



The Winds of Change

Shaping the future of WTW and CAF, several events altered the course of the organization's activities ...

By Doris Richeson, WTW Historian

Let the good times roll! Round engines forever! It was the mood of the troops until several events changed forever the image of the (then) Confederate Air Force. Although somewhat altered and sometimes dampened in not-so-subtle ways, the Commemorative Air Force - even its name had to change - is today a joy and achievement to its members worldwide.

The West Texas Wing had grown in the early '80s to over 500 members in 13 squadrons chartered by CAF Headquarters: Big Country, Big Iron, Cactus, Desert, Dew Line, Fort Concho, High Ground, Panhandle, Phantom, Rattlesnake, Sun Country (formerly Amigo) Traron One and West Houston, plus Colonel's Ladies units for Big Country, Desert, Dew Line, Fort Concho, Panhandle, Phantom and Sun Country. And then there were the Marshalls, Blastards, Security, Maintenance and Communications, and the USO Troupe. *Sometimes the history of the WTW is rather "variegated," and this writer must simply make a "consensus" judgment; however, between WTW Leader Frank Harrison and PIO Don Luttrell, these guys in 1990 actually drew up a WTW organizational chart with the above information.*

Winds of change were in the air, perhaps beginning with the crash of the world's only flying SB2C Helldiver on 6 October 1982. This was back in the days when anyone could meet up with his idea of a flying machine, crank it up, taxi out and fly it. That's just what happened during pre-AIRSHO '82 activities at Harlingen, Texas, even though mechanic Vince Carruth had advised the would-be pilot of the SB2C's fuel flow problem, still uncorrected after work was done on it.

The West Texas Wing was well represented, and the Officers' Club at Valley International Airport was filled to what seemed to many like more than capacity. The TV in the building blared forth the news that the SB2C had crashed, resulting in "irreparable" damage to the prized aircraft. The newscaster noted that the pilot and co-pilot passenger had walked away, and that the Confederate Air Force was an organization for the rich. (While we would concede that flying vintage aircraft does take money, it is through the efforts of many willing hands that projects go forward.)

To this day, the restored SB2C remains a project of the West Texas Wing, and is based in Graham, with the Cactus Squadron and WTW Headquarters. Several ground handling schools have been held, and thus Cactus Colonels are able to prep the bird, making it ready for take-off when a certified CAF pilot arrives on the scene. Cactus Colonel Mike Wells, CFI-I, flew the SB2C on many a sortie, numerous times with Colonel Ted Short as his "co-pilot." (The SB2C has controls for only one pilot, hence anyone accompanying is at the mercy of the pilot's actions, which is a somewhat hair-raising experience for the pilot in back without controls, or a check pilot who is riding with an SB2C pilot-hopeful.)

The SB2C has recently been sidelined by a major overhaul, apparently necessitated by some unknown person pulling the prop through in the wrong direction during the time it was hangared at Headquarters. It is again flying — better 'n ever, says WTW Leader Ted Short — and on every sortie renders praise to the West Texas Wing's tenacity and fortitude. Arcane indeed are those pilots who are privileged to fly the bird. Randy Wilson and John Hess have been on hand for many a sortie; more pilots are in the process of being qualified.

Even as the WTW reveled in the triumph of the mid-eighties restoration of the SB2C, the heads at Harlingen Headquarters were scratching: What can we do to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster?

Mark Your Calendars

Fredericksburg Fly-In
September 12, 2003

AIRSHO® 2003 - CAF HQ, Midland, TX
September 26-28, 2003

Wings Over Houston® - Ellington Field,
Houston, TX
October 18-19, 2003

Flughafen 2003 - Graham, TX
December 5-6, 2003

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Pilot qualifications, certifications and restrictions became a part of the CAF regulations as it set forth new guidelines for flying and riding in its valuable old warbirds.

Yet another disastrous crash was to plague the CAF: its PBY amphibian plane was on a photo mission over the Gulf of Mexico during AIRSHO '84 activities when it dipped too low over the water, destroying the plane and killing six of the ten aboard.

The lawsuits and settlements involved with the PBY crash resulted in a necessary but very onerous fund-raising effort called ANUAC (Annual Unit Administrative Charge), which means that each unit is "taxed" a regular annual fee, but can reduce that fee by enlisting new CAF members.

ANUAC and economic conditions combined wreaked devastation on more than half the WTW squadrons: Big Iron, Dew Line, Fort Concho, High Ground, Phantom, Rattlesnake and Sun Country left the WTW fold. (The Tax Reform Act of 1986, the oil Windfall Profits Tax - still in effect then - and the "oil bust," wherein Texas crude was worth as little as \$8 a barrel - down from \$32 - hit the Texas economy in its most vulnerable spot.)

Where's the money? There were contentious times. It seemed that both the CAF and WTW were looking around, in the old "pot calling the kettle black" situation, but we never could quite tell which was which, so we must remain equivocal. But a lot more accounting and authentication leaves most satisfied with the results their CAF dollars buy.

With the demise of the Fort Concho Squadron in San Angelo, which served as WTW Headquarters, the Angelenos sought a place for not only the Headquarters designation but for their mementos and records.

The Cactus Squadron, with its own hangar (first WTW hangar built "from scratch" without donation of any hangar facility) at the Graham Municipal Airport was the choice for a new WTW Headquarters. Today the Cactus Squadron hangar displays pictures of former WTW Wing Leaders, Colonel's Ladies presidents, WTW records, memorabilia and a few items of equipment in addition to Cactus Squadron acquisitions. It is also a rent-free home base for the SB2C Helldiver, still a project of the West Texas Wing.

After the death of Robert E. Richeson, 1983 WTW Leader and the original SB2C Project Officer on 30 December 1989, the Cactus Squadron began work on the Robert E. Richeson Memorial Museum. Bob Richeson had been a WWII U.S. Marine who spent over three years in the South Pacific campaigns; he was known to say, of WWII aircraft, "They saved my butt many a time." The museum is housed in the Cactus Squadron hangar, open Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m., and by appointment; its docents especially enjoy giving tours to students from Graham and surrounding towns.

