



# COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



Volume 1 Issue XI

Newsletter Date: August 04, 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, AUG 09, 0900 hours—Staff Meeting, followed by General Meeting at 1030 hours. Potluck follows. 1300 hours
- TORA performs in Chicago AUG 14, Offutt AFB AUG 16-17, and AUG 30-31 Twin Cities Beldenville, WI. See [www.toratoratora.com](http://www.toratoratora.com) for complete schedule.
- SEP 20-21 AIRSHO 08

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## GRAND GRANT STUFF

ADDISON, TX— In life, nothing can be taken for GRANTED...so when six and a half long years of heavy maintenance, restoration, sweat, and what seems like money streaming out of our pockets for an inordinate period of time, we become excited at the prospect of a CAF \$50,000 matching GRANT. The details of the CAF's "Matching Restoration Grant" program were presented at the July 18 & 19th Summer Advisory Board Conference held this year in Addison, TX.

**What does this mean?** - The CAF will match dollar-for-dollar monies deposited into the successful aircraft's account. If we are awarded the Grant, when we deposit \$1,000 into N7227C's account in Midland, the CAF will match \$1,000. If we deposit \$10,000 into N7227C's account, the CAF will match \$10,000. etc. (up to a max of \$50,000)

**That sounds pretty decent. What do we need to do to make it work?** - Well, the first order of business is to complete the grant request, which requires data collection, analysis of six and a half years of maintenance work and progress, compilation of personnel information, history of recruitment and membership retention, the Project Management Plan (*you knew there was a purpose behind this didn't you?*) and Fundraising and Campaigning programs. Cols Price, Allen, Aronson, Carr, Free-land, Outler and Thompson have been busy sorting this information into an acceptable format for the CAF committee. The next order of business is to compile the information into a formal Grant Request, sending it off to the CAF Committee by no later than September 01, 2008.

**OK. If we are selected, when does**



Participants at the CAF Summer Advisory Board Conference, July 18th listen to Q & As regarding the First CAF Restoration Grant and other issues. Photo by Col S Thompson

**the matching money start?** Announcement of the Grant award will be made at the CAF General Membership Meeting held on Friday, September 19, just prior to AIRSHO '08. If the Gulf Coast Wing's B-17 TEXAS RAIDERS is awarded this grant, money deposited into N7227C's account in Midland will be matched following the award receipt. Therefore - deposits you may wish to make should be withheld until the announcement of the award is made on the 19th of September.

**I'm ready to send my check, but I'll wait until after the 19th of September. So where and to whom does this go?** - Good question. Remember — you can claim sponsorships at the same time you are donating money:

\$350 = Supporting Sponsor

\$1750 = Restoration Sponsor

\$3500 = Full Flying Sponsor (eligible for sponsor wings)

Money should be identified as "TO BE DEPOSITED INTO N7227C ACCOUNT". Checks or credit cards should be payable to the Commemorative Air Force, and sent to

CAF Accounts Receivable - Att: Susan Branum

P O Box 62000

Midland, TX 79711-2000

## From the Wing Leader



"The airplane (TR) is coming right along...."  
Col Don Price

*"I'm getting tired just writing about ALL the work these folks have done...They must be rally tuckered out!"*

Don Price, Wing Leader

### **DON'T GIVE MONEY TO TEXAS RAIDERS.....**

*I bet you NEVER thought you would hear that from a Gulf Coast Wing Leader and you won't from me! The fine print is ....we want you to wait until AFTER Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>!*

The CAF Restoration Grant Program has had the application details finalized and Don Outler, the Thompsons, and supporting Staff Officers are working on the Proposal to try and get TEXAS RAIDERS the funds to speed the restoration along. The "winner" will be announced at the General Membership meeting Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> prior to Airsho in Midland.

