



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing-CAF



Dates You Need To Be Aware Of:

- Each Tuesday Night 1800 hours—Work Sessions at the Hangar
- Each Saturday 0900 hours—Work Session at the Hangar all day
- Saturday, May 10, 0900 hours Staff Meeting, 1030 hours General Meeting Followed by Pot Luck and Hangar work
- Saturday, May 17 0700 hours Building 125 at Ellington Field - W.O.H. Work Day. Lunch Provided !

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Volume 1 Issue VIII

May 08, 2008

Plane Sense in Having a Plan

You can't get to second base without passing first, and you can't get a classic war-bird such as Texas Raiders back into the air without an effective project plan. Not knowing who's on first, and which hand is feeding whom, can be confusing as well as inefficient. Volunteers WANT to work, but a project plan must be in place to conduct the work smoothly and effectively. Col David Carr, by profession (Exxon-Mobil offshore-rig construction manager) is well versed in this task and a natural when it comes to an aviation challenge such as this.

The Gulf Coast Wing is blessed with talent but coordination of work assignments, skills to conduct the assignments, critical priorities in accomplishing the tasks and - LEST WE FORGET - money to fund this project require a workable PLAN. Col Don Outler, Wing Development Officer, continues to re-

mind us that grants and funding require a PLAN. So hurrah for the "PLAN". As Col Carr tells it:

"The Plan, as it's now being called, is the process started before Christmas. I began by crawling all over TR and writing down things that needed to be done as I saw them. This initial list was about 10 pages long. I then grilled the individual team leaders to add to and refine the

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overall work list. This list was the basis for all of the items on the schedule. At the moment, it has about 500 items. After the work list had been roughed out, in Craig's (Aronson) words...*I tied him to the chair...*and made him help me prioritize and understand the interdependencies



Col David Carr, Assistant Maintenance Officer, leads a coordinated effort in work/project planning.

of all the tasks.

This data formed the input for the schedule itself, which is a living document, that at this point gets updated several times a week.

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TR Sponsorships Help the Bottom Line since 9/11/01

Serving as Bomber Operations Officer over the past six and a half years when the Flying Fortress is anything but flying can be a challenge; "Gulf Coast Wing members and other donors have certainly stepped up to the plate with donations to help our cause" says Col Walt Thompson. Providing some interesting figures it is important to recognize that... "Since the B-17 was taken down



in early 2002 at Hobby Airport, our sponsorship monies have totaled \$81,672. Of this amount, 21 donations at \$3,500/each toward full flying sponsorships were made, 3 have contributed \$1,750 toward restoration sponsorships and 3 toward supporting sponsorships. Other miscellaneous donations bring the grand total to \$84,747. Your donations have helped in the maintenance expense payments to get her back into the air." To contribute toward this project, send sponsorship monies for TR to CAF Headquarters, Att: Susan Branum, Accts Receivable. / P O Box 62000 Midland, TX 79711-2000. Note that your donation applies to N7227C. Col Walt Thompson Bomber Ops

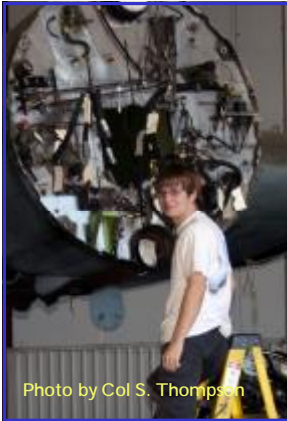


Photo by Col S. Thompson

Col Carr at work inspecting the #1 engine firewall.

“At this point it appears that either sheet metal - structural repair work on the engines and support systems will be the critical path to getting TR back into the air.”

Col David Carr

Plane Plan *continued from page 1*

This past Saturday I re-instituted monthly team leader meetings. Our first session was very productive and we had about 15 of the ‘movers-and-shakers’ behind TR present. My goal for these meetings is to review the past month’s progress, provide an updated schedule and project status report, and to use the schedule along with team leader input to plan the major activities for the next month. A very important side effect of the first meeting was much improved communication within the team. For example, Don Price had discovered that several of our cowlings showed major damage (severe dents and tears) presumably from mishandling during the move. At that time we had about a month’s worth of work in the schedule to repair or replace those cowlings. When we mentioned this at the meeting, Ky kindly informed us that those cowlings were actually damaged when they fell off the plane (over Lufkin) and we already have replacements for them. Secondly, he was able to locate a new main gear tube that Craig had spent a

fair amount of time looking for. As for the schedule itself, here is a quick overview:

