

Slips & Skids



February 2016
Volume 2 Issue 1

Houston Wing

A Peek Inside

HOT OFF THE PRESS
Big News!

Valentines Day Edition

- ◆ Update of the Awards Banquet
- ◆ What are we doing and where are we going
- ◆ Museum Updates and News
- ◆ A glimpse at Saturday's Open House
- ◆ Project Updates - L-17 Navion
- ◆ Maintenance and Hanger Updates
- ◆ We say an unexpected goodbye to another wing member

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Our Wing Leader



Well, already the first month of 2016 has come and gone. January did bring our annual Awards Banquet with us returning to the Westin Memorial City for our festive event. This year we had a record turn out with 89 attending. Fun and merriment abounded.

This past weekend the Houston Wing, Gulf Coast Wing, Wings Over Houston, friends and family had to say goodbye to our dear friend. Janis Roach's memorial was held on Saturday February 6th. The Houston Wing performed a missing woman tribute for Janis. Scott Rozzell, Dave Guggemos, and Stan Turner comprised the first flight with Nathan Harnagel (with Robert Plunkett), Ryszard Zadow and Jim Placette (with Mike Steiger) in the 2nd flight. Thanks so much to our pilots that performed the flyover, it was appreciated by all who witnessed your aviating skills. Please keep Bill and Janis' family in your thoughts as she will be sorely missed.

Our big April event, Open House, is fast approaching. In case you haven't heard, this year our Open House will take place on April 16 & 17. The planning committee had our first meeting about a week ago and preparations are well underway for a great Open House. As you know, second to Wings Over Houston, this is our biggest single fundraising event of the year. We would love to have everyone come out to volunteer that weekend; both days, one day or even part of a day. We want your help. There will be a sign up sheet at the next regular Wing meeting (February 21) or you can email me about your availability.

I want everyone to know that the Wing staff appreciates all the hard work and volunteer hours that you all contribute. For those that are new or looking for an area to help, feel free to contact me or any other staff member. I truly want anyone that wants to help to be able to be involved, so don't hesitate to drop me a note.

Now let's all get out there and continue our efforts to make 2016 even better than 2015.

John



2016

Awards



Banquet

Operations Officer



February. New Ops Guy checking in. It's been a fairly quiet month at the hangar for flying; the PT-19 and N3N have been out for a few local hops and the BT-13 is being flown a bit to get the new engine broken in.

On the pilot training front, Greg Young is working on his PT-19 checkout and will soon start in the BT-13 while Jim Placette will resume flying in the BT to continue his checkout training. Our only mission for the past month was a 6 ship flyover to honor Janis Roach on Feb 6. More details on that in the Wing Leader's page.

One recent development from HQ is a temporary suspension of the CAF ride program for standard category airplanes; the suspension is voluntary by the CAF and is due to internal paperwork issues related to the drug test program. The fleet is not grounded, we can still fly 'em and even carry passengers, but just not for paid rides. This issue should be resolved by late March. The CAF bomber fleet is under a different set of rules for paid rides and they are not affected by this suspension.

For upcoming events, we have two flyovers over the next two weeks; March looks fairly quiet, then April will get pretty busy. Here's the list of what's on tap;

- Feb 13 - Pilot ground school
- Feb 15 - Wounded Warriors flyover
- Feb 20 - Lock-n-Load flyover
- Mar 5 - Barnstorm with B-17 DWH. Tentative...
- Apr 11 - Astros opener flyover
- Apr 16/17 - Open House
- Apr 21 - Skeeters opener flyover
- Apr 22/23 - Bluebonnet Air Show, Burnet.

On top of that will be the usual 1st and 3rd Saturday Museum days which have been getting ever busier...

John B

Happenings in the PX



Hello, well it's turned out to be a tough start to the new year. I attended Janis's funeral service and it was beautiful. I loved hearing all the stories and seeing all the pictures. The place was packed with people and there were so many flowers and plants. There were (6) planes that flew over the funeral home. People driving on 99 Pkwy. slowed down to look. She will be greatly missed. I was really looking forward to working closer with her this year at Wings Over Houston but when she found out I was the new PX Officer she gave me some tips. She was a great person. She will always be with us in spirit and we will never forget her. This year, she will have the best seat at Wing Over Houston!!! We love you Janis!

We had a cold and rainy January but the last weekend turned out beautiful for my birthday. Jim and I enjoyed a great weekend in San Antonio.

