

# Slips and Skids Feb 2015



Newsletter for the  
**Houston Wing**  
Commemorative Air Force



## From Our Wing Leader

By: Stan Turner

**“You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore”  
-Christopher Columbus**

Anyone who doesn't live in a cave has probably noticed that the local news has been focusing a lot of attention on the ups and downs of crude oil prices. Contract cancellations, job layoffs, budget reductions are all making the headlines. Those of us with work linked to the oil industry are finding ourselves feeling a little edgy once again about what this year will bring.

The lower crude prices, temporary as they may be, do have a bright side. We can see it directly with recent decreases in gasoline pump prices for our autos and thankfully for our aircraft fuel. Av gas has dropped about two dollars per gallon since the summer of last year. This is a welcome bit of news as we ramp up our training and enter the flying season. Fuel is one of our major expenses at the Houston Wing Open House in April as we offer it as an incentive for other units to bring their aircraft for static display. The decrease in fuel prices will allow us the option of saving some money or adding more warbirds to the ramp.

Speaking of Open House, I have started the open house volunteer list and it will be circulating it at the next two Wing Meetings so plan on signing up for something. The Open House is April 18 & 19 this year plus setup up time on Friday afternoon. Those of you that have your favorite duties from past open houses are already penciled on the list. We are currently looking for volunteers in all areas such as aircraft operations, front gate, parking, food sales and service, PX, and pilot registration. This is our MAJOR fund raising event for the year and it is the time for all members to step up and lend a hand. If you can only make it one of the two days that is ok but we need helpers. If you can't make the meeting and would like to get on the volunteer list, please send me an email and I will mark your name down.

- **Airbase Houston and Hangar Upgrades**

Do you recall way back in 2011 or so that the CAF General Staff mandated that there would be an Airbase Houston by 2017? The idea was to combine the three Houston CAF units at one location that would fit the criteria laid out by CAF HQ. The logical place would be Ellington Field. This was added to their 'End Statement' and it created some uncertainty as to what would happen to our hangar? Would it be liquidated to help fund the new Airbase hangar at Ellington? Would the Houston Wing have to move to another airport?

Well...during one of the General Staff meetings in the fall of 2014, the Airbase Houston mandate was deleted from the 'End Statement'. It looks like we will be keeping our hangar and we are not being forced to move any time soon. The Airbase Houston idea is still alive and will be moved forward by members of all the Houston CAF units. Don Price is heading the committee and of course funding for a new hangar is one of the high priorities. If you would like to participate in the formation of the Airbase Houston, please contact Don. We have begun some hangar cleaning and upgrades to our lighting and air conditioning systems. The goal is to reduce our monthly energy usage by half and to add reliability. Currently we have been spending about \$400/month for electricity. In order to reduce this to less than \$200/month average, we have eliminated two refrigerators, converted our fluorescent lights to LED, and upgraded the museum air conditioner to a more energy efficient system. We are currently doing some lighting studies in the main hanger to convert the metal halide fixtures to LEDs. LEDs consume about half of the energy of the metal halide lamps.

- **Newsletter Editor Change**

After serving many years as the Houston Wing PIO/newsletter editor, Elaine Lockwood has decided it's time for a break. Winona Morton has agreed to tackle the job of producing the monthly Wing newsletter. You may have seen Winona working the dog tag trailer during the past few Wings Over Houston air shows. This newsletter will mark Winona's debut to the Houston Wing PIO duties. She has also agreed to become our first official Rides Coordinator and she will be working with Operations Officer John Cotter to refine that position.

Be sure to take a moment and thank Elaine for all of her help to the Wing. It is not an easy job for one person to do.

Be safe and have some fun!

Stan-

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# From Our Operations Leader

By: John Cotter

It seems like 2015 just started and here we are half way through February. Planning for air shows and barnstorming trips are well underway and this year is shaping up nicely. There will be many opportunities to attend and help out at events, so check out the calendar below.

