walt Thompson, Dellon Bumgardner, Ben Anderson, Hugh Alexander, and Dave Morgan.



# WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW

OCT 31—NOV 01 2009  
[www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com)

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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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 Supply Officer.....Col Bud Bearce..... [budk5jgu@hal-pc.org](mailto:budk5jgu@hal-pc.org).....713 864 7435  
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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](http://www.gulfcoastwing.org)



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