



Logbook

West Texas Wing

Volume 3, Issue 1

January/February 2004

Sometimes the players changed, but there was always a new challenge...

West Texas Wing Hospitality Beckoned West Houston Squadron

By Doris Richeson, WTW Historian

It was just another sortie for a couple of bored Confederate Air Force (later to become Commemorative Air Force) pilots when Col C.G. "Pete" Howard, in his Stearman, and Col Al Snyder, in his T-6, decided to fly those birds to the air show they'd heard was to be held in San Angelo, Texas.

They loved "hangar flying," and somewhere in the buzz of conversation they'd become aware of the Gulf Coast Wing, which held its air shows at Galveston, and the Eastex Wing, which "kinda held to itself."

"Let's go see what they're doing out there," suggested Howard. West Texas hospitality left its mark on both the aviators and the West Texas Wing (WTW), for the aviators met Charlie Day, WTW Leader, and Joe Mabee, Executive Officer, who suggested that a WTW Squadron be formed in Houston. This following is a statement from Joe Mabee quoted in Laverne Hoestenbach's A HISTORY OF THE WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON 1978-1988:

FOREWARD

Years ago, on a "sticky" hot June day, Pete Howard and Al Snyder flew to San Angelo for the Charlie Day Antique Airshow. Van and I took those miserable, sweaty, tired and thirsty souls to one of the local watering holes.

As the evening progressed, we all became more intelligent and I suggested that, since they were having so much fun, why didn't they form a squadron under the umbrella of the West Texas Wing.

Little did we dream, that your Wing and Squadron would grow to the size and prominence that it enjoys today. I tip my hat to the West Houston Squadron for a job well done.

By Col Joe Mabee, CAF
Wing Leader 79-80

How could they do that? There were just two - Howard and Snyder - and the only other recruit they could think of was CAF member Braxton Thompson, unaffiliated with any squadron, they'd

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Membership Reminder!

If you have not sent in your 2004 membership, please take the time to do so now. The cutoff to be included in the 2004 Directory is April 15, 2004 (you should be able to remember that date!).

If your name on the mailing label of this newsletter is printed in red, then your membership renewal has not been received as of Feb. 15, 2004.

Individual pre-printed forms were mailed to everyone last year. If you've lost yours, blank forms for both Colonels and Colonel's Ladies are included in this newsletter.

Steve Sehnert
WTW Personnel Officer & PIO

West Texas Wing Wing Safety Officer Col Bill Baley Lost in Crash

The West Texas Wing and the CAF lost a fine Colonel when Bill Baley's Cessna 210 crashed in Llano County on February 22 as he was headed home from the Winter Staff conference in Midland. Bill's unselfish enthusiasm and camaraderie will be missed.

Mark Your Calendars

SNB Work Party

March 12-13, 2004
Big Country Squadron, Abilene, TX

Desert Squadron Hangar Dance

March 20, 2004
CAF Main Hangar, Midland, TX

West Houston Squadron Open House & Fly-in

May 22-23, 2004
West Houston Airport, Houston, TX

DEW Line Squadron Wings & Wheels Airshow

May 22, 2004
Amarillo, TX

West Houston Squadron - *continued*

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heard. And so it was: On June 25, 1978, these three individuals formed the nucleus of the West Houston Squadron (WHS).

At its inception, West Houston Squadron's home base was Weiser Air Park, and then Col Sam Poss graciously let WHS use his hangar. At the Wing Staff Conference in January, 1993, the acquisition of WHS's very own hangar, B-5 at West Houston Airport, was approved by CAF headquarters Staff.

It was a young and vibrant squadron. Not long after its inception, the squadron created its first offspring, Training Squadron One, later to become Traron One Squadron. This squadron was born of feasibility: It seemed that any time anyone went anywhere to do some flying, the issue of formation flying — safely — came up. Thus the Cols, many of whom were WWII aviators, went out and did maneuvers until they "got it right!"

One of the big efforts for WHS was showing off its airpower at West Texas Wing and CAF air shows. More birds came on as Pete Howard bought his famed North American T-6 Thunderchicken, two T-6s and a Stearman, new Col Jim Neundorfer acquired a T-6 and a T-28, and before long WHS had its own air might which included eight T-6s, two T-28s and other aircraft. With its considerable air power — its members holding private ownership of quite a number of warbird types — bragging rights were claimed by WHS when their numbers comprised a considerable percentage of the birds at any air show, anywhere! "Eight out of 30...10% of the warbirds on the field..."

