

Slips and Skids April 2015



Newsletter for the
Houston Wing
Commemorative Air Force



From Our Wing Leader



By: Stan Turner

"The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary." --Vidal Sassoon

According to my itchy eyes and runny nose, it's spring time in Houston. This is the start of our flying season and we are off and running. There have already been several flyovers and historical flight experiences. On Saturday, March 28, in support of the Gulf Coast Wing and as part of the Wings, Wheels, and Heels event at Galaxy Aviation, Lone Star Executive Airport (CXO), the Houston Wing sent out AT-6 and the C-60. These two aircraft along with Dave Guggemos' T-34 served as a backdrop for the event. The C-60 gave her first two revenue flights the following day. The aircraft was well received and the passengers were all grinning before, during, and after the flight. Many thanks to Sam Bulger and Nancy Kwiecien (GCW) for managing the C-60 rides.

The following Saturday we took the planes to Hooks Airport to sell flight experiences in the C-60, PT-19 and AT-6 during the Gulf Coast Wing's Open House. The next day we flew over Minute Maid Park for the Houston Astros season opener. On that flight the C-60 piloted by John Bixby and myself was joined by Ole Nygren in the AT-6 and Dave Guggemos in the T-34.

Open House

The annual Houston Wing Open House is this month on April 18 & 19. This is our major Wing fund raising event of the year. We need volunteers to help in all areas including the gate, aircraft rider escorts, set-up and tear down. Set up time starts at 1PM on Friday April 17, with Gary Hurta leading the team. The hangar will be full of vendors and our usual engine and Thunderduck displays so we will need to do some clutter management beforehand.

Our gourmet food service team has informed me that they will be cooking up some breakfast tacos/burritos and coffee for the volunteers each morning from 0730-0900. The food will be available (until we run out) up in the O'Club free of charge (donations accepted) for all of the volunteers.

We are expecting to have the B-17 'Texas Raiders' and the C-47 'Bluebonnet Belle' this year for large aircraft tours and flights. They will be collocated on taxiway Alpha. We also have commitments for the CAF P-40 and the P-51 'Pecos Bill'. They will have front hangar ramp display space both days.

If you don't have a specific spot to volunteer at during the Open House, look me up and we can find something for you to do.

During the Open House remember that you are representing the CAF and the Houston Wing. This means dress up in some kind of CAF/Wing aircraft shirt or other uniform. In addition to our visitors, we will have members from other CAF units attending with their aircraft. Feel free to show them around and make them feel welcome.

Another reminder: Working on the ramp all day is hard on the body. Be sure to stay hydrated, wear sun block, and take frequent breaks if necessary. Watch your fellow members for signs of fatigue and heat exhaustion. Expect to go home tired both days so plan on catching a good night's rest on Saturday. We need you healthy and ready on Sunday.

There will be a whole bunch of activity in a smaller ramp spaces we have available to us this year. With some luck and hard work, this can turn out to be a very successful Open House. I ask everyone to pitch in and keep the place clean, the crowds safe, and enjoy yourselves. We have a lot to be proud of.

Keep 'em flying, and have some fun!

From Our Operations Leader

By John
Cotter

Even though it is early in the Air Show season, we have been very busy around the Houston Wing during the past month and it doesn't appear that it's going to let up anytime soon. As you read below, there will be many opportunities to be involved with Wing activities. If there is something you want to participate in, please let someone on the staff know.

For a "brief" recap of the last months activities. **On March 22** we were invited to participate again in the Blessing of the Fleet at the Lakewood Yacht Club. Nathan Harnagel led a three-ship flight with Ole Nygren and Ed Vesely flying wing. The flight was on time over the target and the organizers with the Lakewood Yacht Club were very happy with the flyover.

A few days later on **March 27**, Nathan Harnagel again put on his flight lead hat along with Dave Guggemos to do a flyover at the Houston Raceway Horse Track. Sam Bulger was on the ground to handle the timing and call in the flight. Once again Nathan and his team represented the Houston Wing well with a great flyover after the National Anthem.

A few months back the Gulf Coast Wing was contacted by Black Walnut Ventures concerning participation in the Wings, Wheels and Heels fundraiser at Conroe Airport's Galaxy FBO that would take place on the weekend of **March 28**. Unfortunately Texas Raiders was on the road with their first road trip of 2015. The marketing team with TR contacted our marketing guru, Sam Bulger and a plan was put in place for the Houston Wing to represent CAF at this event. We sent our Lockheed C60, AT-6, along with Dave Guggemos' T-34 to be on static display for their gala. All the aircraft were a hit with those attending and we were able to operate our first Historic Flight Experience for the C60 from Galaxy. (more information on this event in later in the newsletter).