Even as ANUAC and the economy shut out some of the squadrons, others recovered and built hangars of their dreams — beautiful facilities that fulfilled the needs of the Big Country, Desert, Panhandle and West Houston Squadrons. These hangars serve well the niches for housing aircraft, meeting rooms, kitchens, display of aviation mementos, and even viewing of airport activities.

Funds are hard to come by, and various events generate enough monies to support those hangars and other projects. Colonel Ray Pierson's special project he has taken on is Monday night bingo, which provides considerable funds for the Desert Squadron. The Cactus Squadron handles the food concession at the Colonel's O-Club during CAF's annual air shows.

The WTW units have regularly participated in charitable projects too. Toys for tots, dedication ceremonies, fly-overs, missing man formations. Bob Richeson's Blizzard-painted AT-6, flown by Mike Wells, did flying for a Children's Miracle Network commercial filmed over Richeson and Rosser Ranches.

Harlingen. We loved it, but it didn't love CAF - not enough to keep it anyway - for Valley International Airport needed the space occupied by the CAF hangars, Officers' Club and storage, which were located on their airport.

Hence the hunt was on. Several Texas locations were reviewed, and the arguments flew hot and heavy. But when WTW Colonel Joe Mabee persuaded the Midland-Odessa business champions to get up a six million dollar kitty, this brought the CAF to Midland-Odessa International Airport, right in the heart of WTW territory!

The vote was in, and on 21 September 1990, an 18-wheeler began to load the Harlingen CAF assets, equipment, materials, artifacts, parts and pieces; WTW Colonel Bill Pounds was the coordinator of this giant project, which was cumbersome and sweat-producing. Many WTW colonels spent hundreds of hours moving not only planes, but parts

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and furnishings, equipment and memorabilia from Harlingen to Midland-Odessa. Colonels Wallace and Martha Dillard became WTW full-timers for a while, and spent 100% of their time helping with the hauling and the administration work associated with this tremendous undertaking.

AIRSHO '91 roared over Midland-Odessa, albeit not without difficulty and the groans of stressed-out WTW colonels (after all, this baby was in their back yard - huh?) -, who'd left what they thought no stone unturned, yet found a few glitches in their perceived perfection.

Triumph reigned when Flughafen '91 - 7 December 1991 - combined with the new American Airpower Heritage Museum and CAF Headquarters openings.

After the move, Colonel Joe Mabee began to get other ideas. He splintered from the West Texas Wing, and began the High Sky Wing, which is headquartered in the Gillespie hangar, just across from CAF Headquarters. Some WTW colonels took this as an affront, considering High Sky Wing was seen as "the competition." However, many good WTW memories live after Mabee's long affiliation, "Joe Mabee did so many good things for us," says WTW Colonel Anita Short.

As the millennium came upon us, it became increasingly apparent that the name *Confederate Air Force*, which actually began as a kind of joke, was politically incorrect, and, if some of the big corporate contributions were to continue, the name would have to be changed. The CAF membership made its decision to change at its meeting during AIRSHO 1999, and brought forth a proper sequence of events which changed the name of the *Confederate Air Force* to *Commemorative Air Force* on January 1, 2002.

While it's a continuance of "business as usual" with the WTW, we are indeed a chartered wing of the Commemorative Air Force. The expression we use for an ill-prepared pilot, "flying by the seat of his pants," no longer applies to the CAF.

West Texas Wing Leaders

1977-79	Charlie Day	1987	C.L. "Casey" Kay	1995	Joe R. "Pete" Hyatt
1979-80	Joe Mabee	1988	Willard S.B. "Sam" Poss	1996	Don R. "Tiny" Malm
1981	Kale Webster	1989	Gene Armstrong	1997	Ray Pierson
1981-82	Jack Gaulding	1990	Frank C. Harrison	1998	J.B. Thorne
1983	Robert E. Richeson	1991	Joe B. McShane, Jr.	1999-2000	Greg Kinnan
1984	Jake Miller	1992	Kenneth W. Fields	2001-2002	Ronald G. Fountain
1985	Mike Collier	1993	Roger D. Hoestenbach	2002-2003	Ted Short
1986	Bill Pounds	1994	Michael D. Wells		

WRITER'S NOTE: It is at the behest of WTW Leader 2002-2003 Ted Short that I am writing this year-long history series of the West Texas Wing.

I first became acquainted with Ted Short, and his brother, Sam Short, as Fort Concho colonels, and have seen Ted Short become increasingly involved with CAF and WTW (as Sam Short continues in WTW and the Blastards), making many trips with the SB2C as well as participating in the activities of the Wing and several squadrons, in addition to helping his wife and helpmate, Sharon Short, in coordinating Colonel's O-Club activities.

Many are those who have given so much to WTW, we could mention all members' names and still miss mentioning credit for some great gifts of time and talent.

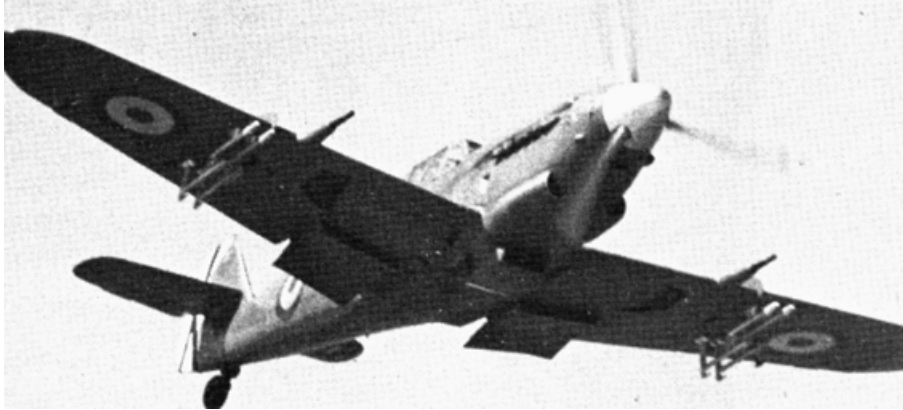


"The Beast" at the Cactus Hangar, Graham



CAF HQ - Opening Day after the Move to Midland

Guess The "Mystery" Warbird (Look Close, It MAY Not Be What You Think!)