Squadron Leader in perpetuity? Well, Col Pete did such a good job no one seemed to really think about it, perhaps because good ole Pete gave everyone so many other projects to think about. But finally, it fell to Col Pete himself to call a meeting on November 21, 1982, and put before the group a new slate of officers. Maybe it was the "nominating committee," or maybe the illustrious squadron leader was rather like some of those benevolent dictators, but any way you call it, when the meeting ended, the squadron leader was still Col Pete Howard. Hello, up there, Pete, could you come down here again?

In 1983, Col Joe Mabee donated a black Lincoln, formerly owned by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, for the CAF to use as a Staff Car. WHS requisitioned custody of this automobile, and after considerable restoration, it stayed with the squadron, in the possession of whoever became the WTW Leader.

Seeking a good people-hauler project, WHS acquired an ailing DC-3 located at Hooks Airport. Jim Neundorfer offered to round up the quickie make-do so Col J.K. West could ferry the old bird to West Houston. Col Laverne Hoestenbach reported that it was a big day, on September 6, 1982, when West brought the bird into West Houston for its christening as *Draggin' Lady*; it seemed like an eternal petting of this special project plane, which made her air show debut at San Marcos Air Show on December 4, 1982.

Draggin' Lady didn't want to let go of her star status, though: May 28, 1983, the *Lady* was on her way to Breckenridge (Texas) Air Show with Col Jim Neundorfer as Pilot in Command, and eight other WHS-ers on board, when the right engine made a dastardly spitting noise, after which Neundorfer made an admirable landing at Stephenville Airport.

Col Roger Hoestenbach located new jugs for the *Lady's* engines, and when WHS crew had installed those, PIC Pete Howard, with Roger Hoestenbach as copilot, took her up for a test flight around the pattern, only to see white smoke pouring from the right engine, which froze immediately on touchdown.

Thus calamity became the mother of invention. What invention could WHS possibly need? Well, money! The *Lady* needed a lot of it. "Where we gonna get it?" With their air might, WHS conceived the idea of an Air Show, *Wings Over Houston*[®], to be held at Ellington AFB. In 1983, the Thunderbirds canceled at the last minute, and expenses were way over budget; in 1984, weather intervened so badly that ticket-holders and vendors alike were dismayed. What can you do about the weather - especially weather "already done?" Next best thing: re-schedule; this WHS did, for May 22nd and 23rd, when the weather, fortunately, was beautiful. The *Wings Over Houston* Air Show continues as an annual event, a joint effort of the West Houston Squadron and the Gulf Coast Wing.

In 1985, when Col Ron Fountain became PIO, he decided WHS needed a new format for its publication. Pete Howard won the award for masthead design of the *Slips & Skids* publication, then published "from time to time," and Col Linda Fountain promoted squadron pride with her slogan, "We're the biggest, we're the best, we're the Squadron of the West." The telephone committee held its course, however, and members - guests as well - were summoned to WHS meetings, where hangar improvements, aircraft restoration and ancillary projects made WHS life interesting.

One of the un-coveted awards given out by CAF Headquarters is the Brass Jackass Award, always resulting in raucous applause and laughter when the recipient goes forward to receive the "award." WHS was not as pointed about their

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West Houston Squadron - *continued*

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members' minor debacles, but nevertheless the good ole boys didn't miss many chances to "rub it in."

At the Fort Concho (San Angelo, Texas) Air Show in June, 1982, Col Pete Howard traded in his Thunderchicken T-6's appellation and became Thunderturkey, wounded in "pride, prop and pocketbook."

There was the time when Draggin' Lady was reported to be making low passes over Cypress Field, unknowing that the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) had a stake-out on the field. They saw a pick-up being driven away and shook down driver Col Al Snyder, then swarmed the Lady armed with M-16 rifles, calming down to extensive tours of the bird. Seems C-47 was a big cargo hauler, too; I remember a derelict hulk parked off the taxi-way at Reagan County Municipal (Big Lake). Anyone could tell you, "That's the marijuana plane."

Most of the warbirds are tail-draggers, and contemporary pilots — and some old-timers — tend to forget that "you ain't done till the prop quits spinnin'." If the pilot doesn't mess up too badly, the usual result is a ground loop, with — uh, whaddya call those fast roundies at the carnival? — and sometimes a wounded wing. One of those pilots was none other than Ron Fountain, in his T-6; fortunately, the only wounding was his pride.

Col Sam Poss came in for his share of jibes when he said his right brake locked as he attempted a non-standard landing on Mustang Island; he took a tour of a few sand dunes. Some WHS-er wrote a poem to him, "The Legend of the Sand Puppy."

