



Ghosts of Flughafens past ...

Backstage at Flughafen 2003

By Doris Richeson, WTW Historian

An aspiring actress whom I befriended in my youth frequently commented that playgoers always missed the best entertainment: Backstage was where you found that.

Other backstage mavens have made similar comments, and this makes me cotton to the idea that I would like to give the WTW-ers a bit of insight into the sometimes unsteady course the Cactus Squadron charted from the day at Flughafen 2002 when it took on the hosting of Flughafen 2003. We've laughed at ourselves and cleaned up after our collisions with reality. Go ahead: Laugh with us, not at us!

In Graham, a town of some 9,000 generally amiable folks, we wracked our brains to locate a local restaurant or facility which might house Flughafen 2003. We could envision being squeezed into a minor room and exploding its walls, or being front and center in a busy restaurant roaring with holiday cheer-lovers on a December weekend.

Gotta be somewhere we could eat, drink and be merry, as well as passing out the appropriate plaques, accolades and thank yous, holding a silent auction and playing a few of the big-band oldies.

Sure 'nuff, one of our members found just the place, and I was appointed emissary to go book Graham's splendid new Senior Citizens' Center for the dinner event of Flughafen 2003.

I hurried in to arrange the booking before some other organization usurped our spot. Yes, they'd love to have Flughafen use their facility (and they also had their eyes on the considerable monetary enhancement we would bring to their coffers). Yes, we could bring in our bar, and when finished, remove our bar. Okay. All set.

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Maj. Doug Putney, a member of the Big Country Squadron and West Texas Wing, takes a moment to pose for pictures after being awarded the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze Star.

(reprinted from "Contraails", January 2004)



The DEW Line Squadron received the Kale Webster award at Flughafen in recognition of their outstanding performance in 2003.

Mark Your Calendars

Wing Staff Conference - Feb. 20 & 21, 2004
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Midland, TX
 (note that the January "Contraails" shows the dates as Feb. 21 & 22 - the actual dates are Friday, Feb. 20 & Saturday, Feb. 21)

Backstage at Flughafen '03 - *continued*

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So we relaxed. Our focus shifted to lodging, and we talked with both local motels. After, all the some 70 attendees at previous Flughafen events would use over half the motel rooms in town, and we wondered about those! (My post-event vibes are that the motels rolled out their best red carpet.)

Some of us volunteered to house Flughafen attendees. They were the most gracious guests in the world: notes, cards, verbals and a big vase of flowers which adorned the Flughafen dining room; they sure know how to say “thank you.”

Resting on our laurels, we discussed the fine points of logistics, foodstuffs, props and staffing at the Senior Citizens' Center, without doubt (in my mind) as the best Graham had.

T³ (T-cube, Tillman, Tillman and Tillman), a fledgling catering business started by Richeson grandchildren Amity, Joe and Tiffany Tillman, who are currently in restaurant management with Richeson Companies, volunteered their services (free) to prepare the food for the dinner event.

It was July — hot summer, and I had my own case of doldrums, from which, Colonel Alyce Marie Bradshaw brought me to a rude awakening when she advised me that Senior Citizens had a no-alcohol policy!!! Unh-huh! That's not what the manager said!

Off to the Senior Citizens' Center, this time I took a witness to hear what was being said, since it was apparent that Center had done “a 180” on policy.

Yep, in dry Graham, Texas, the booze vigilantes had struck again! The manager said that “the Board” had made the decision. But no one saw fit to notify me! And here it was late July, when everybody who wanted to be anywhere for a holiday party had booked everything Flughafen might use.

Now we knew the Center had a no-smoking policy, but no alcohol? Tell some of the Colonels they can't have a little toddy with their meals, and they'd as soon go where they can.

Wonder if the Center directors heard about the prominent local matron who supplied herself and her date with flasks of (clear) vodka in their hip pockets and purses, so they could uh-refill their water glasses? Is there anyone else in Graham who would treat necessary rules like that? Officer, arrest that woman!

The Cacti called around. And found naught. Well, Richeson RallyWorks, a training facility and maintenance warehouse, would be big enough — and without charge. However, it had certain areas of dishabille, only a one-holer, with another approximating “over the river and through the woods.”

How about a spiffy-up job? This job was finishing even as crew was painting Dell Cannon into a corner when she was bringing in her décor, and fine-tuning the details with Nancy Pettus, as the guys hauled in the props...parachutes procured from somewhere (by wait, maybe), centerpieces, real juniper boughs, a few items from the Cactus hangar and Robert E. Richeson Memorial Museum.

