



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



IMPORTANT DATES

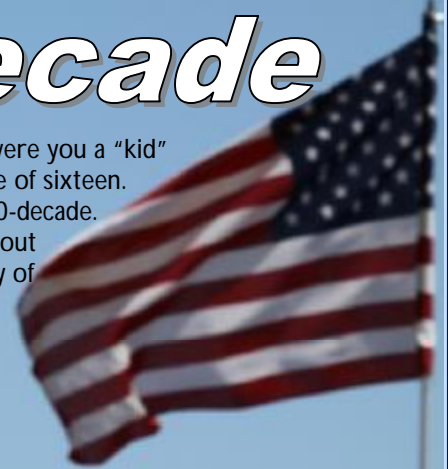
- **SATURDAY, DEC 11**
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1100hrs—Wing Meeting
1200hrs—Potluck
1300hrs—Work on TR
- **SATURDAY, JAN 08**
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1100hrs—Wing Meeting
1200hrs—Potluck Lunch
1330hrs—New Members Orientation TJC
1300hrs—Maintenance work on TR at TJC
- **SATURDAY, FEB 05**
Staff and Wing Meeting and Awards Banquet

Volume III Issue XI

DECEMBER 05, 2010

A New Decade

Remember the day you turned thirteen? No longer were you a “kid” and oh how you wanted to finally reach the great age of sixteen. Well, here we are entering the next nine years of the 2010-decade. As we fly into the future there are numerous questions about the future of these warbirds, the fuel they use, the security of



our aviation system, and the preservation of what we consider to be national “treasures”. You can help answer these questions through your continued participation in the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing. Your tax-deductible dollars spent in helping restore, preserve and maintain these aircraft cements your investment in the future of the aircraft and to the youth who admire the spirit of flight. TEXAS RAIDERS has come a long way from the 2002 grounding. Let’s continue the progress through 2011 and into the “teens” of this decade. Happy New Year and may your Holidays be filled with family love and bright cheer. *Sandy Thompson, Editor*

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Wish List for Santa

DEAR SANTA Two of our members have, most generously, supplied us with the blue paper towels and WD-40 that we consume so rapidly. However, another donation in this department, by other members, would be most appreciated. We are also still looking for a portable 10' x 12' (+/-) tool shed to place outside the hangar by our air compressor for spray painting and to house our bead blaster. We also use a wide variety of abrasives, cleaners, lubricants, etc. that can readily be purchased from Home Depot or Lowes--so a gift card would be a most handsome donation to GCW!

All the best for the Holiday Season,
Your GCW Maintenance Team Elves

Here are *just a few of Santa’s Elves* but many more help each week.



Greetings - From the Wing Leader

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Wing is growing and the B17 is showing signs of improvement during its Winter Maintenance period.

It is hard to tell all the new people apart at the hangar lately and that is a GREAT problem to have. Time will cure it, but until it does I would like to go over a few things that will help keep everyone in good shape:

(a.) TEXAS RAIDERS is governed by the regulations of the FAA regarding maintenance issues. The easiest way to make certain we stay out of trouble is to check with the Maintenance Officer- Col. Chuck Conway, before undertaking projects on the airplane. If he should happen to not be there then check with one of the other Staff Officers like Bud Bearce or myself to make certain we are keeping the B17 legal.

(b.) All of the older hands have heard this before, but for the new Cols. it is important to follow good housekeeping rules and what are known as BEST PRACTICES when working on the plane. Always put your tools and supplies up when working on the plane and clean up any messes before you leave for the day. We can never know what the status of a project is if you are not there to tell us, so it is best to remove all tools from the airplane at the end of your workday so that the next worker can find the tools in the tool box. If you are ALWAYS doing this- Thank You! If you are not, we need you to get with the clean and safe program ASAP!

(c.) Likewise, it is imperative to keep the hangar neat. No one is assigned the duty of cleaning up after anyone else, so please keep up the good job we have been seeing of throwing away your own drink cans and cups. Since we are renting hangar space it makes a better impression on our landlords if we have our act squared away. And it makes a better impression on any potential new members checking us out.

(d.) As new people come in they tend to get excited and there is a tendency for them to go out and negotiate "deals" for what they think we might need for items or services. ALWAYS check with the appropriate Staff Officer before you do that because the CAF has to approve any obligations requiring contracts or certain dollar amounts. I wouldn't mention ANY of this if the unit hadn't seen it happen more than once.

