



COWL FLAPS

The News Magazine of the Gulf Coast Wing

VOLUME XI

ISSUE 8

AUGUST, 2017

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Photo by Kevin Hong
Photo submitted by Wayne Kennedy

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 12: Monthly Wing Meeting
- Sept 8 - 11: Altus, OK - Altus AFB Air Show
- Sept 9: Monthly Wing Meeting
- Sept 15: Midland TX - Airsho
- Sept 18 - 21: Albuquerque, NM - Barnstorm
- Sept 22 - 24: Colorado Springs, CO - Pikes Peak Airshow

Saturday, August 12, is our next wing meeting. The Staff meetings will start at 9:00 AM. The General Membership meeting afterward will start approximately 11:30 AM. Maintenance Colonels wishing to work on Texas Raiders should show up around 9:00 AM. All members are encouraged to come out and contribute time, expertise and camaraderie to the occasion. After the general meeting, we will have the standard potluck lunch. Please bring something with you: drinks, an entrée, fruit or vegetable tray, desserts, or any thing you want. While monetary contributions to the lunch are appreciated, we need more people to bring food, otherwise we will not have enough food for everyone.

TEAMWORK - RESPECT - AMBASSADORSHIP - COMMUNICATION

Fellow Colonels

It is my pleasure to introduce to you our newly appointed Safety Officer, Per Barsten. Per has a significant aviation and aerospace background, of which safety is an important integral part. You will hear more from Per in this issue. Welcome to the Staff, Per.

WING LEADER'S

REPORT

Wayne F. Kennedy

wfkennedy@swbell.net



Team – as you have read in a previous article, I have always considered our Gulf Coast Wing as being the best wing in the CAF. I still feel that way but we need to apply a few refinements.

I will again break down the following four words that comprise our motto with their definition.

- **Teamwork** - The combined action of a group of people, especially when **effective and efficient**.
- **Respect** – A feeling of deep admiration for **someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements**.
- **Ambassadorship** – An official envoy; especially; a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his or her own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment. **An authorized messenger or representative**.
- **Communication** – The imparting or exchanging of information or news. **The act or process of using words, sounds, signs, or behaviors to express or exchange information or to express your ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc., to someone else**.

You are probably asking yourself why is this old decrepit Wing Leader bringing this up? Well it is very simple – we are all falling short of achieving these traits of our motto.

TRAC means a LOT to me. In my 24 years of military experience, the application of those four simple terms made a difference whether a unit was “TOP NOTCH” or was on the verge of self-destruction.

- We all must work together as a **team**. This statement is not meant to mean “only if you want to” or “only if I like this person”. **This means working together as a TEAM with every one within our membership**.
- We **MUST** also show mutual respect to everyone we encounter; whether it be a fellow wing member or anyone else. We **MUST** be true ambassadors within our ranks. We should **NEVER** encounter any individual in an aggressive tone or demeanor – especially in front of our guests. Each and every one of the people we encounter, whether they are buying a ride, taking a tour, or simply asking questions concerning our mission and our purpose, must be treated with the utmost respect.

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- We are true ambassadors of the Gulf Coast Wing. We represent our unit and everything our units stands for.
- We should always communicate in a positive and respectful manner.

As I said above, I consider our unit as the best unit in the CAF. Let us all strive to do our absolute best to reflect our motto with all persons we come in contact with.

Team – it is that time of the year that we seek volunteers and select a Nominations Committee and an Election Committee. Our Wing Election Meeting will be held on the third Saturday of November, November 18th. The following is taken from the CAF Unit Manual, Section 2:

Nominating Committee/Nominees – The Unit Staff, including the Unit Leader, will appoint a nominating committee by a majority vote. The committee will be made up of three or more unit members in good standing, which will offer a slate of officers. This Committee shall place into nomination the names of those members who are selected. The Nominating Committee is tasked to review all nominees, and using their judgement, personal knowledge of the best nominees, knowledge of the CAF and the duties required by each position, pick the best possible nominee(s) for each position open for election. There is no specific number of nominees that must be named for each open position open for election. There may be times when two or more equally qualified nominees step forward. The Nominating Committee's report to the Unit Staff and Election Committee must be done in a timely manner. The Unit must allow time for the election meeting date announcement and presentation of nominees to the membership. This should be done not later than 30 days prior to the election meeting date to provide time for the membership to review the candidates nominated for each position.

- 1) A list of Nominees for Unit staff positions shall be submitted to the President at CAF Headquarters for review at least 10 days prior to the election meeting. The nominee's record of service shall be included on the nomination list that is forwarded to Headquarters for review prior to the election date. Failure to complete this review of nominees may result in the Unit's election being valid.
- 2) Nominations from the floor shall be recognized if the nominees meet the requirements and prior agreement to serve is obtained from the Nominee. **Floor Nominees for Unit Leader must meet the requirements stated under the Unit Leader's position description to stand as a candidate for Unit Leader.**
- 3) Nominees for Unit staff officer positions shall be current dues paid members in good standing with the Unit and the CAF. In good standing indicated that the nominees have paid all membership fees and/or other financial obligations prior to the scheduled election date. The actions to meet all financial obligations should be completed no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled election date. It is preferred that the nominees have at least two years of unbroken service as a member in good standing with the Unit and the CAF prior to serving on the

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4) Confirmation of Unit Staff Officers – Whether elected or appointed, the name of each Unit Staff Officer shall be submitted to the Staff Headquarters Administrative Staff for confirmation. This shall be accomplished and duly completed prior to any member serving in any official Unit Staff capacity.

