



COWL FLAPS



For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing-CAF

Volume 1 Issue X

Newsletter Date: July 08, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

- TUESDAY EVENINGS at 1800 hours—work party at the hangar.
- SATURDAY ALL DAY 0900 hours to 100 hours—work party at the hangar
- SATURDAY, JULY 12th 0900 hours—Staff Meeting, followed by General Meeting at 1030 hours. Potluck follows. 1300 hours PX Volunteers meet
- TORA performs in Gary, Indiana JUL 18-20 and at McCord AFB, Washington. Lethbridge Alberta Canada on JUL 26-27. See www.toratoratora.com for complete schedule.

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TESTING...1..2..3

HOUSTON, TX— At first glance, it may not look like much, but the engine test stand delivered a few weeks ago, is one crucial step in getting TEXAS RAIDERS back into the air again. It's a little rough around the edges, but aren't we all! Help is needed in fortifying this acquired piece, as it must ultimately do what it is intended to do... **TEST THE ENGINES.**

Thanks goes to Col Craig Aronson, Wing Maintenance Officer, for securing this valuable addition for our maintenance crew. Per Col Aronson, there is hope to have the adjustments made to this equipment within a few weeks to ready it for testing the first engine. When that time comes around to test the first engine, you, as members will be the first advised. Not only do we need your help now to "make-ready" but we'll need help in replenishing the \$1,700 it took to secure this one-of-a-kind device. Before we get too "testy" here, keep in mind that getting this Flying Fortress back into the air takes efforts



Col Don Price busy with modification and clean-up work on the engine test stand. Photo by Col R.

from all of us. It's a test not only of available engines, but of our membership participation. It's been a long six-and-one-half-years, and your continued support both financially and invested time is always appreciated and needed. If you've not recently visited the hangar but wish to help, contact any staff member noted on the back page for directions & information.

WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW OCTOBER 25-26, 2008

We're just over three months away from the 2008 Wings Over Houston Airshow, featuring the return of The U.S.A.F. Thunderbirds! We will be scheduling a work day at Ellington Field for mid to late August to prepare for the upcoming show; date to be determined and later announced. It's not too early to make your hotel reservations. Please visit wingsoverhouston.com for a listing. The Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake Hotel is offering a special \$85.00 per night room rate for single or double occupancy, call 281-333-9300 or visit hilton.com. The Extended Stay on Bay Area Blvd., (281-338-7711), The Hampton Inn and Suites also on Bay Area Blvd., (281-332-7952), and The Extended Stay on NASA Parkway (281-333-9494), are also offering special rates; call them for details, and refer to "Wings Over Houston Airshow".



But, please hurry; special rates are based upon availability. Check out wingsoverhouston.com for future updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill or Janis Roach at 281-579-1942. With your help and support, we are looking forward to another successful Airshow!

From the Wing Leader



"THANK YOU to the volunteers in ALL capacities."
Col Don Price

"... the majority of folks are making solid contributions through their work and they are a lot more fun to be around."

Don Price, Wing Leader

Fight or Flight?

First off, I have to salute the FAA in OKC. In nine days they had the CD with ALL of TEXAS RAIDERS' maintenance records in my mailbox. The great news is, while some of our original ink documents haven't made all the transfers from Maintenance Officer to MO, the FAA has the critical documents on file.

Things appear to be hitting a new, solid pace at the hangar. As important as the progress on the airplane is the general tone of our operation. GCW was starting to be known as the Wing where people would rather Fight than Fly. While some of us still have our differences of opinion, the majority of folks are making solid contributions through their work and they are a lot more fun to be around.

The whole Wing extends its prayers to the various members who either have personal health problems or loved ones who are encumbered with the ailments. And our condolences go out to Col. Bill Steffel, who lost his brother George in Illinois this June.

Craig Aronson, MO, has secured an Engine Test Stand, and while it is a "fixer-upper" it is major jumps ahead from having to construct one from scratch. David Carr, Asst. MO, has a DER (Designated Engineering Representative) sign-off on the critical Compression Strut Tie in the Bomb-bay and will be getting that made. Our Flight Controls Team has a bunch of new cables made. Global Warming has been solved and AV/Gas will be back to \$1.25 a gallon any day now! (OK, I made those last two items up but I can dream can't I???)

I would like to acknowledge Ron Dietes for coming down and spending a "working" vacation on the engines and the cowl flap actuators. Ron brought back the first of the yellow tagged carburetors and took three "slightly used" carburetors back to the certified Repair Station for bench testing and approval.

There is also a renewed push to make certain that ALL of our volunteers have joined or "re-upped" on their CAF and Wing memberships. This is vital because workers who are NOT members are NOT covered by CAF insurance when they are working at any CAF facility or event. Part of the big wallop we take paying ANUAC and dues goes to cover the liabilities that are inherent in flying and maintaining aircraft.

I will finish with a THANK YOU to the volunteers in ALL capacities. I am heartened by the fact that the pace has not slowed from the Summer doldrums. If anything it has picked up and more and more items are getting signed off as RTS (Return To Service) on our Project Plan.