April 4th dawned with a nice breeze blowing across most Houston Area runways, but didn't deter our team from participating with the Gulf Coast Wing at their Open House at Hooks Airport. We sent the C60, AT6 and PT19. Unfortunately, the PT19 has some mechanical issues on landing at Hooks and spent the day on static display, but Jim was able to repair the PT, so it could return home. But the C60 and the AT6 both had good days flying happy customers on Historic Flight Experiences. The C60 did a flight with 5 passengers and there were 3 flights on the AT6. Our PX and Dog Tag team were in attendance and recorded good sales. The B17 sold and flew 3 Historic Flight Experiences, so this was a very good day and a lot of fun for members from both Wings to work together for the benefit of both units. On Tuesday March 31, Sam Bulger was contacted about performing a flyover on the Astros Opening Day: **Monday April 6!!!** That didn't leave much time to get a group of airplanes put together, but we made it happen and on Monday April 6th at approximately 6:58pm, the Houston Wing opened the Houston Astros' season with a flyover at the end of the National Anthem. This was a great opportunity for the Wing that afforded us great exposure on national TV for us and the CAF as a whole. John Bixby and Stan Turner flew the C60 in the lead position with Dave Guggemos and Ole Nygren flying support on each wing. Sam Bulger and Howard Quoyeser provided the ground support and called in the flight, which arrived overhead just as the anthem finished. (If you look at the

Commemorative Air Force Face Book page, there are some great photos of this flyover courtesy of Sam Bulger and Kevin Bailey) Great job for all involved!!!!

Well, so much for my brief review. **But now what's coming up.**

- April 17: Media Day at the hangar and set up for Open House
- April 18/19: Open House
- April 24/25: Blue Bonnet Air Show at Burnett
- May 8: Arsenal of Democracy flyover in Washington DC (we are not flying, but many CAF units are participating including Texas Raiders)
- May 15/16: Warbirds over Hondo
- June 5/6: Third Coast Squadron Grand Opening with our PT19 attending
- June 6/7: Silent Wings Museum with our C60 attending
- June 6/7: Rusk County Air Show with many of the trainers attending

Open House is going to be great this year with some new (for us) aircraft attending. If you haven't volunteered to help, give us a call or email and let someone on staff know where you would like to help. Many of the other missions have been filled, but there are a couple open seats in some events. If you are interested, in attending and help with PX sales drop me an email.



Five Happy passengers after Barnstorming from Hooks airport.



During the C60 Historic Flight Experience. Father and son both enjoying a great day for flying with the Houston Wing.

Happening in the PX and the Hangar

By: Bob Linguiti

It's April and that means spring, Easter, Opening Day, and, of course, our Open House. Let me begin by giving a hearty welcome to spring and wishing one and all a belated Happy Easter and a Happy Passover. Just a couple of days ago, we were privileged to take part in the Astros' Opening Day ceremonies, performing what appears to have been a three-plane fly-over of Minute Maid Park. From the video that I saw, it was the C-60A, the AT-6, and a third plane that looked to be a T-34. I hope the attendees at the game appreciated the event and, perhaps, if they are interested enough, we'll get some new visitors to our Open House, now less than two weeks away.

Back at the hangar, our museum days continue to draw large crowds. Even this past week-end, with most of our planes away at Hooks Airport and with little or no publicity, we still had more than 30 visitors taking the hangar – museum tour. The next scheduled Museum Day will be during our Open House, so we know we shall have guests a plenty. With respect to our big spring event, if there is anyone that wishes to volunteer, but hasn't found the courage yet, please speak to Stan or, if your inclination is PX or dog tag-related, speak to me. We'll be happy to find a place for you and make you a part of this April tradition. All things being equal, we expect to have a huge turn-out, with many smiling faces, and lots of aviating and related activity.

We expect to have quite an impressive assortment of planes, large and small, various military vehicles, several re-enactors, an anti-aircraft gun from the Battleship Texas, and even that marvelous 1937 La Salle, the latter courtesy of Kim Lampkin. If you've never attended the Open House, prepare to be dazzled.

If you're an old hand at this, expect to be dazzled anyway. I'll have a bird's-eye-view, from inside the PX trailer, and will look forward to seeing you there.