Election Committee:

1) The Unit Staff shall appoint an Election Committee of three Unit members in good standing to conduct the annual Unit Staff elections each year. The Election Committee member's duties are to conduct the annual Unit Staff elections each year. The Election Committee member's duties are to conduct the election, mail the absentee ballots (if used), tabulate and report the results of the balloting and hold the absentee ballots as outlined in this section of the Unit Manual. The Election Committee members must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Unit Staff.

UNIT STAFF OFFICER POSITIONS THAT WILL BE VOTED IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Unit Leader:

Minimum requirements, per CAF policy, include at least two years as a CAF member in good standing, background in military or business management, ability for good public appearance, adept at public speaking, a positive demeanor and preferably have a background in aviation. He or she shall be responsible for providing overall leadership and direction for the Unit. As the Unit's CEO, the leader should be involved in all aspects of the Unit's operation. This does not mean that he/she has to manage every detail of the Unit's operation. That might be possible in a small Unit, but impossible for the larger Units. Like any CEO, the leader should be aware of what fellow volunteers are doing to support the CAF and Unit mission.

The Unit Leader is the public face of the organization and should be ready and willing to talk knowledgeably about the CAF and the Unit. He/she is also an ambassador for General Aviation in the community. Fostering a welcoming and open atmosphere at Unit meetings and events, guests will feel that they can be a part of the CAF family.

Among their specific duties are; current knowledge of CAF rules and regulations, preparation of Unit meeting agenda, serving as chairman at meetings, appointing various committee members, etc. The Unit Leader is also responsible for supervising the overall financial status of the Unit; ensuring accurate financial reports are made to Headquarters, the Unit staff and the Unit's membership.

Finance Officer: Shall have charge of all Unit funds collected, keep accurate records of such funds and is responsible for Unit compliance with all CAF regulations, policies and directives that relate to financial matters. He/she shall submit to CAF Headquarters, in a timely manner, all required reports.

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This officer insures that all monies and property donated shall become the property of the Commemorative Air Force, Inc., and used in accordance with CAF policies. A CAF Unit may be disbanded for failure to provide accurate and timely financial reports to Headquarters.

Specific duties include coordination of membership files with collection of dues, and payment of approved Unit debts. **He/she shall determine voting eligibility of members prior to Unit elections.** He/she oversees finances of all Unit projects and submits Unit records for audit on an annual basis and communicates with CAF Headquarters through the Secretary/Treasurer. His/her signature plus one more authorized Unit staff officers will appear on all Unit checks. See Unit Finance Guide for detailed information.

Adjutant Officer:

Shall record and maintain the permanent minutes of all Unit Staff meetings. He/she shall maintain suitable correspondence files concerning the business and activities of the Unit and assure that all required Unit reports are submitted to CAF Headquarters in a timely fashion. Further, he/she shall assist the Unit in the timely preparation and dissemination of such correspondence of a general nature. In coordination with the Finance Officer, he/she shall maintain the Unit personnel records. He/she shall advise the Headquarters' Membership Department of any changes of the Unit membership, and on a semi-annual (January and July) basis provide a roster of Unit members for verification and updating.

Development Officer:

The Development Officer is responsible for overseeing all development activities for the Unit, including creating a Culture of Philanthropy, and oversight of fundraising activities. This position assesses the potential for success of any fundraising activity/plan, and provides a recommendation to the Unit Officers. Clears all fundraising activities/plans with the Unit Officers, and as appropriate, with CAF Headquarters. Coordinates and ensures appropriate recognition of donors is completed in a timely manner – for both cash and in-kind donations. Point of Contact with CAF Headquarters is as follows:

Solicitation for funds from Foundations and Corporations with a national presence: Vice President of Development.

- 1) Solicitation for funds from Foundations and Corporations with a national presence: Vice President of Development.
- 2) Fundraising Events: Vice President of Operations and Maintenance
- 3) Fundraising Projects: CAF Secretary/Treasurer

Education Officer:

The Education Coordinator will support the national implementation of the CAF Rise Above National Education/Inspirational Programs at the unit level. These programs are designed to take the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen, WASP's and other key marginalized groups within the society, during WWII and showcase their struggle to achieve their goals, thereby relating the challenges of the past to the challenges faced today (with emphasis on young people). This person will also support the development of educational programs at the unit level and its integration into the community.

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As part of the Rose Above educational programs, this person will provide a communication connection point to share best practices between the other CAF units and Headquarters. This person will also from time to time participate in educational focus group activities to support the development of standards and protocols to continue the implementation of a national education program.

- 1) Develop interfaces and connections with the Headquarters Educational Team.
- 2) Liaison to special interest groups within the Units community and develop support for CAF.
- 3) Establish Guiding Principles of Educational/Inspirational story to support CAF wing programs.
- 4) Report metrics of inspirational impact and community involvement.
- 5) Be the public representative for CAF Education at the local unit.
- 6) Support the National Educational programs.
- 7) Be the communications hub for the unit educational outreach.

Please note: All voting staff officers are encouraged to attend the annual Wing Staff Conference in Dallas during the first quarter of 2018. More details will come out later.