The answer is ... somewhere else in this newsletter.

Thanks to Col Knox Bishop for suggesting this brainteaser, and for providing the photo and its identification. Please direct any arguments to Knox - the PIO has no idea what the heck this thing is.

Colonel William B. "Bill" Stuessy Memorial Bench

Cols Linda Fountain and Pete Hyatt are coordinating the collection of memorial donations to place a Memorial Bench in the Jimmy Doolittle Memorial Garden at CAF Headquarters in Midland in Bill's honor and memory. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund please make your checks payable to "Commemorative Air Force".

DO NOT MAIL YOUR CHECK TO CAF HEADQUARTERS! Send your checks payable to the CAF to the address below. Names of contributors will be sent to Bill's family. The amount of your donation will not be disclosed to the family. Mail your donations to:

COL LINDA FOUNTAIN
6303 MODESTO DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77083-1404

Call Linda at (281) 530-5705 or e-mail
WHSNews@aol.com if you have questions or need more information.

O'Club Volunteers - Read This NOW!

Hotel space for Airsho this year will be VERY limited. And there have been new procedures for passes put into place.

**YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION FORM WAS DUE BY
AUGUST 15, 2003**

Armband and Car Pass requests had to be received by **July 1, 2003**, and in order to get your hotel reservations in the O'Club block, your request had to be received by **August 15, 2003**.

If you missed these deadlines, neither Sharon nor Linda can help you.

The Colonel's O'Club at AIRSHO® 2003

OPEN DAILY
Thursday - Noon
Friday - Sunday : 9AM to Midnight

Bloody Mary
Happy Hour
9AM - 1PM
DAILY!

Margarita
Happy Hour
4PM - 7PM
DAILY!

**Hot Coffee And Free
Popcorn All Day!**

Sunday Night
Raffles

Saturday Night Dinner

Served 6:00 - 7:30 PM Catered by *Johnny's Barbecue*
\$10 Per Person

Sunday Night "Survivors Party"

Hosted by the **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**
Band - Entertainment - Food Starts **6:30 PM**

LIVE Entertainment

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Featuring:
Jerry Dugan and "West Wind"
"Andrews Sisters"
"Cherry Jones Dancers" - USO

Food Booth Open Daily

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ, Nachos, Ice Cream

**The Colonel's O'Club Welcomes
THE 484th BOMB GROUP
And
WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS
(WASP)**

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PROTOCOL (APPOINTED)

Martha Dillard

About the 'Logbook'

The 'Logbook' is the bi-monthly newsletter for the West Texas Wing of the CAF. Submitted articles from Wing members are welcomed and encouraged. Materials submitted for publication should be sent to Steve Sehnert at WTWPIO@westhoustonsgdn.org (or at the mailing address shown in the return address of this newsletter) no later than the end of the last month of publication. Please contact me with any suggestions, questions or comments. You can reach me at
713-625-6419 daytime
281-578-2561 evenings.

From the Left Seat **Ted Short - West Texas Wing Leader**

The SB2C had a productive trip to the Ohio area and made some money. Special thanks to the Ohio Wing for displaying the BEAST while it was left at its birthplace in Columbus OH. They collected several hundred dollars in donations and PX sales for us besides doing cleanup work on the plane. They are pursuing the donation of a paint job with some company's locally. Right now, it appears that the SB2C will spend several weeks in the Ohio/Michigan area next year as we were inundated with request for shows. The Ohio Wing has offered to baby set the BEAST while in the area.

Several volunteers from Fredericksburg attended and assisted in final stripping of the SNB on Aug 15 and some stayed around to attend the Dyess show on Aug 16. These new members are starting to get into the Wing spirit and are welcome members. We are planning on attending a hanger/motel dedication in Fredericksburg September 12, to show our support to the Nimitz Museum's CEO and sponsors. The museum appears to be the mover and shaker in constructing a hanger for squadron use.

Airsho is fast approaching so do not forget to volunteer for O' Club assignments. This year the Wing and Colonels Ladies are hosting the WASP and a bomber group from WWII. We will have more dignitaries/VIP's than at any other Airsho so a lot of help will be required. See you all at Midland.

Officer's Reports

Executive Officer - Mark Novak

Please send in your awards nominations. As I am at the Naval War College in Newport, it would be best to email the information if possible, to either T6_av8r@yahoo.com or mark.novak@nwc.navy.mil. I will be checking both addresses.

Safety Officer - Bill Baley

Go to www.aopa.org and click on Air Safety Foundation. This website contains a plethora of aviation safety information. This months topics include:

- Warning on spins and stalls
- Instructional Accidents on increase
- Runway incursions down.

Be safe!! See ya next month.

Finance Officer - Martha Dillard

As most of you know the SB2C has been to several shows. It is putting a little money back in the kitty, however it takes money to make money. It will take us sometime to catch up after our unexpected engine overhaul. When you see it fly it gives a special feeling to the WTW Members.

If the Squadron Finance Officers will send me a list of their members I will check and let you know if everyone on your list has paid their WTW dues.

Reminder to squadrons - If you have someone who has paid squadron dues and has NOT paid WTW dues they can only be considered as "Friends of the Squadron". They are not squadron members and they are not eligible to vote on squadron business. They will not be on the mailing list for the "Logbook". Any money paid to the squadron should only be considered as a donation to the squadron, NOT squadron dues.

The Wing has new patches. The sell price is \$4.00 each. If you would like to purchase some contact Martha Dillard or the WTW PX Officer Dell Cannon. We will talk about postage depending on how many you want to order.

Colonel's Ladies President - Kathy Mizell

The Colonel's Ladies met Saturday, July 26 in Odessa during the Summer Advisory Meetings. Six Ladies attended. Our next big project for 2003 is the Colonel's O'Club at AIRSHO. We will need a lot of extra help this year due to the large number of reunion attendees. Many Ladies have already said they will be there to help as needed but the more help there is, the less work for any one person. Information about Colonel's Ladies awards and the 2004 election will be sent to each Lady in the near future. See you at AIRSHO!!