From the Maintenance Area

By: Jim Placette

Greetings once again from the far back corner of the hangar. Not really, but I am at my other desk. Well, winter maintenance is now officially over. The airplanes are all fit to fly another year. They have already started. The C-60 and AT-6, I hear, made it to Conroe and back while I was away. As soon as I got back, I went to work on the PT tail gear again. It seems that is the Achilles' heel of that plane. Everyone I talk to about it has the same problem at one time or another. No one really has a solution though. So we keep taking new tries at stopping the shimmy. We did manage to get up to Hook in the C-60, AT-6 and PT-19. The PT, however, had some trouble, and the tail steering rod broke again. The C-60 also had a shimmy issue and turns out the lock block came loose. I repaired that at Hooks. I had to fly back in the AT-6 to repair the steering rod for the PT. I made a temporary repair and flew back up to Hooks to install it. Ace decided to throw a wing bolt cover seal. I put that back on, installed the steering rod and aired up the brakes on the PT to get her home. The rod made the one flight and failed again at West Houston. I upgraded the repairs to the steering rod and changed the tail wheel tire to a smooth one. We shall see what happens next flight. We also made a flyover Monday the 6th and the C-60 and AT-6 did very well.

Of course Open House is very soon to happen. All aircraft will be flyable, but the PT may not be on the ride program if she fails to correct the tail shimmy problem. Right now I am cleaning off all the spring pollen from the aircraft. The green dust is a huge problem this time of year. All the single engine planes will be done by the 12th. I have given the PT and BT their bathes this past week, and the N3N and AT-6 are on the list for the 11th. **I can use help, especially on the N3N.**

The really big job for May is still basically on schedule. In case you have forgotten, we will be replacing the left engine on the C-60. If you wish to help or just want to see the plane once again without an engine, then come on out in May. You might have missed that back in 2012. This means I will not be going with the aircraft to Hondo though.

I shall do all I can to make them ready. I shall also post a schedule at the hangar for the engine change. Keeping it is another thing, but most help will be required during removal and installation. Those proposed dates I will definitely post.

I am also planning maintenance school again in June. I shall publish dates next time in the May article. I am also planning on revisiting the Lockheed fuel tank leaks in June. Right now I have nothing planned after that. We shall see what happens.....See you all at Open House and around the hangar.....

From the Museum



By: Sam Hoynes

The museum volunteer team continues to host numerous visitors on the first and third Saturday of each month but we are doing other things to improve the museum and Houston Wing experience. We will also be hosting Katy Elementary next month and are scheduling group visits into the summer months.

Frank Vargas has used his carpentry skills to build a permanent display stand to hold a sign (designed by Richard Hamilton) explaining Thunderduck to visitors. He also built 8 additional display stands (which can be disassembled easily for storage) on which we can mount information about visiting aircraft during Open House and other events. Frank put so much effort into building these sign stands that his table saw died in the process. Frank Vargas, Jim Buser, Suzie Bredlau, and others are working on getting these stands painted prior to Open House and Sam Bulger is designing the data signs for visiting aircraft.



The museum team has also switched from working on Wednesday nights to a group of retirees (Chuck Waters, Jim Buser, Bruce Thomas and myself) who meet on Wednesday mornings to inventory and organize museum items still in storage, clean the displays, and make improvements to existing displays.

This team will continue working on Wednesdays to improve the museum and to consolidate the entire museum's various inventory systems into a single system.

We need your help!

As the Wing Flies

By: Sam Bulger

Welcome back friends to the last spring installment of (imagine a big announcer voice) "As the Wing Flies." Elsewhere in this issue you've already read all the other open house stuff and other miscellaneous ramblings. Sit back, enjoy your favorite libation and enjoy the literary excellence that is the April Showers marketing report.

As March has flown by we have started flying season. The Wings, Wheels and Heels charity event in Conroe at Galaxy FBO was a resounding success. We met a lot of new people, sold 2 rides on the C-60 and presented our wing in a most excellent manner. The guests of this event were impressed with our planes. On April 4th we flew to Hooks for Gulf Coast Wing Open House and ride day, and it turned out to be another great day for the wing. We sold 3 T-6 rides and 1 C-60 ride and a bunch of T-shirts. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make that event a success. On April 6th we participated in the Houston Astros Opening Day game by providing a flyover of the National Anthem. This was the first time the wing has participated in this event. Houston Texans are next! I bet by now you know that April 18th and 19th is our annual Open House. We still need volunteers for this event in a big way. This is our premier event of the year showcasing the wing and our facilities.