On to more good news. The GCW will have representation at the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) this month so we are looking forward to many great missions.

We are already trying to anchor a mission around the 381st Bomb Group re-union in August of 2011. It will be at Colorado Springs, home of the Air Force Academy. TEXAS RAIDERS has been away from the circuit for so long it is in demand and that will mean many great crew opportunities in the new year.

A New Year means dues will be due for the Wing in January. And we should see the distribution of proceeds from Wings Over Houston. We will need to apply a large part of the B17s portion to the ANUAC and Insurance fees, as well as the usual Wing financial audit costs due to Headquarters.

But all in all we are moving in the right direction.

Col Don Price— CAF Gulf Coast Wing Leader



"We can never know what the status of a project is if you are not there to tell us, so it is best to remove all tools from the airplane at the end of your workday so that the next worker can find the tools in the tool box."

Maintenance Officer's Report

Much has been accomplished so far with our Winter Maintenance program.....

The bomb-bay doors are in work, replacing the splines that were twisted and adjusting as necessary.

All of the friction washers for the prop controls have been replaced and the prop. handles have been adjusted for alignment.

Both brake de-boost valves have been rebuilt with new seat balls, "o-rings" and gaskets. Installed back on TR and tested.

All of the valve covers (18 per engine) have been removed, cleaned, checked for flatness, and re-installed with new gaskets, Hi-temp RTV, and nuts.

The Cheyene tail section has been removed, the guns removed and modifications made to secure the guns in the tail section.

The rudder has been removed, delivered to San Antonio, trim tab assembly removed, ready for paint and installation in the new rudder which should be back on TR by January.

All the bombs have been sanded down, repaired, and painted.

The engine throttles have been adjusted for alignment and correct stops.

Several instruments have been removed for calibration and repair at Ellington.

Arrangements have been made for new tires to be installed at a reduced price.

The engines will be pressured washed along with the wheel wells, before TR comes out of Winter Maintenance.

Lots of touch up painting is being done.



Even though we had a very good year last year, your maintenance team is working very hard to have an even better year this year. Got some time, don't mind getting your hands dirty, want bragging rights about working on one of only ten flying B-17's in the USA? Then come out and help us keep our flying museum flying.

Col. Chuck Conway— Gulf Coast Wing Maintenance Officer

Executive Officer's Report



Fellow Gulf Coast Wing Colonels.....I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We all have a lot to be thankful for. Speaking of giving thanks, I am sending out an update in regards to the Wreaths Across America Houston on Saturday, December 11th. All volunteers that are planning on attending and assist in placing the wreaths, please read the following:

- Parking – There is limited parking within the cemetery. There will be free parking available at Greenspoint Mall and there will be shuttle buses running from 0830 until 1500. Park at the entrance to Sears and you will see the Wreaths Across America tent and bus stop. From what info I have been given from Sam Hoynes at West Houston Squadron, there will be added security in the Greenspoint

Mall parking area.

- The ceremony starts promptly at 1100 and will last about 30 minutes, followed by wreath laying.
- This is a rain or shine event.
- Dress comfortably for walking distances through the grass. Please wear your Texas Raiders red shirt and dark trousers or Commemorative Air Force shirt and khaki trousers to identify yourself with the Commemorative Air Force.
- Kids are welcome, just be aware of the amount of people that will be there that day.
- Arrive early, people start arriving as early as 0800. I would like to see all of us CAF Colonels to be there by 0830 at the tent so we can travel over to the cemetery on the bus together and be part of the event together.

With the Christmas season coming up, please be safe in your travels. I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011.

Semper Fi

Col Wayne Kennedy

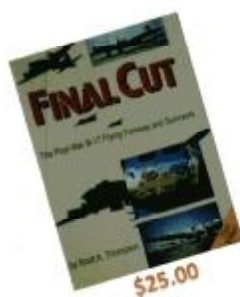
PX UPDATE AND NEWS



Finish your Holiday shopping at the GCW PX

Got someone on your Christmas list who's really hard to buy for...the person who has EVERYTHING??? Books are always the perfect gift. Call or email me (281-620-5639 px@gulfcoastwing.org) and I will deliver your order to the December Wing Meeting on December 11. No trips to the mall required and no shipping charges...can't beat that !

