



COWL FLAPS



For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing-CAF

Volume 1 Issue XII

Newsletter Date: September 05, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

- TUESDAY EVENINGS at 1800 hours—work party at the hangar.
- SATURDAY ALL DAY 0900 hours to 1800 hours—work party at the hangar
- SATURDAY, SEP 13, 0900 hours—Staff Meeting, followed by General Meeting at 1030 hours. Potluck follows. 1200 hours. Work continues on TR.
- TORA performs at AIRSHO '09 Midland-Odessa Airport. See www.toratoratora.com for complete schedule.
- SEP 20-21 AIRSHO 08 Midland-Odessa, TX
- SATURDAY, SEP 27, 0700 hours, Ellington Field, Bldg 125 W.O.H. Work Day

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Fortress Fixin's

HOUSTON, TX— Pin by pin, rivet by rivet, patch by patch, strut by strut and re-fabrication on end...this old Flying Fortress is starting to come together. Each time you see this war bird, there's another change, another face and another part of the airframe looking like it belongs! What once was a heap of parts sitting on a stretch of ramp near the southwest corner of Hobby Airport, now begins to shout out..."I'm alive; I'm coming out of recovery and I want to fly again!"

Well, maybe not all of us hear the same sounds, but being around this airplane for nearly twenty years, I'm seeing things that make me smile again. For one thing, the teamwork, intensity and direction appear to be unified and for-



Col Kara Hueni, helping with Rivet removal.

Photo by Col Sandy Thompson

ward driven. Yes, we all have our moments of disagreement on various issues, but the final product seems within realistic reach.

And have I mentioned CLEAN? For years, this bomber has flown into and out of dusty, rainy, hot, cold, and windy climates. It has been tied-down in torrential rainstorms, landed on grass-strips, got stuck in the mud, crawled



Adjuster Bars now present on the trim-tab of TR's Rudder.

Photo by Col Sandy Thompson

over by eager tourists, and even hit by a bird in flight! Those experiences along with years of having no permanent hangar have contributed to the necessity of clean-up and corrosion control we are tackling now.



Underside view of left wing cavity, demonstrating the in-depth cleaning.

Photo by Col Sandy Thompson

For some of you reading this newsletter, you might only know TEXAS RAIDERS as airworthy, and it's difficult to imagine (except through these pictures) what this aircraft has been through during the last six and one half years.

Well, rest assured, the hard working crewmembers and contract labor-workers are bringing it back together. With the help of your generous donations, the possibility of more grant-monies and more volunteer work, TEXAS RAIDERS will be flying in 2009. We're not only FIXIN'-to-FLY,...we're FIXIN'-to-EDUCATE...FIXIN'-to -CELBRATE...and FIXIN'-to-BE THE BEST !

Col Sandy Thompson

From the Wing Leader



"...W.O.H. is our biggest fundraiser.....
Col Don Price

*"Thank you seems too little to say, but I have to start somewhere!
THANK YOU GULF COAST WING!"*

Don Price, Wing Leader

COOLER THOUGHTS and HEATED PROGRESS.....

AT LAST... Cooler weather is here! It only got to 92 degrees last Saturday instead of 97! You can almost smell Fall in the air and that can only mean... It is AIRSHO '08 and Wings Over Houston time.

AIRSHO at Midland is September 19-21, and I have my reservations. I have never braved the trip to AIRSHO but this year I am looking forward to meeting the other CAF Units and crawling all over their airplanes. I have even ordered two of the spiffy new look of uniformity shirts. I have to be a Rebel one day and wear my TEXAS RAIDERS red shirt, and let the Devil take the hindmost!

It is time to sign up for Wings Over Houston!!! Is there ANYBODY who hasn't heard that WOH is our biggest fund-raiser? We need volunteers in ALL capacities so there is something for EVERYONE to do. I will be at the PX both days and helping with set-up earlier in the week. If you haven't found something to do just ask somebody and we will match you up with the perfect fit.

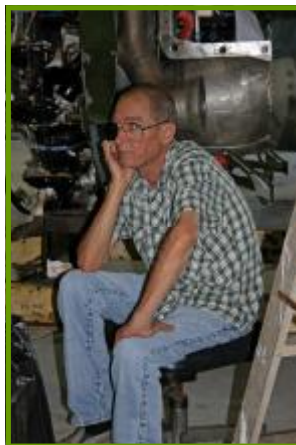
The airplane is having some more parts installed this month and if all goes well the Compression Strut Channel in the bomb-bay will be done with. That one part has made grown men cry. While the bomber has been moved farther back in the hangar it is on jacks, stands, and hoists, and will soon have a cradle made for it to nestle in. All these conniptions are for 23 bolts to be installed. But we CAN'T leave home without them.

