



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing CAF



IMPORTANT DATES

- SATURDAY, DEC 10
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1100hrs—Wing Meeting ,
1200hrs — Potluck
1300hrs—Work on TR at TJC
- TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS
and SATURDAYS—Work
on TR at TJC. Help is needed
with maintenance assistance and
with cooking /serving lunch to
the workers.
- SATURDAY, JAN 10
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1100hrs—Wing Meeting
1200hrs—Potluck
1300hrs—Work on TR at TJC

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Volume IV Issue VVI

DECEMBER 01, 2011

Riding Through 2011

It's fairly obvious that the B-17 rides program produces needed revenue for the Gulf Coast Wing to survive, throughout the year. In October, we receive the share of *Wings Over Houston's* profit — and that helps if the weather is good and the crowds are plentiful. We have been fortunate during 2011 to have received \$122,795 directly from the Rides Program. Expenses directly related to the rides program (Supporting Member Applications ie. all rides expensed at \$55 per passenger) were \$15,125. More information will be included in the Bomber Operations update included in this issue. But nonetheless you can see the importance of conducting rides as it relates to our bottom line.

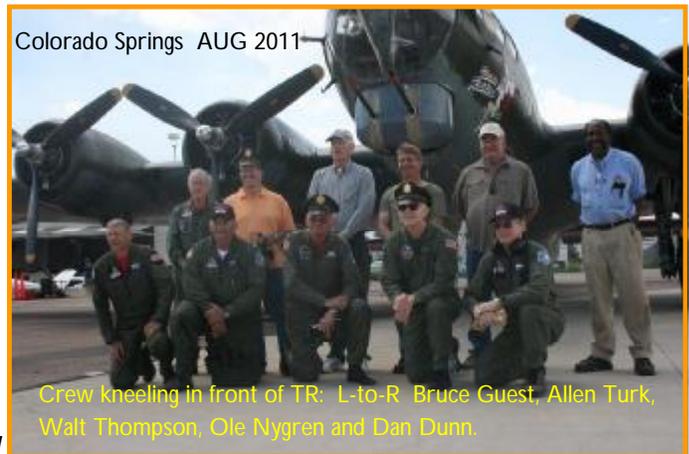
In addition to the money side, we are very blessed to have a wonderful crew, trained in providing safe transportation for our passengers and eager to bring to life the history that TEXAS RAIDERS represents. It

is obvious to us that we present one of the finest "Living History Flight Experience" to our passengers, in that we as a crew take the time to make each one of the eight passengers remember our service. Looking at other B-17s along our summer touring experience, we often see a "get-'em-on-and

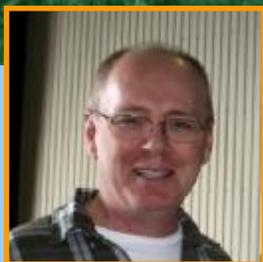
get-'em-off" rapid process, where the passengers don't meet the crew and don't receive a memorable photo such as that noted here above. We want our passengers to remember TEXAS RAIDERS and the history this aircraft represents.

So it is appropriate at this time of the year to thank all of you who helped this year in seeing that this Rides program was not only profitable (to the extent that it could be) but special to our passengers. Our maintenance team is to be commended for their diligence, expertise and efficiency in replacing the two fuel boost pumps (on the road) and the replacement of #3 engine. We couldn't do this without that special help.

Sandy Thompson—Editor



From the Wing Leader



Be of Good Cheer

This New Year's Eve we are partnering up with Tomball Jet Center to put on a party. The details are probably known to you by now. There will be Wine, Women and Song. I had hoped to quietly slip out of the Wing Leader's position and enjoy retirement dusting off my awards. But alas, t'was not to be!

Last month I gave everyone the downside of Wing Leader-hood, so this month I decided to give everyone the upside. These four years past have been rewarding in so many ways.

The first flight for obviously reasons was just pure unadulterated victory. And my second flight -testing the rudder repair -was unforgettable. Al and Rick pointing her down 20 degrees and pouring the coals on made my hair stand on end. Wait a minute... IF I had had hair it would have stood on end.

My third flight took us to Ellington for 2009 Wings Over Houston but what made that flight special to me was that we circled over my Grand-parents' house in Baytown three or four times. My parents were married in that house. While they are all gone I do not doubt their spirits were with me. Experiencing the Bomber on tour for three weeks in 2010 and getting the chance to fly from the right seat was just incredible. Sharing those moments with you all would take another book, not just a Wing Leaders' letter.

All of those were the tactile benefits of this job. The sense of accomplishment at MANY points along the way is just as important. You all have helped me grow as a Project Manager and that discipline is helping me in my job, my car restoration work, and in my life. Sharing these experiences, both flight and personal, made all the bad times worth it and all the good times exceptional!