Don Price, Commemorative Air Force, Gulf Coast Wing- Wing Leader



Col Tom Taylor, welding a support stand for TR.
Photo by Col S Thompson



Revival of the Dog and Burger Society



It is time to revive the Dog and Burger Society as originally proclaimed by Sir Col Arthur Johnston, master chef and chief cook. The Society was created in March, 2007 as an expeditious option for the maintenance crew to break for lunch without wasting time, gas, and clean-up. Your response has been **outstanding!** To continue this effort, we are reviving the Society's participation back to the level of 2007...without inflation. You may choose to donate in any one of the following levels :

- PLAIN-DOG or SOLO BURGER LEVEL.....\$5.00/month
- CHILI DOG or TAIL DRAGGER BURGER LEVEL.....\$10.00/month
- BIG DOG or BIG BURGER BOMBER LEVEL.....\$15.00/month
- FOOT LONG DOG or 50 MISSION BURGER LEVEL.....\$20.00/month

Please indicate the number of months your donation applies (ex: \$60 for six months) in order to acknowledge your Society Donation accurately. **Make checks payable to Gulf Coast Wing—CAF**, and mail to Col MARK ALLEN, GCW—FINANCE OFFICER, 18042 CR 127, Pearland, TX 77581. We currently accept only checks, but are working on a method to expedite donations with credit cards.

THANKS....FROM the VOLUNTEERS AND MAINTENANCE CREW OF TEXAS RAIDERS

On the Ramp and In the Oil with TORA

Oh where Oh where has 356 been?

Well, it has spent the last 6 weeks on the ramp in Temple Texas undergoing major surgery. During the Sunday show at Temple the RPM's fell to 1400 at 30" MP. The decision to land immediately by Mike Anderson was a good one. Pat McClure and Mike Anderson spent the next two days changing the governor and running down prop issues. It was finally decided to remove and overhaul the prop. Jim Liles and Ray came to the aid of the now stranded Kate 356.



Pat, Ray and Jim took off early one morning to remove the prop with the help of a friendly wrecker. After the prop was overhauled several weeks later, Pat, Ray and Jim went back up to install and bring 356 back to San Marcos. After getting a good run-up the first time Ray and Pat headed toward the Runway. Jim was standing by to drive back. Pat put the engine through the paces on the ground to insure performance once the take-off roll was started...*well guess what?* The oil pressure dropped off and the prop would not produce over 1500 turns; the takeoff was delayed. After a great deal of discussion and phone calls to almost anyone who had engine and prop experience, Jim Ryan, Tora lead, and the Tora maintenance crew headed to Temple. They found that the oil pressure failure was most likely due to an oil line failure in the nose case! The prop and nose case would have to come off. The question was: *Who had the expertise to remove the case and hopefully replace the failed oil line?* Mike Anderson our newest Tora pilot had just the man in his shop... Chris, a former Covington Engine road service mechanic headed for Temple. Chris removed the nose case and located the problem. He repaired it, ran the engine and got normal pressure and prop control. It was fixed! Well...we THOUGHT it was fixed!

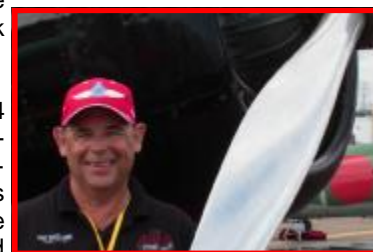
Billy Parker and Pat headed out Sunday morning in Kate 310 for a flight to Temple and a planned return formation flight with both Kates. Pat ran 356 for about 10 minutes, shut down and visually checked her out. Everything looked normal and they were ready to go. Pat led Billy out to Runway 15 and announced to Billy not to get in a hurry that he was going to once more ground check 356 thoroughly before the flight was positioned on the runway. After about 7 minutes Pat called Billy and said he wanted to check what looked like oil coming back on the windscreen and leading edge of the wing. You can expect a lot of prop-grease on an overhaul but this was dark, like OIL! Pat got off on the taxi way leaned out and got an oil bath. 356 proceeded to dump 3.5 gallons of oil out of the prop dome all over the aircraft, pilot and ground. Two more minutes 356 would have been airborne pouring oil out of the dome at a tremendous rate, an event that probably would have forced an off runway landing or a difficult return to any runway. Thankfully, and once again, Kate 356 went back to her now dark spot on the ramp to be tied down, this time with oil dripping from stem to stern.

Again phone calls were made, opinions, and advice was gathered; it had to be the little giant O ring. Once again Ray and Pat headed to Temple for what they hoped would be an O ring change. Ray changed out the O ring, re-assembled the prop dome and said "run her up". Once again 356 was put thru a complete ground check with all systems normal. A visual check was made with no squawks it was time for the runway.

Pat rolled 356 into position and off she went with Ray awaiting the result, Pat made 4 passes down the runways and one final departing smoke pass indicating 356 was operating normally. About 45 minutes later 356 was over Runway 15 with some oil on the windscreen but running fine. Pat taxied to the hanger to find a small oil leak in the dome. It was decided that the dome cap needed a better gasket in fact two of them. Ray hand made the gaskets, Ron Iberg was kind enough to run 356 up and today she was pronounced ready in all respects.

From Pat McClure and TORA a hearty THANKS to all the folks that lent their time and efforts to "KEEP HER FLYING".

"You can expect a lot of prop-grease on an overhaul, but this was dark, like OIL! 356 proceeded to dump 3.5 gallons of oil out of the prop dome all over the aircraft, pilot and ground."



Col Pat McClure next to a healthy prop...without the oil bath

Submitted by Col Jim Ryan, TORA Lead

OCT 25 & 26 , 2008

Mark Your Calendars Now !
WINGS OVER HOUSTON
Air Show
To Volunteer, Call Bill or
Janis Roach
281 579 1942

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Gulf Coast Wing—CAF
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Provided at no cost to the
GCW or CAF

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

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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



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