Structural Repair - At this point it appears that either sheet metal/structural repair work on the engines and support systems will be the critical path to getting TR back into the air. To that end we have been making excellent progress in the past month. Don Price has increased Benny’s weekly work hours and brought in another helper, Frank. Together, they have so far replaced three cockpit skins that were severely corroded, fabricated a new trailing edge for one of the outboard wings, and started work necessary to re-install the windshield. Don also managed to source a nine foot section of (hard to get) stringer material needed to repair several blown stringers in the fuselage. Lastly, the aluminum billet for the new wing attach-fitting was shipped and is scheduled to arrive late this week or early next week.

Engine - Matthew has created a CAD model of our engine test stand, and has volunteered to lead that project. The con-

struction of our engine test stand will save up to \$20,000 over having to send our engines out for testing. Craig has decided that the engines should be tested prior to being hung on the airfr4ame so that we have time to deal with any engine problems in advance of test running the airplane.

Productivity - After the meeting we had a very productive work session. A whole crew assembled the top turret and hoisted it temporarily into position on the metal frame constructed by Tom Taylor. San and Bob Linguiti wrestled out the torque tube that connects the yoke on the flight deck. The bearings on this tube are two of the six that support the control yokes. It’s a good thing that they were pulled, because they were binding severely and were also extremely rough. Ole and I cleaned two very dirty wing bays and ‘Wild Bill’ made one of the bomb doors shine like never before.

All in all it was an uncharacteristically productive month.”

Col Carr is an active GCW member and an FE in training.



Col Ky Putnam, Col Kent Gillum and Volunteer Matthew Fiedler take a break during a Saturday work session.

Photo by Col S. Thompson

PX New\$ and Info That Helps your Wing



Photo By Col K Hong

The West Houston Squadron’s Open House event was a PX success. We had total weekend sales of \$2,410. “You all are amazing and I can’t thank you enough. It was an honor to work with you and I look forward to our next event together.” per Col

Marsha Daly. Volunteers helping in the photo to the left are (left to right) Cols Marnel (Thompson) Lee, Marsha Daly, Don Outler, Don Price. Other volunteers helping out at this event and the Lone Star Flight Museums Flying event were, Cols Ky Putnam, Suzie Bredlau, Van Skiles, Kevin Hong, Bill Ackerman, Robert Oden and volunteer Matthew Fiedler. Mike and I are still on the move to Georgia and as mentioned recently, our wing needs a PX Officer replacement when I move. If you are interested in serving a PX capacity, either as an officer or coordinator, please contact me or any staff member. We appreciate your willingness to serve.



From the Wing Leader

The nicest thing to report is there have been a series of Saturdays lately when I have left the hangar saying to myself "Best Workday ever!" The Maintenance Team Leaders' and Workers meeting this past Saturday provided great information exchange — more than I can ever remember.

Craig Aronson has been known to bemoan *The right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing around here!* Well some of that has changed. Just by talking about some problems with projects,, some Team Leaders got unexpected help Parts were located, parts were sent on their way for outside assistance and the scope of certain projects was explained in ways that everyone could understand. By popular suggestion we will now have a monthly Maintenance meeting.

If you have not heard the news, David Carr was asked by Craig Aronson to be his Assistant Maintenance Officer and he accepted. David manages the construction of offshore drilling rigs for Exxon-Mobil and is well versed in all aspects of Project Management and Planning. The resources he is already bringing to bear on the B-17 restoration project are too numerous to list in this letter, but ...Thanks David!

The next good idea that has taken root is to have Pot Luck Lunch at our monthly meetings. Col Suzy Bredlau was the instigator of that inspiration and there is a lot to be said for stopping and breaking bread with the people we work with. Also, Kevin Hong has designed a valuable new recruiting tool. The Gulf Coast Wing has a new brochure with a map to the hangar and contact information for people to come find us.