This is a matching grant which means as WE put money into the B17 account in Midland it will be matched from the funds raised by the sale of Aircraft that were not being used or requested for assignment. The money can only be used for the B17 restoration and is closely monitored under the terms of the program. We need extra money for the materials and contract labor to do various jobs our volunteers cannot handle. Take a look at the new windscreen sheet-metal in the cockpit next time you are at the hangar. That was done by contract labor. Additionally we needed another DER report and sign off for the Compression Strut Tie in the Bomb-bay. The part has been partially machined and David Carr is lining up the resources to get this Critical item finished and installed ASAP.

The Engine Test Stand is at a (contract labor) welder's because it needed some "beefing up" for the larger Curtis-Wright R-1820s. A test prop has been found and is going to be picked up soon. But Win-Lose or Draw we will need your donations this September (after the 19<sup>th</sup>) and beyond to get her done!

I was going to tell you about ALL the things that got moved in the Hangar but I can't remember where we put them! The PX Team led by Marsha Daly and Vicki Thomas and Don Outler and Karen Whitby and Marnel Thompson and anybody they could hogtie into helping them moved the PX from upstairs to a new room downstairs. This will ease coming and going when the PX hits the road again. Last month's PX meeting. was well attended with folks who are going to help us at 2008 Wings Over Houston. Please contact Marsha about YOUR plans to work the PX at W.O.H. (sly hint ;-)

The airplane is moving right along. The new rudder control cables actually swing the rudder and Cols. Stan Turner, Bill Steffel and Bud Bearce have been driving our newest Cols. George and Kara Hueni and Susan Street and a cast of regulars including Cols. Linguiti, Hyman, Siros (and some folks I am bound to be forgetting) hard and putting them up wet, or at least sweaty! Doug Loftin has been working on the firewall control pulleys and Terry Fogelson and grandson Zach have been working on the Top Turret Cuppola. Terry's Dad, Harold Fogelson just passed away and Harold was a B17 Flight Engineer and Top turret gunner in the 306<sup>th</sup> BG (Thurleigh) with a story that will soon be told in these pages.

(I am getting tired just writing about ALL the work these folks have done... They must be really tuckered out!) .....See you at the Hangar

Don Price, Commemorative Air Force, GCW - Wing Leader



"Is this in my Job-Description?" Col Hong.  
Photo by Col S Thompson

## Revival of the Dog and Burger Society

The call for the revival of the Society was heard Your response has been very good! We have received several contributions. Special recognition will appear in next month's COWL FLAPS. Please continue your support in 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

## David Carr Contributes ....Gets Grant !!



**H**ow Col David Carr finds time to himself is unknown. He's a tireless worker whose "day-job" is a project manager at Exxon-Mobil. We know David has worked almost non-stop immersing himself in every crevice of this B-17 Flying Fortress. His work in creating a graphic "Project Management Plan" has had a visible affect on streamlining communications, laying the groundwork for seamless project transition and now he's *gone-and-done* the impossible....raised a \$3,000 ongoing grant from Exxon-Mobil ! Congratulations, to the Gulf Coast Wing and especially to Texas Raiders ...for David Carr's hard work. David's employer has a matching "grant/reimbursement-in-kind" for time an employee spends volunteering for a 501 c 3 non-profit organization. Col Carr has literally spent a Tokyo-Tank full of hours with Texas Raiders, and we are obviously grateful for his contribution which brings us \$3,000. Thanks David. Your work is very appreciated.!

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"It's in our Genes!" Brothers Bruce and Tom (new member) Gispanski are both working on the maintenance stand. See additional photos page 4.