Meanwhile, Squadron Leader Thorne marshaled up a work crew from day to day...Jerry Bishop, Dell Cannon, Jack Cannon, Russell Carey, J. Duff Pitcock, Bruce Bradford...ready at the finish time.

“Won't start,” Flughafen Coordinator Jack Cannon said of the 1942 WWII Jeep donated by the late Rix Richardson. The Cacti wanted to get the aged vehicle into the banquet room as part of the effects. Well, Colonel J.Duff Pitcock said he'd been practicing just how to hold his mouth — for years now. Sure enough, if one performs just a bit of this and that, the old four-wheeler runs fine. However, once in the RallyWorks, it wreaked its vengeance, taking a leak of 87LL. Don't anybody let something spark.

Meanwhile, out at the Cactus hangar, new lights had to be installed atop the flagpole so the flags could fly at night — following protocol. Colonel Dave Price lent his portable scaffolding, but, being extremely busy at his Discount Furniture, allowed Thorne himself the privilege of manipulating the controls as he got himself up to the 65' height, just a little past his usual comfort zone, he said.

Eager to greet the Flughafen arrivals, some of the squadron members were on hand to organize the Friday afternoon event. Georgia and Rex Owens, Archer City members, were organizing the foodstuffs.

Even before the official kick-off time of 4 p.m., arrivals — by plane and automobile — started arriving at the social in the Cactus hangar. It was hors d'oeuvres and libations, but we're sure most called it dinner, and after renewing once again the friendships made over the years, headed out to rest up for the main-event day ahead.

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Backstage at Flughafen '03 - *continued*

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Prep time: not wanting the odor of as much bacon as I planned to fry for the T³ Salad, I ventured outdoors to do the deed, and in the 18-degree weather, the tops of the bacon began to turn white as the bottoms barely sizzled. A watched pot finally boils!

On to the RallyWorks! Need lots of water. Hot water on: nothing out! Cold water on: weak trickle. The frigid temps had taken their toll. But luck was with us, as the ice flowed into liquid!

The big day of official Flughafen started with an 8:30 Safety Meeting, followed by WTW Staff and Colonel's Ladies at 10 a.m., a schedule made up and printed by our very organized Wing Leader, Ted Short.

Now, we've all gotta sprechen a little Deutsche, after all, Flughafen is our event, kinda literally translated as "flight haven," or, less literally, as plain old hangar.

So, when noon came upon the gathering, the Cacti brought in "mitagessen" — lunch, or more literally translated, mid-day eats, which included German sausages from Opa's in Fredericksburg, braised chicken breasts, sauerkraut salad, hot German potato salad, breads and assorted desserts.

Then WTW Leader Short called the General Meeting to order, and asked for reports from the officers, his usual precision following Robert's Rules of Order, so no one was missed.

Ooh...a brief rest; then everyone was ready for social time and dinner at Richeson RallyWorks.

All was in readiness, as T³ and staff had a few moments to revel in their successes and lament a few errors while the Colonels and guests ingested their desired libations, made to order by J.Duff Pitcock, assisted by Rex Owens.

WTW Leader Short gave the high sign, and Cactus Colonel Jerry Bishop gave the invocation.

Silence! What happened? Well, it's just that mouths were masticating, and other pursuits had to wait.

Even as this was occurring, Colonel Martha Dillard, WTW Finance Officer, was assimilating bids for the silent auction. C'mon, Martha, aren't you hungry yet?

WTW Leader Short had a number of announcements, including the presentation of a writing award for this WTW Historian, who has written a series for the past year.

Backstage, and front and center, Flughafen 2003 was a mixture of fun and work, foibles and successes. Now it's time to sit back and let Dewline create the saga of Flughafen 2004.

This is the good stuff I've been looking forward to all year. Is it over? Really? Already? ■■■

WRITER'S NOTE: In early 2004, I will be doing articles on WTW squadrons. I have good early information on West Houston, and Ted Sanchez of Dewline has promised some info from their squadron.

Pictures are needed too, and for many of the history pictures you've seen previously published, I owe thanks to Anita Short and Peggy Webster Wilson.

Information can be submitted by e-mail (Dorisricheson@aol.com), US Mail, tapes or pony express.