Pilot training is taking place. If the weather cooperates, by the time you read this, Jim Placette will have checked out in the PT19. Arne Aamodt is also training in the AT6 and will soon take his check flight. And the most recent addition to the pilot ranks was Ryszard Zadow when he checked out in the AT6 in December. Congratulation Ryszard!!

Winter Maintenance is under way. Jim could use some able bodies to help. Currently he is working on the C60 and the AT6 will start on February 22.

The only mission flown so far in 2015 was the Lock-n-Load flyover for the Texas Sentinels. The mission was led by Ed Vesely & Scott Rozzell in their SNJ, with John Bixby, Ole Nygren, Dave Guggemos and Stan Turner flying wing. Chuck and Clay Waters, Susan Vaculik and Jim Placette all participated as guys/gals in back (GIB).

- **Our upcoming schedule is very busy:**

February 16<sup>th</sup>: **Wounded Warriors** flyover in the Woodlands  
March 7<sup>th</sup>: **Pilot Ground School**  
March 28<sup>th</sup>: **Wings, Wheels & Heels Fund Raiser** at Conro (Galaxy FBO)  
C60 only: will need some staffing help  
April 4<sup>th</sup> : **Barnstorm with Texas Raiders** at Hooks Aripport  
C60, AT6, PT-19 and N3N will attend (PX and Dog Tab will attend)  
April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>: **Houston Wing Open House**  
April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>: **Blue Bonnet Air Show**  
C60, AT6, PT-19, N3N and BT-13 will attend  
May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>: **Warbirds over Hondo**  
AT6, PT-19, N3N and BT-13 will attend  
May 6<sup>th</sup>: **Aeros and Autos** at Ellington Airport  
June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: **Rusk County Air Show** at Henderson, TX  
AT6, PT-19, N3N and BT-13 will attend



Line up for the Lock-n-Load flyover



Ole Nygren and Clay Waters on the takeoff roll



Forming up overhead at the West Houston Airport



There are several other Barnstorming opportunities during the rest of the summer. **We are going to be busy, so come on out to help!**

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# Happening in the PX and the Hanger

By: Bob Linguiti

Unlike its namesake in the movie of the same name, our Groundhog Day passed yesterday and did so just once. I'm not sure about the weather in Punxsutawney, PA, but here in Houston, it was too cloudy for Phil or anyone else to see his shadow. So, does this mean an early spring? Well, as to that, - and I am certain I'll take some flak for this - although we have admittedly had a few chilly days, I'm still awaiting the arrival of winter.

Unrelated to this, some of you may already know that my sleek yellow and black Trans Am Collector Edition is no more. A low speed impact with a stationary van, occasioned by the unfortunate angle of the setting sun, caused the fiberglass hood and other elements to resemble the victims of a large pair of shears. I am now, once again, driving a truck; this time, it's a Ford F-150, with - an idiosyncrasy of mine - a five-speed manual transmission.

- In the hangar, measures have already been taken to prevent another unfortunate spill, like the one that befell Sam Hoynes several weeks ago. The stairs to the storage loft now have a new and a safer configuration. (No doubt, there will be a more detailed report of this elsewhere in this newsletter.) By the time this edition goes to press, the fast-recovering Sam Hoynes and I will have calculated the PX toy order for this year's Open House (O.H.), including some spill-over for Wings Over Houston. I'll be placing that order in the next several days. With O.H. just over two months away, this means, of course, that, at the next general meeting, I'll be making my first pitch for PX volunteers. Thank you, in advance, to all those that plan to participate.

If you attended last month's Awards Dinner, I hope you had a good time. I know I did and, as I always do, I particularly enjoyed the presentation of the "gag awards." In the non-gag category, congratulations to Tammi Lockwood, Arne Aamodt, and Sam Hoynes, our "big three" awards winners.

For those still fence-sitting about the Hangar Dance, it, too, is a very enjoyable event. If you decide to attend, I don't believe you'll be disappointed, but please act quickly, as that event will be here almost before you know it. For now, though, enjoy the shortest month of the year.

