

Slips and Skids June 2015



Newsletter for the
Houston Wing
Commemorative Air Force



From Our Wing Leader

By: Stan Turner



"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." –Maya Angelou

As we move into the summer months it looks like the heavy rains from the past few weeks have gone away. Hopefully everyone made it through the storms without major flooding. The hangar and aircraft are all in good shape. Work is progressing on the new tenant hangar across from B-5 so be please be vigilant about keeping the ramp clear of rocks and construction debris during aircraft operations.

The summer flying schedule has become packed with airshows and barnstorming rides days with the Gulf Coast Wing. There are many opportunities to participate with the aircraft rides, PX and dog tag trailer. Operations Officer John Cotter will have the most current schedule available at the wing meeting.

- **Volunteering**

For those of you looking to help out around the hangar, Mike Phillips has a list of things ranging from cleaning out some corners to painting and light construction. Mike is usually at the hangar on Saturday mornings so stop by and look him up. If he is not available identify yourself to one of the other staff members and express your interest in helping out. We will do our best to get you involved. If you feel like you are getting the cold shoulder when you first come out

Please accept my apology for that. The best thing to do is be persistent, come back several times and realize that we aren't ignoring you intentionally. Sometimes it just gets a little busy with the flying and other activities.

- **Houston Wing Rides Day – September 12th**

We are in the planning stages of having a major Houston Wing Rides Day on Saturday, September 12th. After all of the summer travel, it will be time to have an event at our home site. In addition to selling flight

experiences, we will have food service and PX sales available. This is a new event for the Wing and we hope to turn it into a solid fund raiser for the future. Advertising and ride sales have already begun on the website.

- **Navion Restoration**

The L-17 Navion restoration project continues to make headway under the watchful eye of Ulf Brynjestad. In mid-May, Mike Phillips and crew test mated the two wing sections to check the fitting of the newly installed fuel tanks and fuel plumbing. After the wings were checked and modifications noted, they were separated and stored back in their temporary cradles. Current work is concentrating on the front and main wheel assemblies. Two new members have joined the L-17 restoration team. They are Steve Sparks and Tracy Waruke.

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



Tracy Waruke stripping paint from the Navion gear doors canopy



New member Steve Sparks cleans glue from the Navion



Maintenance Officer Jim Placette inspects the rebuilt R-1820 engine for the C-60



Bill Schultz, Mike Phillips and John Cotter remove the R-1820 from the trailer.

From Our Operations Leader

By: John Cotter



The past month has been another busy one for the Houston Wing. We were scheduled to attend the Warbirds over Hondo show on May 15 & 16, but the weather didn't cooperate and the Tex Hill Wing decided to postpone the show until November. We are planning on participating once we have a definite date.

For Memorial Day, we put up an eight ship formation with the Lockheed as the Lead Airplane. Stan Turner and I were the pilots in the Lockheed with Jim Placette keeping an eye on us as our Crew Chief. We were joined by Nathan Harnagel (AT6), Craig Hutain (AT6), John Bixby (AT6), Michael Steiger (T28), Rob Parrish (T34), Dave Guggemos (T34) and Scott Rozzell (SNJ). We did flyovers for the Sugar Land Memorial Park, Memorial Oaks Cemetery and the National Cemetery. All three venues were holding ceremonies for Memorial Day and our participation was greatly appreciated by all who saw us fly over.

As I write this article (June 5th), we have the AT6, BT13, N3N and T28 at the Rusk County Air Show. Arne Aamodt is flying the AT6, Dewey and Tammi Lockwood flew the BT13, Nathan Harnagel and Frank Vargas flew the N3N and myself along with Jacqui Hazelwood brought the T28. This is a great show that is a lot of fun to participate in. We have the pleasure to work with a great friend of the Wing, Bob Dunn, as he is the Air Boss for this show.

John Bixby, Stan Turner, and Jim Placette are flying the Lockheed C60 to Lubbock on Saturday, June 6th to participate in the Silent Wings Museum D-Day events. They will be assisted with the PX team of Susan Vaculik, Jeremy Wright, Howard Quoyeser and Kristy Maslanka. This was a good event for the Wing last year and I fully expect that it will be even better this year.