We accept checks,
Cash or Credit Cards.
If you have questions regarding other CAF & GCW patches, shirts, pins, etc. email or call me before the 11th of December.



Col. Vicki Thomas
Commemorative Air Force
Gulf Coast Wing - PX Officer
281.620.5639 (cell)

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2011

Annual Wing Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

Houston Hobby Airport Marriott Hotel
\$29 Per Person
Full Menu, Dessert and Beverages

The Silent Auction is always a surprise, with artifacts, and unique items of worthy bidding. So take a look in your attic, back office or your grandmother's closet for those quaint items to be donated.

All Proceeds benefit the Gulf Coast Wing

Col Don Outler, Wing Development Officer djoutler@comcast.net
Col Suzie Bredlau, Wing Morale Officer rikysue@aol.com

Welcome New Gulf Coast Wing Members

Col Ben Anderson—(returning member)
Col Gary Barber
Col Dan Dunn
Col Jim Fry—(returning member)
Col Steven Green
Col Charles Guilbeau
Col Patrick Hines
Col Kenzie Lucas
Col Ryan More
Col Mark Powell
Cadet Nicholas Schaps
Cadet Catherine Young
Cadet Andrew Young

Be sure to give these new members a warm welcome and offer your help when you see them.



B-17 Operations Update

1. **EXPECTATIONS for 2011**—Two of our B-17 crew members are attending ICAS (International Council of Airshows) in Las Vegas this upcoming week. From this event, we are hoping to land a couple of air show venues for 2011. One tour-stop which is being planned is the 381st BG Reunion held in Colorado Springs August 10-through-14, 2011. Among our goals for the upcoming year is to not only train our new incoming wing members on the skills of touring with TEXAS RAIDERS, but to refine the skills of those who have experienced touring with this very vintage WWII bomber. Our expected B-17 Ground School (held every spring) should be scheduled for sometime in the first half of **MARCH, 2011**. We have inspected a couple of locations in and around the Tomball and Spring area, but will announce the date and location within the next several weeks ahead.
2. **CREW UNIFORMS**—It is never too early to prepare your uniforms for 2011. We want to avoid last minute scrambles in putting our uniform in place, when we are showcasing TEXAS RAIDERS (TR) to the public, or holding a revenue ride here at Hooks Airport next spring. If you have nomex flight suits, but do not have a leather name tag, you can either order these online at the CAF Headquarters Gift Shop website or from Holicks of Bryan/College Station. If you need a red TEXAS RAIDERS crew shirt, contact our PX Officer, Col Vicki Thomas. CAF, Crew-Patches and US-Flag patches are also available from the PX Officer. Be advised that TR red crew shirts are to be worn by CAF, GCW members only. These uniforms are not to be worn by non-CAF non-GCW members.
3. **CAF WINTER STAFF CONFERENCE**—This event is scheduled for February 24—27, 2011 at CAF Headquarters in Midland, Texas. The conference is held every year, and encompasses the administrative spectra of aircraft operations, finance, unit-merchandising, membership recruiting, and public relations. All members are invited with emphasis being on the attendance from unit-officers. The headquarters hotel for this event is the Hilton Garden Inn in Odessa (432) 366-5800 at a discounted rate of \$85/night. When reserving the lodging, request the “CAF” rate.
4. **JANUARY “NEW MEMBERS” ORIENTATION**—We are fortunate to be a unit with an influx of new CAF and GCW members. To help acquaint the members with the CAF and with our unit, we will hold a new members orientation after the regularly scheduled wing-meeting, January 8 at 1:30pm in the conference room at TJC.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the flight operations, please feel free to contact me at

txraidiers@uwmil.com or 817 341 1541.

Col Walt Thompson, Bomber Opns Officer



ADJUTANT'S REQUEST

Each year we ask for a renewal of your Gulf Coast Wing membership. If you are a NEW wing member who has only recently joined (in October, November or December of 2010) you are not required to resubmit new dues, and will not need to renew until 2012. We are fortunate this year to have reached the "200" mark in our wing membership, thanks to the recruiting efforts of our wing-members, and to the attraction of the vintage aircraft in our unit.