The busiest guys in the house - the bartenders



The food and the décor were both great

2003 West Texas Wing Awards

Kale Webster Memorial Trophy - DEW Line Squadron

Charlie Day Colonel of the Year - Sharon Short

Jake Miller Leadership Award - Ted Short

Jack Gaulding Airman of the Year - John Hess

C. L. "Casey" Kay Distinguished Service Award - Greg Kinnan

William B. "Bill" Stuessy WTW Contributor of the Year Award - William B. "Bill" Stuessy

Special Recognition Awards -

Bill Campbell

Jack Cannon

Doris Richeson

Steve Sehnert

Joe Sanderson (non-CAF)

2003 West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies Awards

Colonel's Lady of the Year -
Margaret Cloyd

Glenda Campbell Leadership Award -
Kathy Mizell

Sharon Short Achievement Award -
Desert Squadron Ladies

The WTW Contributor of the Year Award

The WTW Contributor of the Year Award is a new award this year. This award will be given to a Colonel who has given freely of his or her TIME, TALENT and/or TREASURES. Every year there are people who step forward to help the Wing with some or all of the Three T's.

The inaugural recipient of this award is Colonel Bill Stuessy. Col Stuessy was a strong supporter of the Wing and of the SB2C, and was always the first to pull out a checkbook and help the Wing when needed.

The wing staff has met and voted unanimously to rename the WTW Contributor of the Year Award the **William B. "Bill" Stuessy Contributor of the Year Award**.



Guess The "Mystery" Warbird



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

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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@westhoustonsqdn.org (or at the mailing address shown in the return address of this newsletter) no later than the 20th 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

Flughafen 2003 has come and gone and I say that it was executed tremendously and harbored on Flughafen's of old. I was especially moved by the response from our Wing members in resolving the MCRP concern at Headquarters. It seems that any time the Wing encounters a problem; we have members that step forward to help resolve it. I wish to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of you who graciously participated in this endeavor. Among them, Col. Bobby Halford completed his sponsorship in the SB2C with a \$5000.00 check. Thank You Bobby.

The BEAST is now back home in Graham with brakes, propeller and all else in good working order. During our meeting in Graham, some of us, myself included, rapidly and expertly (?) assembled the new Wing Walk apparatus. Amidst the chuckles, snide remarks, rude suggestions and members giving up and leaving, we learned a lot and did make several suggestions on redesigns. Special thanks to Col. Jack Cannon for ram-rodding the project. With the acquisition of the wing walk, plans are for the SB2C to make Oshkosh in Aug. 2004 and possibly the West coast early 2004. Several volunteers are needed for Oshkosh as it will be a week-long event.

As a reminder to those Squadron Leaders present at Flughafen and those unable to attend, please respond to Col. Pete Hyatt and Col. Kathy Mizell regarding the Long Range Planning Committee and request for Squadron level co-contributors.

Keep a check on your six - *Ted*

Officer's Reports

Operations Officer - *Greg Kinnan*

We are currently being the search for airshow dates for 2004. We are talking with about 10 locations at the present time. Most of these are in the Midwest (Ohio, Indiana). We will take the Beast to Oshkosh this year since we now have the wing walk.

Finance Officer - *Martha Dillard (outgoing Finance Officer)*

From what I heard all who attended Flughafen had a good time. During the Wing meeting and at the banquet some very generous donations were made to the SB2C. These donations will put the SB2C account at Headquarters back to the minimum balance with a little to spare. I would like to acknowledge the following with a big Thank you for your support of the "Beast".

WTW Colonels' Ladies -----	\$3,000.00	Col Bob Halford -----	\$5,000.00
Col's Jack and Dell Cannon -----	\$1,000.00	Col Pete Hyatt -----	\$ 500.00
Col Mark Novak -----	\$ 500.00	Col J. Duff Pitcock -----	\$ 500.00
Col Bill Baley -----	\$ 300.00	Col Margaret Cloyd -----	\$ 100.00
Col Wallace Dillard -----	\$ 100.00	Col Kathy Mizell -----	\$ 100.00
Col Kent Pettus -----	\$ 100.00	Silent Auction Proceeds to SB2C ----	\$ 665.00

Pete Hyatt also gave a donation of \$500.00 to the C-45/SNB.

I have enjoyed serving the Wing as finance officer for the last several years.

Blastards - *Gregg Ulvestad*

The Blastards have completed another successful year. We aided the EOD Detachment during Tora, Tora and other Air Power demonstrations during AirSho 2003. 35 Blastards combined with EOD to let the crowd experience just a taste of history. It was a great year and we look forward to the Spring when once again we will be "Doin' it Hot and Noisy".