Back at the hanger, we received 25 boxes of toys for Open House. Thanks to Sam Hoynes and Jim Buser for delivering them to the hanger. I have ordered our best-selling tee-shirt "Good Time Gal" with a new back "Paratroopers" instead of the standard one. Open House is approaching and we need PX volunteers to come out and help us sell t-shirts and toys, but most importantly to have fun, enjoy each other's company and meet new people. We have a great CAF family.

See you around the hangar!

Susan



Wing Maintenance



Here it is the peak of winter maintenance. I wish I could say all is going according to plan, but that is way too much to ask for in the wonderful world of aircraft repair.

The good news is, it appears the BT-13's engine is ready for normal flight. The break in has gone very well, and the engine is doing exceptionally well. The N3N at last report was doing ok, but we are still working on improvements to the seat belt installs. The PT-19 is having intercom troubles, and a replacement will likely be necessary. An improved modern intercom is the best solution to that problem. Finding a old one to replace the old one is unlikely.

The AT-6 annual is underway and should finish soon thanks to the help of Ryzard Zadow and his crew. It will be good to have Ace back in sky this month.

The C-60, however, is bogged down in bureaucracy, and I have no idea when she will fly again. It is looking more and more like summer. I wish I could say open house, but that is only hopeful and not a sure thing. Things are tough right now, but "when the going gets tough, the tough get going", and that is what we will do is fight to the finish.

In the meantime though, the weather will improve, and the pilots will all decide to get in refreshers right before open house after all the cleaning on the planes. So the cleaning crews must be ever vigilant. If you have a plane you want the job of keeping clean, let me know. I will be glad to demonstrate proper aircraft cleaning to anyone who wants the responsibility. It generally is not hard work, and with modern science, it is easier than ever. During March and into April, extra effort will go into cleaning. All the planes flying or not, need to be ready for the public displays. We want to make a good impression everywhere we go.

With all the single engine trainers back in full operation, all attention turns to the C-60. Significant improvements to the interior structures will be required. This will be a time consuming job. Also in March a T-28C will be in for condition inspection and some other work. That job needs many hands too.

And the Navion is coming along also and needs help. Be sure and see Ulf about that.

If you are wondering what happened to the hangar dance normally in February, it is lost to the C-60 this year. I shall bring it back on Sat February the 11th 2017. I really thought the BT-13 engine change would be the problem. Little did I know the real trouble would come from the Lodestar. Once all that is behind us, I can get back to the dance. Such is the trouble of being both maintenance officer and the dance producer. Some years I cannot do both. I do miss the dance though. It is a magical evening in the middle of all the chaos. So mark your calendars....

See you at the hangar....

Jim

News and Other Musings



Last month, January 2016, we held our annual Awards Dinner and, at least to this untutored eye, we appeared to have a larger crowd than I had ever seen before at one of these events. On behalf of the staff, I'd like to thank everyone in attendance for making this year's dinner a success. For all of the "first-timers," including many of our cadets and their families, I hope this special evening passed pleasantly and that this will be the first of many such evenings for you. One element that, alas, was missing from this year's festivities was the eagerly anticipated, but for the "honored" recipients, often dreaded, "gag awards." Those awards usually allow Steve Sehnert to give free rein to his sense of humor and one can but hope that, next year, we shall find many members worthy of Steve's humorous notice and that their noteworthy activities will be performed in full view of appropriate witnesses with long memories. Congratulations go all the award winners, especially to Chuck Waters, Nathan Harnagel, and Mike Phillips, winners of the "big three" (not to be confused with Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin).



According to Punxsutawney Phil, our renowned Eastern meteorologist, we are to have an early spring this year. Just at the moment, however, it is difficult – at least, for me – to believe that spring has not already arrived. Although I have been wearing a trench coat in the early morning, by mid-afternoon, the weather has been anything but coat-friendly. Rumor has it that the temperature may actually dip toward freezing, if only for the blink of an eye. We'll just have to wait to learn if Phil is worth the exorbitant salary he undoubtedly receives. For now, my early morning dog walks will continue to be punctuated by episodes of intense staring at the ground, trying to espy the elusive odd bit of frost.

As we inch, inexorably, toward April and our Open House, it is strange not to be preparing to round up the usual suspects for help at the PX and dog tag operations. No doubt Susan will be making that very request, perhaps even in this issue. So, volunteers, respond with alacrity.

