

Slips & Skids



April 2016
Volume 4 Issue 1

Houston Wing

A Peek Inside

HOT OFF THE PRESS
Big News!

- Come One Come All - Open House 2016 is 4/16th & 17th
- Meet Bill Davis
- Get an Update on Wing Maintenance
- Safety is a BIG Concern - help us become accident free
- Have some spare time? We need you, come join us, volunteer
- As the Wing Flies

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**SIGN
UP
TODAY!**

**VOLUNTEERS!
NEEDED!**

Our Wing Leader



With April, our Wing activities are really taking off. Winter maintenance is almost wrapped up, hangar improvements continue, aircraft projects are moving forward and the Operations side is starting to get busy. Our social media is drawing more attention, we are flying Historic Flight Experiences again, and preparations are well underway for another fantastic Open House. Our team has done another great job of planning for 2016's event. But as has been said before, if you are looking for something to do at Open House, we always need volunteers.

But as soon as Open House is complete, we have several events over the next few weeks, which I am sure we will see a calendar of dates/events later in the newsletter. These events will provide ample opportunities to be a part of the Houston Wing activities. Please watch for e-blast mails announcing openings for volunteers.

In the mean time, if you are a baseball fan, I hope you saw our members of the Houston Wing performing the Opening ceremony flyover for the Houston Astros Opening Day (April 11th). We have been very fortunate to develop a relationship with the management of the team and this allows us these fantastic opportunities.

It is such a fantastic feeling to walk in our hangar on most weekend days and see our team hard at work. Our Wing is growing, moving forward and gaining positive recognition. And that is because of you, our volunteer. Keep up the hard work, but most of all have fun and enjoy being involved at our Wing.





If you couldn't make the last regular Wing meeting, we had a special guest, William Davis. Bill trained during WW II at Tuskegee AL. Though he was court marshaled out of pilot training for flying too aggressively (funny since he was going to be a fighter pilot), he did continue working on aircraft for a while and also working on his flying skills. Bill was a delight to listen to his stories and hopefully he will be back to visit the hangar again soon.

John C.

Keep them Flying and Have Fun!



John Cotter took Chris Daigle from Houston Inner Loop Magazine up for a ride on Media Day

Operations



We have another event with the Houston Wing traveling road show. Our friends with the other big green plane (the slow one) across town have invited us to come out and play in their back yard at Hooks airport in scenic Tomball, TX on Saturday and Sunday April 23rd & 24th.

The following is a request for crew for this Houston Wing mission: Anyone who is up to date with dues (and shots) for CAF/HW can be considered for mission crew.

Barnstorming Weekend at Hooks with Gulf Coast Wing

CREW REQUEST WILL CLOSE ON Thursday, April 21 at noon.

Need PX help, Aircraft Guardians, L-39 cockpit helpers, Parking lot Attendant (s) and Pilots too. The event starts at 10:00am and goes till 4:00pm. We'll need everyone there no later than 9:30am and preferably 9:00am.

Please contact:

Susan Vaculik at svaculikjm@gmail.com for PX

Chuck Waters at charleswatersjr@swbell.net for Cadets & L39 Cockpit helpers

John Bixby at jbdc9@yahoo.com for Pilots

Sam Bulger at wohphotopit@gmail.com for everything else and event information

Thank you and let's go have some fun,

Sam Bulger

Mission Tour Director

[832-859-1164](tel:832-859-1164)