Election Committee - *Kathy Mizell*

The Wing Officer election results are:

Ted Short – Wing Leader
 Jack Cannon – Maintenance Officer
 Pete Hyatt – Finance Officer
 Frank Bailey – Adjutant

We received 136 ballots out of the 287 mailed. Of the 136 ballots received, only 119 were allowed. The remaining 17 were excluded due to failure to follow directions.

Officer's Reports (continued)

Recruiting and Retention - *Kathy Mizell*

Again, I am asking that Squadron Leaders and staff appoint a Squadron level Recruiting and Retention officer to work with other Squadrons and me to find new ways to recruit new members and retain existing members. This is very important for the future of this Wing and each Squadron.

Personnel Officer/PIO - *Steve Sehnert*

Wing membership renewal forms were mailed to all Colonels at the end of November. These forms have all your information that is in the membership database printed on them. Please proofread this information carefully, and mark any corrections before sending in the form. If everything is correct, all you have to do is return the form (and your check!) to the address on the form. A blank "generic" form is included in this issue of the Logbook. Note that the renewals were due January 1, 2004. If you haven't sent yours in yet, you're late!

As mentioned during the Wing meeting at Flughafen, sometime this year we will be introducing a voluntary email system to reduce the number of paper copies of the Logbook that we mail out. Let me stress - it is *voluntary*. If you don't have email, or just prefer to get the paper copy, you will still get your newsletter the traditional way (at least, if the Post Office doesn't lose or destroy it). Details on this will be in the next Logbook.

Colonel's Ladies President - *Kathy Mizell*

The Colonel's Ladies met in Graham, TX during Flughafen. The hangar in Graham is lovely and they have done a wonderful job on the museum. The best part was that the heat worked since it was just a little chilly that weekend... 19 degrees Saturday morning... brrr!

Included in the fourteen Ladies that met Saturday were four guests. The two Dew Line Squadron (Amarillo) guests joined the Wing Colonel's Ladies that day and the other two guests are from the Nimitz Squadron (Fredericksburg). Since the meeting, one of the Nimitz Squadron ladies has joined our group. The new members are Gail Sanchez and Vicki Nelson from Amarillo and Irene Bish from Fredericksburg. Welcome to all!

We voted to spend \$1,500 to complete the SB2C Flying Sponsorship started in 2002. We also voted to donate another \$1,500 to the SB2C to help bring the Headquarters balance on this aircraft back to \$20,000.

Colonel's Ladies awards presented at the Saturday dinner at Flughafen went to Margaret Cloyd - Colonel's Lady of the Year, Kathy Mizell - Glenda Campbell Leadership Award, and Desert Squadron Ladies - Sharon Short Achievement Award. Congratulations to all! And thanks to all who took the time to nominate members for these awards.

The results of the 2003 elections for 2004 officers are probably not a big surprise. Martha was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer, Dell Cannon has been elected as Vice President, and Kathy Mizell has been re-elected President.

Our next meeting will be held February 21, 2004 in Midland during the Winter Staff Conference. Time and location details will be provided closer to the meeting date.

Membership application forms have been mailed to all current Colonel's Ladies. The forms need to be completed and returned to Martha Dillard along with the \$10 dues. Please do not delay renewing your membership.

A Note from Laura Wilson - Fender-Bender at Airsho

At this year's Airsho, our car was hit in the volunteer/handicap parking area allotted for O'Club volunteers. Someone was kind enough to leave a note but it got destroyed. My car is a silver 2003 Nissan Altima. I remember the truck was parked at an angle in the back part of the lot, closest to the flight line in the corner closest to the tent. It was a black truck with a small, low, open trailer attached with Texas plates. They hit the bumper area on the driver's side. The note made a reference to "Will be in Oklahoma", so they may have attended the Oklahoma City airshow.

If the person who left the note sees this, or if anyone else knows who it was, please contact me. My home number is 972.662.5201 and my work number is 972.770.1139. Email is laurawilson@mfpoe.com.

Squadron News

BIG COUNTRY SQUADRON

PIO - Jim Dobbs

Big Country Squadron Fly-Over In Moran

The citizens of Moran, Texas celebrated 120 years as a thriving community on September 20th. The event was a gala affair beginning Saturday morning with a parade through the streets of Moran. The Big Country Squadron started the parade with a fly-over. First was Charlie Hanna in his Aronca Champ, who preceded the formation to announce our arrival. The formation consisted of Don Malm (BT-13), Jan Goodall, Al Bennett and Penny Montgomery (Beech Baron), Don Borchert (SNJ), Jim Dobbs (Cherokee 180), Milt Milton and Bill Masters (Cessna 182). The disparity in cruise speeds of the various planes in the formation caused some interesting maneuvering, but all went well. Al was piloting the Baron and sure had a handfull trying to stay in place on the inside turns.