For the last two weekends of April, members have been helping with the PX at West Houston Airport's Open House and Lone Star Flight Museum's Air Show. First, the bad news. LFSM's event was rained out each morning and early afternoon. What's worse for the Warbird Community, is that the visiting Spitfire and the Museum's Hurricane had a damaging collision. Fortunately nobody was hurt, but unfortunately the planes were! Now the good news! West Houston Squadron's event grossed our PX over \$2,400. Thanks to Don Outler and Marnel (Thompson) Lee for working both days and to Ky Putnam, Van Skiles, Bill Ackerman, Robert Oden, Kevin Hong, Suzy Bredlau and Matthew Fiedler for giving us some much appreciated help.

We are all MUCH RELIEVED that Craig Aronson, Maintenance Offer and all passengers aboard his late Cherokee-Six survived an off-field landing on April 30th. The engine quit on a mile and half final short of Hobby Airport. While there were various cuts bruises, crab bites, abrasions and the pilot suffered a broken nose, this could have been a lot worse. I am prompted to offer up thanks to a merciful Maker.

So it has not been dull around the TEXAS RAIDERS. The progress can be seen and is being tracked. I am as proud as can be to be a part of this effort.

Col Don Price, Wing Leader



Col's Bill Steffel and Stan Turner at work on the Tail Gunner's position of the Flying Fortress.

Photo by S. Thompson

"Then a voice came on telling me to please stay on the line as my call would be ignored in the order in which it was received..."

Buster K Nuckles on hold with the FAA

Buster K. Nuckles Takes One for the Team on Cinco de Mayo

Our Maintenance Officer has been trying to get the complete File on TEXAS RAIDERS from the FAA in Oklahoma City for a couple of months. Twice he has ordered it online and they have said he had successfully ordered it, but no joy. It never shows up. This file contains everything on file with the FAA including the show-stopping AD work. If it ain't on file, it ain't been done in the eyes of the friendly skies of the FAA. I called our local Flight Safety District Office and they said I was doomed! The online order function never worked for them either and I would have to start calling early and often and get a human being to help place my order.

So Buster took it upon himself to call OKC and see what it would take. Thank Heaven for re-dial. After about the third or fourth time I got a ring AND was treated to a *Welcome to the FAA* automated message, I was told to wait for the first available agent. Appropriately enough, the first song up on the Muzak was "Killing me Softly with His Song." OK...fine...The music quit and I got my hopes up, but it was only time for the second tune, which was some breezy, jazzy version of what sounded like



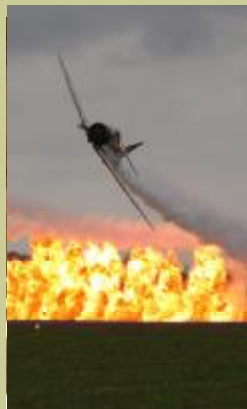
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Visitors at the WHS Open House. Photo by Col Kevin Hong

“Liberace wasn’t available since he up and died while waiting on hold with the FAA in OKC”.

Buster K Nuckles waiting for help from the FAA



TORA—Photo by Col Chris Ebdon

Buster K. Nuckles continued from page 3

“What do you do with a drunken sailor?” and by then my mood was darkening. Then a voice came on telling me please stay on the line as my call would be ignored in the order in which it was received...and I am not making this up....And “did I know that I COULD order my aircraft information online at www.FAA.gov???” For a second I almost fell for it . Maybe someone HAD fixed the online ordering snafu while I was on hold. But I thought better of it.

Third tune up was “Hey Jude” done on an electric piano as arranged by Edna Krefaffle’s Grand-mother, because Liberace wasn’t available since he up and died while waiting on hold with the FAA in OKC. The sore point was that it faded away before it got to the end where it normally would have gone into Na Na Na NanaNana Nana Nana Heeey Jude, Ju ju ja Judy, Judy Judy Ju!.....I sorta felt cheated.

The fourth song was unrecognizable, un-inspirational and blandly understated. And what was even better...a voice came on the line...I told him what I wanted and he readily conceded that the online ordering was a non-starter.