A renewal form (page 7) is found in this newsletter. If you would complete the application, complete your check payable to **CAF—Gulf Coast Wing**, we'll show your status as active for the 2011 calendar year. If you live outside of the United States, please provide a credit card number on your renewal form in lieu of sending a check (never send cash). You must be a CAF member in good standing (current dues paid) to join/renew with the Gulf Coast Wing. Payment of your Gulf Coast Wing dues without CAF current membership results in your payment as a "donation" to the Gulf Coast Wing without wing-membership benefits. Wing membership benefits include ability to vote in elections, ability to wear the wing uniforms, participation in wing-committees, attendance and certification in B-17 Ground School, crew member-training, and eligibility to hold wing office. Note that GCW Cadets cannot hold wing office and cannot be titled "Colonel".

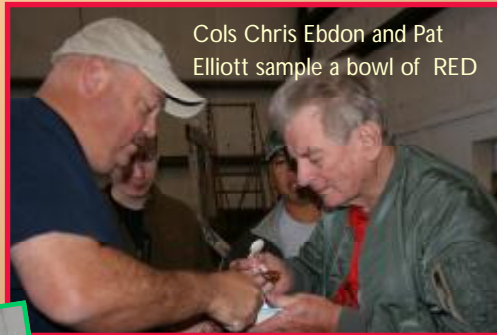
Thanks for your continued support of the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing.

Col Craig Freeland—Gulf Coast Wing Adjutant

2010 Chili Cookoff



Chili Cookoff Winner, Bill Roach



Cols Chris Ebdon and Pat Elliott sample a bowl of RED



Ummmm..... Don't know About this one



Cols Kevin Hong, Pat Elliott, Chris Ebdon and Suzie Bredlau inspecting the pots

Not only was the Chili a real culinary test, but the voting was churning out on the sidelines. The November 13th event was well attended and the chili winner, Col Bill Roach went home with "Braggin' Rights" in his corner again.

Thanks to all who attended, voted and participated. Photos by Col S. Thompson



Cols Scott and Pati Royce register to vote as Cols Kathy Doucette and Randy Wahlberg supervise.



GULF COAST WING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



It's time to renew your membership, and we want to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for your continued trust and participation with our unit, The Gulf Coast Wing. Please review the information listed below. If items are listed incorrectly for you, please line through and correct them. If sections are missing, or you have new additions (ex: new sponsorships or new Lifetime membership), please add these. Membership Renewals and dues are \$50 and are due by the 28th of February, 2011 for inclusion into the 2011 Directory. *(Exception – If you joined the CAF & GCW in October/November/December of 2010, wing-renewal dues for 2011 are not required until February of 2012)*

We have a new section on the renewal form. Many of you previously, have contributed more than the \$50 renewal amount which has helped the wing greatly. These additional amounts have been deposited into the General Wing Account to cover a variety of local wing expenses. Now you can identify where you want these extra monies to be spent. (See Below).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME _____ Col ID # _____ Life Mbr # _____
 Address _____ Spouse: _____
 Address _____ Member Since: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ (H)
 Phone _____ (W)
 Phone _____ (cell)
 Phone _____ (fax)
 Email _____

Sponsorship Information I sponsor the following aircraft:

Name of Plane	Model	Full Sponsor	Restoration	Supporting

_____ My renewal dues of \$50 are enclosed (Payable to the CAF – Gulf Coast Wing)

_____ My renewal dues of \$50 and an additional \$ _____ are enclosed. I want the extra money to be deposited into:
 _____ General B-17 Maintenance Account _____ Dog and Burger Society (lunch) Funds
 _____ TORA General Maintenance Account _____ Scholarships for Selected Members
 _____ Doesn't matter. Wherever you think it's needed.

Send your check Payable to CAF – Gulf Coast Wing to:

Col Craig Freeland
 Gulf Coast Wing Adjutant
 SWTR Group – Suite 201
 5600 Northwest Central Dr
 Houston, TX 77092



WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW

www.wingsoverhouston.com

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

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.....	mark.allen@iinvensys.com	832 493 1368
Bomber Opns.....	Col Walt Thompson....	txraiders@uwmail.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 Chuck Conway....	chucksautoelectric@sbcglobal.net	281 482 8980

Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

Webmaster.....	Col Herb Duncan.....	duncanenterprises@gmail.com	
Public Info Officer...	Col Sandy Thompson...	thompsonb17@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
PX Officer.....	Col Vicki Thomas.....	vthomas4@comcast.net	281 303 8008
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 9310 Max Conrad Drive, Spring TX 77379

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