We have a few upcoming events that we are asking for assistance to make them successful:

June 20 & 21: Barnstorm at Hooks Airport with Texas Raiders

AT6, BT13, PT19 and N3N attending

PX, tours and parking help needed

July 3-5: Barnstorm at San Antonio Stinson Field with Texas Raiders

AT6 and N3N attending

Two seats available for those willing to help with PX

August 1 & 2: Barnstorm at Hooks for Texas Raiders Birthday Celebration

C60, AT6, N3N and PT19 attending

PX, tours and parking help needed

Pilot training is continuing at the Hangar. Last weekend Arne Aamodt became our newest AT6 pilot after passing his check flight with Ed Vesely.

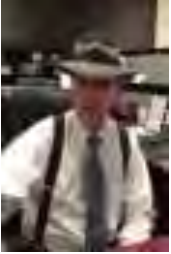


We also got the Lockheed out of the Hangar. Nathan Harnagel and Ken Hyman did flight training and are now our newest co-pilots in the C60. Congratulations to all that passed their check flights last weekend.



Happening in the PX and the Hanger

By: Bob Linguiti



The flooding rains are scarcely a week old and already the “news” people are beginning to talk about a drought. Are the media really that bereft of meaningful news that they are forced to manufacture a crisis, where none exists? (Hmm, that sounds like “soap box” stuff to me; perhaps, it is time to move on to another topic.)

Our fleet of planes had a very active Memorial Day and I believe we will have an equally impressive round of flights for the D-Day Anniversary. Although the hangar, thus, will be largely empty (of planes), I am still expecting a fair throng of visitors, eager to soak up some World War II history. (The article in the Houston Chronicle, highlighting the recent visit by Katy ISD, will certainly not do us any harm in this regard.)

In PX-land, the inventory has been completed, thanks to my very able colleagues Tammi Lockwood and Winona Morton and, of course, Susan Vaculik at the C-60A helm. With July now less than one month away, it will soon be time to place my air show toy order. This year, I’ll be plotting our toy strategy without the indefatigable Sam Hoynes, who appears to be determined to re-write several of the Michelin Travel Guides, by crisscrossing the country. (Once again, though, Tammi has offered her assistance for this project, as well.)

On a related note, for those of you cringing or cowering in dark corners, yes, it is still too early to begin my quest for Wings Over Houston Volunteers. You are all safe until next issue.

...and on that note, I will close for now, but with a very special “thank you” to all those veterans of Operation Overlord, those that landed, whether by air or sea, on those long-ago Normandy beaches designated Omaha, Utah, Sword, Juno, and Gold, to those that succeeded and to those that perished in the attempt or, later, during the many long, hard-fought battles that ensued and that led to the day we commemorated just one month ago. May they never fade from our memories and may their courage and sacrifice never have been in vain.

From the Maintenance Area

By: Jim Placette



Hello again from Houston Wing Maintenance....

Thanks to all who came out to clean the planes on 3 June. They all look really good thanks to all your efforts. Everything else is on schedule. T

The C-60 engine change begins on 8 June and the following Saturday for school we will be pulling it. If you have not heard, the replacement engine arrived on 31 May thanks to Mike Phillips.

Also the PT-19 tail gear is to be removed again and sent out for repairs. That happens the week of 8 June also.

The rest of the planes are well and happy.

The weekend of D-day is the big one with all the trainers, less the PT, headed to Rusk County and the C-60 headed to Lubbock. T

The last big job of 2015 begins upon return. Then we start on the Navion. Anyone with any interest in aircraft repair, I ask to attend school and bring your tools. We still have plenty of work to do out there, but mostly on the Navion.

I do hope to see you at the hangar.....

From the Museum

By: Sam Hoynes



Katy Elementary School's Fifth Grade Field Trip

On Friday the 22nd of May we hosted a field trip from Katy Elementary at the hangar. In total we had 96 fifth grade students along with over 30 adults which included teachers and parents and grandparents acting as chaperones.

We had two groups of 48 students and associated teachers and chaperones go thru the hangar. One group arrived at 9:00 and left at 10:45 and the second group arrived at 11:45 and left at 1:30. After a 5 minute introduction and hangar safety briefing in the Wing's meeting room we split them into 5 groups of 9 or 10 students each and they were rotated thru 5 stations in the hangar with each station spending 15 minutes with each group.