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PX Officer - Dell Cannon

Thanks to Col Ted Short, Col John Hess and the Columbus, Ohio "Hell Diver Club", the SB2C was hanged up there between airshows during the months of July and August. They not only took good care of the bomber, but the club requested two shipments of Hell Diver tee shirts and ball caps....and sold them out! FYI, SB2C's were built in Columbus, Ohio during WWII so the bomber's visit was special to the club.

Personnel Officer/PIO - Steve Sehnert

Unit PIO's - please send me those newsletters and any other Squadron news items which might be of interest to the other members of the Wing.

Squadron News

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON

PIO - Linda Fountain

WHS Pilots and Members Salute July 4th - Col Ray Jones

Multiple fly overs, lots of good food and fireworks were on the menu for WHS members on July 4, 2003. A 10:30 AM fly over for the Ravensway community's annual parade was flown by Colonels Ray Jones, Robert Irwin, Rich Welsh, Ole Nygren and Ken Hyman. Afternoon thunder storms threatened more flights but relented in time to allow Colonels Scott Rozzell, Dick Harper, Rich Welsh and Ray Jones to provide fly overs for the Freedom Festival held at Eleanor Tinsley Park and a later fly over in the Woodlands area for their July 4 celebration.

Col. Lady Shirley Hyman and Col Bernadean Jones spearheaded the effort to coordinate food for the fourth and boy did it work! Plenty of folks and lots of good food made for a festive day followed by a dazzling fireworks display courtesy of the Pine Forest Country Club. The smoke was so heavy, the mosquitos left for Dallas. A fun, safe fourth!

July 4th Fly-Over Letter From Woodlands Resident

One paragraph from a letter of thanks we received from the Woodlands for our Fourth of July fly-by that is worth sharing with the members: "I have never been more moved then when I was experiencing the Missing Man Formation. I watched the planes and then my eyes scanned the crowd, and I was amazed to see women and men with tears in their eyes. I realized I was not alone with my emotions. Thank you for this wonderful and memorable experience." *Cindy Bryson, Event Manager*

The USAF visits the CAF - Steve Sehnert - WHS Adjutant

On June 21st, the West Houston Squadron was host to about 12 USAF enlistees and their recruiters, led by Staff Sgt. John Fetter, for an afternoon of aviation history and a bar-be-que. The enlistees are part of the Delayed Enlistment Program (DEP), designed to allow high school students to enlist while still in school but delay their induction until after graduation.

As part of the afternoon's activities, Ed Vesely gave the enlistees a short quiz on aviation history, and the winner got to take a backseat ride in the SNJ. The quiz was no cakewalk - probably few CAF Colonels would have scored 100%.

Special thanks to Ed, Bruce Gispanski, Gary Hurta, and to Bill Baley for his "smoked sausage airlift".

Col Alan Senior Speaks At TSU Representing The WHS

At the request of Texas Southern University I was asked to participate in their National Summer Transportation Institute on June 9th to speak on the development of aviation transportation over the past two WWs. Because December 17, 2003 will be the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first successful controlled powered flight, it provided a wonderful opportunity to me as the seminar's opening speaker.

The purpose of the Transportation Seminar is to create an interest in high school juniors and seniors to study transportation technology at TSU. A review of the seminar program showed a well-organized and thought-out program.

I had delivered a similar lecture at TSU, 1996 through 1999, with a slightly different approach: aviation vs. transportation. I have been asked to come back again in 2004.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COL BILL "Tiger Bill" BALEY AND WIFE CAROLYN WHO CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON JULY 10TH

NIMITZ MEMORIAL SQUADRON*PIOs - Dee & Chuck Wooler*

In one word 'HOT' was the weather. Cols Mickey Hawran, John Bish, Larry Scheck, Chuck Wooler, and Chuck Beasley gathered to paint the trailer. Thanks to these people, the PX trailer looks great!!! Not sure how they were able to work in the awful heat but we appreciate their dedication for a job WELL DONE!!!!

Dance On November 8, 2003

We are in the process of getting prices on flyers, tickets, and advertising. The report on these items will be discussed at the next meeting. We have secured the building at Gillespie Country Fair Grounds, hired the Bill Smallwood band, plus hired the security company. Other topics will be on how to sell the tickets and volunteers for the decorating committee. This dance will be our first BIG FUND raiser, but I feel strongly it will not be our last. Hope you agree!!

Abilene Work Day

August 15th was the day members gather to work on the C-45. Cols Hawran, Wood, Felps, Bish, joined by Harold Smith flew up, along with other member of the West Texas Wing. Col Ted Short reported they all were pleased with what was accomplished.

September 12, 2003 Fly-In

There will be a "Grand Opening" event at the Gillespie Country Airport and the CAF Nimitz Memorial Squadron has been invited. The speaker will be Admiral C.D. Grojean, USN (Ret), Executive Director of the Nimitz Foundation. Schedule time is 5:00PM that afternoon.

As squadron members know, Adm. Grojean and the Nimitz Foundation have been extremely helpful in our effort to build a hanger. So we hope we have a really large number of members present.

AIRSHO - September 27/28, 2003

Once again - it is showtime in Midland. We will need volunteers for Saturday and Sunday. On Friday afternoon there will be a general meeting in the hanger to vote for the new members of the General Staff for the coming year. Each member should have received, through the Contrails, information of absentee voting. Remember, this is your chance to choose your staff members. Please vote.

DEW LINE SQUADRON*PIO - Paul Easterday*

Congratulations and best wishes on the marriage of Col. Nick Nelson to his lovely bride Vicki Sheffield. They were married Saturday, July 26, 2003, in a very nice ceremony at Col. Nelson's home. It was attended by close friends and family. Col. Ted Sanchez presided as Best Man. On behalf of the DewLine Squadron may you two have a long and happy life together.