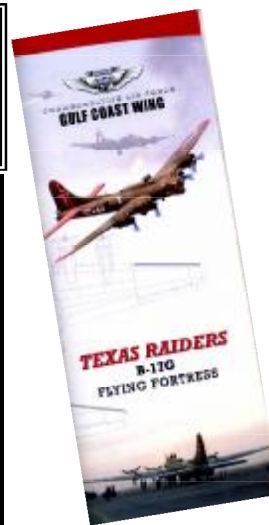
(PERSPECTIVE TIME - - This is the same FAA that has been known to ground airplanes for non-flight-worthy items like broken window hinges that you don’t need to open and to take Pilot Licenses away for infractions and putting two people in jail in Alaska because they moved the seat belt mounting points on the Piper Cub, thereby surviving a crash that they would not have, had they NOT moved the attachment points.) Now Buster was faced with a true FORK IN THE ROAD moment. I could have stopped and asked WHY...if he knew the online ordering was a load of sheep dip, didn't somebody take it off the website and NOT even mention it on the automated phone message I just been listening to for the last twenty minutes? But the FAA representative was a really nice fellow, so I didn't. And two minutes later I had ordered the CD of the files for N7227C and re-checked the mailing address. Now let’s see how the Postal Service does!

Till Next Time- - Buster K Nuckles

Let the laborers linger over long leisurely lunches enlarging their loins away from the Hangar losing limited resources that can little afford to be lost... SUPPORT THE BURGER SOCIETY!

WINGS OVER HOUSTON

Bill Roach has called a Wings Over Houston Airshow work day for Saturday, May 17th at building 125, Ellington Field, beginning at 7am. The main focus will be inventory, filling sand bags and warehouse organization. Lunch will be provided. Hope to see you there!



WE HAVE A BROCHURE

Yes, that’s right. With the help of Kevin Hong, our Graphics Guru, we now have a marketing piece which will help in the recruiting, fund-raising and promotion of our B-17 Flying Fortress. This tri-fold beautiful brochure is not inexpensive, however it is printed at NO EXPENSE to the Gulf Coast Wing !

If you need a supply, please contact the PIO, Col Sandy Thompson

at 817 341 1541 or thompsonb17@uwmmail.com

DEVELOPMENT and FUNDRAISING

The Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation program has changed for this coming year. Under the old program we had a card that was presented to the cashier at a Kroger checkout, and our organization received 1% of the sale as a contribution to our organization. For the four quarters of the 2007-08 year, we raised \$624.51 by doing nothing more than having our cards scanned. The application for this program must be renewed each year.

The new program is designed to make our fund-raising the easiest way for us to earn money by simply using the Kroger Plus Card, which can be obtained at the Customer Service Desk of any Kroger unit. You do not need to obtain a new Kroger Plus Card if you already have one. The new program did not open for our organization until May 1st and I have filed our application as of May 1st. Here is how it will work:

In about two weeks we will receive a letter from Kroger with a barcode for the Gulf Coast Wing. Each of us will present a copy of the letter to the Kroger cashier, who will scan your Kroger Plus Card and our barcode. I will send a copy of the letter to Sandy for inclusion in the next issue of COWL FLAPS and you can print and present.

YOU WILL ONLY NEED TO DO THIS ONCE FOR THE MAY 2008 to APRIL 2009 PROGRAM YEAR. No more handling of two cards for your Kroger purchase to register for a contribution.

Present the copy of the letter with the organization's barcode to your cashier upon checkout. After they have scanned your Kroger Plus Card you will be enrolled for the current year of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation. We will make lots of our organization's letter to distribute to friends, staff parents or anyone else who might be a customer at Kroger. Every time you shop at Kroger and use your enrolled Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will contribute a percentage of our eligible purchase to the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Fund. Again, once a card is scanned with the barcode, it will be active for the entire program year.

WHOA...IT'S THE FORGOTTEN DONATION PROGRAM...ITS NUMBER IS 11643.

Did you know that we are already registered with Randall's /Tom Thumb stores who offer the same kind of program that we have with Kroger? If you trade a Randall's /Tom

Thumb store, all you need to do is go to the store's service desk and have your Randall's Remarkable Card tied to the Gulf Coast Wing. Simply fill out an application at the Courtesy Booth and Randall's will take care of linking our number with your Randall's Remarkable Card. Our Randall's / Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Number is **11643**. Randall's / Tom Thumb will contribute 1% of your Grocery or Pharmacy purchases to the Wing. As far as I know, there isn't a requirement for a recurring annual renewal for a Randall's Good Neighbor Number. This program is in addition to using the Randall's Remarkable Card to save money, earn air miles, rent videos and enter contests.