Bob

Update from the Restoration Department



The progress on restoring the Navion L-17 has been lagging for a while, however, some project management issues have been resolved and I expect the progress will be faster and more noticeable from now on.

The work is proceeding in several parallel tracks; work is being done on the fuselage, on the empennage, on the wings, and the various systems. In this and following updates, I will describe progress on the various components.

Steve Sparks is in charge of the canopy restoration. After stripping the canopy of old paint, old insulation, after removing the old, yellowed, crazed Plexiglas windows, removal and treatment of corrosion, it is now ready to be assembled.

The canopy will be provided with new insulation, a new headliner and new clear windows. After refurbishment, the canopy will be bagged and set aside until integration with the airframe.

The project has now advanced to the stage where we can use many more volunteers. Although we still have requirements for people with skills such as sheet metal working, painting and riveting, if you have two arms, can use a screwdriver without hurting yourself, please, contact me at your earliest convenience. Work hours are every Wednesday afternoon/evening and Saturday mornings. I am looking forward to seeing you.

In the next update, I will cover the work done on the wings and, hopefully, the successful mating of the wings.

Ulf



Steve Sparks, diligently cleaning and removing corrosion from the canopy

Our Museum



The museum volunteers continue to work on the museum. Our 2016 projects are varied but include.

1. Improving the existing exhibits. (Better signs explaining the exhibits and rearranging them to better tell a story to our visitors.)
2. Sorting through stored items to identify things we can display.
3. Rotating Exhibits. (Moving items from display to storage and items in storage to display.)
4. Building a computer data base inventory of all donated and loaned items on display and in storage at the hangar. (This data base project should take at least a year because of the number of items we have in the museum.)
5. We are looking at ways to add additional display space to the museum. (Probably turning one of the large white storage cabinets in the museum into a display cabinet and acquiring some new storage cabinets.)

We are evaluating new donations and hope to include them into the exhibit space

Because of the large number of visitors we have had recently on our Open Saturdays our docents (volunteers) are not able to guide people through the museum explaining the exhibits, we have to depend on our exhibit's explanatory signs and labels. As part of this we (Frank Vargas and Jim Buser) have just installed signs above the 10 primary display cases identifying what is displayed in each case.

The ten display cases are labeled as follows:

WWII Uniforms and CAF
Ground War
Flight Training
German
Women at War
WWI and WWII Uniforms

Flight Helmets
Personal Stories
Japanese
Home Front

We hope that these new display cabinet identification signs will help our self-guided visitors enjoy our museum more. (If at all possible our docents will still try to give guided museum tours.)



If you would be interested in joining our museum volunteer team contact Sam Hoynes. museum@houstonwing.org

Sam

January 2016 - Open Hangar Saturdays

We continue to have very busy Open Saturdays with numerous visitors coming to the hangar regardless of the weather.

On Saturday the 2nd on a cold rainy day we had well over 200 visitors who were drawn to the hangar by the internet and by a mention of us on Channel 13.

On Saturday the 16th we had over 150 people at the hangar on another cold day and everybody seemed to enjoy their visit.

Our museum volunteers are doing an amazing job and even though we are often swamped we are still able to take care of these visitors to our hangar giving them a fun and informative experience. Our museum volunteers are Jim Buser, Frank Vargas, Chuck Waters, Bruce Thomas, Richard Hamilton, Jason Delaney, Mary Nygren, Schon Cormack (CADET), Bob Linguiti and our latest volunteer Dave Bush. In addition, when we are especially crowded we have pressed other wing members into service as docents and the ones we use often are Howard Quoyeser, Jeremy Wright, and Carlos Sisso. As our Open Saturday attendance continues to grow we could use some additional museum volunteers. If you would like to spend some very busy and even exhausting Saturdays showing visitors what the Houston Wing is all about, let us know, we would love to have your participation. (Contact Sam Hoynes)



Mother and one of our youngest future pilots sitting in Thunderduck. (Photo by Rich Welch)



Two knowledgeable young visitors to our museum 7 year old, Henry Wu and 5 year old Sebastian Davis-Morgan & Eric Davis (parents). Sebastian was quite impressive with his knowledge of aviation history. His first choice of a book he wanted at the age of 2 was about airplanes/aviation. Sebastian would make a great Cadet in the future with Houston Wing.