Sometimes there was no room for laughter, though. Col Jack Barnett had flown his T-6 to many air shows, and then proudly acquired a Wildcat; he was killed in a crash of that aircraft on October 14, 1983, just a mile from West Houston Airport. On February 25, 1984, Mike Collier was flying a Corsair which crashed after engine trouble; having internal injuries, Collier survived with the help of considerable prayers. On April 21, 1984, Col Jim Neundorfer and passenger Bob Collins were killed in Al Snyder's T-6, which went into a ground spiral, burst into flames and exploded. On November 12, 1984, then WTW Leader Jake Miller was instructing Kimberly Pardue, 18-year-old daughter of Big Iron Squadron guru and air show performer Howard Pardue in a Chipmunk at Abilene's Elmdale Airport; the Chipmunk crashed, killing both its occupants. Father Howard Pardue flew in the Missing Man formation.

Somehow the show must go on, however, and WHS-ers and WTW-ers tried to lessen their sorrow over fallen aviators, "Oh, Lord, it's hard to be humble, when you're perfect in so many ways ..."

Squadron get-togethers frequently involve sprucing up someone's treasured bird, or a CAF project plane. When the SB2C Helldiver, a project of the WTW, is hangared in West Houston, the WHS-ers have been known to get up a work party to degrease, wash, wax and buff the bird. At least once, they even painted the struts!

West Houston Squadron has done their due, and more, hosting the WTW's Flughafen event, which is held annually by one of WTW's squadrons. WHS has hosted Flughafen in Houston, and they've hosted Flughafen in Georgetown, in order for its geographic location to be more accessible to WTW members. Always a gracious job was done by all!

West Houston Squadron has seen the best of times, and sometimes they've had to work to achieve difficult goals; sometimes they've been hit with a bump in their progress. Members have come and most have stayed; a few have found other interests, and some have "gone west," even as the squadron has enjoyed the excitement of growth and interesting projects

It's been a quarter century: On June 25, 2003, WHS was 25 years old!

'WE'

THE WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON

**WE are a group of people, voluntarily united for one purpose
...that of the Confederate Air Force.**

**WE are unique in our attitudes, talents, enthusiasm, determination
and grit.**

From its start with three members, no hangar and no aircraft, the West Houston Squadron has grown to approximately 100 members, a fully-paid-for hangar, five assigned CAF aircraft and one of the nation's largest airshows.



Pictures from the West Houston Squadron Archives *



Col Pete Howard, distinguished founder of the West Houston Squadron



In between Weiser Airport and Hangar B-5, there was a time where the normal meeting place was under the sheds on the east side of West Houston (then Lakeside) Airport



Col Fred Thompson's "pie wagon" was a Wings Over Houston fixture for years.



Col Dieter Klein applies Draggin' Lady's infamous nose art



Col's Mel Curbow, David Manire and Bob Wyche work on Draggin' Lady (shown here wearing her O.D. paint scheme)



Draggin' Lady, in her "dress whites", provided a handy shelter during Wings Over Houston rain squalls

* actually, all WHS pictures on this page are from the extensive collection of Ray and Bernadean Jones

More West Houston Squadron Pictures



The first WHS PX trailer killed a number of transmissions (it weighed a ton) *photo courtesy of Ray & Bernadean Jones*



The squadron Open House events always draw a crowd *photo by Steve Sehnert*



Two perennial favorites at Wings Over Houston are the Warbird ramp and the Airpower demonstrations *photos by Steve Sehnert*



Get the "Logbook" by Email - Save trees and \$\$

As was discussed at Flughafen last December, each copy of the "Logbook" costs over \$1 to print and mail. While this may not seem like much, it adds up; every two months, the Wing spends about \$450 to produce and distribute the newsletter. That's about \$2700 each year.

A few people have asked if the "Logbook" could be emailed instead of coming by regular mail. Conversations at Flughafen '03 indicated that there are at least a handful of people interested in getting the "Logbook" electronically.

Here's the plan ... First, it's VOLUNTARY. If you want to keep getting the newsletter by regular mail, you can stop reading now and do nothing - you'll keep getting the paper Logbook.

- **What do you need to have to try the 'email option'?** Access to a PC, an internet account or service (AOL, MSN, SBC, Roadrunner, Charter, whatever), and an email account (obviously). You will also need a copy of the free Acrobat Reader software. You do not have to have a high-speed or 'broadband' internet service.
- **What do you need to do to try the 'email option'?** Just send an email to me at wtpio@westhoustonsqdn.org. When the "Logbook" is published, you will get an email telling you that a new issue is available at the West Houston Squadron website. Since the "Logbook" files are often rather large (because of the pictures), I will not be emailing the "Logbook" files themselves. Instead, I'll just let you know that a new issue is available, and you can go get it whenever you want to. This way no one gets surprised when they go to check their email and have to wait for a big file to download.

