



COWL FLAPS

For Members of Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



IMPORTANT DATES

- Saturday, December 13 0900 Staff Meeting and 1030am Wing Meeting at 1940s Air Terminal
- Tuesday evenings 1800 hours work continues on Texas Raiders at ER-5
- Saturday all day at ER-5 work continues
- Saturday JAN10 0900 Staff Meeting and 1030am Wing Meeting at Hangar ER-5

Inside this issue:

From the Wing Leader	2
Maintenance Officer's Report	3
Adjutant—Membership Update	3
TR Move Photos	4
Press Conference	5
Hangar Wish List	5
Staff and Hangar-Contacts	6

Volume II Issue XII

December 08, 2008

FORTRESS TRANSPORTERS, inc.

With a moving deadline of November 30th looming over their heads, a cadre of wing members gathered on a beautiful Saturday (November 22nd) afternoon to begin the task of moving *Texas Raiders* to a hangar that is planned on being the last stop on its "Hobby" tour! Once the Flying Fortress is brought up to flight-test-standards, a more permanent hangar location in the Houston area will be on the horizon. Currently, a hangar committee is being organized to scout, review and negotiate a facility which will financially and structurally permit the B-17 to logistically operate, while conducting tours and revenue rides.

It is with a great sigh of relief that we've been able to reach this final stage in restoration and repair process. In early 2002, *Texas Raiders* was flown to Hobby Airport under the impression it would take only a few months to comply with the restric-



For the first time in over two years, Texas Raiders sees Houston sunlight as Gulf Coast Wing Members push, pull and coax the warbird out of Hobby Hangar ER-7. Photo by Col Kevin Hong

tions of the AD (Airworthiness Directive), but with ongoing challenges of correcting years of corrosion damage, the volunteers over the past six years have spent thousands of hours and nearly \$500,000 of secured donations and funds to bring *Texas Raiders* to the point of what you see in the above photo. 2009 will be a year in which this airplane is destined to fly....with continued help from our dedicated volunteers and financial support from friends, wing members and associates. Although the "new" (as in different) hangar provides shelter to complete the restoration process, there are items we need in this facility to help facilitate work. See page 4 for more photos of the move

Press Conference Stimulates Hangar Discussions

The soles on the bottom of several volunteers' shoes are worn to all but a thin layer of what used to be leather. Finding an available hangar at Houston's Hobby Airport is more than difficult; it's nearly impossible. With runway expansion, demolition of buildings and hangars, and increased rent for existing buildings, our wing members who have been on a hard-core-drive to find a facility for *Texas*

Raiders were tired of running into brick walls. With intensified pressure, assistance from CAF Headquarters and a surge of hangar cleaning and temporary storage, a Press Conference was staged at Hangar ER-7 in hopes that someone would step forward, offer assistance and provide affordable housing for this rare vintage B-17. On November 13th, we held our

first ever press conference in front of *Texas Raiders*. Coverage from four of the five local TV stations, various aviation representatives and Hobby tenants, the Gulf Coast Wing made a point....one which helped secure the lodging needed for temporary housing. For more photos and related story see page 5.



From the Wing Leader

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

The first thing to be thankful for is...The members of the Gulf Coast Wing! It is astounding what you have accomplished in the last two months.

WE ARE NO LONGER AT THE NELMS ST. HANGAR.....WE beat the Dec. 1st deadline as Bud Bearce collected up the locks on Nov. 25th and we were "locks, stock and barrels" out of Nelms Street!!! Come to 8429 Travelair St. The new hangar is on the west side of Hobby, off of Telephone Road at the corner of Neuhaus and Travelair.

Special thanks to EVERYBODY, but I have to call out some Above and Beyonds to: Jeff Foltz, Chuck Conway, Ken Hyman, Bud Bearce, David Carr, Jim Miles, Bill Roach, Wayne Kennedy, Craig Freeland, Wild Bill Siros, John Alkire, and Doug Loftin. I wish I could remember everybody I am forgetting BUT add to the list: Ky Putnam, Jerry Casey, Bob Linguiti, Ole Nygren, Kent Gillum, Ken Backus, George and Kara Hueni, the new John, Stan Turner, Terry Fogelson, Matthew Fiedler, Tom Taylor, Bob and Brian Brooks, Bob Pursell, Craig Aronson for bringing the nitrogen, Suzy Bredlau for feeding us, as well as storing stuff and putting up with my bad morale. I even think I saw Robt. Oden moving something, Kevin Hong and Chris Ebdon were snapping photos, as well as the hardest working Ricks in show business...Rick Sanchez and Rick Thomas and Greg with the moustache and the old school red TR Tee-shirt whose last name I never can remember (Radler) and likewise the new to CAF-GCW family of ANG members. And as always thanks Walt and Sandy Thompson. I know I am forgetting someone... my memory is slipping... If I forgot you shame on me and I am sorry, but I know this was a major effort that never would have happened without ALL of you members of the best Wing in the CAF!