We are going to be involved in two extra events this fall. Both are at the Hobby Airport 1940s Air Terminal Museum. Saturday, October 18th (The week before WOH) is Hobby Fest, which is a general celebration of the beautiful Art Deco terminal building and the museum it holds. The second event is 10AM to 5PM Saturday, Nov. 15th and it is a salute to the CAF. All CAF members will receive FREE admission which is normally \$10.00 and includes lunch. Each Unit will have table space for recruiting and display. (If THIS sounds like a call for more volunteers you KNOW ME TOO WELL!) Jim Ryan and Mark Allen are planning on having a TORA bird or two at the event and West Houston Squadron may fly a bird or three over. If the weather permits and the stars are all aligned we intend to tow TEXAS RAIDERS to the ramp outside the Terminal. Heck, how many times do we get saluted by another organization? This is worthy of a MAXIMUM EFFORT!

And as Stanley Laurel used to ask... "And do you know what else Ollie?" It is nearing election time at the Gulf Coast Wing. Positions open this year are: Executive Officer, Safety Officer, Supply Officer, Maintenance and Fighter Operations Officers. All of the incumbents have agreed to run again and as per CAF Unit Regulations, all qualified members in good standing are open to be nominated. Our Nominating Committee consists of Cols. David Carr, Bob Linguiti and Stan Turner.

I am always humbled by the efforts that our Maintenance Team puts into the Bomber, more especially during these hot months of late summer. Thank you seems too little to say, but I have to start somewhere! THANK YOU GULF COAST WING!

Don Price, Commemorative Air Force, GCW - Wing Leader



"If you point that camera at me again, I'm gonna pop-you one!" Col Loftin.

Revival of the Dog and Burger Society

The call for the revival of the Dog & Burger Society was heard. Your response was wonderful! THANK YOU from the maintenance crew of Texas Raiders!

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Paul Finnegan: \$300 | Peter Green: \$120 | Charles Szalkowski: \$100 |
| George Bruckert: \$60 | Sandy Thompson: \$60 | Marnel Lee: \$50 |
| Ole Nygren: \$50, | Doug Peoples: \$50, | Tom Taylor: \$50, |
| Jay Whitcraft: \$40 | Jerry Grizzle: \$30 | Van Skiles: \$30 |

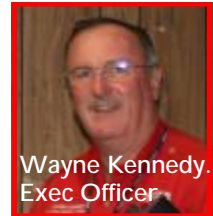
Every single dollar contributed is tax deductible and helps our maintenance crew in conserving time spent during their lunch period. Your contributions noted above are probably some of the most appreciated we receive. That equates to efficiency and speed in getting TEXAS RAIDERS back into the air again. If you wish to contribute, please send your check (payable to the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF) to Finance Officer, Col Mark Allen, 18042 CR 127, Pearland, TX 77581. More updates next month !!

WINGS OVER HOUSTON WORK-DAY

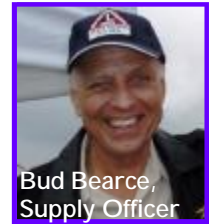
WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW
October 25-26, 2008

There will be a WOH work day on Saturday, September 27th, starting at 7 am at building 125, Ellington Field. The agenda will be to get all equipment ready for WOH! Any and all help is encouraged and appreciated.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for WOH, 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!



Wayne Kennedy,
Exec Officer



Bud Bearce,
Supply Officer



Jim Ryan,
Fighter Ops



Craig Aronson, Mtce

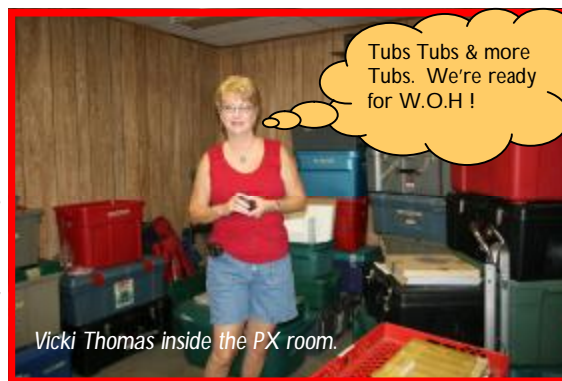


Ky Putnam, Safety

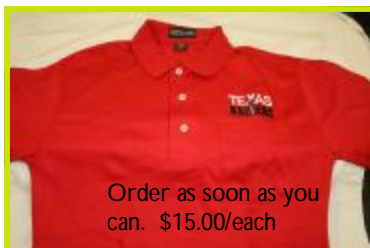
PX Volunteers Still Needed for Wings Over Houston Airshow



We are so fortunate to have a strong working group of volunteers. Thank you for your responses in our first call for W.O.H. volunteers. Vicki Thomas has jumped in to help and as you can see here, she's done a yeoman's job of sorting and organizing the PX inventory into tubs for the three stations we'll be manning at this big event. There are still a few more areas where we need some help. I need your name along with any family member names who are planning on



Vicki Thomas inside the PX room.



