



COWL FLAPS



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, OCT 17 "Hobby Hangar Hop" at the 1940 Air Terminal 1800 hrs
- SATURDAY, OCT 24 B-17 GROUND SCHOOL at Hangar WR-5 0800 hrs
- SATURDAY, NOV 14 0900hrs—Staff Meeting 1030hrs—Wing Meeting & ELECTIONS 1145hrs—Potluck & Lunch

Volume II, Issue XXII

OCTOBER 07, 2009

Countdown to Lift-Off



Another engine test proves successful. Systems have been checked, rechecked, timed and analyzed. The Flying Fortress looks GREAT as we anticipate the critical "First Flight" Photo by Col C. Ebdon

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HOUSTON, TX — Counting down the years, months and now days, Gulf Coast Wing members are looking ahead to next week when TEXAS RAIDERS will be towed out of Hangar WR-5, heads down the taxiway and on to the runway for its high-speed taxi test. Then, following the debriefing, analysis of the test and review of her taxi-response, if all systems are "GO", the crew will take her back to the runway for first flight. This bold anticipation, this heart-pounding sensation, and this lump-in-your-throat moment will be the injection we've been looking for since that overcast day in January, 2002 when this Flying Fortress took her last flight from Ellington to Hobby Airport. Cols

BY THE NUMBERS—During Restoration:

- 5 — Moves TR made across Hobby Airport
- 5 — Maintenance Officer changes
- 3 — Wing Leaders
- 7 — Years, 9 months and now 7 days
- 9 — Deceased wing members
- 2 — Major Hurricanes
- 1 — CAF Restoration Grant at \$17,500
- 36 — N7227C Sponsorships totaling \$98,700
- 170 — Great Wing Members with us today !

by flying Lonestar's THUNDERBIRD, will be piloting the flight. Col Maxwell is an FAA-designee. Please stay tuned, read your emails and participate in the work at Hangar WR-5. This is a moment to anticipate. Col Sandy Thompson, Editor



Wing Leader's Report

October Surprise

This morning I went to the hangar to drop off some belted 50 Caliber ammo and there was the MO and the Test Flight Pilot, Col. Al Maxwell announcing that they were going to Slow Taxi the bomber and do a run-up in the afternoon. I felt like Nostradamus because at Saturday's Unit meeting I did my usual rant about, "Treat the airplane like every time you walk away from it, someone is going to fly it the next day."

So it didn't take TOO much time to get the loose articles squared away. Col. Rick Sharpe came down to cover the right seat duties. On a B17 the right seater has a LOT to monitor and some more items turned out to be a little flaky. Number one Engine had a balking Right Magneto and Number three still had no RPMs indicating, and things like that. And I learned it is hard to jump in the ship from the back door with the engines running and NO STEPS, but there is a trick to it. Things we would rather find now, rather than next week. Because sometime between October 12th and the 16th we hope to slip the surly bounds of Hobby Airport and go fly TEXAS RAIDERS for a short test flight.

It will get busy from that point on because GCW needs to perform re-currency flights, training flights for Air Crew, help put on Wings Over Houston and various & sundry Missions and assignments. You have read the details about Flight Engineer School and Load Master School in Operations Officer, Col. Walt Thompson's articles. If you haven't, you might want to catch up on your reading.

While we seem close, I worry about all the little things that add up to a big list of MUST GET DONES. We were thinking of changing TEXAS RAIDERS nickname from "The Flying Fortress" to the "Flying Fixer-Upper" because there is still a lot to take care of. There will always be something to fix, or restore or replace. If it seems like your beloved Wing Leader has been pushing you to get things done, squared away or otherwise crossed off Chuck's list... well THANK YOU for noticing!

This coming weekend a number of GCW members will be waving the flag at Midland Airsho. Walt, Sandy and I will be meeting with VP Bob Stenevik and President Steve Brown on behalf of the B-17. Stay tuned for any developments on that front.

Revisiting last Saturday's Unit Meeting I think the best and wisest statement came from our Safety Officer, Col. Ky Putnam. Something to the effect of, "There's going to be a lot of training going on soon. And all I've got to say about that is BE GOOD STUDENTS." Indeed!