FiFi and Diamond Lil visit Amarillo

The CAF's B-29 "FiFi" and B-24 "Diamond Lil" are scheduled to fly to and be on display at Amarillo International Airport, from September 15, 2003, to September 22, 2003. They will be offering tours each day and maybe a few flights.

New Members

Welcome our newest members Col. Berry Smith and Col. Ruth Morey, both of Amarillo. Invitations to several prospective members have been sent out and we are hoping that they too will be joining our ranks. If you have a prospective member you would like to see join, please invite them to a meeting or two. To know us is to love us, of course some of us are more loveable. To be associated with us, well let's just say that is an experience in it's self.

Rumor Has It

If Col. Kinnan is smiling more these days, it just might be because he leased a T-6. So far all he can do is polish it, but I hear he is not above begging a certain CAF member for just ten hours of his time. So if you see him standing in front of the hospital with a sign, hand him some water it gets hot out there.

BIG COUNTRY SQUADRON*PIO - Charlie Hanna*

Cols. Penny Montgomery and Jan Goodall will be taking a great trip in August. Plans are to rent a Cessna 182 and fly around to various camps in Africa. Photo and sightseeing safaris are planned at each stop. Should be fun. The ladies promised to "debrief" at a future squadron meeting after they rest-up.

New news: Workday on Saturday the 21st: Several Cols showed up to clean and paint the new steel for the entrance project. They were: Charlie Hanna, Stan Kisner, Bob Sterling, Buddy Clark. Al Bennett, and Bill Masters. Thanks guys.

Welcome Wagon

We have one new member this past month. Let's all welcome John Stash. John, we invite you to join in. If you have a special talent, let it be known, we can probably use it.

CACTUS SQUADRON*PIO - Doris Richeson***A Minor Change in Flughafen's Venue**

In a decision aimed at offering more flexibility to attendees, the location of the December 6th Flughafen evening banquet and awards ceremony has been moved from Graham's Senior Citizens' Center to Richeson RallyWorks, a large building located at the Y intersection created by the merge of Highway 16 South and FM 1287.

Ordinarily used as a meeting place and training facility, Richeson RallyWorks has a large central room which can easily accommodate both the pre-dinner social hour and the dinner.

This move was deemed prudent due to the Senior Citizens' Center's constraints regarding beverages on premises and also to circumvent the early closing time.

Auf wiederzei!

Fifth Graders visit Cactus

Principal — and Cactus Colonel — got up with enough stamina and fortitude to bring his group of some 170 fifth-graders to the Cactus Squadron hangar and Robert E. Richeson Memorial Museum.

The students were divided into eight groups which toured the museum, heard vignettes from World War II veterans and other Cactus Colonels, saw a presentation by Cactus Colonel Bruce Bradford about the principles of flight, were able to view a 1942 World War II Jeep, and more. West Texas Wing Leader brought his plane and the students showed an avid interest.

And so does the Tourism Department

Tourism is an ever-larger part of Graham business, and Tuesday, June 17 marked a considerable event as Texas Department of Economic Development Tourism promoters Shelly Jo Hargrove and Sherril Wagner toured the area with Graham Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lisa McCool.

Their tour included the Cactus Squadron hangar and its museum. Tour hosts included John Scott, Jack Cannon, Jerry Bishop, J.B. Thorne and Doris Richeson.

Lisa McCool did her usual fine job, apparently, for Hargrove and Wagner had many good things to say about the portion of the tour they'd already taken, prior to the 1:30 Cactus arrival.

Sortie into New Territory...

Even the weather cooperated - sort of - as Colonel Kent Pettus and Nancy Pettus hosted the Cactus Squadron's July meeting at the Pettus Ranch south of Graham and overlooking the Brazos River: A lovely southern breeze cooled just as the meeting was at its beginning.

Pettus friends Alex, Karen and Richard pitched in and helped with the barbecued chickens and cabrito; Kent Pettus proudly introduced daughter Jennifer and her children Emily and Ethan, of Phoenix, to those who did not know Jennifer from her growing-up days in Graham.

Guests included Grahamite Paul Studley, who became a new member, and Joe and Eleanor Price of Possum Kingdom Lake.

No reports were received from the Desert Squadron

CALENDAR

CAF AIRSHO® 2003
CAF HQ
MIDLAND, TX
SEPT. 26-28, 2003

WINGS OVER HOUSTON® 2003
ELLINGTON FIELD
HOUSTON, TX
OCT. 18-19, 2003

FLUGHAFEN 2003
HOSTED BY CACTUS SQUADRON
GRAHAM, TX
DEC. 5-6, 2003



ONLINE RESOURCES

CAF MAIN WEBSITE :
www.commemorativeairforce.org

CAF MEMBERS WEBSITE :
www.ghostsquadron.org

WEST TEXAS WING WEBSITE :
<http://mywebpage.netscape.com/westtexaswing/Home+Page.htm> (note that the full address must be typed on one line).

SQUADRON WEBSITES :

Cactus: www.wf.net/~jwscott

Big Country: www.bigcountrysquadron.org

West Houston: www.westhoustonsgdn.org

SB2C WEBSITE : www.sb2chelldiver.org

The 'electronic edition' of the Logbook (Acrobat PDF format) is available at the West Houston Squadron website.

Does your squadron have an upcoming event? Or do you know of an event of interest to Wing members? Has your unit website changed? Let the Wing PIO know!

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SB2C Schedule

See Back Cover

Air racing may not be better than your wedding night, but it's better than the second night.