Steve Sehnert – WTW PIO (wtpio@westhoustonsqdn.org)

2004 West Texas Wing Officers

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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**

Just back from a very productive and tremendously sad Winter Staff meeting. The WTW lost an exceptionally gifted friend and Staff member, Colonel Bill Baley, in an aircraft accident as he was returning home from the meeting. We will all miss "Tiger Bill" and his contributions to the CAF.

During our Staff meeting changes were made to our Dues structure, it was decided to have the squadrons include the Wing dues in with their squadron dues when responding to request as to cost to join squadron, i.e., Big Country dues @\$60.00 + Wing \$30.00 equal \$90.00 per year to become a member.

Informing potential members that the dues would include Wing benefits such as newsletter, directories, functions, etc., can be sold as additional benefits of joining our organization. This should alleviate the age old question of (Why do I have to belong to the Wing?).

We also adapted new procedures concerning the annual awards structure. In an effort to conserve Wing funds and reduce the amount of "dust catchers" of our members, it was decided to eliminate the plaques for second awards to the same member, giving a small date plate to add to the original plaque and the award certificate only. Those members receiving an award for the first time will still receive the plaque and accompanying award certificate.

A work day for the SNB is being planned for March 12-13 in Abilene. The Big Country Squadron will be hosting and will furnish some grub. Lets all try to make it and let's get the Bird in the air.

Keep a check on your six; *Ted*

Officer's Reports

Recruiting and Retention - *Kathy Mizell*

Did you know that 35-40% of all new members do not renew their membership after one year? Did you know that nearly 50% of CAF Colonels do not belong to a single Wing or Squadron?

We need to put as much effort into retaining existing members as we do recruiting new ones. The best way to keep members is to keep in touch with them, make them feel welcome and a part of the team, and keep them busy. The Wings that have the highest recruiting and retention numbers are those who have developed and implement a "mentoring" program.

To aid in your recruiting efforts, you can request a list of all CAF members in your area. This list can then be used to contact current CAF members to bring them into the local squadron.

Personnel Officer/PIO - *Steve Sehnert*

Please see the reminder on the front page regarding membership forms – we've had about 200 returned so far, down from about 300 members as of the end of 2003. My special thanks to those of you who used the pre-printed forms – they make the task of verifying your information in the personnel database much easier! But any form is better than no form.

Starting with the next "Logbook", we are introducing an email-only option. This has the potential to save the Wing several hundred dollars in printing and postage costs each year. See Page 5 for more information.

Colonel's Ladies President - *Kathy Mizell*

The Ladies met this February 21 in Midland, TX during the Winter Staff Conference. We had a terrific turnout with 16 Ladies present including one guest, Marian Hawran, from the Nimitz Memorial Squadron.

All three squadron Ladies groups are in full-swing for the 2004 activities.

- The Desert Squadron has their dinner/dance schedule for March 27.
- The West Houston Squadron is planning an Open House May 22.
- The Dew Line Squadron has an airshow scheduled for May 22.

Of course, this is all in addition to all other activities going on at the various squadrons not to mention airshows and PX sales.

Officer's Reports (continued)

Colonel's Ladies (continued) ...

The Dew Line "Darlins" are already planning for Flughafen 2004 events. From what I've heard about these plans, everyone will have a wonderful time. Start planning now to attend Flughafen in December.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

DEW LINE - AMARILLO: Gail Sanchez, Vicki Nelson, Donna Banister, Jennifer Dean, Shirley Holmes, Annette Johnson, Linda Larson, Casandra Sanchez, and Myrna Smith

NIMITZ MEMORIAL - FREDERICKSBURG: Carol Beasley and Irene Bish

DESERT - ODESSA: Minnie Franco

It's time to pay your 2004 Wing Colonel's Ladies dues. If you haven't paid your dues, please to do so now. You must be current with your Wing Colonel's Ladies dues to be a member of a squadron Colonel's Ladies unit.

Start Planning NOW for AIRSHO '04 O'Club

It's hard to start thinking about AIRSHO 2004, but it's just around the corner. I have to start in January for this years show just to make sure we have everything we need. If you have any special requests please either call, write, or email me what we need that we don't already supply for you.