The next phase of my development is going to be towards getting the tickets punched that I need as a pilot. Giving Cols Attaboy rides is not the sole reason for my buying the PT-26. But it certainly is gratifying to share the fun of flying a warbird with so many of you who have worked so hard on TEXAS RAIDERS. The next two jobs I have mapped out for myself are getting formation qualified and getting some aerobatic training in.

The next CAF related job I have mapped out is getting a permanent home for the B-17 and a Museum to enhance our standing. From there I would like to see the GCW add additional aircraft.

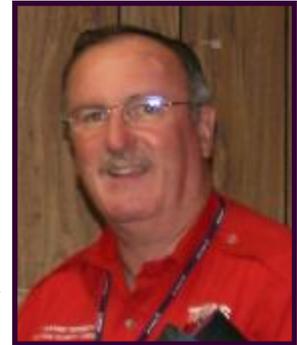
So you can tell I've set my sights on a nice quiet retirement... I'm getting worn out just contemplating it all!

God Bless You All and thanks for a GREAT four years!

See you at the hangar,

Col Don Price— CAF Gulf Coast Wing Leader

Executive Officer's Report



Fellow Colonels,

As this year approaches its "short final" for touch down, we have many things to reflect on - our many missions accomplished and the many, many hours of love and attention put into "Texas Raiders". I wish to tank everyone for their hard work and dedication - our Maintenance Crew, our PX Crew, our Revenue Rides Crew and certainly our Wings Over Houston Volunteers as well as our many volunteers who assist the many show and tour stops. As we all know, it takes a LOT of work and dedication to operate the many facets of the Gulf Coast Wing.

As of this writing (November 29th), the Wings Over Houston Board of Directors have announced a \$75,000 disbursement to each unit. Our share is \$37,500. It was a great air show.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I wish each and every one of you and your families a Very Merry Christmas. Please be safe in all of your travels - whether they be short or long. Watch out for the other guy on the highway, the other's inattention may get you in a bad predicament.

Merry Christmas and Semper Fi

Col Wayne Kennedy, Executive Officer

Wing Elections 2011

Our annual Gulf Coast Wing Staff Elections were held SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th at the Hangar, TJC and the following candidates were elected on an uncontested slate:

WING LEADER.....Col John Stofer
 ADJUTANT.....Col Don Outler
 BOMBER OPS OFFICER.....Col Walt Thompson
 FINANCE OFFICER.....Col Kara Hueni



J. Stofer D. Outler W. Thompson K. Hueni

The jobs held by these officers are not without challenges. If you have the skills to assist in any fashion, please offer your assistance by contacting the above officers. Emails are listed below:

Col John Stofer.....jlstofer@aol.com
 Col Don Outler.....djoutler@comcast.net
 Col Walt Thompson.....txraiders@uwmil.com
 Col Kara Hueni.....karahueni@yahoo.com

These officers will assume responsibilities on January 01, 2012. We wish the best for their guidance and successful endeavors.

There will be appointed positions which the staff will consider in early 2012. If you are interested in assisting the staff in any area (morale officer, development officer, understudy to the PX Officer or to the Public Information Officer or any position), please contact one of the staff members offering your service.

Limited Avirex A-2 Leather Flight Jacket



Col R. B. "Doc" Hecker has offered up a Limited Avirex A-2 Jacket size 42 in excellent condition, for bidding. He will donate the successful bid amount...to a closing date of **DECEMBER 10, 2011** or \$500-max (which ever comes first) to the Gulf Coast Wing Maintenance Fund.

To Bid **before December 10, 2011**, contact Col Hecker at tcflyingdoc@yahoo.com or 210 391 1072 (cell)

Note: The first Air Force A-2 contract was awarded to Avirex, but all subsequent contracts from 1988 to 1998 were awarded to Neil Cooper USA, now U.S. Wings of Ohio. In 1999 Avirex was again awarded a contract to make A-2 jackets. (Source: *Wikipedia*)

CAF Wing Staff Conference

DATE: FEB 24—26, 2012
 LOCATION: CAF Headquarters—Bush Commemorative Center
 CAF HALL of FAME: Saturday, FEB 25 around 6:00pm at the Commemorative Center— Dinner & Inductions. Note: One of our long time wing-members, Col H.D. Butler will be inducted (*photo at right*).



This annual event is open to all CAF units/wings and their membership. The cost includes all seminars, general sessions, HOF Induction, lunches, and dinners. The registration cost is generally around \$80 per person. More information will follow soon, but keep this date in mind, and hopefully you'll consider attending.

Dear Santa

I have been good during 2011, and I don't even "pout", so what I'm going to ask for this Christmas is a bunch of helpful elves who will come in each week and help me clean up the hangar. We've been working hard on the B-17 and sometimes we let things get a little messy. So if it's not too much to ask for, then I'd be most thankful.

Your Friend....Col Bud

P.S. I'll leave some cookies & Milk.