- Mickey Rupp, air racer and former
Indianapolis 500 driver

Squadron Meeting Information

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON

Third Sunday of each month @ 2:00 PM, Hangar B-5
at West Houston Airport
Contact : Bob Alford 281-265-2949

CACTUS SQUADRON

Third Thursday of each month @ 6:30 PM at Cactus
Hangar, Graham Municipal Airport
Contact : John Scott 940-549-8410

DESERT SQUADRON

Third Thursday of each month @ 6:30 PM social hour,
7:00 PM dinner. 8:00 PM meeting, at Desert Squadron
Hangar at Schlemeyer Field, Odessa
Contact : Nita Zellars 915-550-9202

DEW LINE SQUADRON

Date and Location varies monthly
Contact : Tom Nichols Home: (806) 372-9755
Office: (806) 355-9741

BIG COUNTRY SQUADRON

Second Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 PM,
Homeplace Hangar at Elmdale Airport, Abilene
Contact : Jim Dobbs 915-676-1878

NIMITZ MEMORIAL SQUADRON

Second Saturday of each month @ 2:00 P.M.
Conference room in the Nimitz Historical Museum,
Fredericksburg, TX
Contact: Mickey Hawran 830-367-2431

SB2C Memorial Fund Established

An SB2C Memorial Fund has been established for those wishing to donate to a charity in remembrance of members Gone West. You may make your donations to this fund and remit to Wing Finance Officer Martha Dillard. She will see that it is properly recognized both by the Wing and Headquarters in Contrails.

Mystery Warbird from page 4 - HA-1112-K1L

Hispano Aviacion of Spain concluded a deal with Nazi Germany in 1942 to manufacture the Messerschmitt Bf-109G. By the time the 25 disassembled G-2 airframes were delivered from Germany, the war was going so badly that they lacked tail assemblies, powerplants and armament. HA combined the airframe with the Hispano-Suiza 12Z upright V engine of 1,300hp to produce the HA-1109. In 1953 the last of these was modified to take two 20mm cannon and rocket launchers to become the H1112.

Nomination Form

2003 West Texas Wing Award Nomination

PLEASE CIRCLE THE AWARD FOR WHICH THIS NOMINATION IS SUBMITTED:

KALE WEBSTER MEMORIAL TROPHY

C. L. "CASEY" KAY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD

CHARLIE DAY COLONEL OF THE YEAR

SPECIAL AWARD

JACK GAULDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

"E" AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

JAKE MILLER LEADERSHIP AWARD

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

Nominated by: _____

Nominated by Unit (name): _____

(Signature of Unit Leader - required if nomination is by a Unit)

State reason(s) for recommendation (i.e. WING achievements, accomplishments or actions for which he/she is to be recognized): (Attach a separate sheet if more room is needed)

CAREFULLY COMPLETE ALL AREAS OF THIS NOMINATION FORM AND SEND TO THE ADDRESS BELOW TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 20th. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID.

Email (preferred) to Mark Novak t6_av8r@yahoo.com or mark.novak@nwc.navy.mil	Regular Mail: COL GREG KINNAN P O Box 30351 Amarillo, TX 79120-0351
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GUIDELINES FOR WEST TEXAS WING AWARDS

Approved by the WEST TEXAS WING Staff - September 1992

KALE WEBSTER MEMORIAL TROPHY: To the Squadron or Detachment that most exemplifies the qualities desired in a CAF Unit and has worked diligently toward helping the WING in achieving and sustaining the goals of the CAF. Work may be in the fields of Aircraft Restoration, Aircraft Maintenance, Museum Construction or support, direct support of CAF Headquarters, Hangar Construction, Airshows and Displays, or any other outstanding effort(s) in support of the CAF.

CHARLIE DAY COLONEL OF THE YEAR: To the WING Colonel(s) who has consistently performed work to help the WING meet it's commitments to the CAF goals and objectives. Usually means that the individual(s) has provided support to a broad spectrum of airshows and other events throughout the WING and National areas and has given consistently and freely of his/her time and talents toward achieving and sustaining the goals and objectives of the CAF.

JACK GAULDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR: To the WING Colonel who most exemplifies the qualities desired and required of CAF pilots or Maintenance/Restoration personnel. CAF pilots will have given freely of their time in flying one or more CAF aircraft to/from and at multiple airshows in accomplishing the CAF objective of displaying our aircraft to the Nation. All flight must have been accomplished in a safe and accident free manner. Maintenance/Restoration personnel will have given freely of their time and talents in maintaining and restoring CAF aircraft in a manner that brings credit upon the CAF by all that view their work.

JAKE MILLER LEADERSHIP AWARD: To the WING Colonel (not necessarily annually) who has proved leadership and guidance to the WING, Squadrons and Detachments. He/she will have given freely of his/her time and talents in helping to guide and direct the efforts of the WING toward better achieving the harmonious activities of the WING in support of the CAF.

COLONEL'S LADY OF THE YEAR: Annually to the member of the WING COLONEL'S LADIES that exemplifies all those qualities desired in a female member of the WING support crew. She is always there helping with whatever chores may be necessary in accomplishing the work of the WING. She is truly an asset to the WING and CAF.

C. L. "CASEY" KAY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: To the WING Colonel (not necessarily annually) who most exemplifies the qualities of a CAF Colonel. He/she is involved very deeply in the support of all CAF functions at all levels. He/she is also involved in community service to his/her hometown, county, state and Nation. This person is truly a leader of leaders that is admired by all who know him/her.

SPECIAL AWARDS: To WING Colonels for special acts deserving of recognition as CAF Colonels in performance of CAF duties. Each recommendation will be considered on its own merits.

"E" AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE is based on the "E" Awards of Excellence established in WWII. It has previously been awarded to Ezell Aviation Company for the SB2C "Helldiver" restoration. That example should be used for guidance in any future award of this type.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION may be awarded for all occasions that merit WING recognition of individuals for work or efforts in support of the WING and CAF.

WEST TEXAS WING COLONEL'S LADIES AWARDS

Approved by the West Texas Wing Staff and Wing Colonel's Ladies Staff July 1999

GLENDAMPBELL LEADERSHIP AWARD: The name of the award was chosen to honor the first President of the West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies. To be presented to the Colonel's Lady (not necessarily annually) who has proved her leadership and guidance to the West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies and/or to a Squadron Colonel's Ladies Detachment. She will have given freely of her time and talents in helping to guide and direct the efforts of the West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies toward better achieving the harmonious activities of the West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies in support of the West Texas Wing, West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies and the Commemorative Air Force.