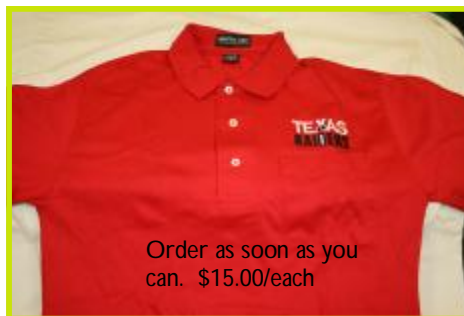
*"The HOUSTON CHRONICLE visited the Hangar on JUL 31. The reporter advises that the article on Texas Raiders will appear AFTER Wednesday, August 06, in the "STAR" section. More specific info will follow soon."*

**S. Thompson  
GCW PIO**

## PX Volunteers Needed for Wings Over Houston Airshow



**W**e had a very productive "first" meeting of our PX volunteers for W.O.H. on July 12th. There is still much to do, with items being purchased, stock being organized and schedules being arranged. Your help is needed for this major air show. This year, the THUNDERBIRDS will be performing and that always brings out the crowds...but this means much needed revenue for our PX. So plan on helping at this event. Volunteers will need a red TR crew shirt, so if you don't have one, please order it now. These are \$15 each and we have a limited number remaining....please get your order in quickly.



Order as soon as you can. \$15.00/each

This year, the Gulf Coast Wing PX will be located in three (3) spots/tents across Ellington Ramp. A recruiting booth will be located in the main/central PX tent where sufficient supplies of CAF applications and Texas Raiders brochures will be available. As always I look forward to working with you. Either email me to advise of your participation at W.O.H. at [mnmcaf@comcast.net](mailto:mnmcaf@comcast.net), or call me at 281-807-7765. Thanking you in advance.....

*Marsha Daly, PX Officer—Gulf Coast Wing CAF*



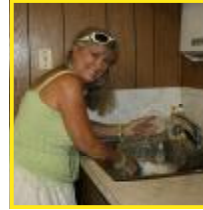
Col's Thompson and Robnett in the PX Tent, 2006  
Photo—S. Thompson



Col Ky Putnam beside one of the engines to be tested.  
Photo by S. Thompson

### NEW FACES • NEW HELP • NEW PAINT

Have you noticed that the room next to the Hangar Kitchen now has "finished" wall-board, is primed and looks actually like a room instead of a pock-marked shelter? Well you can thank the lady you see here cleaning up after our last meeting.....Jet McGuire. "Jet" is short for Georgette...and she is a valuable part of the Aronson team! Jet's expertise renovation of properties, and she took her working staff to task here, with the results being great!  
Thanks Jet.



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### NEW MEMBERS in ACTION

  
**AIRSHO '08**  
CAF Headquarters  
September 20-21  
Colonels & Cadets  
Admitted FREE  
Family Tickets  
Are \$5-Children  
(age 6-12)  
\$15-Adults



John Alkire



Charlie Rowan

No, this is not an oil pan, this is a modern painting for the Art Museum !

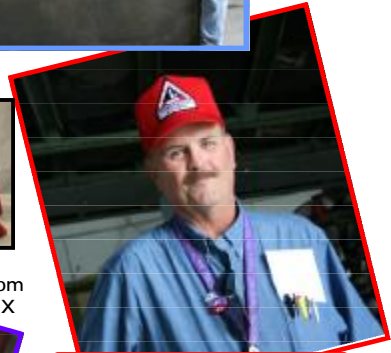


New member, Doug Loftin (left) and Matthew Fiedler

Woof !  
mmm...any leftovers?  
I'm not a member yet, I'm just trying to beat the heat!!



\$10 from the PX



Curtis Hall has his crew cap & is ready for duty !



Col Mark Allen's Zero Replica



You remember the tug that Col Bruce Gispanski (above right) restored? Well, he and brother Tom have set to work on the Maintenance stand (above). Lookin' good!





## You Can Join the CAF for \$19 a Month !

**D**o you have friends who are considering membership in the CAF? Being a member of the CAF just got a little easier on your wallet! The new bank draft option allows new and existing colonels to payout their memberships over the course of the year. At the beginning of each month, headquarters can automatically draft your account for

\$19, which includes all bank fees.