Contact anyone on the staff and we'll be happy to have you join in the fun. Did I mention we have FUN? Watch your email boxes for exceptional literary eblasts on where we're going and join in the FUN.

If you have any comments or need any information contact me at sabulger@sbec.com or 832-859-1164.

Announcer voice "From the CAF channel 60 News Desk, your nightly news anchor, John Cotter."

John: "Good evening friends, in the news today the price of AV Gas is going back up, the world markets are fluxuating and our headlining story, the Houston Wing C-60 known as the Goodtime Gal flown her first Historic Flight Experiences today. We have live team coverage of this event from our reporter, Sam Bulger. Sam, what can you tell us about this exciting day?"

Sam: "Thank you John, the Houston Wing met a major milestone on March 29th, 2015. After a long restoration and return to flight the C-60 finally flew its first Historic Flight Experience! The long and winding road of restoration and paperwork has finally come to fruition. The Goodtime Gal was invited to a charity event March 28th. The Goodtime Gal stayed around the next day to take some lucky paying passengers aloft. The passengers and their families arrived at the Galaxy FBO early Sunday morning to be part of this special event. Every one of the passengers was thrilled with the experience, for all of them it was the first time in a warbird. When asked pilot in command, John Bixby, was ecstatic with how the event went and was overheard to say "this is just plain cool we get to do this." This was a proud day for the Houston Wing.

Back to you John:

John: Thank you Sam for that report. After this commercial break our action team 60 report of how Marvin Zindler really impacted the restaurant business.

Commercial Break: Ever find yourself bored with your life? Need something meaningful to do? Sock drawer already organized? Come out and help out your favorite wing in the whole wide world, that's right, the Houston Wing. We have fun and a good time doing it! **We are the wing where the good times fly!**

The Houston Wing would like to thank John Bixby, Stan Turner and Nancy Kwiecien for their efforts in making this event a success.



“Hold on we’re skidding out of control”

Swinging for the fences and hitting one right out of the park

Voice of sports announcer; Leading off this Opening Day for the Houston Astros, the Houston Wing of the Commemorative Air Force.

The Houston Wing is coming off a great winter maintenance program and had a solid spring training so far this year. The windup and the pitch.....its hit.....this one looks like it's going to be a HOME RUN! A HOME RUN on the first pitch of 2015 by the Houston Wing.

The Houston Wing had the honor of performing the National Anthem Flyover for the Opening Day of the Houston Astros this year.

The plan came together very quickly and the Houston Wing rose to the occasion. The Houston Wing has sent proposals to the Astros the previous 2 years. Using their new marketing program and performing successful flyovers for high profile clients such as the Grand Prix of Houston; the wing is beginning to find success. The Wing's Lockheed C-60, North American T-6 and a member owned Beechcraft T-34 performed the mission with precision and grace.

After a lot of diligent planning and coordination between wing members and the Astros the flight arrived over the stadium on time to the joy of a crowd of over 50,000 people. The Astros were very happy with the performance of the Houston Wing and we hope to form a partnership for years to come.

The Houston Wing would like to thank John Bixby (flight lead), Stan Turner, Oly Nygren, Dave Guggemos, and Howard Quoyeser for their hard work at this high profile event.



Member News

"O" Club

By:
Marilee Turner

Hello Members and Friends

There is NO meeting for April due to Open House, we will pick back up in May. Here is a heads up, be thinking about Italian dishes.

Don't forget to bring water and baked goods to the Open House next weekend see everyone there!

Birthdays

Ed Bergmann	Apr 10
Scott Rozzell	Apr 12
Charles Szalkowski	Apr 14
Darren Aklestad	Apr 18
Stan Russ	Apr 22
Aric Aldrich	Apr 30

Bits & Pieces

From the Editor

By: Winona Morton

Just a heads up folks I think everyone needs to really buckle up their flight suits and watch your notifications, because our Marketing Officer and Operations Officer seem to have found their groove they are “Skidding Out of Control” booking events! And I personally cannot wait to see what is coming up next. But, with all these events keep in mind they take a lot of planning, advertising and then volunteers to come to the events.



C-60 Hooks Airport Flight

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West Houston Airport

FAA ID: IWS
 Latitude: 29°49'05"N
 Longitude: 95°40'21"W
 Elevation: 111 ft
 Runway (1): 3973 x 75 ft
 CTAF/UNICOM: 123.05
 APPROACH: 123.8
 DEPARTURE: 123.8
 CLEARANCE: 121.15