SHARON SHORT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: The name of the award was chosen to honor the many achievements made by Sharon Short in organizing the operation of the Officers' Club for the benefit of the Colonel's Ladies and West Texas Wing. To be presented to the Colonel's Lady OR Colonel's Ladies Squadron Detachment (not necessarily annually) that most exemplifies the qualities desired in a West Texas Wing Colonel's Lady OR Colonel's Ladies Squadron Detachment that has worked diligently toward helping the West Texas Wing and Colonel's Ladies in achieving and sustaining the goals of the West Texas Wing, West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies and Commemorative Air Force. Work may be in the fields of Aircraft Restoration, Aircraft Maintenance, Museum Construction, Hangar Construction, Airshows, Fly-Ins and Displays, or any other outstanding effort(s) in support of the West Texas Wing, West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies, Colonel's Ladies Squadron Detachment, West Texas Wing Squadron and Commemorative Air Force.

MARTHA DILLARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: The name of the award was chosen to honor Martha's many years of dedicated service to the West Texas Wing, Colonel's Ladies and CAF. To be presented to the Colonel's Lady (not necessarily annually) who most exemplifies the qualities of a West Texas Wing Colonel's Lady. She is involved very deeply in the support of all West Texas Wing, West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies, West Texas Wing Squadron and CAF functions at all levels. She will have given freely of her time and talents in promoting the objectives of the West Texas Wing and Colonel's Ladies.

2003 West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies Award Nomination

PLEASE CIRCLE THE AWARD FOR WHICH THIS NOMINATION IS SUBMITTED:

COLONEL'S LADY OF THE YEAR

SHARON SHORT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GLENDA CAMPBELL LEADERSHIP AWARD

MARTHA DILLARD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

(Only current, dues paid Ladies, with dues paid Sponsors, are eligible for Awards)

Nominee's Sponsor's name & CAF ID#: _____

Nominated by: _____

Nominated by Unit (name): _____

(Signature of Unit President - required if nomination is by a Unit)

State reason(s) for recommendation (i.e. achievements, accomplishments or actions for which she is to be recognized):

CAREFULLY COMPLETE ALL AREAS OF THIS NOMINATION FORM AND MAIL IT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 20th. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID. Mail forms to:

LINDA FOUNTAIN, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
6303 MODESTO DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77083-1404

The Red Baron does his sortie on December 5th and 6th ...

The Baron's gathering: FLUGHAFEN 2003!

The Red Baron flew over the Cactus Squadron and sighted as his target every member of the West Texas Wing for Flughafen 2003. Baron John Scott promises essen, trinken and fun, and invites you to his Grand Welcome Party - any time after 4 p.m. - on Friday, December 5th. He will be serving snack foods and beverages at the Cactus Squadron hangar, Graham Municipal Airport.

Guten nacht! Lodging will be at Gateway Inn (940-549-0222), and Rodeway Inn (940-549-8320); Cacti will have several lodging availabilities at members' homes, on a first-ask, first-serve basis. In most cases, the Baron's breakfast will be part of your stay.

Saturday noon, December 6th, Red Baron's cohorts will attempt to fill all attendees with enough wurst and mittagessen to last at least until dinner time.

Then Baron Scott will turn things over to WTW Leader Ted Short, and Colonel's Ladies President Kathy Mizell to give their crews appropriate briefings.

Come 6 p.m., the Baron will open the doors at Richeson RallyWorks, located at the merge of Highway 16 South and FM 1287, for sipping and mingling. Dinner will be prepared by the Baron's henchmen, Tillman, Tillman & Tillman, after which there will be an awards ceremony and silent auction.

HOUSING: Cactus Gasthausen: jcannon@wf.net;

Gateway Inn 940 549-0222: Single \$46.33/41.81, Queen \$51.98/47.46, King or 2 beds \$54.24/51.98 prices are without/with AARP

Rodeway Inn 940-549-8320: Single \$46.33, King or 2 beds \$50.85

Rodeway has no AARP discounts. All prices include 13% tax.

Be sure to specify smoking preference; state "Cactus Squadron."

REGISTRATION: \$30 per person until November 15 (\$50 late registration). Make checks out to "Cactus Squadron"

Name _____ Colonel # _____

Address: City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Any special needs? _____

Number of persons _____ x \$30.00* per person = _____

*prior to November 15th

And in this scrap of leftover space - miscellaneous AIRSHO and O'Club Stuff!

The theme of AIRSHO 2003 will be "Time Flies," honoring man's first hundred years of flight, after the Wright Brothers' flight on December 17, 1903. Replacing the CAF's night show of recent years will be the return of the popular trade show in the main hangar, featuring more than 40 exhibitors ...

... O'Club volunteers - packets have been mailed - if you have not received yours, contact Sharon Short (WHS members - all WHS packets were mailed to Linda Fountain, get them from her at the September Squadron meeting). If you need to cancel your hotel reservation before September 21, contact Sharon Short (WHS members - contact Linda Fountain). Your room may be needed by someone else ...

... people who are expected in the O'Club Saturday night - people that will be in the O'Club on Saturday: Ward Grant (Bob Hope's publicist), Linda Hope (Bob Hope's daughter), Michael Dorn (actor), Bill Anders (astronaut), George McGovern, Hugh and Andrea Ambrose, and Cliff Robertson is coming (actor). Bomb Group 8th Air Force 484th group W.A.S.P.

... we will need lots of help in the O'Club especially on Saturday ...