The bank draft option is a great recruiting tool for new members and creates a painless way to be part of our great organization. If you are interested in the bank draft option or have any questions please contact:

Autumn Esparza at [aesparza@cafhq.org](mailto:aesparza@cafhq.org)

Phone 432 563 1000 x2231

If you need applications for either the CAF or the Gulf Coast Wing, please contact either Col Rick Thomas at [rethret@comcast.net](mailto:rethret@comcast.net) or Col Craig Freeland at [craig@swtrgroup.com](mailto:craig@swtrgroup.com) or Col Sandy Thompson at [thompsonb17@uwmail.com](mailto:thompsonb17@uwmail.com) (Phone #s on page 6)

Help Keep 'em Flying!



**F**UNDRAISING is an important part of staying afloat during and after our restoration project. It's essential that each of us take advantage of as many avenues of revenue for TEXAS RAIDERS as we can. Don't forget the value and simplicity of using your Kroger Plus Card or the Randall's Tom Thumb Good Neighbor (#11643) program when grocery shopping. Also, I am available to make presentations to your clubs, organizations, churches or schools. Please contact me at [djoutler@comast.net](mailto:djoutler@comast.net) or 281 486 1830.

Col Don Outler

## CALLING ALL GCW VETERANS

Many of you have already responded to my request for information on your previous military service. If so, you don't need to reply again. For those of you who have not responded, I am surveying wing members, asking if you are a military veteran of any of the following wars/conflicts: WWII, Cold War, Korean War, Viet Nam Conflict, Iraq/Gulf War #1, Afghanistan & Iraq #2. We hope to include your information into a "unit description" part of our Grant Request. Also, we'd like to thank each of you for your past military participation in serving our country. If you served during Grenada, Panama, Bosnia or any other US Military conflict, that's important too. Deadline for this information is **15 August, 2008**. Please email your response to [thompsonb17@uwmail.com](mailto:thompsonb17@uwmail.com) or telephone at 817 341 1541 home or 817 304 0393 cell or FAX at 817 341 2075. THANKS !

Col Sandy Thompson—GCW PIO

### Snapshots from the CAF Summer Advisory Board Conference

This year's Summer Advisory Board was held in Addison, TX to facilitate travel and lower expenses. The result was the largest attendance held to date for this Summer CAF event. Cavanaugh Flight Museum hosted the first evening's event, with a spectacular display of aircraft in pristine hangar settings. Updates on the CAF "Branding" drive were given. We bought a 5X7 CAF flag for the GCW and met up with some long lost friends. The CAF "Hangar-57" project at major airshows is resulting in an increase in CAF membership, and details on the Restoration Grant gave us a heads-up start on this project. Cols Walt & Sandy Thompson



**OCT 25 & 26 , 2008**  
 Mark Your 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](mailto:B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org)  
[info@gulfcoastwing.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastwing.org)

Provided at no cost to the  
 GCW or CAF

We're on the Web!  
[www.gulfcoastwing.org](http://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

**Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff**

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

**Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff**

Webmaster.....	Col Mike Daly.....	<a href="mailto:mnmcaf@comcast.net">mnmcaf@comcast.net</a> .....	281 807 7765
Public Info Officer...	Col Sandy Thompson...	<a href="mailto:thompsonb17@uwmil.com">thompsonb17@uwmil.com</a> .....	817 341 1541
PX Officer.....	Col Marsha Daly.....	<a href="mailto:mnmcaf@comcast.net">mnmcaf@comcast.net</a> .....	281 807 7765
Morale Officer.....	Col Suzie Bredlau.....	<a href="mailto:rikkysue@aol.com">rikkysue@aol.com</a> .....	281 398 6977
Development Ofcr...	Col Don Outler.....	<a href="mailto:djoutler@comcast.net">djoutler@comcast.net</a> .....	281 486 1830
Recruitment Ofcr.....	Col Rick Thomas.....	<a href="mailto:rethret@comcast.net">rethret@comcast.net</a> .....	281 303 8008

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](http://www.gulfcoastwing.org)



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