Station #1: Jim Buser in the Museum. (Wearing his father's WWII Navy Uniform as he covered some of the museum's highlights.)



Station #2: Frank Vargas and Bruce Thomas at the C-60 and who took the students thru the paratrooper exercise with the new back pack, simulated parachutes. (Their real work was repacking the 10 chutes in a couple of minutes before the next group rotated to them.)



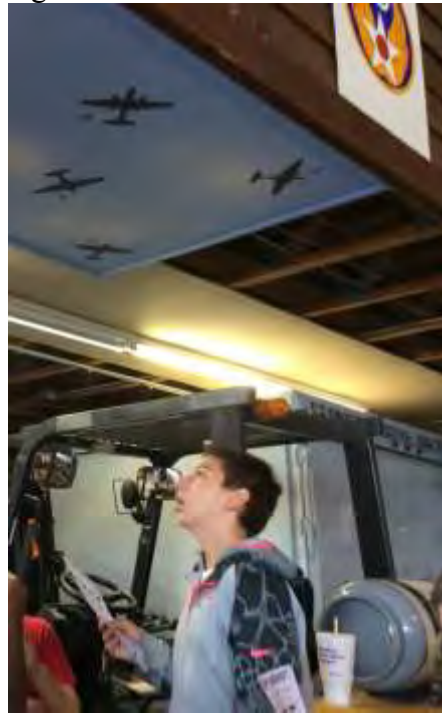
Station #3: Rich Welch and Dick Harper at the BT-13 with Rich explaining how an airplane flies and how the flight controls work and with Dick operating the controls.



Station #4: Chuck Waters at the AT-6 letting kids get into the aircraft's cockpit.



Station #5: Sam Hoynes in the hangar talking about the N3N and PT-19 then doing an aircraft recognition exercise and explaining the Allied and Axis powers flags in the hangar.



When all the kids had rotated thru the five stations Dick Harper started the AT-6 and taxied it away and back so that the kids could see and hear the radial engine and see the aircraft moving before re-boarding the bus and returning to school.



9:00 Group



11:30 Group

This is the second year in a row that Katy Elementary has brought their fifth grade students to our hangar during a field trip and we are getting better at it each year. The students were amazing, well behaved, polite, and asked a lot of pertinent questions which made the field trip a real joy for our Wing volunteers.

One new experience this year was that the Houston Chronicle sent a photographer and reporter (Trish Johnson) to the hangar to cover the school field trip for the Katy Neighborhood News section of the Chronicle which comes out on Thursdays. We hope to see this article in the Chronicle Katy Neighborhood News sections in the next few weeks.



In the past two years the CAF has had several incidents where CAF members or volunteers have been injured falling off of a stepladder, or when the stepladder they were on fell over.

Because of this we wanted to remind everybody of some basic stepladder safety rules.

Ladders are such common everyday tools that many people take them for granted. As you read the safety guidelines, you may say: “I know that, that’s just plain common sense.” Ladder related injuries are preventable, if you think before you climb.

Stepladder Safety

THE “RIGHT” WAY TO USE A STEPLADDER:

- **Select the correct ladder for the job.**
 - Is it tall enough for the job?
 - Is it rated for the weight you will put on it?
 - Have you inspected the ladder to ensure it is in good condition?
 - If the answer to any of these is NO to any of the above then get another ladder!
- **Set up the ladder correctly.**
 - Select a level surface when placing the ladder.
 - If using near a doorway or walkway set up barricades to ensure people don’t walk into or bump the ladder.

- Always open a stepladder completely and make sure the spreader bar is locked before use.
- **Now use the ladder correctly.**
 - Climb the ladder using both hands and staying centered on the ladder.
 - Never stand higher than the second step from the top on a ladder.
 - Move materials with extreme caution so as not to lose balance or tip the ladder.

MOST FALLS FROM LADDERS INVOLVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Unstable or slippery base surfaces.
- Misstep or foot slipping.
- Loss of balance due to overreaching.