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

volunteering. If you don't have a red crew shirt, there is still time to order one, though the supply is limited. Either email me to advise of your participation at W.O.H. at mnmcaf@comcast.net, or call me at 281-807-7765. Thanking you in advance.....
Marsha Daly, PX Officer—Gulf Coast Wing CAF

Wing elections will be held November 08. Staff officers' positions open for selection are: Executive Officer, Supply Officer, Fighter Ops, Maintenance and Safety Officer. The nominating committee is staffed by Cols Bob Linguiti, David Carr and Stan Turner. The above officers have agreed to run again for their respective offices. If you have additional candidates you wish to be considered, please contact one of the Nominating Committee Members.

Welcome— NEW MEMBERS AT WORK!



View of tail-wheel section inside TRs fuselage. Work is being undertaken everywhere.
Photo by S. Thompson



AIRSHO '08

CAF Headquarters

September 20-21

Colonels & Cadets

Admitted FREE

Family Tickets

Are \$5-Children

(age 6-12)

\$15-Adults



Tora performs at both AIRSHO in Midland and Wings Over Houston



Kara Hueni



John Alkire



Doug Loftin



Tom Gispanski



George Hueni



Charlie Rowan



Curtis Hall



Matthew Fiedler—You know him! He's been a lifesaver for us!

Thanks for the Help on the CAF Restoration Grant !

Well, it was laborious and mind-stirring, but the CAF Restoration Grant is submitted and awaiting decision. If we are the successful candidate, it means a maximum of \$50,000 matched on deposits into our Midland bank account, and that's no loose change!

We owe a great deal of thanks to the folks who put some sweat and mind-thinking into the grant: Cols Mark Allen, Craig Aronson, David Carr, Don

Outler, Don Price, and Sandy & Walt Thompson. Come to the Wing Meeting this Saturday, September 13th for a preview of the presentation to be made at CAF headquarters.

Thanks also goes to the many members who responded during our research on Veterans for the written Grant proposal. We are fortunate to have a number of veterans from WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, and Iraq as well as other US conflicts in our membership. We will

hear the results of the grant on Friday, September 19th at the General Membership Meeting in Midland.

You will be one of the first to be advised of the results.

WE CAN DO IT !



We recently received another employee-corporate matching grant application. This was from Col Sam Smith, whose company, St. Gobain, offered its employees and retirees the opportunity to donate an amount to the charity of choice whereby the company would "match" the donation.

This is an excellent opportunity for many of us who are employed or retired from companies offering matched funds for volunteered time or donations to 501 c(3) non profit organizations to help the GCW. Check your company's employee web site or talk to your HR department about credit and donations to non-profit organizations. If I can help in any way or provide materials you might need to support these endeavors, please let me hear from you at djoutler@comcast.net

Thanks for your support.

Col Don Outler

Wing Web Site Changes

The next time you access the Gulf Coast Wing's website at www.gulfcoastwing.org, you will notice a change.



The GCW staff voted to assign webmaster duties to a CAF member who provides professional web services nearly "around-the-clock" at a discount rate. One of our wing-members has volunteered to pay for the service, so this should save us some money in the long run. Our objectives are to accelerate updates, provide online-donation accessibility, market our services and serve as an educational resource in a "user-friendly" format. There are several sections currently undergoing construction. You can help by forwarding any suggestions, corrections, and edits to me at thompsonb17@uwmmail.com

I will be monitoring the web site daily, and have sent several items to our webmaster already. The webmaster has asked that he work with just one person, so it's important that you send me your suggestions, comments and edits. Our website was originally created and designed by Col Gene Sharpe and most recently handled by Col Mike Daly. Their work was indeed the genesis that gave us the "boost" we needed. Thanks to both Gene and Mike for their tireless efforts in keeping the website going. Col 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
info@gulfcoastwing.org

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

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....	Col Don Price.....	don_price56@hotmail.com	713 988 2765
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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

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Morale Officer.....	Col Suzie Bredlau.....	rikkysue@aol.com	281 398 6977
Development Ofcr...	Col Don Outler.....	djoutler@comcast.net	281 486 1830
Recruitment Ofcr.....	Col Rick Thomas.....	rethret@comcast.net	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



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