Team – as you can see, I have covered essential info for the two needed committees and the requirements for the five elected unit staff positions that will be elected at our November meeting. Please consider volunteering for one of these committees and notify me via text or email if you would like to be part of the nominations committee or the election committee. If you would like to run for one of the five positions, please let the nominations committee know once it is established. We will notify you via the Cowl Flaps web blast when the committees are established.

Have a great and safe August. Stay cool and drink plenty of water.

Semper Fi !!! !! !!!

Wayne



FE Training Class

Topic for the August 12th FE Tech Session will be the “Electrical System” presented by Col Jim Hower. Flight Engineers’ input on the details of that Program is requested.

Session starts at 0930. Texas Raiders will be at the hangar for show-and-tell. FEs are requested to attend but all are welcome.

Lee Brown

Hello Gulf Coast Wing members!

It is shaping up to be a long, hot summer! We have had some highs and lows so far this season... We did absolutely fantastic on the Upper Midwest Tour in June. Texas Raiders started out at the Whiteman

AFB Airshow (home of the B-2 bomber), then worked her way up through Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, then home. Once the airplane got home, it was determined that we needed to change an engine and repair some fabric. Unfortunately, we were not able to get Texas Raiders up and running prior to Oshkosh and had to cancel the entire Tour. However, she is close to being ready to go, and we look forward to seeing you all at the next Rides Day at Gill Aviation at Hooks Airport on August 19!

OPERATION
OFFICER'S REPORT

Aric Aldrich
b17tourplanning@gmail.com



Wayne asked us all to talk a little bit about TRAC this month and what it means to us... TRAC stands for TEAMWORK, RESPECT, AMBASSADORSHIP, COMMUNICATION

Teamwork - while we are all the Gulf Coast Wing, I consider us all part of the Gulf Coast Team. Texas Raiders is a fantastic piece of history that is kept flying and touring, thanks to the nearly 200 members of the GCW. This airplane would not fly without each and every one of you participating in one way or another to keep her flying! It takes us all working together to make this happen! Teamwork is achieved by working together to further the mission of the Wing...

Respect - is admiration for someone because of their qualities, abilities, or achievements. We need to recognize the good that each member contributes to the Wing. We all have different traits, abilities, and strengths, all of which combined, makes for a great team!

Ambassadorship - we are all ambassadors of the Commemorative Air Force and Gulf Coast Wing. We are all representatives and must remember to conduct ourselves accordingly in the hangar, out in public, and on Tour. We want to present a professional image and impress the crowds and visitors with our dedication, professionalism, and knowledge. By doing so, we will draw more people who want to participate in our Wing.

Communication - is key! Many of us are not at the hangar weekly, or out on tour with the airplane all the time, so we have to communicate to know what is going on. All of the different work groups in the GCW must communicate to keep each other apprised of current events, so we can plan for future events. By the way, one of the best forms of communication for the membership in the GCW is the monthly newsletter, COWL FLAPS! Please read it so we can keep you informed of upcoming events, assistance needed, etc.

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We still have a busy tour season remaining and need everyone's help to git er done! Please see the schedule below and think about what you may want to do... John Alkire is now taking the lead on Tour Planning and is posting the bids for the rest of the season. If you wish to bid for a mission, please go to our website at www.B17TexasRaiders.org, log in to the "members" section and place your bid. Please see below for the rest of Texas Raiders 2017 Tour Season...

TOURING SCHEDULE

~~Aug 19 -- TOMBALL, TX Rides Day @ DW Hooks~~ **CANCELLED**

~~Sept 1-4 -- AUSTIN, TX Barnstorm over Labor Day Weekend~~ **CANCELLED**

Sept 8-11 -- ALTUS, OK Altus AFB Airshow

SEPTEMBER MISSION

Sept 15-17 -- MIDLAND, TX AIRSHO!

Sept 18-21 -- ALBUQUERQUE, NM Barnstorm

Sept 22-24 -- COLORADO SPRINGS, CO Pikes Peak Regional Airshow

Sept 25-28 -- DENVER, CO Barnstorm @ Centennial Airport

Sept 29-Oct 1 -- LUBBOCK, TX Barnstorm (Pending)

Oct 6-8 -- DALLAS, TX Wings Over Dallas Airshow @ CAF HQ

Oct 20-22 -- HOUSTON, TX Wings over Houston Airshow @ Ellington

Oct 26-30 -- NEW ORLEANS, LA WWII Airpower Expo 2017

Nov 2-4 -- SAN ANTONIO Kelly AFB Airshow (Pending)

Nov 11-12 -- CONROE, TX Rides Day @ General Aviation

Nov 14 BEGIN WINTER MAINTENANCE

Last, but not least, is the Twin Beech... The Beech is still not quite ready to fly rides. Maintenance has been focusing on Texas Raiders to get back in the air and on tour. Once TR is up and running and back on the road, we will focus on the Twin Beech and get her flying!

THANK YOU for all of the work each and every one of you do for the Gulf Coast Wing!

Sincerely,

Aric Aldrich

Sometimes in my role as Executive Officer, I take my Human Resources hat out of retirement. I put the HR hat on in the last couple of weeks as Wayne has talked to the staff about deploying the principles of **TRAC** – **T**eamwork, **R**espect, **A**mbassadorship and **C**ommunication. It's easy to agree to these principles in theory, but harder sometimes when emotions run high. And, truthfully, emotions can run high in the Wing, because all of us are here because we are led by our hearts. Nobody is here for a paycheck, and nobody is polishing his or her resume while elbow deep in grease and oil or cleaning up the hangar.