Col Don Price - Wing Leader

"There's going to be a lot of training going on soon, and all I've got to say about that is **BE GOOD STUDENTS.**"

Col Don Price on

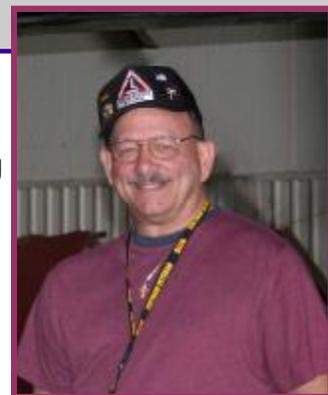
Col Ky Putnam's

request to pay

attention to details.

Adjutant's Report

Well, lets see..My last count was we're at a healthy 170 and growing. We need to make a strong effort to reach 200 GCW members by year end 2010. Now that TR is ready to get back to doing what she does best...FLYING...our enhanced visibility should assist us in this endeavor. Let's get the word out..."Wanna have fun on a weekend?? Come on out for a visit and we'll introduce you to work of art and a piece of aviation history." We have it all, good conversation, good cheer, good times and great folks and a vintage WWII strategic bomber...a Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress – Texas Raiders. So if the History Channel has ever put a hook into you with films of old airplanes and aviators...come on out...we have the real thing....."



Col Craig Freeland, Adjutant

Maintenance Report

Maintenance Update

Here are a few words about the latest status of Texas Raiders from a maintenance standpoint.....

1. All engines have been run several times and carb. adjustments made, they are singing like a sewing machine.
2. Landing gear has been tested and retested.
3. All flight instruments have been tested, and calibrated, and/or certified as required.
4. All flight control rigging....cables, pulleys, stops, bearings etc. have been replaced, adjusted, checked and double-checked. Motors and transmissions refurbished to like new condition.
5. Complete overhaul of the hydraulic system, tested and retested.
6. New main tires and a new rear wheel and tire.
7. Nav. Dome completely rebuilt, and installed
8. Chin Turret re-skinned and painted.
9. Repair of sheetmetal, nutplates, panels, corrosion treatment, paint, windows, flooring the list is endless.

I think by now you get the picture of what a dedicated group of focused Gulf Coast Wing maintenance folks can accomplish. We are PROUD of how far we have come and counting the days until WINGS OVER HOUSTON, it's been a long time since the Blue Angels darkened the sky over Ellington Field and a longer time for Texas Raiders, but that is over, on the 31st of October we will share the sky. I really like the sound of that..... "we will share the sky"

Col. Chuck Conway
Maintenance Office



"I really like the sound of that...we will share the sky"

Col Conway
On TR's progress.

PX NEWS and UPDATES

GCW PX Makes Record Profits!

The PX was once again set up at Bomber Field on September 19 & 20. The final total profit was a whopping **\$2,028.00**, which includes sales of **\$225.00** for Rivet Certificates! This is the most money we've made at a venue other than Wings Over Houston Airshow. Rick Thomas, Don Outler, Chuck & Cindy Conway, Larry & Kathy Doucette and Suzie Bredlau are to be commended for their fabulous sales abilities! We also took a PX out to Sugarland Regional Airport Open House on October 3 and brought home \$708.00 for the wing! A big thanks to Rick Thomas, Jerry Hobbs & Grandson Tyler Schoonover, Leah Block and Ken English for helping out! **GREAT JOB!**



Our PXs are currently fully-staffed for Airshow and we are hoping for great weather. I have set a personal goal to make over \$30,000.00 this year at the GCW PXs. I will need everyone's help to achieve this milestone, so remember to **SELL! SELL! SELL!**

Col Vicki Thomas, PX Officer

Hobby Hangar Hop October 17th

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.

TEXAS RAIDERS will make its first public appearance since 2001, so this is an opportunity to not only have some fun, but to share the mission of the CAF with fellow aviators and lovers of aviation. We will be conducting tours through TEXAS RAIDERS during the evening and if you are attending and can help with the tours and recruiting, please let us know by emailing thompsonb17@uwmail.com or calling by phone at 817 304 0393 cell or 817 341 1541 home.