sabulger@sbec.com

wohphotopit@gmail.com

Wing Maintenance



What a winter it has been. And so now into spring. Keeping five old warbirds flying is quite a task. Right now three are allowed to do so. The AT-6A tachometer should arrive and be installed before open house. I am guessing she will be a very popular ride aircraft. Also the BT-13 is doing ok and will be up for open house. The N3N is finished less one loose tape on the top wing I will repair before open house. The PT-19 wing will not be ready in time, so she is a no fly this year. The estimated return of the wing is one week after that event. Also the replacement intercom is going in along with some other repairs. The C-60 will appear flyable, as the right prop is installed, the right engine repaint/reseal is complete, thank you Suzie B, and I shall reinstall the certified fire extinguisher bottle before open house. Sadly, however she will only be static and on display for the event as the interior problems are still not solved. The C-60 intercom is also being upgraded to a six place unit for more positions in the cabin of the plane. Electrical and I shall work on that as time permits. I want to thank the guys who have come out to clean, Jason Haney, the young cadet men, and Craig Pridgeon have all pitched in with cleaning the planes. I cannot tell you how much that helps me out as I am caught up in a firestorm of maintenance issues this year. Also there is a T-28 I am working on, and a Bulldog, but I will have it all done by then. After open house I am taking a break. Since last Nov, I have done the annual on the PT-19, the N3N, the BT-13 plus engine change and worked on the Lockheed troubles and Annual. Then the PT gets hurt in Feb and here we go again. I changed the oil and a flex hose oil line that appeared to leak. I changed out the front seat compass to an original B16 that came out of the C-60, and I repaired. I also removed the electric turn and bank which was upsetting the compass, and replaced it with an original World War 2 vacuum turn and bank. Right now I am remounting the forward instrument panel. Some where in there the AT-6 annual got done in Feb.

But as of 19 April I start an instrument pilot rating. That will go on for May until likely July. I am also working on checking out in the BT-13. I restored that aircraft to flight status way back in 1994 and have always wanted to fly her. After the instrument rating I go commercial, and the pilots will rejoice. And so my dream of a multi-engine instrument/commercial rating will be achieved.

The hangar clean-up is going very well, again thank you Suzie B. And the hangar maintenance man, Mike Phillips, is rearranging the tool crib for better use of space. Also all the donated hardware from Dry Creek as been put into containers on rolling shelves for access and storage.

You might note north bay is more roomy now as the Bridgeport Mill and welding machines went to Ryzard Zadow in exchange for some Navion work. A good trade in my book. All we need now is a good dumpster.....If we bump into each other at open house, be sure and say hi. Usually I am all over the place though and hard to nail down.

Jim



Susie and Jim hard at work trying to get the C60 back together



Safety Officer

Get hurt? Tell somebody.



So you bumped your head, or slipped and fell, cut your finger, etc. It doesn't matter how you got hurt or whose fault it is. Tell somebody. The Wing Staff is ready and eager to see that you get all the help you need whether it is calling 911 or just getting you an ice pack. Keeping your injury a secret doesn't allow the staff to help you and it exposes the CAF to pretty serious legal risk if your condition unexpectedly worsens because you went untreated. Don't worry, no one will make fun of you even if you did something dumb. It isn't worth the risk to yourself or the Wing just to protect your pride.



Arne

Update from the Restoration Department



I just love this cartoon. I can in my mind picture this as the L-17 patch. Well, we will see. The work on the restoration of the L-17 continues at reasonable pace. I think we are over the speed bumps; the pace is being picked up. The critical path in this project is and has always been the restoration of the fuselage. Even though there are still some sheet metal work remaining on the fuselage, the team has now started to populate the fuselage. Stan Turner has installed the instrument panel, the hydraulic master controller and support structure has been installed and hydraulic lines are connected.

In February, I mentioned that we are ready to mate the two wings together. A lot of work has been done; hydraulic lines have been installed, main landing gear, brakes and associated plumbing, gear up locks, control cables and associated electrical wiring has been installed. Fuel tanks and associated plumbing has been installed in the wings.

First “test” mate was conducted as shown on the picture below. Work is now being done on a fixture which will allow us to mate the wings, finish the wing assembly and then store it until we are ready to mate the wings to the fuselage. As you can see from the picture below, the wings appear to fit well together.



Test mate of the wings



Instrument panel frame installed

Cadet Program



Our cadet Wing members continue to be an important part of operations. During our barnstorming with the Gulf Coast Wing on March 5, Ryan and Matt Young trailered in and manned the L-39, which earned some \$160 in donations. Fabian Sisso, Chris Dunin and Chris Wiemuth assisted by guarding aircraft, and each received marshalling training under the guidance of Kathleen Brown-Hanna. Back at the Hangar, Schon Cormack did his usual fine job as a museum docent, Khalil Moss worked on the Navion and Hannah Haney manned the PX.

During our open date on March 19, a record seven of our young members were present to assist with a crowd of over 100 visitors during the day. Clay Waters kept the hangar floor clean, Schon Cormack gave museum tours, Hannah Haney again manned the PX, Soren Larson helped with BT-13 showings, Fabian Sisso, Chris Dunin and Madelyn Latiolais cleaned the C-60 after its extended run-up and generally helped out. Finally, during the afternoon, we were pleased to sign up and welcome our 17th young member, Shemar Smith.