I clean-up pretty darned good. Follow me ! Those cookies are yummy.....Elf Hong



Col Bud Bearce

Special Photos from 2011



Surviving 381st BG Reunion Veterans—Colorado Springs — AUG 2011
Photo by Kevin Hong



Photo by Kevin Hong — TEXAS RAIDERS Flyover at A.F. Academy

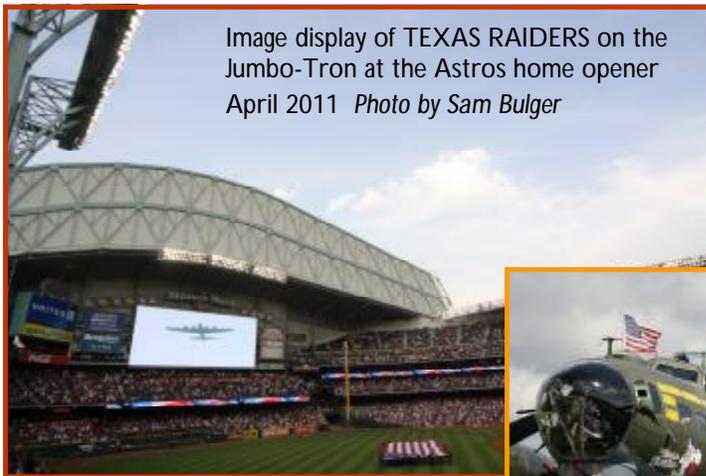


Image display of TEXAS RAIDERS on the Jumbo-Tron at the Astros home opener April 2011 Photo by Sam Bulger



Poodle Girls at Brenham — Photo By Kevin Bailey

2011 Kevin Bailey



What an experience from inside TR— TORA in flying formation Photo by Judy Bell

Thanks to these great
CAF photographers !



I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all Gulf Coast Wing members a very Merry Christmas, a Jolly New Year and Happy Holidays being shared with your families. It seems that the Gulf Coast Wing is a part of our family and for that we feel pretty fortunate.

B-17 Operations Update

1. **FINANCIAL RESULTS of 2011**— As Col Wayne Kennedy noted on page 3, the financial share split between the West Houston Squadron and the Gulf Coast Wing is \$75,000. This helps pay our bills. But as noted on page one, we had financial stability throughout the touring season with revenue from the B-17 Revenue Rides as well. Here's what we ended up with: Total income from Tours, Rides and Appearance Fees were \$146,469. Total expenses from Supporting Membership Fees, Oil & Gas, Lodging, Advertising and ground transportation were \$71,655.76. This left us with an Operations cash flow of \$71,655.24. This was a slight decrease over 2010 when we had an Operations cash flow of \$74,657.14. Most of this difference is attributed to Fuel & Oil expenses (\$26,974=2010 versus \$47,243=2011)
2. **REVENUE RIDES PROGRAM 2011**—Sandy has trained ten (10) wing members in the dynamics of Revenue Rides processing. We hope to set the time aside again in early 2012 for additional training on this. Your volunteer efforts in handling the processing of Revenue Rides can result in additional revenue for 2012. Thanks to those who have stepped up to become versed in this procedure. We appreciate it.
3. **B-17 GROUND SCHOOL 2012**— A date for the upcoming 2012 B-17 Ground School will be announced in the next few weeks. We want to coordinate the timing with other events such as TORA practice, early air shows and special flyover events. During 2011 we were fortunate to re-enter the TORA act demonstration at both Midland's AIRSHO as well as WINGS OVER HOUSTON. Look for more of this in 2012. Also, be sure your CAF renewal dues are current along with your Gulf Coast Wing renewal dues. Our B-17 Ground School is open (and monitored) to just an elite group — current dues paid members ! Keep your eyes open for correspondence from Col Don Outler regarding renewals.

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

txraiders@uwmail.com or 817 341 1541.

Col Walt Thompson—Bomber Ops Officer

SAVE THE DATE - 04 FEB 2012

GULF COAST WING ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

WHERE: Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel, 3000 North Loop West Freeway, Houston, TX
 WHAT: Dinner, Silent Auction, Speaker, Awards and much more
 COST: \$30-per-person

How you should plan: Save the date, invite your friends and family. Bring a silent-auction item to help benefit the CAF Gulf Coast Wing. In the past, we've had some really great items donated (Airline Tickets, W.O.H. Chalet space and even a Mink Coat). More information soon-



**WINGS OVER HOUSTON
AIRSHOW**

OCT 27—OCT 28 2012

FEATURING—THE BLUE ANGELS

www.gulfcoastwing.org

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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

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....Col Don Price.....	don_price56@hotmail.com	713 988 2765
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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. Cadet memberships for ages 13-23 are \$45/year. Membership forms are found on our website at www.gulfcoastwing.org



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