

# Slips and Skids JULY 2015



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



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## From Our Wing Leader



By: Stan Turner

***“It’s impossible to be involved in all situations, but there’s no excuse not to be involved in something, somewhere, somehow, with someone. Make an ounce of difference.”***  
— ***Richelle E. Goodrich***

As I stepped outside this morning just before sunrise I noted the temperature was slightly north of 80°F – it must be July in Houston. Along with the heat comes the humidity. It takes a toll on equipment, pets and people. Take it easy outside in this weather. Wear sunblock, hats, shades, and stay hydrated. With lots of airshow/barnstorming activity this year, plan ahead and watch out for signs of heat exhaustion in yourself and others. You all know the drill.

- **C-47 “That’s All Brother”**

By now I’m sure most if not all of you are aware that the Commemorative Air Force has acquired the C-47 “That’s All Brother”. This aircraft has a documented history of being the aircraft that led the D-day invasion. CAF HQ has just finished a successful fund raising campaign to restore the aircraft to its authentic 1944 condition. Be sure to watch the progress of this historic aircraft and the story it tells on the CAF blog site as well as ‘On the Fly’ and Dispatch magazines.

- **C60 “Goodtime Gal” News**

The newly rebuilt engine is back on the C-60. Once the carburetor arrives from the overhaul shop Maintenance Officer Jim Placette will be close to having her ready for flight. We have been asked by Wings over Houston to provide the C-60 as a jump plane for the opening ceremony sky divers. John Cotter and John Bixby are currently working on becoming qualified jump plane pilots. John Cotter is also working with HQ to get the C-60 approved for CAF jump plane status. Volunteers are always needed to develop the stories behind the aircraft and to educate the public in the role the C-60 played during the war years.

- **PT-19 Airframes**

The Houston Wing was offered two PT-19 airframes and engines from the estate of past member Bob Beube. Thanks to the efforts of Rich Welsh and Mike Steiger these parts were accepted by the Wing and are now in our possession. They are currently in storage near Friendswood but plans are underway to bring them to a storage unit closer to the Houston Wing hangar. One of the engines is currently on display at our hangar and was restored by Sam Hoynes and his museum team a couple of years ago. Until we empty the storage unit there is no easy way to determine how many parts are there but it appears the intent was to build up one aircraft out of the two. There is a good possibility that if there are enough salvageable hard to find parts, the Wing will have a future restoration project to look forward to. I will keep the members updated as we dig through the stash.



PT-19 parts including wings, center sections, Fuselages, tail feathers and a crated up engine



Judging by the smiles it looks like Jim Placette may have completed his check out in the PT-19 with Gale Haskins.

**Keep 'em flying, be safe and have some fun! Stan**

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# From Our Operations Officer



By: John Cotter

I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July holiday. Here at the Houston Wing, our travels may have slowed slightly, but we have had many activities take place with much more coming in the next few months.

On June 20 & 21 we made a trip to Hooks Airport to work with the Gulf Coast Wing in a barnstorming weekend. We took the AT6 and BT13 along with the Dog tag trailer and PX. We had several members including new members and cadets participate. We sold several Historic Flight Experiences and quite a bit of PX.

Then on June 29 we had the honor to participate in a flyover for longtime friend and Houston Wing member, Linda Maxwell. We put up four airplanes (John Bixby: T28, Nathan Harnagel: AT6, Ole Nygren: AT6, and Dave Guggemos: T34) and joined with Gulf Coast Wing in Texas Raiders to provide a beautiful memorial flyover for Linda's memorial service.



Our last mission before this went to press was another Barnstorming mission to San Antonio Stinson Field on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. This is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the airport and the CAF came out in style. We sent our AT6 and BT13. Along with Gulf Coast Wing, Centex Wing, Highland Lakes Squadron and Tex Hill Wing, the CAF was well represented at this event. John Bixby, Sam Bulger, Jolene Meldrum and I represented the Houston Wing. It was a great weekend with the Houston Wing selling 11 Historic Flight Experiences. Once

the PX and gate proceeds are counted, I feel that this event will provide a very nice bump in our revenue for the year.



Howard working the PX



Cotter talking to a future Pilot



Checking out the plane

These barnstorming events are beneficial to the Wing for many reasons. They provide us a chance to work with other Wings within the CAF, our members get to meet members at other units possibly developing new friendships, we (should) generate some revenue for the Wing and lastly....we work hard, but have a LOT of fun!!!!