If you are aware of an organization that would be receptive to our sending a fund raising letter or making a phone call, please let me know. The economy is getting tighter and most companies are no longer accepting funding raising requests which motivates us to additional efforts. My new email address is djoutler@comcast.net

Van Skiles and I have a presentation that's ready to go in the Houston Area, it has been well received several times. If you know of an organization who is interested in our presentation, please let me know.



Col Don Outler is available to make fundraising presentations at your special group gatherings (Schools, Church, Clubs etc)

"The new program is designed to make our fund-raising the easiest way for us to earn money by simply using the Kroger Plus Card."

Col Don Outler

If you need materials for an event in your hometown or neighborhood, please contact Sandy Thompson, Public Information officer at 817 341 1541 or 817 304 0393 or email at thompsonb17@uwmmail.com for supplies and information. We now have a beautiful tri-fold TEXAS RAIDERS Brochure which we can distribute.

Fundraising in Your Hometown

You can take the opportunity right in your own hometown to raise needed monies for the Gulf Coast Wing. After reading the Sunday Star Telegram (Ft Worth, Texas), I noticed that the Belk's Department Store would be

opening in our hometown of (little) Weatherford, Texas, and would be conducting a "soft" opening with a CHARITY DAY event where all 501-c (3) organizations could offer 20% - 50% Belk discount coupons in exchange for a \$5-donation to

their charity. I talked to Don Outler about this and I'm now on Belk's Charity list to participate (twice a year). We make a little money, but it's SOME money. Speak to your local Belk Department Store about Charity Days at Belks. S. Thompson

OCT 25 & 26 , 2008
 Mark Calendars Now !
Wings Over Houston
Air Show
 To Volunteer, Call
 Bill or Janis Roach
 281 579 1942

Col Sandy Thompson
 Gulf Coast Wing—CAF
 Public Information Officer
 113 Coldwater Creek Lane
 Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

Phone 817 341 1541
 FAX 817 341 2075
 Email

B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org
 info@gulfcoastwing.org

We're on the Web!
www.gulfcoastwing.org

If you've received this newsletter by mistake, but you are happy with what you see, please feel free to contact any one of us listed in this document, to join our group. The Commemorative Air Force is dedicated to the educational preservation in flying condition of WWII and combat aircraft. Our mission extols the sacrifice made by veterans from all wars who have helped us live in freedom.



Gulf Coast Wing
 Of The
 Commemorative Air Force

COWL FLAPS

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....Col Don Price.....	don_price56@hotmail.com	713 988 2765
Adjutant.....Col Craig Freeland.....	craig@swtrgroup.com	281 298 1818
Finance Officer.....Col Mark Allen.....	mallen@triconex.com	832 493 1368
Bomber Opns.....Col Walt Thompson.....	txraiders@uwmil.com	817 341 1541
Executive Officer.....Col Wayne Kennedy.....	wfkennedy@swbell.net	281 855 2520
Fighter Opns.....Col Jim Ryan.....	tora113@yahoo.com	979 233 5919
Safety Officer.....Col Ky Putnam.....	713 683 8930
Supply Officer.....Col Bud Bearce.....	budk5jgu@hal-pc.org	713 864 7435
Maintenance Ofcr....Col Craig Aronson.....	cpaajc@aol.com	713 991 7449

Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

Webmaster.....Col Mike Daly.....	mnmcaf@comcast.net	281 807 7765
Public Info Officer...Col Sandy Thompson...	thompsonb17@uwmil.com	817 341 1541
PX Officer.....Col Marsha Daly.....	mnmcaf@comcast.net	281 807 7765
Morale Officer.....Col Suzie Bredlau.....	rikkysue@aol.com	281 398 6977
Development Ofcr...Col Don Outler.....	djoutler@comcast.net	281 486 1830

Gulf Coast Wing Hangar is located at 8411 Nelms Road, Houston, TX 77061 ph:713 649 7227

Volunteers and wing members are dedicated to the preservation in flying status of WWII aircraft which include the TORA fleet and the B-17, TEXAS RAIDERS. Interested parties are encouraged to visit, volunteer and, of course, join our organization. CAF memberships with full-voting privileges are \$200/year. Supporting/Associate memberships provide benefits without voting privileges and are \$55/year (effective 03/01/08). Cadet memberships for ages 13-23 are \$45/year. Membership forms are found on our website at www.gulfcoastwing.org



Col Sandy Thompson
 Gulf Coast Wing CAF
 113 Coldwater Creek Lane
 Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