AVOID THESE BASIC LADDER MISTAKES:

- DON'T climb a closed stepladder, using it like an extension ladder.
- DON'T climb on the back of a stepladder.
- DON'T stand or sit on a stepladder top or pail shelf.
- DON'T go beyond the second step from the top of a stepladder. (If you need to go higher get a taller ladder.)
- DON'T carry tools or materials when climbing any ladder. (Get in position and have someone hand you what you need or use a tool belt.)
- DON'T over-reach, lean to one side or try to move a ladder while on it. (Climb down and then reposition the ladder closer to your work.)

Cadet Program



By: Chuck Waters

The Wing's CAF Cadet Program continues to grow. We now have nine active cadets with the recent addition of Fabian Sisso. Fabian has attended numerous Wing functions over the past year and at last was able to enroll in the cadet program. Shortly after joining, he took an introductory ride with Mike Steiger in the AT-6. In other cadet news, Ryan Young and Matthew Young participated in the Memorial Day flyover of three cemeteries on Monday, May 25, before the rains came. A future project for all cadets is to be trained in proper aircraft cleaning methods, under the guidance of Jim Placette. I am hopeful that this training will be accomplished during the summer as and when cadets become available, given their status as full-time students with extracurricular activities.

This report will periodically highlight one of our cadet wing members. This month's cadet is Cassidy Young, pictured here in Mike Steiger's T-28.



Cassidy is the daughter of Jennifer Steiger, step-daughter of Mike and sister of fellow cadets Ryan and Matthew Young. She will attend Cypress Woods High School this fall as a freshman where she plans to participate in Future Farmers of America. She is currently involved in dressage riding which develops the natural athletic ability of horses, and will start jumping lessons this summer. She enjoys painting and the lost art of sewing. In pursuit of the latter she has assisted several Wing members with patches.

Cassidy has attended numerous CAF events over the past year and was most helpful during our Open House earlier this year. She enjoys flying with Mike in the family Piper Cub and T-28, as well as in other aircraft types. Her long-term goals are to participate in show jumping and to attend a 4-year university, earning a degree in equine science.

As the Wing Flies

By: Sam Bulger



Welcome back friends to the still early summer installment of (imagine a big announcer voice) of

“As the Wing Flies.”

Elsewhere in this issue you’ve already read all the other goings on and other miscellaneous ramblings. Sit back, enjoy your favorite libation and enjoy the literary excellence that is the June marketing report.

April showers turned into May showers this year too. The wing performed our largest flyover of the year for Memorial Day. We started in Sugarland, went to Memorial Oaks Cemetery and the Houston Veterans Cemetery. Three flyovers in one flight! The flying and timing was excellent! I would like to thank Stan Russ and Ruth Tucker for calling in the Sugarland flight and Ken Hyman for calling in the Memorial Oaks flight. This was Stan and Ruth’s first time and they did a marvelous job.

We have a busy June and July coming up as you’ve read in the operations report. We are going to Hooks to support our sister wing with the big green plane over Father’s day weekend and we have been invited to take part in the flying circus in San Antonio over July 4th weekend.

We have exciting news this month as we are going to have a ride day for our wing on September 12th. This event will be for the wing to generate additional capital to help us move forward with things around the hangar.....like a new engine for the BT-13.

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 or 832-859-1164.

Member News

"O" Club

KITCHEN NEWS
BY: MARIEE TURNER

HELLO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

Thanks to all of you for all of your food donations for our May meeting

THE MENU FOR JUNE IS BBQ.

Let's all get out our cookbooks and see how creative we can be for the June menu. With so many recipes floating around these days we should have quite a variety of dishes to sample!!!

SEE YOU THERE!



June Birthdays

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------|
| Paul | Bienvenu | 6/19 |
| Shirley | Hyman | 6/6 |
| Bruce | Thomas | 6/4 |
| Dewey | Lockwood | 6/6 |
| Franklin | Godek | 6/17 |
| Kay | Kennedy | 6/12 |
| Edward | Vesely | 6/29 |
| W. E. "Bill" | Willits | 6/24 |

Bits & Pieces

I would like to send a shout out to all our Operations Team and Pilots with a huge **Thank You** for all their time and efforts, they put in, making sure all the flights we sell get taken care of.

It takes a team of people to make sure each of those flights happen!



Thanks from Winona, Ride Coordinator

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| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
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**Commemorative Air Force,
*Houston Wing***

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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