**The Hobby Hangar Hop
October 17, 2009**

Step back in time and dance the night away at the 1940 Air Terminal Museum's new 1940style big band hangar dance, The Hobby Hangar Hop. As the sun sets on Houston's Hobby Airport, the Houston Big Band will light up the night with big band favorites from the 1940s. Vintage aircraft, including the Commemorative Air Force's newly restored Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress, Texas Raiders, will serve as a backdrop for a wonderful and unique evening.

Doors open and the Houston Big Band's 15 piece orchestra starts playing at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7. As everyone sits down to dinner, guests will be treated to a Houston premier screening of the movie *Banshanwing*, and an opportunity to meet the director and producers. After the movie, the band leader will strike up the band once again and guests will dance into the night to the sounds of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and jets from around the globe.



Tables for 10 are now on sale for \$750 for 1940 Air Terminal Museum and CAF members, \$1,000.00 for non-members. Individual tickets are now on sale for \$75 for 1940 Air Terminal Museum and CAF members, \$100.00 for non-members. Event underwriter opportunities are available. Admission includes the Houston Big Band's 15 piece orchestra, plenty of dancing, dinner, drinks, the movie screening, antique planes, a silent auction and more. Table sponsors will also enjoy reserved seating and a VIP reception. This is a casual event. Period 40's dress is not required, but will be greatly appreciated. Don't miss this fantastic event!! Call or email the Museum today.

The 1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby Airport
8325 Traveler, Houston, Texas 77061
713-464-1940/713-464-1930
www.1940airterminal.org



WHAT A **DIFFERENCE** A DAY MAKES!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

ORGANIZATION



Let's take this opportunity to personally thank the wing members who voluntarily raised **\$250** on the sales of the Macy's Shop for a Cause Sales Event to be held October 17th. It's difficult enough working at our day-jobs, handling family matters or making appointments to find the time to volunteer in something like this, so we'd like to give a GREAT BIG

THANK YOU!

- To:
- Col Kathleen Doucette
 - Col Vicki Thomas
 - Col Don Outler
 - Col Wayne Kennedy
 - Col Brett Noake
 - Col Kevin Hong
 - Col Sandy Thompson

This can buy some oil or help pay part of the utilities or any number of expenses we have. Every penny helps.



B-17 Tour Tips



To: All Gulf Coast Wing Members
 Subject: B-17 Operational Mode

We've reached the point of "Returning to Flight" and this requires a bit of mental adjustment making the transition from a Restoration Mode to an Operational Mode. At our upcoming B-17 Ground School (24 Oct), you will receive the technical tools to conduct Tours with TEXAS RAIDERS, but the intangible part of our mission in the CAF is the ability to reach forward into the future, teaching the folks who come out to tour and ride this great WWII Bomber, about the history of American Military Aviation. That is something you'll practice on every tour: Education is our mission and the tours and flights are its tangible evidence.

You'll also get an opportunity to meet other CAF units at air-shows, fly-ins and static-displays while being introduced to the efficiencies and challenges of aircraft movement, crowd-control, community involvement and selling our service. It is important that you listen to the Mission Tour Director's briefing on the activities of the tour-stop each day. Courtesy and professionalism are the standard when touring.: Be on time, Be courteous, Be professional, and Be safe. The B-17 Operations Officer maintains the right to refuse future crew assignments to any crew member who fails to share in work-assignments or presents themselves in a disorderly, inebriated or rude fashion in public view, or is unsafe, verbally abusive to fellow crew members and/or the public, or uses profanity in a public environment.

Here is a photo from our 2001 tour to EAA's Osh Kosh Air Venture. We worked hard (long-hours with Spartan lodging) , we made money, we sold the mission of the CAF, but most of all we had camaraderie and fun. When the public sees us, we want to portray a group who knows what their mission is and we want them to believe in us, trust us and know we place a priority on safety.

You can be in this picture — or one nearly like it in the future.



As the Bomber Operations Officer, I want to welcome you back into the world of a flyable, valuable piece of History. TEXAS RAIDERS is unique in that this Bomber is one of just a few (around 12) flyable B-17s remaining in the world today. Let's go out, work hard, have fun and welcome the public into our world which many merely dream of.

Col Walt Thompson, Bomber Operations



WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW

OCT 31—NOV 01 2009
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

Your business tag line here.

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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