"..this was a major effort that never would have happened without ALL of you members of the best Wing in the CAF!"

Col Don Price

Now is a good time to point out that ALL FOUR ENGINES ARE ON THE AIRPLANE for the first time since 2002. With Ky Putnam leading, the likes of Stefan Knieling and Wes ? and many repeat offenders in on that labor of love. Additionally Bill Steffel, Chuck Conway and DOC Robin helped David Carr and I with installing the plexi-glass nose which went a long way to making the B17 look like... A B17! And then there was the Press Conference... I know I will forget MORE folks here, but CAF- President Stephen Brown and Sandy Thompson went with me to negotiate the new deal after a cast of dozens helped pull off a successful event. Don Outler, Van Skiles, Kent Gillum, Wayne K., Suzy Bredlau. This event was so long ago I know I am giving many hard workers short shrift. Behind the scenes leading up to the "new" hangar MANY folks were working on our behalf... Rick Sharpe, John Hess, Ed Vessely, Harry Glauser, John Stoffer and Ralph Royce. And SPECIAL THANKS to the folks who offered to save our bacon, if we had needed them to: Drew Coats and Megan Lichlyter from 1940 Air Terminal Museum and Spectra Energy's Walter Hermis and the folks at Wilson's.



Cols Jeff Foltz, David Carr, Greg Radler and Craig Freeland prepare for the move.

AND THEN... there was Wings Over Houston Airshow... Here comes another list: Everybody listed above AND Vicki Thomas, the Williamson family, Jerry Hobbs and family... Nancy Smith the mean lean selling machine! This could go on 'til Christmas, and I mean that in a GREAT way! So I hope the one thing that shines through this Honor Roll-call is how many people worked to get us where we are today and what can come of working together for TEXAS RAIDERS!

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN!!!

Don Price - Wing Leader - Commemorative Air Force- Gulf Coast Wing

Maintenance Officer's Report



Despite the move turmoil, the Texas Raiders maintenance team has had an excellent month. The pictures from our move across Hobby airport a couple of weeks ago really tell the story. In short, we did it in style. Our newly repaired (and installed) plexiglass nose lead the way, four fully cowled R-1820s graced our wings, and the now semi-permanently installed underwing panels hid a signed off and airworthy fuel system. These accomplishments, along with many other less visible ones, are really starting to earn us some much deserved positive attention around the Houston area and the warbird community in general. The entire team should really be proud of our efforts.

Now that we have a good home in which to work, we are pressing ahead with our restoration plan. Our next major milestone will be to test run the first engine. This project requires that numerous systems--fuel, oil, electrical, instrumentation, intake, and exhaust--be brought up to a functional level. We have made a few significant strides in this direction already, but much work remains. Of course, the more volunteers we have, the more quickly we will get to push the start button, so I hope that I'll see you at the hangar soon. What a noisy, smoky, and fun day that will be.

Onward.David Carr, Texas Raiders Maintenance Officer

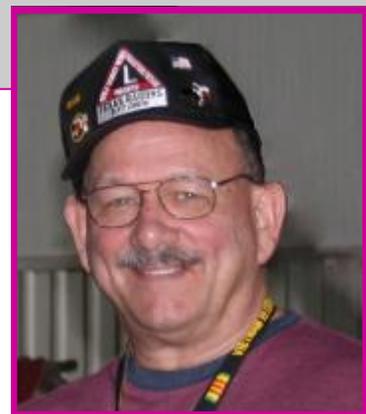
"The more volunteers we have, the more quickly we will get to push the start button, so I hope that I'll see you at the hangar soon."
Col David Carr

Membership in 2008

We welcome new and returning members again this month: Cols Larry Doucette, John Flood and John Stofer. As we near the conclusion of 2008, it's time to thank our membership for continued trust and support of the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing. Our wing membership total is 176 which results in a 90% retention rate. Why is that? Our good looking crew? Dynamic hangar facilities? Talented wing members? Or is it that we just care a

bit about our hard working fellow wing members? Remember that the more members who join our group of warbird fans, the faster we can get these old airplanes flying and back into the air.

Our wing renewal forms will be in the mail soon for the 2009 membership drive. Stay informed, on board and in the information trail by completing your renewal form. Membership dues are \$50/per per member per year. Thanks again for being a supporting member of



the Gulf Coast Wing of the CAF. *Keep 'em Flying.*
Col Craig Freeland,
Wing Adjutant

TR's Move 11/22/08



Thanks to Col Kevin Hong for these photos.
And thanks to all the volunteers who spent
this Saturday moving TR.