EXECUTIVE
OFFICER'S REPORT

Nancy Kwiecien
nkwiecien@suddenlink.net



What does TRAC look like on a daily basis? Here are a couple of specific things we can all do as Wing members to help support TRAC, to improve our effectiveness as an organization, and maintain good working relationships.

The “T” in TRAC is Teamwork, and it's the heart of how we operate. A critical part of being a team member is to be a member ALL the time – not just when things are going the way we like. We're a team when we're together in the hangar, and we're a team when we're apart. We can agree to disagree, but when the debate is over, it's time to end the discussion and go to work on the plan. That means we support each other – even if we have differing opinions. Sometimes we disagree on priorities, methods or strategies. But decisions and people are both respected. We don't talk badly about each other. Once a decision is made, the debate and criticism stops. It's okay to have another opinion, but it's not okay to interrupt work or operations by disparaging the plan or reopening or derailing a decision.

Ambassadorship implies external relationships, but ambassadorship operates internally, too. We must assume good intentions on the part of our colleagues. Immediately assuming ill intent, and worse, communicating those assumptions, is extremely toxic. So comments like “he was trying to make me look bad” or “she's just trying to get her way” are very damaging. I challenge every Wing member to speak up against that kind of chatter if you hear it. Assuming good intentions means I believe most of the time people do what makes sense to them. Sometimes we may not understand why – maybe there's just information missing, or a misunderstanding. But the starting place is an assumption of good will. Open communication follows. Asking a question (“Could you tell me more about that?” Or “Help me understand the next steps?”) is a good way to foster open communication among the crew.

Most of the time our Wing members work well together. I'm so proud to be part of the GCW and when we go on the road I'm always gratified to say, “I'm with the Gulf Coast Wing, the B-17 Texas Raiders.” By keeping these two principles top of mind – the assumption of good intentions, and team together / team apart -- we can ensure we continue to achieve our mission with pride and success.

Nancy

Hello GCW,

I write to you today to let you know where we stand for this month with Maintenance on Texas Raiders. During the last inspection, metal was found in the oil on number 4 engine, steel to be exact. The decision was made to remove and replace that engine that

day. Since we had another ready we felt like that would be a 2 week job. To our disappointment during removal we found that we were near a catastrophic failure that could have ended sadly. I won't get into the details but we had lots of parts that were near failure, and the cause of this problem would have been a simple fix had we seen it. We also have 2 cylinders to change on number 1 engine.

With that being said we are in the process of inspecting the entire airplane. We have found several things that are in dire need of repair, some due to the near failure of the number 4 engine. I am unwilling to accept anything less than a safe airplane leaving the hangar. We must be diligent and make sure we are acting in the best interest of the airplane, our fellow Wing members and our loyal customers/passengers. I have heard the term "nitpicking" and I don't appreciate it. This nitpicking has turned up several items that could have caused at least one more engine to fail and will be repaired this week. I have heard members asking when is the airplane going to be ready but they have not asked if they can help, not helpful at all.

Your Maintenance Team works hard. We are all volunteers and none of these folks signed on to take this as a full time job! It is hot, dirty and tiring work with long days, little thanks and no pay. We have several members of our Maintenance Team who are very unhappy because they have worked hard but it seems like more is now expected, we can only give so much. We are the last line of defense for the mechanical safety of the airplane and we take this seriously because there can be dire consequences and real jeopardy. Several of us have used vacation and personal time to work on the airplane when we possibly should have spent time at home or other places.

Annette and I just spent 6 days, a week of my vacation and 4500 miles to take 2 engines to Grangeville, Idaho for rebuild. This was necessary because we don't have another engine in reserve. It was long days of driving, several 15 hour days and a near tire failure. It was very productive because we now have a shop that can get our engines done much faster and reliably.

I appreciate our Maintenance Team more than I can say. They work tirelessly and spend a lot of their lives to make this airplane fly. They deserve our Respect and Thanks and I would appreciate all of you making a point to thank them. We also need You to come out and help!

Jed Doggett

281-773-4054

MAINTENANCE
OFFICER'S REPORT

Col Jed Doggett
doggett.jack@gmail.com



Fall is upon us! The Tour Planning team has put all but the very last finishing touches on the 2017 calendar. As usual, our dance card is very full for September and October. When relief from summer appears, the South and West go out to play and that means airshows! Some of our historically most successful events are coming up in the next eight weeks, including Wings Over Houston, Wings Over Dallas and the WWII Museum Airshow in New Orleans. In addition, TR will be returning to Colorado for the first time in four years, attending the Pike's Peak Regional Airshow. Check the website www.B17TexasRaiders.org members' page to post for upcoming missions. Meanwhile, here's a sampling of some of our ads from missions earlier this year, the art work created by our own Kevin Hong.