We have several upcoming events:

August 1 & 2: Barnstorm with Texas Raiders at Hooks

Need Pilots, PX and sales help

August 15:

Spirit of 45: Honoring VJ Day

Detail being worked out on a possible city wide flyover

And possible rides day at Conroe Airport

Sept 4-6:

Barnstorm at Fredericksburg

Sending 3 airplanes

Need: Pilots, PX and sales help

Sept 12:

Rides Day at the Hangar

We will offer rides to the public in all the airplanes

Need: Pilots, PX, Museum, and tour help

If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact Sam Bulger or myself.

Our Wing Website and Facebook page has been generating a lot of attention for Historic Flight Experiences. This is very good for the Wing as it brings in much needed revenue to maintain and upgrade our fleet. But with these added bookings, it creates a problem scheduling the flights. **So we are going to try a new system with our Historic Flight Experiences and schedule them on our open Museum Days.** This will provide the pilot with help getting the airplanes in/out, provide the Passenger the opportunity to visit our Museum and offer the Museum guests the opportunity to see our airplanes fly. We may even sell an extra ride or two.

There is one last item that I would like to share. Some may have noticed that the AT6 hasn't been in the hangar since we did the barnstorming on July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. When John and I returned from the event, we took the AT6 to the Sugarland Airport to have new avionics installed at Sugarland Avionics. The airplane will be



receiving two new Garmin communication radios, a new Garmin touch screen GPS, and a MUCH needed new intercom. This will allow much easier communication between the pilot and passenger, and make the AT6 much more capable during our flyovers as we need two radios to efficiently lead a flight. The airplane should be back in the hangar in about 10 days.

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## **Father's Day Marshaling at DWH – A family Affair**

**By: Frank Vargas**

The Houston and Gulf Coast wings did some Barnstorming at David Wayne Hooks Memorial Airport on Father Day's weekend Saturday and Sunday June 20 and 21. The Marshaling Detachment was represented at the ramp by Kathleen Hanna, Ed Bergmann, and Frank Vargas.

Texas Raiders and Houston Wing's Ace and BT13 took off several times throughout the day with revenue rides.

As an appropriate Father's Day gift, a newly recruited cadet Ryan Aamodt was introduced to hand signals and ramp procedures by Kathleen Hanna. Ryan got a chance to marshal his Dad Houston Wing pilot Arne Aamodt on the AT6 Ace in the Hole at launching and recovery.

Congratulation Ryan...and Arne



Under the watchful eye of Kathleen Hanna, Ryan Aamodt marshals his Dad Arne Aamodt piloting Houston Wing's Ace in the Hole.

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## **Wayne Kennedy's Marshallers Newsletter Article**

The CAF Houston Wing Open House was April 18 & 19. Despite the threats of bad weather, the Open House was very successful with overcast skies on Saturday and clear skies on Sunday.

A special thanks go out to our Marshallers Marty Huvar, Kathleen Hanna, Frank Vargas, Catherine Young, Eric Huvar, Bill Schultz, Richard Hamilton, Ed Bergmann and Cadet Carolyn Bienvenu.

Congratulations go out to Catherine Young. She has excelled out of the Cadet ranks into an adult in the CAF Marshalling Detachment and a Marshaller in training. Happy Birthday to Catherine and welcome to the adult ranks. I am VERY thankful for Kathleen Hanna and her motivation and drive with our Marshaller Cadet

program. These young Cadets are our future and it is very refreshing to see these Cadets show such interest and motivation.

Aircraft that attended the Open House included Houston Wing's AT-6 "Ace in the Hole", BT-13, PT-19, N-3N, C-60 "Goodtime Gal", Gulf Coast Wing's B-17G "Texas Raiders", P-40, P-51 "Pecos Bill", a baby P-51 flown by Gayle Haskins "Little Gunfighter", two Zeros and a Val from Tora, , several L Birds, two T-28 Trojans, a Navion, Scott Rozell's Beech 18 USMC El Toro aircraft. Gosh, that is a beautiful bird!! Naturally I have a love for that bird being that MCAS El Toro was my final duty station before retiring from the Marine Corps. "Keep her flyin' Scott !!!!!