Fly-over for Henry "Hank" Castle

Memorial services were held in Abilene for Hank on October 21st. Hank was a native of Abilene who served in both WWII and Korean War. He flew both piston and jet aircraft. He was a long time member of the West Texas Wing of the Commemorative Air Force. The missing man flyover was performed with two elements consisting of Al Bennett with Milt Milton; Jim Dobbs and Ray Pierson in the lead element. The missing man element was Tiny Malm, Bill Collins and John Bennett.

Sick Call

Col Bob Sterling, as many know by now, had a terrible auto accident after leaving a Squadron meeting. Bob will be flying a wheelchair for a few weeks after leaving the hospital with two broken legs. After some problems with blood clots, he was scheduled to move to an assisted living facility in December. Some more therapy and he will be back up to full speed.

Boy Scout Week-End

The week-end of November 15th was busy at the hanger. Boy Scout Troops 258 and 272 from Abilene arrived after dark on Friday the 14th. The next morning I arrived early and found the tents in a straight line. I do not want to know how they managed to do that in the dark. After breakfast they trekked over to the EAA facilities at the big airport and became "Young Eagles" compliments of our local Experimental Aircraft Association. Every Scout got to ride. The afternoon was consumed by other activities associated with fulfilling the prerequisites for the Aviation Merit badge. Sunday morning was to be a short tour of the museum and then home. However, Don Malm found out that some of the leaders did not get to ride That just would not do, so we dragged out the BT-13 and Jim Dobbs brought his plane over and the flying began. About noon we finally quit flying. I think the museum was an anti-climax.

These Scout leaders should get a big pat on the back for their efforts. All the boys were very courteous and it was obvious that they were being shown the "Right Stuff". Thanks to Stan Kisner, Buddy Clark and Bill Masters for being there to help during the week-end.

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON

PIO - Linda Fountain

Special Thanks To West Houston Volunteers From West Texas Wing

West Texas Wing Election Committee Chairperson (and WHS Colonel) Kathy Mizell extends special thanks from the Wing for help with the mail out for the Wing election. Pete Hyatt, Richard & Karen Hamilton, Brigitte Howells, Bruce Gispanski, Bob Linguiti & daughter Elizabeth and Linda Fountain joined Kathy at Hangar B-5 and got the job done in an hour on Sunday, November 2, and the ballots were mailed out Monday. Even little Amanda Hamilton helped by putting stamped envelopes in the "ready box"! Thank you all for your help and support of this Wing project. By the way, Kathy was in Houston for a work related conference and was able to attend the HUGE quilt expo, tour the Long Star Flight Museum and spend time on the boardwalk in Galveston before meeting with the gang Sunday.

From The Squadron Leader - Col Bob Alford

The Wings Over Houston airshow was a great display of members willing to help to have a successful air show. The weather was beautiful and the show was as far as I can tell successful. I personally want to thank all those members that helped with this year's air show and those that helped with our PX's.

I would like to thank Col Bill Roach for all the hours and effort he puts into the show. I don't think many of us know the man-hours or sacrifices that are a result of the position that Col. Roach holds. I further want to thank Janis Roach

Squadron News (continued)

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON *(continued)*

because without her understanding and love for Bill, he would not be able to do what he does for all of us. I thank you both!

As most of you know a CAF FM-2 Wildcat crashed near Ellington Field after the air show. The accident was not related to the air show, but was and is a wake up call for all personnel that fly or work around planes of any kind. We must focus at all times when flying or working around any type of plane. While I was crewing at the Reno Air Races this past year, the starter pilot hit a pylon and landed without any further problems. This pilot is the only pilot who has every hit a pylon and survived. At a debriefing, he indicated that the biggest reason that the strike even occurred was because he was not 100% focused on what he was doing. We all must be 100 % focused on what we are doing when we are flying or working around our aircraft.

CACTUS SQUADRON

PIO - Doris Richeson

Seems like old times again...