PRESS CONFERENCE REVIEW

When a \$3 million vintage aircraft has no place to call home, people begin to take notice. To make the public aware of the plight, and to jump-start potential offers, the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing held a press conference at hangar ER-7 on November 13th, just a few days after Veterans Day. News releases were sent to national publications, local news organizations and to television and radio stations. Coverage was made and phone calls, emails and inquiries came from around the US.



CAF President Steve Brown at the Press Conference.



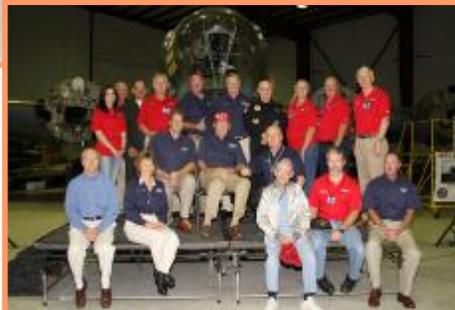
TV channels 2, 11 and 13 covered the event, and Col Don Price appeared on the morning show at TV channel 26,

Although some offers were attractive, the most feasible came from our current landlord, Million Air, who offered shared space on the west side of Hobby Airport in an older hangar with space sufficient for working on Texas Raiders. It's not everyday that Airport Operators get a call for B-17 hangar space, so the responses were enlightening.

Veterans were on hand to add color to the media coverage. Col Van Skiles provided insight into the



history of Texas Raiders and its importance to the CAF. Several wing members were also available to help with parking, answering questions and to provide directions in and around this vintage aircraft. Thanks goes to the whole crew in helping with this event. Your professionalism and sincerity in making this a special press conference is greatly appreciated. It worked!!



Notes, Updates and a Wish List for Hangar ER-5

Please understand that we are happy to have a roof over Texas Raiders and a place to finish our restoration work, but be aware of a few things. There is electricity in this hangar but the electrical outlets are few and overstressed. We need "portable" lights, as we will probably tax the 110-volt outlets (P.S. the circuit breaker is in the atrium, south-side of hangar). Parking is in the front, street-side and on the side of the hangar. PLEASE LOCK YOUR CAR/TRUCK, as thievery is more prevalent at this location. At the moment, the only access is via gate & key, then a combination lock to the hangar. More info will follow, but please try to attend the wing meeting on the 13th for more detailed information. Right now, THERE ARE NO FLUSHING TOILETS, the electricity along some walls is inoperative, and lights are somewhat inadequate. It will take time, but we're trying to get these items corrected as soon as possible. Any donated items as listed to the right are appreciated. Please forward donations to Col Bud Bearce, Supply Officer.

Dear Santa: We Need Help.!

We've been good boys and girls and if possible we sure could use:

- Halogen or portable lights
- Extension cords
- Shop lights
- Home Depot gift cards

We'll leave cookies and milk if you could just help us with this. Or if anyone could help that would be super !!

Wing Awards Dinner
Saturday FEB 07, 2009
 American Legion—
 Ellington Field

GULF COAST WING

Col Sandy Thompson
 Gulf Coast Wing—CAF
 Public Information Officer
 113 Coldwater Creek Lane
 Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

Phone 817 341 1541
 FAX 817 341 2075
 Email

B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org
info@gulfcoastwing.org

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 - December 2008

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....Col Don Price.....	don_price56@hotmail.com	713 988 2765
Adjutant.....Col Craig Freeland.....	craig@swtrgroup.com	281 298 1818
Finance Officer.....Col Mark Allen.....	mallen@triconex.com	832 493 1368
Bomber Opns.....Col Walt Thompson.....	txraiders@uwmil.com	817 341 1541
Executive Officer.....Col Wayne Kennedy.....	wfkennedy@swbell.net	281 855 2520
Fighter Opns.....Col Jim Ryan.....	tora113@yahoo.com	979 233 5919
Safety Officer.....Col Ky Putnam.....	713 683 8930
Supply Officer.....Col Bud Bearce.....	budk5jgu@hal-pc.org	713 864 7435
Maintenance Ofcr....Col David Carr.....	dc@dcarr.org	817 907 1998

Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

Webmaster.....Col Mike Daly.....	mnmcaf@comcast.net	281 807 7765
Public Info Officer...Col Sandy Thompson...	thompsonb17@uwmil.com	817 341 1541
PX Officer.....Col Marsha Daly.....	mnmcaf@comcast.net	281 807 7765
Morale Officer.....Col Suzie Bredlau.....	rikkysue@aol.com	281 398 6977
Development Ofcr...Col Don Outler.....	djoutler@comcast.net	281 486 1830

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



Col Sandy Thompson
 Gulf Coast Wing CAF
 113 Coldwater Creek Lane
 Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