#### **A special note about "Pecos Bill" P-51:**

Flown by Cowden Ward since 2012 and operated by Freedom Flyers, this P-51 is on a new mission honoring the Greatest Generation. Not satisfied with simply flying the Mustang in front of audiences across the Nation, Cowden Ward has made it his goal to give a Mustang ride, free of charge, to WWII veterans. I had the honor of meeting and talking with Cowden. He stated that by doing this, he is helping to fulfill his bucket list. I marshaled him out on a flight with a WWII Vet on Saturday. When they returned, that WWII Vet was like a "kid on Christmas morning" - bright eyed, excited with a permanently tattooed smile on his face. Yes, he agreed the flight was better than the little blue pill!!!

We utilized the "Hot Box" concept in controlling the aircraft that were doing rides. That area was roped off in a way that spectators were able to observe without being in danger. We have used this "Hot Box" concept for a couple of years with great success.

In summing it up, it was a GREAT Open House!!!!!!! I salute all the volunteers that made this Open House the success that it was.

Take care - I'll see ya around the ramp!

Semper Fi

Wayne F. Kennedy  
CAF - Houston Wing Open House  
"Orange One"



Marty and Wayne

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# From the Maintenance Hangar



By: Jim Placette

Hello again from Houston Wing Maintenance....

Well, by now, I hope everyone knows the replacement left engine is on the Lockheed Lodestar. Many thanks to the crew who came out on 27 June to install it. Howard drove the forklift. Thanks to my spotters, the originals, Mike and Ulf, and thanks to our new cadet Mr. Moss who used some young muscles to help us out. It is just short a few key things to be running. As it turns out, the proper carburetor for that engine is not the same as the one on the -72a we removed. We had a spare one off Lady Lodestar and currently it is at the overhaul shop being made ready. We decided it was a good idea to have a fresh clean oil cooler for the engine, so that has been replaced as well. The tail pipe cracked badly upon return from Lubbock, and we are working on solving that problem once and for all. The welds on that pipe have been failing over the years. The C-60 has also had her right engine oil changed and has 40 gallons of fresh clean oil between the 2 engines in her now. I plan to reseal the #1 hydraulic accumulator as the #2 was done recently, but no time was available to do #1. I am also working on the left rear fuel tank leaks again. The artificial horizons have been repaired and reinstalled. Also the cylinder head temperature gauge has been repaired, and the spare one has been repaired too. Those gauges are very rare and hard to find. Having a good spare is a good thing.







The primaries have seen some attention lately too. **The PT-19** is back in service as the tail strut is currently repaired. Also the N3N finally has new main gear tires and tubes, and the carburetor for that aircraft has been overhauled and reinstalled. The N3N is due run up and test flights next.

The **AT-6** is currently at Sugar Land airport getting her new radios installed. The **BT-13** is getting some much needed attention too, and is having her vacuum system worked on, tail strut, right brake and gyro horizon. I also plan to install a new intercom during July, and her fuel pump is going out for overhaul.

- July 18th is Cadet Day, and the maintenance department will be covering proper aircraft cleaning. With all the flying that is going on, the planes need constant cleaning. Some young vibrant folks to help out would be greatly appreciated. I also have other projects for the cadets or want to be mechanics. I plan to make up a spare main gear tire for the AT-6 or N3N in case of a flat. The wheel I have chosen needs to be stripped and repainted. I also plan to use the R-1820-72a which was removed from the C-60 as a mock up and training engine. Various engine accessories will be available to install and remove from that engine as practice. I am also going to mount the R-985 on the extra engine pallet. It will be cleaned and repainted for the museum.

The **L-17 Navion** is being worked on weekly too. The fuel system and landing gear systems are being built up now. The canopy is cleaned. The wing wheel wells are being prepped for repaint. There is always work on the Navion and Ulf can use all the help he can get. Thanks to Greg and Susie for pitching in on that project.

Looking back now half the year is gone. Work keeps going. It is amazing how 70 plus year old planes keep flying, but if you look closely, it is because of the maintenance. The list of repairs and parts that have gone into the planes so far this year has been pretty long. They are very good flying machines and having five operational is no easy task. Thanks to all who come out to work and help with the planes. Thanks to all who clean the machines. And thanks to the pilots who constantly keep me out of trouble.....