Hotel reservations applications will be included in the next edition of the Logbook (*there was not enough room in this edition The form is available online [see Page 12]. Sorry ... Steve Sehnert, PIO*). Please send in your reservation as soon as you know that you are going to make it to AIRSHO, as these reservations are FIRST COME FIRST SERVE (you snooze you lose). If you are in Houston please notify Linda Fountain about your rooms and arm passes and car passes, she will be handling those for me.

We again have two hotels to choose (Days Inn and Parkway) from so be sure to mark the correct hotel you want. Rates did go up a little (Days Inn \$42, Parkway \$38) so make note of that.

Thanks as always for your support in our Colonel's O'Club; we are hoping to only be in the tent one more year and then have a beautiful building.

See you soon,

Sharon Short - sharonshort@mfpoer.com 972/770-1188 work 818/656-5052 home

Squadron News

DESERT SQUADRON

PIO – Joyce Tapley

Spring Swing Dance

Put this date on your calendar. Our dance is on March 27th at the CAF hangar, Headquarters. We are planning on having a dance contest this year. We will also have our bars, popcorn and dinner. The tickets will be \$25.00 each and to reserve a table will be \$400. We have had a lot of fun with this dance in the past and I believe this year will be no different. Contact Theresa Halford at 432-366-0638

2004 Squadron Staff Takes Office

Ted Short swore in the new officers for 2004 at the January meeting.

Leader - Ronnie Barnett

Executive Officer - Bill Tapley

Adjutant - Mark Blodgett

Bob Bell- Safety

Maintenance - Kermit Steria

Operations - Bob Halford

Finance Officer-Ray Pierson

Bingo Operator-Ray Pierson

Bingo

Our Bingo has been doing real well. Our crowds have been over 250 each Monday. We have been selling pull-tabs, and we have had to bundle tabs on Saturdays at the hangar. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this. Our money comes from these sales.

Squadron News (continued)

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON

PIO - Linda Fountain

Congratulations to Chili Cook-Off Champs!!

The brave WHS chili cook-off judges had a hard time narrowing the chili entries down to only three winners. Every pot of chili was a WINNER!! The top three awards were presented to:

- 1ST PLACE – Bernadean “Den Mother” Jones**
2ND PLACE – Sherry & Kevin Johnson
3RD PLACE – Nell Harper

Congratulations to all of you and a BIG THANK YOU to all the chili cooks and to our judges Bill Roach, Takeshi Katakura and Gary Hurta.

January Awards Dinner One Of The Best Yet!!

Many WHS Colonels, Ladies and guests attended the Awards Dinner at Town Hall. The food was catered by Tortuga's and was absolutely GREAT. The tavern closed their doors to the public and we had the entire place for our event. The staff was friendly and efficient and made sure we all had everything we needed. The awards presentation held everyone's attention and the gag awards topped off the evening. Those of you who missed this night missed out on one of the highlights of the year. The awards were presented to:

LEADERSHIP AWARD (WHS): Col Bob Alford

COLONEL OF THE YEAR: Col Steve Sehnert

LEADERSHIP AWARD (WOH): Col Bill Roach

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR: Col Al Feltis

MAINTENANCE AWARD: Col Dennis Mark

CADET OF THE YEAR: Matt Saladino

COLONEL'S LADY OF THE YEAR: Colonel's Lady Shirley Hyman

COLONEL'S LADIES SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Colonel Bernadean Jones

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS: Don & Sherry Johnson, Dieter & Joan Klein, Bill Baley, Rich Welsh, Gary & Joyce Hurta and Linda Fountain

GAG AWARDS: (You really have to hear or read the explanations of these to fully appreciate them!)

“LEAVERSHP” - Bob Alford

“LOOP D LOOP” - Ken Hyman

“NOT-A-BURGER” - Dieter Klein

“CUFF HER, JIMMO” - Jim Miles

“B'NAI B'RITH” - Al Feltis

“RUNNING BARE” - Gale Fellows

“TIGHT, AIN'T IT” - Ole Nygren

“IN A RUT” - Janis Roach

“NIAGARA” - Bill Roach & Bob Alford

“FLIGHT OF THE INTRUDER” - Ron Fountain

“UP TO YOUR AXLE” - Bruce Gispanski

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION: Carol Lee, Janis Roach, Gale Fellows, Brigette Howells, Scott Rozzell, Al Saylor, Alan Senior, Gale Haskins, Nell Harper and Skip Warren.