MARKETING REPORT

Nancy Kwiecien
nkwiecien@suddenlink.net



MONDAY, JUNE 12 - THURSDAY, JUNE 15

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

B-17 Texas Raiders

PT-26

SALUTE TO WORLD WAR II AMERICA TRAINS FOR WAR

Indy South Greenwood Airport
 897 Airport Parkway • Greenwood, IN 46143

Tours and Flights
 Monday, June 12
 Tours and flights begin at 1:00 PM

Tuesday, June 13 - Thursday, June 15
 Tours and flights begin at 10:00 AM

TEXAS RAIDERS
 B-17G

The Commemorative Air Force presents a weekend of vintage warbirds. See how America trained for war, and how everyday people became pilots -- first in trainer aircraft and ultimately piloting the mighty B-17 heavy bomber. Join *Texas Raiders* and the popular PT-26 Fairchild trainer at Indy South Greenwood Airport. Touch a part of history with on-board tours or take the Ultimate Living History Flight Experience and see Indianapolis from the sky. **Flights begin at \$165 for the trainer and \$475 and up for the B-17.**

FOR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS OR INFO
 CALL 855-FLY-A-B17 or B17TEXASRAIDERS.ORG

FOR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS OR INFO
 CALL 855-FLY-A-B17 or B17TEXASRAIDERS.ORG

Cockpit tour admission
 \$10 for adults
 \$5 for children under 12
 \$20 for a family of up to five

FOR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS OR INFO
 CALL 855-FLY-A-B17 or B17TEXASRAIDERS.ORG

TO JOIN THE CAF, a 501 (c)(3) ORGANIZATION, PLEASE VISIT COMMCOMMEMORATIVEAIRFORCE.ORG

Photo by Scott Slocum and design by Kevin Hong / Sector K Media, LLC

FLY THE WARBIRDS IN AUSTIN

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

TEXAS RAIDERS
 B-17G

Signature Flight Support
 4321 Emma Browning Ave
 Austin-Bergstrom Airport
 Tours and flights begin at 10:00 AM
 all four days

The Commemorative Air Force presents the iconic World War II bomber in honor of our military on Memorial Day Weekend. Join the famous CAF B-17 Flying Fortress *Texas Raiders* at Austin - Bergstrom Airport. Touch a part of history with on-board tours or take the ultimate Living History Flight Experience and see Austin from the sky! **Flights begin at \$475.**

FOR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS OR INFO
 CALL 855-FLY-A-B17 or B17TEXASRAIDERS.ORG

Tour admission
 \$10 for adults
 \$5 for children under 12
 \$20 for a family of up to five

FRIDAY, MAY 26 - MONDAY, MAY 29

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Photo by Scott Slocum and design by Kevin Hong / Sector K Media, LLC

MONDAY, JUNE 19 - THURSDAY, JUNE 22

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

TEXAS RAIDERS
 B-17G

SEE THE MIGHTY B-17 FLYING FORTRESS IN PITTSBURGH

For the first time in Pittsburgh you can see the iconic B-17 *Texas Raiders* with her brand new nose art and paint scheme. Come and touch a part of history with on-board tours or take the ultimate Living History Flight Experience and see Pittsburgh from the sky. **Flights begin at \$475.**

FOR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS OR INFO
 CALL 855-FLY-A-B17 or B17TEXASRAIDERS.ORG

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Allegheny County Airport
 Allegheny County Airport Terminal
 12 Allegheny County Airport • West Mifflin, PA 15122

Tours and Flights
 Monday, June 19
 Tours and flights begin at 1:00 PM

Tuesday, June 20 - Thursday, June 22
 Tours and flights begin at 10:00 AM

Cockpit tour admission
 \$10 for adults
 \$5 for children under 12
 \$20 for a family of up to five

FOR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS OR INFO
 CALL 855-FLY-A-B17 or B17TEXASRAIDERS.ORG

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As the new CAF Gulf Coast Wing Safety Officer, Wayne thought it would be good if I introduced myself with a brief history of my multiple careers leading up to my selection as the Wing Safety Officer. I have spent more than 45 years in aviation related fields. I attended the University

of Minnesota and continued my education in the military earning a BS in Aeronautics and a Master's in Business Aviation from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. I also went to the University of Houston, Clear Lake Campus, with additional advanced studies toward a degree in Master of Computer Science.

I started my aviation career with the US Air Force as an Air Traffic Controller (ATC). Within the ATC career field, in addition to working air traffic, I performed duties as Training, Standardization and Safety Officer, FAA Examiner, Tower Chief and Chief, Ground Control Approach. I served at the following places: Lackland AFB, Texas; Biloxi AFB, Mississippi; Luke AFB, Arizona; Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam; Nellis AFB, Nevada; Patrick AFB, Florida; Incirlik AB, Turkey; Shemya AFB (Aleutian Islands), Alaska and finally Langley AFB, Virginia. While at Patrick AFB I joined the aero club and received a single engine, airplane, land certification.

After retiring from the Air Force, I started work for Honeywell and later "changed badges" to United Space Alliance. Both contractors supported the NASA and the Space Shuttle Program. I first worked as a Shuttle Command Controller and later advancing to the Ground Control Officer position within the Mission Control Center (MCC).

Over the years I assumed many duties and escalation of responsibilities including Director of the MCC Maintenance and Operations, Director Space Operations Facilities which included the MCC and the Shuttle Mission Simulator (SMS), Shuttle Avionics and Integration Lab (which contained a mockup of the entire space shuttle avionics system and included the actual flight hardware) and the Software Production Facility (SPF). In my final job before retiring, I wore two hats. One was as the United Space Alliance (USA) Program Manager for the Facilities Development Operations Contract (FDOC), which was a sub-contract to Lockheed Martin. The other hat was working directly with Lockheed Martin on the FDOC contract as the Director of Operations.