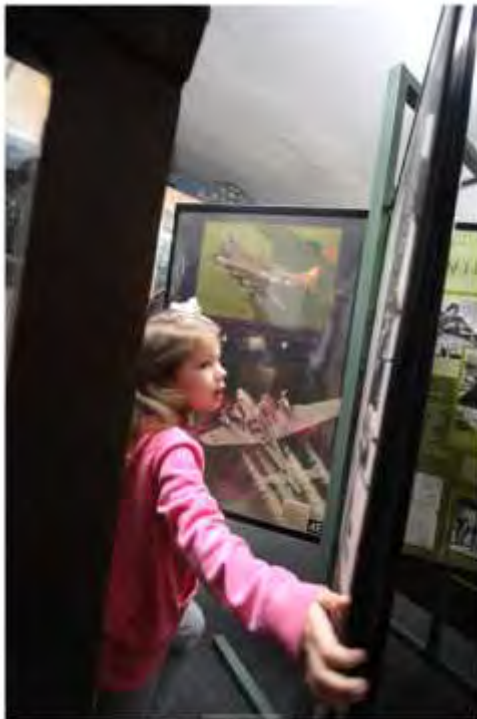
(Photo by museum volunteer Mary Nygren)



Family's Photo OP with our ever popular "Goodtime Gal"
(Photos by Sam Bulger)



Visitors to our Museum



Another young visitor

Sam



Visitors learning about Aircraft Recognition



A VISITOR FROM THE UK

On Sunday, January 31, the Wing hosted a guest from the UK. John Ashley, a writer and aviation enthusiast, traveled from Swansea, Wales, for an extended visit and a flight in the N3N. John, a frequent visitor to America, contacted our Wing before his departure from home, with a request for a visit and flight. Frank Vargas acted as host for John's visit, meeting him at his West Loop hotel on Sunday morning and providing transportation to and from our hangar. Fortunately, John's visit coincided with the Wing staff planning meeting for Open House. He was able to meet and chat with several of our Wing staff. Nathan Harnagal was available to do the flying honors.

John is not a pilot but like many of us takes flight time when he can. The N3N flight adds to his experiences over the last few years which include a glider at RAF Cranwell, a De Havilland Beaver floatplane, Cessna 120 and Britten Norman Islander, among others. He presently serves as a volunteer at the legendary Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden, Bedfordshire (www.shuttleworth.org).

John spent his working life in computers and telecommunications, with several years at Texas Instruments in Bedford UK. In recent years he has reinvented himself as an historian, teaching and writing. He is chair of the Swansea Branch of The Historical Association (www.haswansea.org.uk). John does much of his writing for a delightful monthly magazine, "The Bay," (www.theswanseabay.co.uk) (listed cover price "Priceless"), devoted to Swansea and the surrounding area of south Wales. A recent issue contained two of his articles, the first on a four-hour walk through a large nature preserve and the second on a flight around the Swansea area in an Ikarus C42 microlight, illustrated with four pages of striking color photos. John will be writing an article for The Bay about his visit to our Wing. Some of the many photos taken by him and several of our Wing members will be featured.

Chuck



*In Loving Memory
~Janis Roach~*

November 22, 1963- January 19, 2016



Knocking
On
Heavens
Door

Somewhere
Over
The
Rainbow



Rock on
Janis
Until we meet
Again!



Your
Family
And
Friends

Bits & Pieces



Member News

"O" Club

KITCHEN NEWS

BY: Winona Morton

HELLO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

It is still a little chilly

So let's pull out those slow cookers

Bring a slow cooker meal

or

dessert

**Let's see how creative everyone can get
with those slow cookers!**

I can not wait I am ready for

new recipes!

See you there!



Birthdays

Silvia Withrow	2/4
Winona Morton	2/5
Connie Stone	2/13
C. Keith "Sparky" Newman	2/13
John L Cotter	2/16
Steven Sehnert	2/17
Jeremy Wright	2/18
Clyde W Bryan	2/20
Cassidy Young	2/21
Hugh Alexander	2/22
Bruce S Bevers	2/22
Jeffrey "Jeff" Brown	2/26



Staff Directory		
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Adjutant	Col Bob Linguiti	adjutant@houstonwing.org
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Museum and Collections Officer	Col Sam Hoynes	museum@houstonwing.org
Marketing Officer	Col Sam Bulgar	marketing@houstonwing.org
Operations Officer	Col John Bixby	ops@houstonwing.org
Personnel Officer	Col Tammi Lockwood	membership@houstonwing.org
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

West Houston Airport

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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