It was deja vu time when Colonel J.B. Thorne stepped behind the podium and took up the gavel at the October squadron meeting at the Cactus Squadron hangar. Following the resignation of Colonel John Scott as squadron leader, J.B. Thorne, who had been executive officer, was unanimously elected to fill the squadron leader position. Thorne has previously served as squadron leader, and has been instrumental in supervising various phases of hangar construction as well as equipment design for Cactus projects.

Graham industry Southern Bleachers donates wing-walk for SB2C

Many thanks go out to Southern Bleachers, Graham's leading industry, for building and donating a long-needed wing walk for the SB2C when it goes on tour. As with all CAF projects, funding is needed for maintenance of the SB2C, the only warbird of its kind in the world still in flying condition. One of the very important fund-raisers is money from those who come to see the bird.

Southern Bleachers has been in business many years, participating in the building of stadium bleachers and related items throughout the world. One of their best- known projects was the building of the bleachers for Texas Motor Speedway, at the corner of IH 35W and Highway 114.

Celebration provided by the Cactus "Northern Detachment"

We knew there were some stand-outs in the northern group: Lucille and Bob Andrews, Ann Bumpers, Georgia and Rex Owens, Robbie and Richard Prideaux and Donna and A.R. Percy didn't just provide the sustenance for the Cactus November meeting, they put on an extravaganza of superb food with a flavor of Thanksgiving, plus decor and lots of trimmings to give the entire meeting a holiday spirit.

DESERT SQUADRON

PIO - Shirley Lee

From the Squadron Leader - Col Nita Zellars

We had a very successful Open House and Hangar Dedication on 11/01/03. We had an impressive crowd, with more than 130 people attending. We want to thank our Wing Leader, Ted Short and his wife Sharon for coming from Ft. Worth. We had a plane from Abilene and planes and members from High Sky Wing. Thanks for supporting us as well as our planes from the Desert Squadron.

I want to thank the squadron members for working so hard. Thanks to the weed pullers, the glass cleaners, the case movers, the memorabilia collectors, the sign makers, and everyone who participated in our team effort to have such a grand open house. The Colonel's Ladies did an outstanding job serving the food.

The Colonel's Ladies were rewarded for all their hard work for Traron this year by receiving a check for \$1,000.00. Could also have been appreciation of the squadron adding tie downs and paving the ramp for better access to our hangar.

Desert Squadron Makes a Donation For the OHS And PHS March To The Roses

The Desert Squadron presented a check for \$1,000.00 to the Odessa High School and Permian High School bands at the October regular meeting to help get them to the Rose Bowl in January, 2004.

Squadron News (continued)

DESERT SQUADRON (continued)

Awards

Colonels Mark Blodgett and Fritz Grauerholz received CAF Letters of Commendation from the CAF, awarded during Airsho and presented at the October regular meeting. Fritz was commended for his outstanding job as Executive Officer last year and for his dependability and dedication to all the Squadron's activities. Mark was applauded for his loyal dedication to the Squadron as Safety officer and for being a regular supporter of our Bingo operation. The letters were signed by Jethro B. Culpeper, Col., CAF Commander.

Airpower Museum Volunteers were recognized in early November and our own Col Earl Francell received a Certificate of Meritorious Service for Aviation Boot Camp. Col Francell has taught in all boot camps for the past seven years, teaching airplane engines, navigation, and trainer procedures. He has played a key role in priming the lead trainer for its debut on Discovery Channel "Wings" which was programmed earlier this year.

Donations to the Squadron

Mrs. Lucy Leja, of Dallas, Texas, widow of Capt. John Stanley Leja, USAF, made a generous donation of two sets of carved wooden wings to the Desert Squadron. These lovely wooden wings can be seen upstairs in the great room, hanging near the new bookcase.

MANY THANKS to Bud Forsman, who donated a signed copy of the book Building the Death Railway: The Ordeal of American P.O.W.'S in Burma 1942-1945. Chapter 5 of this book is about Forsman and the liberation. (See page 256 of the book). This book, and many others, can be found upstairs in our brand new, beautiful oak bookcase, which was finished just in time for Open House.

The Halfords also loaned an oil painting of a ME-109 after a pass made on a B- 17 which was hung upstairs above the balcony doors for Open House. Charlie Coskrey and Ray Pierson also filled our display cases with memorabilia from their private collections for Open House. Thanks to these loyal members.

New Members

We were happy to have new member Norm Witcher and his wife, Kay, and Russell Yeary attend our November meeting. We are also happy to have new member Jon Stepp.