LETTER OF COMMENDATION: Dennis Mark, Dick Harper, Ken Hyman, Ole Nygren, George Ross, Ed Vesely, Wes Fellows and George Watts

SPECIAL AWARDS: Steve Pennington, John Hess, Mike White and Ray & Bernadean Jones

LETTER OF THANKS: Jack Amuny, Bruce Gispanski, Steve Holman, Dan Leone, Bob Linguiti, Bob Merklein, Jim Miles, Mack Palmer, Frank Stokes, Rob Baley, Joe Vaught and Bill Willits

WHS Colonel's Ladies and 2003 O'Club Volunteers received Certificates for their support of the Squadron and fund raising.

O'Club Volunteers Donate “Tips” To Squadron At Awards Dinner

SPECIAL THANKS again to the hard working O'CLUB VOLUNTEERS. Your help enabled us to make a sizeable donation to the Squadron General Fund. **Let's do it again this year!!**

Update on Museum Happenings from Col Don Johnson

We have received a custom-made stand for the 1944 model APU, courtesy of Mike “The Welder” Marczak. *Thank You, Mike!!* All donations are very much appreciated.

Squadron News (continued)

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON (continued)

Colonel's Ladies "Silent Auction" A Great Success!!

SPECIAL THANKS go to *Colonel's Lady* SHIRLEY HYMAN for coordinating the Silent Auction sponsored by the WHS *Colonel's Ladies* at the January Awards Dinner. We also want to thank all the *Colonel's Ladies* and volunteers who helped with the collections. Those donating items for the auction were Bob & Elizabeth Alford, Carolyn Baley, Al Feltis, Joanne Fore, Bruce & Linda Gispanski, Nell Harper, Gary & Joyce Hurta, Shirley Hyman, Don & Sherry Johnson, Ray & Bernadean Jones, Dieter & Joan Klein, Mary Nygren, Steve Sehnert, Alan Senior, Rich Welsh and *Outback Restaurant – Sugar Land*. *THANK YOU ALL!!* We had over 40 items donated. The proceeds from the auction will be donated from the *Ladies* to a Squadron project.

DEW LINE SQUADRON

PIO – Rod Banister

Amarillo Club Dinner

On the night of Wednesday, February 11, a group of the Colonels' Ladies escorted their Colonels to a splendid dinner and evening. Those in attendance were the guest of Colonel Greg and Pam Kinnan at the high in the sky Amarillo Club. Guest included Colonel's Nick and Vicki Nelson, Col. Glenn and Linda Larson, Colonel's Ted and Gail Sanchez, Col. Berry and Myrna Loy Smith, and Col. Sam and Jeannifer Dean. Unfortunately, previous obligations precluded the attendance by some other members. An enjoyable evening was had by all. A well deserved Thank You goes out to our gracious host and hostess, Greg and Pam Kinnan.

Col. Ollie Crawford coming to Amarillo

The guest speaker at a general membership meeting of TAHS being held at Tradewind on March 27 will be our own CAF aviation legend Ollie Crawford. All hands are invited. As the local CAF Squadron, let's show CAF support for Ollie and make plans to attend.

F4U Corsair and Tomahawk P-40N to Appear at May 22 Airshow

Arrangements for the F4U to perform in Amarillo on May 22 have been completed. Colonel Ray Kinney has agreed to bring the big bird to Amarillo to demonstrate its flying power for the crowd as our featured event.

The P-40N is also coming to Amarillo for the May 22 Airshow! Colonel Ray Kinney will put her through her paces for the enjoyment of the Airshow crowd. The Ghost Squadron's P-40 is painted as an earlier version flown with the AVG "Flying Tigers" in China.

CACTUS SQUADRON

PIO – Dell Cannon

Recovery from Flughafen!

Squadron members took a much deserved day of rest on Sunday and returned to the scene of fun, food and awards AKA Richeson RallyWorks on Monday to clean up and dismantle decorations, return rented and borrowed items...guess you might say that we "folded our tent". Col Doris Richeson is owed a tremendous thank you, as well as is the Tillman catering team for the unselfish donation of their time. Doris again came to our rescue when she offered the use of her building, which turned out to be an ideal location for Flughafen.

Having recovered and rejuvenated from Flughafen Cactus squadron enjoyed its annual Christmas dinner and party. Members also brought unwrapped toys, games and other new gift items. Col Jerry Bishop takes these items to the Graham Goodfellows, who then act as distributors to get these gifts to needy area children.

Squadron Leader J.B. Thorne and Maintenance Officer Jack Cannon have been "fine tuning" the wingwalk ladders for the Beast and the ladder is now operational. Jack attended the Winter Staff Conference in Midland and announced that the wingwalk was ready to earn its keep along with the bomber. Oshkosh EAA FlyIn here we come!