O'Club Volunteer Reservation Status

PARKWAY INN - ODESSA							(432) 332-4224	as of 8/12/2003
MON SEPT. 22	TUES SEPT. 23	WED SEPT. 24	THUR SEPT. 25	FRI SEPT. 26	SAT SEPT. 27	SUN SEPT. 28	TYPE ROOM	
Ted Short	Ted Short	Ted Short	Ted Short	Ted Short	Ted Short	Ted Short	K/NS	
			John Scott	John Scott	John Scott		K/NS	
			J.B. Thorne	J.B. Thorne	J.B. Thorne	J.B. Thorne	K/NS	
(WASP)			Eleanor Gunderson	Eleanor Gunderson	Eleanor Gunderson		D/NS	
		Kathy Mizell	Kathy Mizell	Kathy Mizell	Kathy Mizell	Bill Master	K/NS	
				John Mizell	John Mizell	Kathy Mizell	D/SM	
				Ben Mizell	Ben Mizell		K/NS	
				Mark Novak	Mark Novak	Mark Novak	K/NS	
				Bob Province	Bob Province	Bob Province	D/NS	
(downstairs)		Wallace Dillard	Wallace Dillard	Wallace Dillard	Wallace Dillard	Gary Province	K/NS	
(downstairs)			Nancy Johnson	Nancy Johnson	Nancy Johnson	Wallace Dillard	K/SM	
				Bruce Bradford	Bruce Bradford	Nancy Johnson	SN/SM	
				Wayne Arnold	Wayne Arnold	Bruce Bradford	Q/SM	
		Al Lintz	Al Lintz	Al Lintz	Al Lintz	Wayne Arnold	K/SM	
(WASP)		Joe DeCosta	Joe DeCosta	Joe DeCosta	Joe DeCosta	Al Lintz	K/SM	
(WASP)			Richard Prideaux	Richard Prideaux	Richard Prideaux	Joe DeCosta	K/SM	
			Madge Moore	Madge Moore	Madge Moore	Richard Prideaux	K/NS	
			Dorothy Lucas	Dorothy Lucas	Dorothy Lucas		D/NS	
				Harold Patterson	Harold Patterson		D/NS	
				Phil Taylor	Phil Taylor		K/NS	
(WASP)				Greg Tipp	Greg Tipp		D/NS	
				Deanie Parrish	Deanie Parrish		D/NS	
			Bob Geiger	Bob Geiger	Bob Geiger		K/NS	
				Chuck Wooler	Chuck Wooler	Chuck Wooler	D/SM	
(Downstairs / Refrigerator)				Polly Patton	Polly Patton	Polly Patton	K/SM	
		Tom Malone	Tom Malone	Tom Malone	Tom Malone	Tom Malone	SN/NS	

DAYS INN - ODESSA							(432) 335-8000	as of 7/30/2003
MON SEPT. 22	TUES SEPT. 23	WED SEPT. 24	THUR SEPT. 25	FRI SEPT. 26	SAT SEPT. 27	SUN SEPT. 28	TYPE ROOM	
		Jack Cannon	Jack Cannon	Jack Cannon	Jack Cannon	Jack Cannon	K/NS	
				Greg Kinnan	Greg Kinnan	Greg Kinnan	K/SM	
			Cheryl Mogg	Cheryl Mogg	Cheryl Mogg	Cheryl Mogg	D/NS	
				Roy Armstrong	Roy Armstrong	Roy Armstrong	D/NS	
			Pat Cernosek	Pat Cernosek	Pat Cernosek	Pat Cernosek	K/NS	
(refrigerator)			Sue Wylen	Sue Wylen	Sue Wylen	Sue Wylen	K/NS	
			J. Duff Pitcock	J. Duff Pitcock	J. Duff Pitcock	J. Duff Pitcock	K/NS	
Bill Baley	Bill Baley	Bill Baley	Hugh Alexander	Hugh Alexander	Hugh Alexander	Hugh Alexander	D/SM	
			Bill Baley	Bill Baley	Bill Baley	Bill Baley	K/NS	
			Dick Harper	Dick Harper	Dick Harper	Dick Harper	D/NS	
			Linda Fountain	Linda Fountain	Linda Fountain	Linda Fountain	D/SM	
			Sue Rumel	Sue Rumel	Sue Rumel	Sue Rumel	D/SM	
			Troylene Magee	Troylene Magee	Troylene Magee	Troylene Magee	D/SM	
			Mike White	Mike White	Mike White	Mike White	D/NS	
				Ron Fountain	Ron Fountain		K/SM	
				Steve Sehnert	Steve Sehnert	Steve Sehnert	D/NS	
			Mark Allen	Mark Allen	Mark Allen	Mark Allen	K/NS	
				Matt Gallien	Matt Gallien		K/NS	
				Joe Vaught	Joe Vaught		K/NS	
				Rich Welsh	Rich Welsh		K/NS	
			Thomas Reinert	Thomas Reinert	Thomas Reinert		D/SM	
			Frank Stokes	Frank Stokes	Frank Stokes	Frank Stokes	K/SM	
				Steve Holman	Steve Holman	Steve Holman	K/NS	
				Bill Roach	Bill Roach		K/NS	
			John Hess	John Hess	John Hess	John Hess	K/NS	
			Ken Hyman	Ken Hyman	Ken Hyman	Ken Hyman	D/NS	
			Doris Richeson	Doris Richeson	Doris Richeson		K/NS	
				John Webb	John Webb	John Webb	K/SM	
		Lucile Andrews	Lucile Andrews	Lucile Andrews	Lucile Andrews		D/NS	
		Ole Nygren	Ole Nygren	Ole Nygren	Ole Nygren	Ole Nygren	D/NS	
				Laura Babineaux	Laura Babineaux		K/SM	
				Skip Warren	Skip Warren		D/NS	
			Dave Price	Dave Price	Dave Price		D/NS	

K = King Q = Queen
 D = Double SN=Single
 NS = Non-Smoking
 SM = Smoking

IMPORTANT - HOTEL ROOM CANCELLATIONS -If you wish to cancel your reservations, you must do so **72 hours prior to the scheduled arrival date** or you will be billed for all days reserved!



Steve Sehnert
 19319 Haystream Dr
 Katy, TX 77449

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SB2C Schedule

Event	Location	Date	Status
Indianapolis Air Show	Indianapolis, IN	Sept. 7-8	CONFIRMED
CAF AIRSHO® 2003	Midland, TX	Sept. 27-28	CONFIRMED
Oklahoma City Airshow	Oklahoma City, OK	Oct. 3-5	CONFIRMED
Wings Over Houston®	Houston, TX	Oct. 18-19	CONFIRMED
N'Awlins Airshow	New Orleans, LA	Nov. 1-2	Tentative