# Cadet Program



By: Chuck Waters

We now have ten active cadets with the recent addition of Khalil Moss. In other cadet news, the Wing had outstanding help from our cadets during barnstorming at Hooks on Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21. Fabian Sisso ran the parking lot operation on Saturday and on Sunday Ryan Aamodt received extensive marshalling training under the expert guidance of Kathleen Brown-Hanna. Schon Cormack continues to be a regular presence on our first and third Saturday open dates, serving as an effective guide to our museum and hangar.

Subject to the availability of our cadets, the Wing is planning a cadet orientation day to be held during our open date of Saturday, July 18. As I have noted previously, our cadets are full time students and are involved in numerous outside activities, all of which affect their ability to attend Wing functions.

This report periodically highlights one of our cadet wing members. This month's cadet is Ryan Aamodt, pictured here with the Wing's BT-13.



Ryan Aamodt



Arne training Ryan on proper fueling

Ryan is 13 and the son of Arne and Kimberly Aamodt. He will enter the 8<sup>th</sup> grade this fall at Friendswood Junior High School. Ryan has been a frequent presence on our open dates, as his schedule has allowed. As is

the case with all our Cadets, Ryan is involved in many other activities: goalie on his hockey team, track (the hammer throw) and playing the trombone. He has extensive flying experience with dad, Arne, and has also been up in the BT-13 with Ole Nygren. His long-term goal is to secure a position in the financial management profession.

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# As the Wing Flies

By: Sam Bulger



Welcome back friends to the mid-summer installment of (imagine a big announcer voice),

## “As the Wing Flies.”

Elsewhere in this issue you’ve already read exceptional and insightful literary excellence from the other members of the Houston Wing staff. Sit back, come in here, have a cigar, we’re going to go far. Instead of my usual blabbering about marketing I’d like to share with yawl my first experience with the CAF traveling circus.

Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend we sent our BT-13 and AT-6 to San Antonio to help them celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stinson Field. We went as part of the CAF flying circus. We joined the Centex Wing B-25 *Yellow Rose*, Highland Lakes Wing C-47 *Bluebonnet Belle*, their L-17, Tex Hill Wing L-5 and the Gulf Coast Wing B-17 *Texas Raiders*. It was a fun weekend selling rides, t-shirts, sharing experiences with other wings and making friends after the days flying is over.

The Houston Wing flew the most historic flight experiences. One of the reasons for this is the price point formula. Our aircraft are at the lower end of the price range and we can make a lot of happy riders. Our aircraft also provide a more intimate experience as the rider feels more involved with the flight than just sitting in the seat in the back of a big airplane watching the scenery go by.

After the days flying, selling and sweating people from some of the groups form dinner plans, which is a great time to meet new people from other wings or see people you haven’t seen in a while. This was the first time the Houston Wing participated with our aircraft in a flying circus event out of Houston, it was fun and an honor to do so for Jolene, John squared and myself.

Let’s do some more. We need help at all these events, wanna come out and play? Contact me and I will do the rest. Watch your Email boxes for exceptional literary blasts on where we’re going and join in the FUN. Did I mention we 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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# Member News

## "O" Club

KITCHEN NEWS  
BY: MARIEE TURNER

HELLO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Summer is Upon Us – It is HOT!

So this month we are going

To do Fun, lite and easy

### Picnic Lunch

Bring your favorite

Picnic lunch food, desert or refreshing  
beverage!



## Birthdays

|               |          |      |
|---------------|----------|------|
| Richard (Doc) | Hecker   | 7/3  |
| Suzanne       | Bredlau  | 7/5  |
| Sam           | Bulger   | 7/5  |
| Ole           | Nygren   | 7/8  |
| Tammi         | Lockwood | 7/10 |
| Khalil        | Moss     | 7/20 |
| Dave          | Guggemos | 7/20 |
| Jim           | Buser    | 7/20 |
| George        | Doland   | 7/24 |
| John          | Stofer   | 7/27 |
| Ryszard       | Zadow    | 7/26 |
| Andrew        | Erdmand  | 7/30 |
| James         | Bulger   | 7/30 |
| Ryan          | Young    | 7/30 |

# Bits & Pieces



Around the Hangar – this is a priceless photo

I would like to thank all our photographers that work so hard quietly, passionately and with great dedication making sure that all our events are recorded for ever in time. Most of these folks have many other duties but since photography is their passion, they always seem to find time to pick up their camera and capture those moments for all of us to enjoy.

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## 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