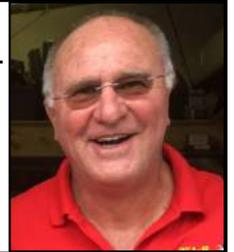
Among the highlights of my career, I had the privilege of serving as the USA FDOC Program Manager, reporting directly to the CEO of United Space Alliance, astronaut Dick Covey. I also had the pleasure of working with many talented astronauts including John Young and MCC Flight Directors past and present such as "failure is not an option," Gene Kranz.

SAFETY OFFICER'S

REPORT

Per Barsten

perbarsten@gmail.com



Continued from page 12

Throughout my entire career and at all levels, "Safety" was always paramount and emphasized on a daily basis in our environment. I have been involved in developing, approving and implementing organization and systems safety plans. At all organizational levels we conducted quarterly safety inspections on all the facilities, to include metal fatigue analysis and hydraulic checks on the SMS, tool calibration date analysis, shelf life inspections on bench stock items, electrical hot work permits, lock out - tag out documentation audits, hazards material storage and documentation, etc. Safety was all encompassing and included senior management, supervisors, technicians and office workers. Slips trips and falls, hold the handrails, to proper use of shredding machines was discussed even in the office environment. Safety was in our DNA, a culture that I worked in for 45 years. I am committed to bring the best of what I have been taught and what I have learned throughout my Air Force career, as a contractor for the NASA , up to and including the Gulf Coast Wing and Texas Raiders. I look forward to seeing you around the hangar.

Per Barsten

What TRAC Means to Me:

TRAC is more than the motto of the Gulf Coast Wing. It was also a very important part of my career in the oil industry. We were part of an "asset" team that was charged with yearly production and financial goals. Those goals could

not have been achieved without TEAMWORK -the gathering of diverse professionals united in a common purpose. The geoscientists, reservoir engineers and drillers did not always see eye to eye – we had different personalities, backgrounds, interests, and skills. Yet, the best teams got the job done through RESPECT and COMMUNICATION - two more of our TRAC components. With understanding of our differences and respect for each individual and their contributions, we drilled successful wells, brought on production safely and contributed to the company's financial success.

I hope that every member views the Gulf Coast Wing as a TEAM. We come from different backgrounds, have had different careers and different interests, we are motivated by different histories and different skills. With this diversity, we need to remember our common purpose - preserving the history of the warbirds, especially TR. We need to learn to RESPECT our differences. COMMUNICATION skills are critical. We need to first seek to understand our fellow wing members – ask questions respectfully, enjoy the give and take of fruitful discussions and build consensus on a path forward. Finally, we are all AMBASSADORS - we all need to remember that whether in representing our companies in the career world, or representing the GCW-CAF in front of the public; we are the face of our organizations. We may be the only impression the outside world has of our organization. We need to conduct ourselves accordingly.

Dayna

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Dayna Salter
dayna.salter@ymail.com



Have you ever thought of what the letters TRAC really mean?

Besides the obvious: TRAC means more than just Teamwork, Respect, Ambassadorship, and Communication.

To me TRAC means that all wing members should be willing to accept the on-going challenge to go out and share their love and loyalty for the CAF and Texas Raiders, by welcoming all visitors and new comers to be a part of the CAF family. As wing members we must be mindful to always display common courtesy towards one another, to value each other's thoughts and opinions, whether they match our own or not, and always communicate what's on our minds, but in a positive non-judgmental manner. By setting a good example of how a well-greased team works together, the better that team will function as a true team and a united family. We will also be exhibiting the kind of atmosphere that would entice any newcomer to want to step forward and be a part of our CAF family. By committing ourselves to truly understanding and living by the meaning behind the word "TRAC" we will only continue to be better individuals and more dedicated CAF members.

PX OFFICER'S

REPORT

Kathy Doucette

twokatz08@yahoo.com



PX Volunteers are Needed for the Following Missions:

September 8-11, 2017 - Altus, OK - Altus AFB Airshow

September 15-17, 2017 - Midland, TX Airshow

Go to the CAF website and select the mission that you would like to volunteer for.

<https://www.b17texasraiders.org/>

The Gulf Coast Wing will continue to be successful only because of the dedicated volunteers who support the GCW. Thanks for everyone's help.

Kathy Doucette

936-524-0249

Congratulations to the following Members that are celebrating the anniversary of joining the CAF in August:

Richard Roel — 2nd

Annette Doggett — 4th

Kathleen Brown — 5th

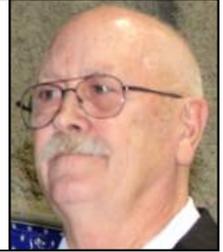
Frank Hale — 6th

Frank Wheeler — 30th

RECRUITING
OFFICER'S REPORT

Larry Doucette

larrydoucette0@gmail.com



Kathy Mizell — 18th

Ken Hyman — 25th

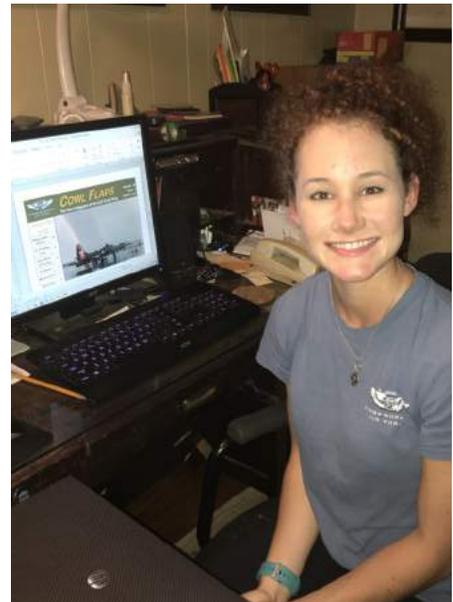
Sandy Thompson — 27th

John Cotter — 11th

Nathan Harnagel — 12th

Congratulations, and don't forget to re-up! Remember we are all agents to sign new members. If we all just signed one new member, we would double our membership. I can be reached at 281-782-9633 or larrydoucette0@gmail.com if you need recruiting information or forms.

Things sure have been changing rapidly around the Gulf Coast Wing lately. I've been off at The University of Texas these past two years and it seems that every time I find my way to a GCW event something else has changed! We thought that the new hangar location, new paint job, new nose art, and new merchandise seemingly called for a revamped Cowl Flaps design. I opted for a green and yellow color scheme to relate the newsletter to our beautiful B-17. Over the next few months, you may notice further changes as new ideas arise.



If you have any comments or suggestions, I am all ears. Feel free to shoot me an email at any time.

Col. Catherine Young
cayoung317@aol.com

Challenge Coin History and Rules of the Coin

This article is submitted by Col. Marty R. Huvar, CAF Gulf Coast Wing
and CAF Marshalling Detachment

The History of the Challenge Coin

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons in Europe. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

Challenge Coin Rules

1. Rules of the coin game must be given or explained to all new coin holders.

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2. The coin **MUST** be carried at all times. You can be challenged for it anywhere, at any time. You must produce the coin without taking more than 4 steps to produce it.
3. The challenge is initiated by drawing your coin, holding it in the air by whatever means possible and state, scream, shout or otherwise verbally acknowledge that you are initiating a coin check. Another, but less vocal method is to firmly place it on the bar, table, or floor (this should produce an audible noise which can be easily heard by those being challenged, but try not to leave a permanent imprint.) If you accidentally drop your coin and it makes an audible sound upon impact, then you have just “accidentally” initiated a coin check. (This is called paying the price for improper care of your coin.)
4. When challenging, the challenger must state whether it is for a single drink or a round of drinks.
5. Failure to produce a coin, for whatever reason, results in a bought round or single drinks (whatever the challenger stated). This type of transaction could be expensive, so hold onto your coin. Once the offender (coinless challenge) has bought the drink or round, they can't be challenged again.
6. If all that are challenged produce their coins, the challenger loses and must buy the drinks for all respondents. This too can be expensive, so challenge wisely.
7. Under no circumstances can a coin be handed to another in response to a challenge. If a person gives their coin to another, that person can now keep the coin -- it's theirs!!! However, if a person places the coin down and another person picks it up to examine it, that is not considered giving and the examiner is honor-bound to place the coin back where they got it. The examiner can't challenge while they hold another's coin. After negotiating a "reasonable" ransom", the examiner must return the member's coin.
8. If a coin is lost, replacement is up to the individual. A new coin should be acquired at the earliest opportunity -- losing a coin and not replacing it doesn't relieve a member of his or her responsibilities.
9. There are no exceptions to the rules. They apply to clothed or un-clothed. One step and an arms reach are allowed. ** If you still cannot reach it — SORRY ABOUT THAT!
10. A Coin is a Coin. They are not belt buckles, key chains or necklaces. Coins worn in a holder around the neck are valid.
11. The coin should be controlled at all times. Giving a coin to just anyone is like opening a fraternity to just anyone. It is an honor to be given a coin, let's keep it that way. A given or awarded coin is of more personal value than a purchased coin.

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12. No holes may be drilled in a coin.
13. The above rules apply to anyone who is worthy to be given/awarded a coin, has a purchased coin, or who is known to be a previous coin holder.
14. Coin checks are permitted, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE.
15. Failure to buy a round of drinks is a despicable crime and will require that you turn-in your coin to the issuing agency.

Source for this info

<http://www.goatlocker.org/resources/cpo/history/cpocoin.htm>

<http://www.itstactical.com/intellicom/reading/challenge-coin-rules-history-and-tradition/>

This WWII one is worth knowing about:

Starting in 1940, an increasing number of British & Canadian Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape..

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aides to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

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Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, France or wherever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together.
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!

Many of you are (probably) too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Sep. '39 to Aug. '45), but this is still an interesting bit of history for everyone to know.