The award plaques for Sherrill Pettus of Southern Bleacher and Hub Machine, who designed and fabricated the wingwalk and Joe Sanderson, owner of Sanderson's BBQ restaurant, here in Graham, who has donated hundreds of pounds of delicious BBQ to the Cactus squadron over the years to aid in the squadron's fundraising endeavors finally arrived. J.B. Thorne and Jack Cannon made the presentations. Both gentlemen seemed genuinely pleased with the plaques, the recognition and the show of appreciation. The plaque awarded to Mr. Pettus was from the WTW and the plaque presented to Mr. Sanderson was from the Cactus squadron.

Squadron News (continued)

NIMITZ MEMORIAL SQUADRON

Open House Plans

No specific date has been established for the Squadron Open House & Fly-In; however, early September is being considered. Col. Bailey will begin coordinating with the Hanger Hotel and the Gillespie County airport to establish a date and time. Also, air show schedules will be reviewed to prevent any conflicts with other CAF units. Since Fredericksburg is a German/American community, a suggestion to call the open house function "Flugtag 2004" (German for "fly day") is being considered. It would be a day-long celebration of viewing vintage aircraft, fly-overs, PX sales, a membership recruitment booth, and possibly "wing walks" of such aircraft as the Helldiver and the C-45.

Operations Report

A C-45 work party is set for March 12-13. The work party volunteers are John Wood, David Roberts, Frank Trojcek, Fred Siedow, John Bish, and Chuck Beasley. Col Wood also informed everyone that he had inspected the potential temporary hanger site and airfield near Harper, Texas, that was reported on in the last newsletter. His comments were that the site was adequate. He also stated that he flew over the site at D'Hanis, Texas, but was unable to land since the runway was closed. A ground trip to the D'Hanis site is being formulated by Col. Bailey and will include Col. Beasley, Wood, Bailey, Siedow, and the property owner, Rex Weinheimer. The Highland Lakes Squadron would allow us to house the C-45 aircraft in their hangar in Burnet, Texas, until a suitable hangar could be acquired by the NMS

New members

New members and guests, Frank Trojcek of San Antonio, and Fred Siedow of Kerrville were welcomed into the Nimitz Squadron at the January Meeting.

NROTC Support

Last year the NMS of the CAF participated in the Fredericksburg High School NJROTC Spring awards banquet by awarding two medals to NJROTC cadets. We will again be participating in the awards ceremony this year and will be sponsoring two "Outstanding Unit Participation" medals.

BIG COUNTRY SQUADRON

PIO - Jim Dobbs

Pearl Harbor Breakfast

The annual breakfast honoring the survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor was changed slightly from years past. The "Breakfast" has become too early for many of the honorees. So...we moved the time to noon. Seems that is a better time for all. We had five survivors this year and all spoke for a few minutes about their experiences. Folks, this is one generation whose patriotism is not in doubt. Each man ended his talk with a positive word about our country and I could see a few tears in the audience. One gentleman, Mr. McAnally from Merkel was here last year and saw a picture taken shortly after the attack that was being passed around the hanger. He noticed his old car (new then) in the background at the submarine pens. Members of the squadron flew the "Missing Man Formation" to honor our servicemen who could not attend.

Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party was held on the 17th of December, not coincidentally the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight. Everybody brought their favorite dish for pot-luck. Man, we have some great cooks in our squadron. Even though the replica of the Wright Flyer did not get to fly on that day, several members were able to do a little aviating. We had guests at the party, Lynn and Candy Scott. We think we may have fooled them into joining our group.

Squadron Elections

Squadron officers were elected for the new year and the new officers are the same as the old officers from last year. A special note to thank all officers who serve. It takes time and planning for even the simplest function. We are blessed with many members who donate lots of hours to making the Homeplace a homeplace.

Please be thinking about next year and if you are asked to serve as an officer, do it. You will get more out of it than you know.

CALENDAR

SNB WORK PARTY
BIG COUNTRY SQUADRON, ABILENE, TX
MARCH 12-13, 2004

DESERT SQUADRON HANGAR DANCE
CAF MAIN HANGAR, MIDLAND, TX
MARCH 20, 2004

DEW LINE SQUADRON WINGS & WHEELS AIRSHOW
AMARILLO, TX
MAY 22, 2004

WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON OPEN HOUSE & FLY-IN
WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT
MAY 22-23, 2004

NIMITZ MEMORIAL SQUADRON FLY-IN
GILLESPIE COUNTY AIRPORT, FREDERICKSBURG
TBA



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.westhoustonsqdn.org

SB2C WEBSITE : www.sb2chelldiver.org

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

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 Page

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 @ Desperado'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.