Looking Forward to March

We have the annual spring dance. We also have a great speaker lined up for our regular meeting - you will want to hear all about the April of 1998 recreation of the April 1928 flight to the North Pole.

Pictures from Desert Squadron's Open House



Guest Speaker - the Hon. Buddy West



Squadron News (continued)

DEW LINE SQUADRON

PIO - Gail Sanchez

Storage Building Work Party

On the bright and shiny Saturday of October 25, a very successful volunteer work party moved all the Amarillo stored holdings from the Pampa hangar to the new DEW Line Squadron home, hangar #3 at Tradewind Airport. There remains a lot of work to do in determining what we want to keep and what goes away. Maybe Colonel's Kinnan, Johnson and Webb can be of assistance in determining what should be or must be kept. Everything is stacked in disarray on the pad in hangar 3. The working volunteer's included infamous Colonel's such as Webb, Johnson, Larson, Sanchez, Stevens, Nelson, Dean, and Bannister to the best of memory. It took three vehicles and a trailer to clear the storage area. The amazing thing was that Colonel's Kinnan and Johnson stacked the stuff into the storage area by themselves when the move was made from Pampa. Colonel Johnson still tells of that day and his sore back afterwards. A belated 'thank you' goes to Colonel Kinnan and Johnson for the work they did for the Dew Line Squadron on that day.

Veterans Day Flyover

A Veterans Day gathering was held at the Panhandle-Plains War Memorial in south Amarillo Tuesday, November 11. The ceremony began with a F-18 flyover by the USMC from Ft. Worth. Later, our own Colonel Florene Miller, one of the two guest speakers, told about some of her flying experiences. At the end of her talk, Colonel Nick Nelson in formation with Don Johnson, the PT-26 and Stearman, made a flyover. Colonel Miller pointed to the flyover and acknowledged that the two aircraft were her friends from the local CAF Squadron in Amarillo. Good publicity for the CAF.

NIMITZ MEMORIAL SQUADRON

PIOs - Dee & Chuck Wooler

Sick Call

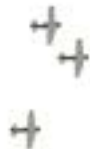
As you know, Col Mike Anthony has surgery recent and Col John Wood reported his is in good "sprites". Also, Col Dorothy Greinke is recovering for a broken hip at home and is doing well. Please keep these members in your prayers and we sent them our best wishes for a fast recovery and their return to our group. You are each missed very much!!!

PX Information for 2004

For the coming year, there are plans underway for two airshows, one the second week in April at Highland Lakes Squadron in Burnet and the second will be at Temple the first week-end of May. We have also been asked to an airshow in the Valley.

This past year was successful because of all the volunteers who gave of their time. Without these wonderful people, success simply would not happen. Thanks each of you and hope to see you in the PX sometime in the year 2004.

Gone
West



Francis Hugh Morris

Col Frank Morris passed on November 30, 2003 at the age of 81. Frank served his country during WWII in the Army Air Corps where he flew the AT-11, the B-17, and the B-29. Frank was very active with the CAF and the Desert Squadron, serving as a former Squadron Leader and flying sponsor of the Stearman. Services were held on Wednesday, December 3rd, after which the Desert Squadron hosted more than 30 family members and friends at their hangar for lunch. Charles Coskrey and Ray Pierson flew over the funeral in honor of Frank's many years of service to the Desert Squadron and the CAF.

W.G. "Dub" Reed

Former Colonel and Cactus Squadron member W.G. "Dub" Reed made his final flight on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003. He was a former teacher of Physical Science and Aeronautics at Wichita Falls High School and a retired Petroleum Geologist. He received his degree from Hardin University. Dub served in the US Army during World War II and was a member of the Lost Battalion Association and the Masonic Lodge.

CALENDAR

WING STAFF CONFERENCE
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES
MIDLAND, TX
FEB 20 & 21, 2004



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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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 : J. B. Thorne 940-873-4436

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

Third Thursday of each month @ Desperador's Restaurant, 15th & S. Madison, Amarillo, TX
Contact : Nick Nelson (806) 679-0033

BIG COUNTRY SQUADRON

Second Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 PM, Homeplace Hangar at Elmdale Airport, Abilene
Contact : David Duncan 325-766-3769

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 Pete Hyatt. He will see that it is properly recognized both by the Wing and Headquarters in Contrails.

SB2C Schedule

End of season - wait till next year!

The Wright brothers flew through the smoke screen of impossibility.

— Dorothea Brande

Aviation is proof, that given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible.