Just a few, but certainly not all of our Maintenance Team



Dave Madden



Bruce Guest



Jeff Foltz



Randy Stallard



Tim Searls



Paul Bienvenu



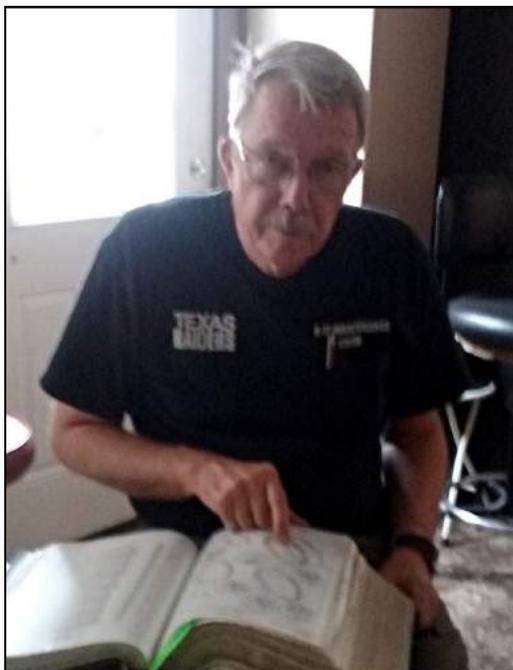
Jeff Brown



Lee Brown



Ken Hyman



Mike Fitzgibbons



Ole Nygren



Bill Morrison



Larry Doucette



New Member
Andy Blozinski



\$20.00



Front



BACK

\$25 for small to XL, and \$30 for 2XL and 3 XL



\$20.00

Please consider volunteering to work the PX on missions! Remember, you must have attended Ground School to be eligible for "away" missions. Hope to see you on a trip soon!

Col Kathy Doucette - PX Officer, Gulf Coast Wing .

For Aviation merchandise and B-17 collectibles, please visit our Online Store at

<http://b17texasraiders.org/index.php/gift-shop>



Front



Back

If anyone would like business cards made for Texas Raiders please email Gulf Coast Wing member Kevin Hong at kevin@sectorkmedia.com

The price is \$65 for 500 business cards. The cards can be customized if you are a crew member, FE, Loadmaster, pilot, etc. Please contact him for more details.

Kevin Hong

Principal of Sector K Media, LLC

PO Box 672966

Houston, TX 77267-2966

T 281.682.3947

www.sectorkmedia.com

www.facebook.com/sectorkmedia

We welcome any comments, suggestions, and contributions to the newsletter. If you have something to show or tell, don't be shy...send it in! No article is too short or too long. When sending in photos, please be sure to identify the people in them. Also, let us know who the photographer is. We would like to give them proper credit.

Let us honor your veteran. If you have a story about a family member who is or was a veteran, we encourage you to submit it for a future issue of Cowl Flaps. Send pictures with it. We can "ghost write" it for you.

Send your contributions to: trcowflaps@aol.com

THE COWLFLAPS STAFF:

Colonels Jeff Brown, Kathleen Brown,
Catherine Young and Beverley Brown



GULF COAST WING STAFF 2017:

Elections are held each winter (usually in November at the general meeting). Staff members are elected for a two-year term and elections are held in compliance with CAF Unit Manual Sections 3-8 through 3-23. The current Elected Staff members for 2017 are:

Wing Leader	Col Wayne Kennedy	281-389-4538	wfkennedy@swbell.net
Executive Officer	Col Nancy Kwiecien	832-444-5043	nkwiecien@suddenlink.net
Adjutant Officer	Col Rex McLain	281-251-0138	breitlingsteeler@hotmail.com
Operations Officer	Col Aric Aldrich	979-830-0077	opsngulfcoastwing@gmail.com
Finance Officer	Col Dayna Salter	281-229-1365	dayna.salter@ymail.com
Maintenance Officer	Col Jed Doggett	281-773-4054	Doggett.jack@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Col Per Barsten	281-682-0806	perbarsten@gmail.com

Appointed Staff Members serve at the appointment and discretion of the elected staff:

PX Officer	Col Kathy Doucette	936-524-0249	twokatz08@yahoo.com
Wings Over Houston Rep.	Col Wayne Kennedy	281-855-2520	wfkennedy@swbell.net
Supply Officer	Col Lee Brown	832-541-8349	lebro29@yahoo.com
Rides Coordinator	Col Jane Copeland	936-499-8147	janecope@msn.com
Marketing Team Lead	Col Nancy Kwiecien	936-273-4182	nkwiecien@suddenlink.net
Recruiting Officer	Col Larry Doucette	281-782-9633	larrydoucette0@gmail.com
Retention Officer	Col Rick Neu	832-767-8041	rickneu1@icloud.com
Wing Curator and Historian	Col Ben Doggett	832-773-4054	vbdoggett@gmail.com
Tour Planning Leader	Col Aric Aldrich	713-305-7363	B17TourPlanning@gmail.com
Co-Lead Flight Engineer	Col Lee Brown	832-541-8349	lebro29@yahoo.com
Co-Lead flight Engineer	Col Jim Hower	713-885-1868	fiverocks5@verizon.net
Ground Equipment Officer	Col Tim Searls	936-327-6505	T.SearlsTrucking@yahoo.com
Lead Load Master	Col Michael Hart	713-409-2494	mike.flyer.hart@gmail.com
Deputy Safety officer	Col Tim Daggett	504-813-4440	timdaggett016@yahoo.com
Web Master	Kent Morrison	970-756-0040	kent@steamboat3d.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Wing dues for CAF Adult members are \$50/person and are due no later than the last day of February each year. Wing dues for CAF Cadet members (ages 12-23) are \$35/person and are due on the last day of February each year. Adult wing members are eligible to vote on committees. Cadets are not eligible to vote or serve on committees.