With the now large cadet corps, there is an increased importance to assign our cadet members meaningful work around the Hangar. Eligible projects include preparation of the L-39, under the able guidance of Carlos Sisso, work on the L-17 as well as our other aircraft, under supervision, cleaning of the replaced BT-13 engine to make it ready for display. Cleaning school as and when the cadets are available is another ongoing project. Ideas for cadet projects are always welcome.,



Charles

As the Wing Flies





Finance and Membership



Wow! How did we get to April? Seems like we were all together at the Awards Dinner yesterday. I hope everyone is ready for Open House and to have a great time together. I look forward to seeing you there (everyone please keep telling the rain to go away).

As of this writing we have 99% of our members who have renewed nationally and at the Wing level. I am happy to say that we have quite a few new members that are jumping in with both feet to help where needed.

Our Cadets are growing by leaps and bounds. We have added five (5) in the last month give or take a week or two. Our attendance at meetings is seeming to stay consistent which is great to see.

With the above being said, I will have a roster out to everyone soon. I am double and triple checking information to make sure it is all correct as well as making sure headquarters is showing all of our members are assigned to us (which I have found several that were not). Thank you to everyone for being patient and answering my questions when I need further information or just need to confirm I am reading the handwriting correctly.

I also wanted to thank everyone who has volunteered to assist with learning the Dog-tag process and learning to type on the "old girl" as we need the backup (especially those that took the time at Hooks several weeks ago so they would be ready at Open House). Although I have not been typing on her lately I do enjoy it but the time has come to pass some of my time with her to others and I am grateful to have had so many step up.



I want to thank all of our volunteers before Open House because if we did not have such wonderful volunteers we would not have such a fun and exciting time each year. As usual, I will have my pink ball cap on so you should find me easily enough if you need something.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A CASE OF WATER AND BAKED GOODS PACKAGED FOR SALE TO OPEN HOUSE!

Also, as a reminder if you are having issues with receiving our e-blasts, PLEASE PLEASE let me know so I can get the issue corrected. See ya soon!!!

Tammi

Bits & Pieces



Hey, folks I don't know who of you do or do not use social media such as Facebook, or Twitter but just like our website we are working extremely hard to beef up all of our social media and improve our rankings. It requires a lot of effort, my reason for telling you all this is it would be extremely helpful for everyone to pop on any of our social media sites when ever you can because it keeps us at the top of the search engines. The easy explanation to this is the more our sites are accessed the easier we are to find.

So, I would like to ask everyone to help out when ever you can to go to our website, Facebook and/or our Twitter account if you would like to post something on Facebook or Twitter that would be great, but, just visiting is a huge help.

Also, spread the word tell your family and friends about our social media, so share our postings with your friends and family so the word gets out there. Best advertising is word-of-mouth and we need your help with that!



Houston Wing CAF



www.houstonwing.org

Thanks, your Editor

Member News

"O" Club

KITCHEN NEWS

There is
NO Meeting this
Month due to
Open House
We will pick back up in May
See you then!
BY: Winona Morton

HELLO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Birthdays

Sco	Rozzell	4/12
Charles	Szalkowski	4/14
Jolene	Meldrum	4/15
Kristy "Kreme"	Maslanka	4/21
Stanley "Stan"	Russ	4/22
Madelyn	Latiolai	4/24
Nathan	Harnagel	4/25
Aric	Aldrich	4/30



Staff Directory		
Wing Leader	Col John Cotter	wingleader@houstonwing.org
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Museum and Collections Officer	Col Sam Hoynes	museum@houstonwing.org
Marketing Officer	Col Sam Bulgar	marketing@houstonwing.org
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Public Information Officer	Col Winona Morton	editor@houstonwing.org
PX Officer	Col Susan Valucik	px@houstonwing.org
Safety Officer	Col Arne Aamodt	safety@houstonwing.org



Commemorative Air Force,

Houston Wing

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(281) 579-2131

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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/ 123.05

UNICOM:

APPROACH: 123.8

DEPARTURE: 123.8

CLEARANCE: 121.15