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## Cadet Program

By: Chuck Waters

The Wing has recently reactivated the CAF Cadet program after a number of years of inactivity and the program is moving forward. Here are some of the parameters of the program and its objectives for our Wing.

The Wing presently has one active cadet, Clay Waters. As of this writing, Ryan Aamodt has submitted his cadet application and I have an indication of interest on behalf of two more prospective cadets. Clay participated in the Wreathes Across America flyover on 13 December, in the C-60, and in the Lock & Load flyover on 24 January, in the AT-6 with Ole Nygren.

Our cadet program has the potential to recruit parents and grandparents of cadets as Wing members. It was a significant incentive for me to join the Wing that Clay could join as a cadet member. With proper supervision and training, and consistent with CAF regulations, our cadets could be constructively involved in any number of Wing activities: the Navion project, aircraft maintenance and acting as fire guard for engine

starts. In addition, cadets could assist with general Wing duties around the hangar, with the April open house and with Wings Over Houston.

Enrollment as a cadet is accomplished by completing the "Cadet Membership" section of the CAF Application for Commission and submitting that form to Midland, together with \$45.00 annual dues. Wing dues are not charged. Participation and training of cadets is governed by the CAF Cadet Participation and Training Guide, available in the "Members Only" section of the national website. In summary, cadets: (1) must be between 12 and 23 years of age; (2) are allowed to participate in Wing activities as far as CAF insurance allows; (3) are allowed to fly in CAF aircraft provided the CAF hold harmless agreement is on file; (4) do not have voting rights; (5) may not hold a Wing office or staff position; and (6) pay CAF dues set by the General Staff, presently \$45.00 per year.

We have a wealth of talent and experience in our Wing members, and I would appreciate your ideas and advice as we go forward with the reactivated cadet program.

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## From the Maintenance Area

By: Jim Placette

Greetings once again from the far flung reaches of the hangar. Hidden away behind the large green plane is where I make most maintenance decisions. What a winter it has been so far. I missed writing in January as I have been neck deep in the C-60 inspection, and the hangar dance preparations. I am also working on checking out as a CAF pilot.

The old Lockheed is not without some problems. Some old ones and some new ones are all being worked on. The old things now working are the tail navigation light. I have repaired the temporary right engine oil temperature wiring. I have also repaired some fire damage to the right engine accessory section. New for 2015 include a heavily rusted left elevator trim rod lead to stuck bolts, stuck hinge pin, and a severely rusted attachment bracket. All that is being repaired. Also the pilot's sliding window track failed do to corrosion. And the window is cracked. That is being repaired. The co-pilot gyro horizon has been lubricated, and new hoses are going in for the instrument air system. The oil cooler position indicators have been repaired and work is proceeding to make them operational. Some additional sheet metal repairs are also being done. The replacement left engine has also been ordered for the C-60.

Of course while all that goes on, the AT-6 got her oil changed, and that lead to the discovery of two failed left upper cowling mounts. After some quick weld and rivet repairs, the plane was operational in time for Lock 'n' Load. New mounts were ordered and arrived for installation at annual. The radio problem with the BT-13 was troubleshot, and a new antenna pigtail solved the radio transmitter distance problem. The PT-19 is still having tail wheel shimmy issues, and new main gear springs have been purchased for installation. I have talked with Charlie Hutchins about making parts for repairing the tail strut. The AT-6, BT-13 and N3N all had their transponders re-certified for another two years. The BT-13 finally got her new seat cushions too. The AT-6 and PT-19 are in line for new seat cushions also. The Navion project needs everyone's help to complete it this year. Please come out and help. The plane is now in the reassembly stage, and that means most of the hard nasty work is done.