O'Club Volunteer Reservation Form Available Online

Unfortunately, we ran out of room in this edition of the newsletter to include the form. If we go past eight sheets, the postage goes up another 23 cents per newsletter – that would cost the Wing about \$75.

You can get the form now, however, if you have access to the internet. Go to the West Houston Squadron website - www.westhoustonsqdn.org – and look for the "Publications" link.

The paper form will be included in the March/April Logbook.

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:	_____

In late December, 2003, the letter below was received at CAF Headquarters

December 22, 2003

Bob Rice
President, CAF

Dear Bob,

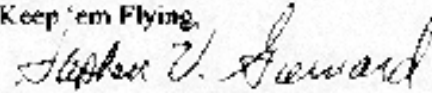
My father, Stephen H. "Steve" Guenard, was a WWII Naval Aviator. After earning his wings he attended Instructor school and was assigned as a primary instructor at NAS Memphis. After eighteen months instructing in Stearman's, he received orders to check out in the Curtiss SB2-C Helldiver. He began that process in June, 1945, and was qualified in September, 1945, shortly after the war ended. He remained in the Navy as a Helldiver pilot until September, 1946, when he separated at San Diego, then moved back home to Louisiana. He and a partner founded the Lake Providence Flying Service in 1953 and made their livings crop dusting in northeast Louisiana.

On November 30th, 2002 he succumbed to a heart attack at age 84. While never a member of the CAF, he attended Airsho twice in recent years. We were able to get him into the cockpit of the "Beast" once again. I can't tell you how much he enjoyed that.

After his death, at the request of several friends, my mother opened a memorial account at a local bank. The enclosed check represents the total funds received. After careful consideration of the options for the use of the money, she decided that he would want to support the CAF Helldiver. Therefore, we ask that these funds be deposited into the SB2-C account in memory of Stephen H. Guenard, Lt. j.g., USNR.

This gift should be acknowledged to Mrs. Flournoy Guenard, 1865 Veterans Lane,
Lake Providence, LA 71254

Keep 'em Flying,

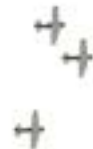


Steve Guenard, CAF 26505
Operations Officer
Utah Wing, CAF

Enclosed with the letter was a check for \$3020.00.

The West Texas Wing extends our sympathies and thanks to the family and friends of Stephen H. Guenard, Lt. j.g., USNR.

Gone West



William R. "Bill" Baley

Col Bill Baley perished on February 22, 2004 when his Cessna 210 crashed enroute from Midland to Sugar Land (Houston). "Tiger Bill" was serving as the Safety Officer for the West Texas Wing, Finance Officer for the West Houston Squadron and was a member of the Executive Committee for the Wings Over Houston® Airshow at the time of his death. Bill was a full sponsor of all five of the CAF aircraft assigned to the West Houston Squadron, a triple-diamond supporter of the SB2C, and a Gold Life member of the CAF.

Born May 23, 1929 in Fort Worth, Texas to William and Maurine Baley, Bill is survived by his wife of 50 years, Carolyn Baley; two sons: Robert Baley and wife, Karolyn; Andy Baley; Brother: W.F. Baley, Jr; and two grandchildren, Kourtney and Austin Baley.

Bill served in the US Air Force, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was posted to bases in the U.S., U.K. and Germany, and was serving in Europe during the Berlin Airlift.

A Missing Man formation was flown in Bill's memory during his services. Aircraft and pilots participating were the WHS BT-13 piloted by Rich Welsh, and three T-34's flown by Ray Jones, Harold Wilson and Robert Irwin.

**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 **March 31, 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**



SB2C 2004 Schedule

Event	Location	Date	Status
Air Fiesta – Wings Over the Valley	Brownsville, TX	March 13-14	CONFIRMED
Dyess AFB Open House	Abilene, TX	May 22	CONFIRMED
Oklahoma City Airshow	Oklahoma City, OK	June 19-20	Tentative
Aero Expo 2004	Akron, OH	June 19-20	Tentative
EAA AirVenture	Oshkosh, WI	July 27 - Aug 2	CONFIRMED
Air Michigan Air Show	Detroit, MI	Aug 7-8	CONFIRMED
Fina-CAF AIRSHO® 2004	Midland, TX	Oct 2-3	CONFIRMED
Wings Over Houston®	Houston, TX	Oct 16-17	CONFIRMED

Steve Sehnert
 19319 Haystream Dr
 Katy, TX 77449

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED