

Slips & Skids



March 2016
Volume 3 Issue 1

Houston Wing

A Peek Inside

HOT OFF THE PRESS
Big News!



- Highlights of Hooks Barnstorming Event
- Flights have been restarted
- Please help us recycle
- Catch up on all the plane updates and hangar news

Blarney folks don't forget to have corn beef and cabbage and a green beer if you are a mind to!

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Grab a comfy spot, your favorite beverage and sit back and catch up on the wings happenings!

Our Wing Leader



March has arrived and the activities around the wing continue to increase by the month.

I would like to start with a little recap of the last few weeks and what is coming up in the near future. During the fourth weekend of February, several members of the Staff made the trek to Dallas to attend the 2016 Winter Staff Conference. Arne Aamodt, Tammi Lockwood, Sam Bulger and I attended various sessions. These sessions were very useful and dealt with many areas of Wing operation: Marketing, Member Retention, Leadership, Safety, Social Media, and Finance. It was very motivating to hear success stories from other Wings. While we were there, we were treated to a BBQ dinner in the new CAF HQ. This is the temporary facilities that will be used until the new CAF National Airbase is completed. At this dinner, Adam Smith gave a fantastic presentation on what they are planning at the new Airbase.



I would like to remind everyone that we are still seeking volunteers for the Open House on April 16 & 17. We will have the sign up sheet again at the General Meeting on March 20. We would love to have everyone help out as this is our 2nd biggest fundraising event of the year, but besides the money aspect, it is a lot of fun.

Last weekend the Houston Wing participated in our first joint event with the Gulf Coast Wing. It was wonderful to see our two units continuing the team effort that was started last year to promote and benefit both units. Though we still couldn't sell any rides, we sent airplanes, along with the L39 cockpit to be on static display, while Texas Raiders flew the Living History flights. We also had several members and cadets join our barnstorming event for the first time. It looked like everyone was having a great time. Thanks to all that came out to help. Your assistance made the event a success for the Houston Wing.



We all volunteer at the Houston Wing for various reasons. And we all help in various areas. What I would like to know is, if you are interested in trying something new or haven't picked an area to help, have you asked someone what areas need additional volunteers? If this describes you, let me know. I want everyone to have the opportunity to expand their horizons and enjoy their volunteer efforts with our Wing.



We have had the recycling bins in the hangar for almost 2 years and have diverted a lot of stuff from the landfill to be recycled. Lately, however they seem to be getting a lot of trash in them. Just yesterday when the recycling was removed there was a garden hose and a grease soaked pizza box (plus several other bits of trash) in the bin.

So here's a short reminder of what can go in our recycling bins: Plastic Bottles, Paper, Clean Cardboard, and Aluminum Cans. Let's keep up the recycling effort, but please respect what can be placed in the bins.

John C



While touring the Cavanaugh Flight Museum (during a break at Winter Staff Conference), John and Arne tried to work out a deal with the management of the museum for their P51. John and Arne both thought, hey, it's sitting here in the hangar not being used; we would use it. But it was not to be as our intrepid negotiators were only short about \$1.6M. Maybe next year....

Operations Officer



So here's March; the calm before the storm that is April and our Open House, plus our first two airshows of the season.

February was actually a wee bit busy with our pilot ground school on the 13th followed by two 4-ship flyovers; a Wounded Warriors golf event on the 15th at The Woodlands, followed by the Lock-n-Load event on the 20th. Pilots for these flyovers were Skip Harrison (SNJ), Dave Guggemos (T-34), Craig Hutain (AT-6), Ole Nygren (AT-6), Scott Rozzell (BT-13), and Stan Turner (T-28).

We also were able to attend the Gulf Coast Wing barnstorming weekend and car show at Hooks Airport over the weekend of March 5-6 with the AT-6, N3N and T-28 as static displays along with our PX tent, dog tag trailer and L39 cockpit. Thanks to everyone who helped out at Hooks!

And lastly, the CAF ride program is back in business! We have a bit of a backlog of people wanting rides, so we're going to try to have a pilot (or two) available on our Museum days (1st and 3rd Saturdays) to get 'em flown. Any volunteers, let me and Winona know...

Upcoming events;

Mar 25 - Horse track flyover

Apr 8-10 - Kingsville NAS Airshow. N3N and AT-6.

Apr 16-17 - Open House

Apr 22-23 - Bluebonnet Airshow, Burnet.

See ya around the hangar!

John B

Happenings in the PX



Hello all. The flying season has started. Feb 20th was museum day and also Lock and Load Flyover.

The pictures below are of: the crowd watched as the engines started for the flyover, two special visitors which Arnie took in the golf cart to watch the war birds take off, the cadets cleaning, and other work that goes on. I opened up the PX trailer and sold some merchandise. Jeremy helped the visitors get in the L39. It was a beautiful and fun day. You all should come out and have some fun while helping in different areas.



March 5th-6th we attended the Hooks Ride Day/Car Show. Thanks to all that came out and was a part of our money making day.





Next month is Open House so sign up at the wing meeting to help with the PX or other areas. You can also send me an email and I will add you to the list. Thanks and see you around the hangar!

Susan

Wing Maintenance



Greetings from the maintenance department of Houston Wing CAF.

As usual we start with the status of the fleet.

Old Ace, our AT-6A, is waiting on her rear tachometer to be repaired and returned. Then a swap goes on from front to rear seat, and both tach's should again be operable at that point. Also an audio amplifier is to be installed as soon as the plane and the radio shop can meet up.

The BT-13A is fully operational.

The N3N is having her seat belts and shoulder harness attachment points modified, but the plane remains flying.

The PT-19A was involved in a taxi accident back in February, and the right outboard wing is removed and being repaired. Other problems with the wing are being repaired also while the wing is off and apart. The capable hands at Dry Creek of Bob Henderson and Mike Steiger and family are handling that job.



The C-60A is still waiting on a final plan for modification of the sub-flooring. Greg Young is working on the doubler for the static cable attachment. The replacement right propeller has arrived and is awaiting installation after the engines run, and the right engine gets final repainting. Much effort has gone into the right engine this year, and thanks to Suzie and her helpers, all the baffles, intake pipes and valve covers have been repainted and are looking quite sharp. The valve system has received all new seals and valve clearance adjustments. New clamps and hoses have gone in, and the engine will look almost as good as the new left engine. Not bad for over 25 years on the plane.



The L-17 Navion is coming along with the help of the recently retired from Wing Leader, Stan Turner, helping with the instrument panel install. Also his plane is coming along well with the help of the gang who worked on the nose strut, and his prop is out for inspection. Next the #5 cylinder gets replaced due to a bad exhaust port. The airframe inspection is about complete less landing gear. This year his plane will have a screw in every hole. Keep an eye out for that.

Ok upcoming things, First off is spring cleaning. That is ongoing up to Open House weekend. Anytime you wish to come out and clean on the planes, feel free to do so. Weekends are best, but I am usually around four nights a week.

In the near future, I will attempt to hold maintenance school again. Likely in June, we will have a refresher course on sheet metal and safety wire. Any who would like retraining or are new to the skills, feel free to let me know you would like to attend as I must prepare materials. I shall have definite dates after Open House. We will also look into line service and aircraft cleaning.

Jim

Our Museum



When we started opening the museum and hangar on two Saturdays a month in November of 2011 and we put out a Visitor's Sign-In book on top of the "Flying Tiger" display cabinet inside the entrance door. When possible we have asked visitors to sign in, giving us their name, location, phone and email address. We have used these contact emails to form a mailing list for Wing events.

We just filled our first Visitor's Log Book and we have over 1600 signatures of visitors and over 600 of these have signed since January 2015.

Only a small percentage of our visitors actually sign-in and then it is usually only one person from a family so that gives you an idea of the number of people we have had visit our hangar since we began opening.

We have had visitors from all over Texas and the US (Alaska, to Connecticut) and from the following countries.

Venezuela

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Netherlands

Argentina (2 or 3)

Scotland (2)

Norway

Toronto, ON (several from Canada)

France (several)

Germany

Halifax, NS

Oxford, UK (8 or 9 from UK)

Monterey, Mexico (Several)
Tokyo, Japan (Several from Japan)
N.S.W., Australia (Several)
Madrid, Spain
Turkey
Northern Ireland
El Salvador

We put out a new Visitors Sign-In book in February.

Sam Hoynes

Panoramic Photo of 1943 Pilot Training Class

We recently acquired a 30" X 14" panoramic photo of a pilot training class at Santa Anna Army Air Base taken on 11/30/1943. This photo was given to us by Charlotte Marshall, daughter of Lt. Samuel R. Friedsam who was a B-17 pilot and a member of this pilot training class.



Hand written note on the back of this 1943 Pilot Training Class Photo

“This photo should be more valuable in the future because it will always bring memories of the past. Many of the men here will not make pilots for the combat zones, with God’s help and hard work, I don’t think I will be one of them.

These men range in age from 18 to 26, but regardless of age they are all men. Many of them will probably not live through this war, but I know they will die fighting, because I have known them for almost a year now.

It’s tough here at S.A.A.A.B., we work hard but the boy’s say it’s tough all over now days, except in Mexico, who in the hell wants to go to Mexico.”

A/C Samuel R. Friedsam Jr.

This handwritten note on the back of the photo was hidden during the framing process but it has been copied and the copy is displayed in the Black Binder on the table in the museum.

Lt. Friedsam was assigned to the 401 Bomb Group’s 614th Bomb Squadron, the “Lucky Devils”.

2nd Lt. Friedsam arrived in Europe in April 1945 as an aircraft commander of a B-17. He flew 6 combat missions over Germany before the end of the war. After the war was over he then flew several missions returning French and English prisoners of war before returning home.

We have several items from Lt. Friedsam in the museum but this recently framed photo was just added to the pilot training cabinet. (The mounting of this photo which had been rolled up for many, many years and its framing was done at no charge by Matt Moore, at Speedy Picture Framing, 6719 Stella Link Road, Bellaire as a donation to our museum.)

Our museum crew continues to try and improve the exhibits in the museum.

Sam Hoynes

Cadet Program



Since the last report four new Cadet members have joined the Wing. The new Cadets are Caden Zwick, Chris Dunin, Soren Larson and Chris Wiemuth. Chris Wiemuth's dad, Jay, is a CAF Life Member and, recently arrived in Houston, is affiliating with the Houston Wing. Chris Dunin's dad, Mike, has joined the Houston Wing, as has Caden Zwick's dad, Eric. Profiles of our new Cadet members will begin in next month's Slips & Skids.

Our Cadet members continue to provide valuable assistance during our Open Dates. Schon Cormack and Madelyn Latiolais helped on February 6 and Hannah Haney and Fabian Sisso on February 20.

The February 20 Open Date coincided with the Lock 'n' Load Flyover, the conclusion of which saw the return to the hangar of Stan Turner's oil-covered T-28C. Veteran and new Cadets went to work on it. Hanna Haney, Fabian Sisso (with future cadet Adrian) and new cadet Soren Larson spent well over an hour cleaning the aircraft. Never has Stan's bird been so clean.



Chuck Waters, Cadet Program Officer

Finance and Membership



As you are reading this we are well into March with the rain supposedly about to start again. I am looking forward to a little bit cooler weather although I am sure it will not stay long. However, I do know that we all need to be careful with respect to the wind. While the wind is wonderful to have it is definitely a pain when you get wind burned lips as I did the weekend of the Hooks Barnstorming with Texas Raiders. It was a fun weekend especially with all of the new faces that came out to help. I would like to thank Jay and Chris Wiemuth, Mike and Chris Dunin, Sylvia and Lisa Withrow, Ruth Tucker, Stan Russ, Sam Bulger, Carlos and Fabien Sissos, Matt and Ryan Young and Brian Kosior for all their help with the dogtags, PX and L-39. If I have forgotten someone please accept my apologies. It never ceases to amaze me what we all have to give as a volunteer and we could not do it without all of you.

There are times that it gets hectic and feels like we don't have any time to breath but just remember that it is all about keeping them flyin' and keep passing the history down to the younger generations. This particular barnstorm reminded me of these two particular items. Especially at the end of the evening Saturday when John Cotter and I were taking a few moments to make sure everything was secure for the night, John and I were approached by a couple with two young boys (as they came late to the party due to the husband having to work) and asked if we would mind them taking a picture with the boys and the L-39. Needless to say the conversation quickly turned to planes and WWII along with asking how to be a part of our organization. This needs to remind us all to please take the time to talk to others about our wonderful wing, the CAF organization and the history of our planes any chance we have.

While it has definitely been a roller coaster first part of the year, everyone will be glad to know that our membership shows 164 colonels plus 17 cadets. As of this writing there are about 10 – 20 members which I need to follow up with to make sure they are coming back as I have not received their dues. I am attempting to have a good current totally up to date Roster out to everyone the first week of April.

I am making a personal request on behalf of the Staff to ask the returning members to please contact John or me if you can volunteer to mentor new members as they sign up. One of the items discussed at Winter Staff Conference between the Wings was retention. Some of the Wings have had success with having returning members act as a mentor for a few months to the new members to meet them at monthly meetings, or on a Saturday to introduce them to other members so they feel comfortable finding something to assist with and so forth.

Also for some of the new members, if you were not able to attend the last monthly meeting and would like to volunteer for the Open House but are not sure where you would like to help, please send me an e-mail (finance@houstonwing.org) or call my cell (936) - 697-3238 so we can get you on the volunteer list.

Once again thank you to **EVERYONE** for your hard work!!!! I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting on March 20th at 2 pm. Let's see if we can improve on our meeting attendance this month and make it standing room only. **Remember this will be the last meeting before Open House in April.**

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 fixed. See ya soon!!

Tammi

Bits & Pieces



Everyone is Irish
on St. Patty's Day!

Member News

"O" Club

KITCHEN NEWS

BY: Winona Morton

HELLO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

This Month we are going to do

SOUTHERN COMFORT FOODS

I HOPE ALL OF YOU HAVE A TRIED AND TRUE RECIPE TO SHARE AFTER OUR MEETING.

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE GREAT DINNER LAST MONTH.

REMEMBER THAT ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE.

See you there!

Birthdays

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|------|
| Arne | Aamodt | 3/15 |
| Jason | Delaney | 3/25 |
| Je rey | Foltz | 3/13 |
| Daniel | Gould | 3/7 |
| Gale | Haskins | 3/11 |
| Raymond | Heineman | 3/28 |
| Gary | Hurta | 3/21 |
| Charles | Hutchins | 3/1 |
| Kenneth "Ken" | Hyman | 3/10 |
| Mark | Johnson | 3/3 |
| Daniel | Leone | 3/17 |
| Fabian | Sisso | 3/15 |
| Michael (Reltney) | Steiger | 3/10 |
| John | Szalkowski | 3/9 |



| Staff Directory | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wing Leader | Col John Cotter | wingleader@houstonwing.org |
| Executive Officer | Col Frank Vargas | exec@houstonwing.org |
| Adjutant | Col Bob Linguiti | adjutant@houstonwing.org |
| Cadet Program Officer | Col Chuck Waters | cadets@houstonwing.org |
| Finance Officer | Col Tammi Lockwood | finance@houstonwing.org |
| Maintenance Officer | Col Jim Placette | maintenance@houstonwing.org |
| 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 Vaculik | px@houstonwing.org |
| Safety Officer | Col Arne Aamodt | safety@houstonwing.org |



Commemorative Air Force,

Houston Wing

West Houston Airport

Hangar B-5

18000 Groeschke Rd.

Houston, TX 77084

(281) 579-2131

info@houstonwing.org

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