Next up for inspection is the AT-6. That will be right after the hangar dance on Sun 22 Feb. That happens to also be meeting day. On that Sunday I think most of her pilots will be at the hangar to help with a compression test and prop removal. The propeller is going out for overhaul. I shall also need her pilots to help with the inspection as I will have to be working on the C-60 and AT-6, and I have limited time in March. I will be gone on 20 March finished or not. Some things we already know we must do is repair the #9 exhaust stack, replace the upper left cowl mounts and look deeper into the left brake. Also the CHT is reported to be inop.

Starting in April, I plan to do the PT landing gear again. Also all aircraft will need to be cleaned for Open House. I will need help in doing this. Cleaning aircraft is easy, and by April the weather should be good.

- Ok the hangar dance is still 21 Feb, so if you are planning on buying a ticket at the next meeting, you will be one day too late. I shall have none to sell. I am also trying to work in a dance class for guys only who cannot attend the class at the dance. Any guy interested needs to give me a date to work with that is not the night of 14 Feb. I need to stop dinner tickets by 18 Feb, so I can order the food. So if you wish to come, let me know before then. Thank you to the ones who have volunteered to help again this year. Without my crew, this would be impossible. I am looking for someone to keep the museum open, and I need a person to do PX. Anyone interested, please let me know.

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# From the Museum

By: Sam Hoynes

**On Wednesday, January 21 we hosted 38 four and five year old kids and 6 adults from the Primrose School in Copperfield.**

A group of our Museum Volunteers (Jim Buser, Frank Vargas, Chuck Waters, Bruce Thomas, Mary Nygren and I) along with additional help from Rich Welch and Ole Nygren greeted these busy visitors.

This was a group of kids that are younger than we usually host but with planning and some ideas from Mary and Rich we handled this visit well and I believe everybody enjoyed their visit.

After I gave the group a short hangar safety briefing in the meeting room Rich did his usual talk about the airplanes before we split them up into six groups of kids and one school teacher or parent. We manned 6 stations (Museum with Jim, PT-19 with Chuck (using a rolling ladder to let them see into the cockpit), ThunderDuck with Mary, C-60 with Frank, BT-13 with Rich, and AT-6 with Bruce (another rolling ladder to let them see into the cockpit) and rotated the kids thru these stations. This worked well because Ole and I worked on keeping the kids moving between stations and to keep them busy if things stacked up at any location.



## **Upcoming Hangar Visit by Katy Fifth Grade Students**

During the last part of May we will be hosting the Fifth Grade classes from Katy Elementary. This visit will consist of two sessions, each with 47 fifth grade students plus their teachers and chaperones. The first group of 47 will arrive at 9:00 and will leave at 10:45, while the second group of 47 will arrive at 12:00 and will leave at 1:45.

We hosted this school's fifth grade classes last year and it was a great experience as they were well behaved and extremely interested in what we were able to show them.

For us to handle a group this size we need at least 7-8 CAF Members on hand. My museum volunteers can provide 5 or 6 but we could use 3 or 4 more adults to help us man the 5 stations we use to educate these 11 year olds.

We have tentative dates of Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> or the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May and this date will be finalized soon.

- **If you think that you could be available on one of these Fridays to help with this educational session please contact Sam Hoynes.**

**We need your help!**

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## As the Wing Flies

By: Sam Bulger

Welcome back friends to another installment of as the wing flies. Elsewhere in this issue you've probably read about the status of the wing as a whole, the status of the planes, status of the toys and a brief weather report in there somewhere.

I would like to first off thank Elaine Lockwood for her tireless years of doing the Slips and Skids, thank you Elaine for doing a great job for a long time. Taking her place is Winona Morton and we look forward to working with her for many years to come.

I would also like to welcome Chuck Waters to our cast of characters. Chuck is our new Cadet Coordinator, something that is needed in our wing and let's see if we can't get him a bunch of young cadets to coordinate.

As we climb out of January and into February many exciting things are soon to take flight. Our friends at GCW have invited us to take the lead to promote the CAF at a charity event in Conroe in late March. We hope this exposure will lead to a few new members, a few ride sales and early promotion of Open House. The wing is also performing a flyover for Sam Houston Racepark in trade for advertising. We are using this to advertise for the hangar dance and museum right now, Open House next month and this will be a great opportunity to shake off the cobwebs for our flyover routine.

Hopefully our weatherman will keep the April showers at bay and we can attend our sister wing, Gulf Coast Wing at their Open House on April 4<sup>th</sup>. This will be a local traveling road show, would you like to see how it works, come on out, new smiling faces are always welcome. Of course as you've already read elsewhere our Open House is April 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>.

We are already planning advertising and a media day, look for us on TV! Did I mention, we like to have fun, come on out and join us!

Last but not least on Super Bowl weekend we mounted a TV in the hangar. Send me your photos or videos of hangar activities and let's get them on the big screen. This is a electronic blank canvas poster that we can use to promote wing events and show what fun we have! Did I mention we like to have fun?

If you have any comments or need any information contact me at [sabulger@sbec.com](mailto:sabulger@sbec.com) or 832-859-1164.

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# CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

By: Tammi Lockwood

Hello everyone! I am taking a moment to ask everyone for their help this year. Last year some of the PX volunteers assisted with what we lovingly termed the "Traveling PX." The Traveling PX attended several events, along with several planes, taking PX items and the Dog Tag trailer to surrounding counties. This effort provided much needed cash for work on our projects without depleting the Wing's funds.

Along with this Traveling PX, everyone also worked hard to ramp up our museum attendance. We are now exploding with new visitors most museum days. Some of them indicated they would have liked a T-shirt or two to commemorate the visit. Unfortunately, we did not have the volunteers to open the PX at the hangar and to travel with our planes.

This year, we want to have the PX open during museum hours which is where we need volunteers. As you know the museum is only open two Saturdays a month, so we would like to ask our members to volunteer a few hours one Saturday a month to help open the PX at the hangar, and to possibly help with the Traveling PX. This would mean selling PX items, possibly a plane ride or two, if asked, and yes, you would have to learn to charge a credit card through our system for any purchase. If you are willing to commit your time, I am willing to promise to train volunteers on the credit card process. So please don't let this stop you from volunteering a few hours a month.

This is a great way to spend a Saturday, as you meet some interesting people and make great connections. Please contact Bob Linguiti or myself to be added to the PX volunteer list.

## "O" Club

By: Marilee Turner

Hello Members and Friends

Now that we are in February we are looking forward to our monthly meeting and pot luck. Thanks to everyone for the great chili offerings. With so many choices there was something for every taste. Our menu for February is "**slow cooker fare**". Let's get out the favorite recipes we have and make a good showing. See you there!



## February Birthdays

<b>Ergun Bilir</b>	<b>Feb 2</b>
<b>Winona Morton</b>	<b>Feb 5</b>
<b>Connie Stone</b>	<b>Feb 13</b>
<b>John Cotter</b>	<b>Feb 16</b>
<b>Steve Schnert</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>
<b>Jeremy Wright</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>
<b>Hugh Alexander</b>	<b>Feb 22</b>
<b>Bruce Bevers</b>	<b>Feb 22</b>
<b>Jeff Brown</b>	<b>Feb 26</b>
<b>Jeff Parker</b>	<b>Feb 28</b>



# Bits & Pieces

From the Editor:  
Winona Morton

Just a note to say thank you to everyone for accepting me as your POI Officer. I hope to fill those shoes in the coming term. Whatever I can do to help in anyway please just let me know and I will try to do so. We are attempting to make some fresh new changes to the newsletter, so I hope everyone will like them!

We launched the new website this month also. Hopefully by now everyone has had a chance to go by the new <http://houstonwing.org/> and peruse around the pages see the new layout and features. Keep in mind we are still in the tweaking phase, meaning we are not done yet!

*That's all for this month folks, see you next month, safe flying!*

*See you at the dance!*

*Oh yeah by the way, be watching the sky for cupid's arrow!  
Have a great Valentine's Day!*

## Wing Staff Directory

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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