— Eddie Rickenbacker

Mystery Warbird from page 4 - Fairey Battle

A single-engined light bomber which entered service for the RAF in 1937, the Battle was decidedly underpowered by 1940. After suffering heavy losses over France, the surviving Battles were used as trainers and target tugs for the remainder of the war.

2004 WEST TEXAS WING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

DUES – \$ 30.00

You must be a current CAF regular, life, or Honorary member to be eligible for WTW membership. To be an active, voting member of a West Texas Wing Squadron, you must also be a member of the West Texas Wing.

Tax deductible contributions will be accepted by the West Texas Wing for any specified Commemorative Air Force aircraft or project. If you wish to make a contribution along with your wing dues, please specify the aircraft and/or project along with the amounts(s) and include in your check total.

2004 Dues **Amount: \$30.00**

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to: _____ Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the SB2C Helldiver _____ Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the WTW JRB _____ Amount: _____

Extra copies of the Wing Membership Directory cost \$5.00 each. Send ____ extra copies @ 5.00 ea. _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make your check payable to the
WEST TEXAS WING - CAF
and mail with this form to:

PETE HYATT
11011 Pleasant Colony #1922
Houston, TX 77065

Please PRINT CLEARLY

First Name _____ **MI** _____ **Last Name** _____

Nick-name _____ **Spouse** _____

Street Address _____ **Home Phone** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____ **Office Phone** _____

Email Address _____ **Fax** _____

Cell Phone _____

CAF Colonel Number : _____ **CAF Dues Expiration Date :** _____ **CAF Life Member Number :** _____

WTW Staff Office Interest: _____ **Past WTW Staff Office:** _____

Note : Phone Numbers and Email Addresses will be published in the Wing Directory. If you do not want a phone number or email address published, do not provide it!

CAF Aircraft Sponsored: _____

WWII Aircraft Owned: _____

Other Aircraft Owned: _____

Squadrons, Wings and Detachments: _____

Detachment Interest: _____ **Ratings:** _____

Pictures from Flughafen 2003



The new Wing Walk is assembled using the DOT-approved worker-to-watcher ratio, normally seen on highway work crews (minimum eight watchers/advisors/critics for each person doing actual work)



The Wing's Auctioneer Glenn Larson took over to help move some of the items left over from the silent auction



Sharon Short received the Charlie Day Colonel of the Year Award



Margaret Cloyd - WTW Colonel's Lady of the Year



Ted Short accepts the Jake Miller Leadership Award



All Flughafen pictures provided by Paul Studley

WEST TEXAS WING COLONEL'S LADIES DUES FOR 2004 PAYABLE NOW \$10.00

All Lady Colonels and spouses of WTW Colonels are invited and encouraged to become members of the *West Texas Wing Colonel's Ladies Detachment*. The *Colonel's Ladies* organization assists the *West Texas Wing* Colonels in carrying out the aims and goals of the *Commemorative Air Force*. The *Colonel's Ladies* create an environment of enthusiasm, optimism, good will, friendship and cheerfulness among its members and associates to effectively carry out the objectives of the *Commemorative Air Force*.

To be eligible for membership in the *Colonel's Ladies Detachment*, you must be a Colonel in the CAF and a member of the *West Texas Wing*, **OR** be sponsored by a Colonel who is a current member of the *West Texas Wing*. A Colonel may only sponsor one Lady.

Please fill out this form and send to the address below by **FEBRUARY 28, 2004** to be included in the West Texas Wing Directory.

COLONEL'S LADIES APPLICATION & INFORMATION UPDATE:

PLEASE PRINT

Date of Application/Renewal (required): _____

Name _____

Mailing address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Are you also a CAF Colonel? Yes No **Serial #** _____ **Life#** _____

No. of years in Col. Ladies _____ **Spouse's Name** _____

Phone: **Office** () _____ **Home** () _____ **Fax** () _____

E-Mail Address: _____ **Birth Date:** _____

Name of Sponsoring Colonel: _____ **CAF/SN** _____

NOTE: If you have changed Sponsors for any reason, NOTIFY WING PERSONNEL IMMEDIATELY

Member of Col. Ladies Squadrons: _____

Special Interests: _____

If you would like to serve as a member of the **COLONEL'S LADIES WING STAFF**, please circle the position(s) you are interested in:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Project Officer

Newsletter

Other

MAIL APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT TO:

**PETE HYATT
11011 Pleasant Colony #1922
Houston, TX 77065**



Steve Sehnert
19319 Haystream Dr
Katy, TX 77449

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED