



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



Volume I Issue X111

October 08, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

- TUESDAY EVENINGS at 1800 hours—Work night at the hangar
- SATURDAY ALL DAY from 0900 hours to 1800 hours—Work at the hangar
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 Wing Staff Meeting 0900 hrs General Meeting 1030 hrs and potluck to follow
- WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIR SHOW OCT 25—26 Ellington Field, Houston, TX

Remembering September

It was a month of surprises, elation, concern and change. September, 2008 will not soon be forgotten as we look back at the last 30 days. September 13th was a scheduled monthly Gulf Coast Wing meeting date; then Uncle IKE decided to change our plans. Some of us headed out of town, some hunkered down at home, not sleeping as the howling wind and torrential rain beat upon our roof, knocking out power and leaving war-zone images in our neighborhoods.

We were lucky...much more fortunate than our Lone Star Flight Museum friends 20 miles to the south. Our hangar had a hole ripped near the ceiling and a few inches of water. It was nothing compared to what lay



Restoration at the hangar continues as Cols Turner, Fiedler and Loftin work on B-17 parts. Photo by Col Kevin Hong

around us. A week later we had power and we were back to work again.

AIRSHO '08 in Midland (September 19-21) was a complete success in more ways than one. TEXAS RAIDERS received one of the first CAF Restoration Matching Grants in the amount of \$17,500 with eligibility to request additional funds after our first restoration milestone is reached in March of 2009. See page three (3) for more information on the grant. The weather was perfect for Wing Members in attendance: Chris Whiting, Don Price, Mark Allen, H D Butler, Graham Robertson, Walt & Sandy Thompson,



Clean up from Hurricane IKE begins as the Gulf Coast tries to recover. Photo by Col K. Hong

Mike & Marsha Daly, Ken Hyman, Ole Nygren, Curt Rowe, Gene Armstrong, Patrick Hutchins, Ralph Royce, Pat & Karen McClure, Tom Rush, John Hess, Steve Sehnert, Gene Dickinson and Ken Crites. Our wing received several well-deserved awards which will be presented at the next wing-meeting on October 11th. See Page four (4) for more information.

Returning from Midland, we found an unwanted "burr" in our saddle as our hangar landlord, Million Air advised that another party wanted to lease our space for \$12,000 a month...so when could we leave???? Well, needless to say our little \$3,350 a month rent payment was no longer sufficient, and our space was about to disappear before our eyes. See the Wing Leader's Report on page two (2) for more information.

Yes, it was a month of surprises, but we still have a wealth of volunteers, wing members, supporters and a strong resolve to fight through these challenges.



Media Day Briefing for Wings Over Houston

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From the Wing Leader

"I am confident that TEXAS RAIDERS will stay out of the elements and continue with the restoration indoors, at Hobby Airport"
Col Don Price on the Lease Loss at ER-7

What a great year it is for an election!

The Bomber survived IKE, but we, as a Wing, lost our home due to our lease expiring and being outbid on our hangar. StarFlite is paying \$12,000.00 a month for a hangar that we have been allowed to stay in for \$3,350.00 per month. I met their Operations Officer and he is graciously giving us two months to get in a better position to move the bomber contingent on our vacating the office/kitchen half of the hangar so that they can remodel it and prepare it for their use. That move got started in earnest this Saturday. We have some solid leads and I am confident that TEXAS RAIDERS will stay out of the elements and continue with the restoration indoors, at Hobby Airport.

Part of what led to this situation is our being co-tenants with our Maintenance Officer's business. Craig Aronson runs a full-time Aviation and Marine business. Due to his business he has not been able to participate to the level that the bomber needs. This has in turn led many people to submit alternate choices for Maintenance Officer to our Nominating Committee this election.

I feel it important enough to throw off the impartiality expected of a Wing Leader and I highly recommend David Carr for Gulf Coast Wing Maintenance Officer in the upcoming election. David was selected as our current Assistant MO based on his talent and productivity. Anyone who has been in our Monthly Maintenance Meetings has noticed that David led those meetings. His contributions in coming up with the Project Plan were crucial in GCW winning the restoration grant from HQ. I have never seen anything but contributions to the greater cause from David. David works for ExxonMobil as a Project Manager and he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering from Rice University. He took over securing the official approval needed for the Compression Strut Bracket in the Bomb Bay. That part has been manufactured and just passed its third Non-Destructive Test and is ready for the Contractor to install it. His work for Exxon also resulted in an additional \$3,000.00 in grant money for TEXAS RAIDERS, which is being applied to our matching grant requirements. And more grant money is following soon.

The next phases of the restoration are going to depend on skilled labor and someone to supervise and direct their efforts. While David may appear young to some of us, when I stopped to consider it he is older than my Dad was when he was called "Pappy" for being 23 years old. To put that in perspective he was in charge of nine other men in a B-17 first and then worked up to Deputy Group Lead for 190 men in the 8th Air Force. I see in David the same kind of mettle, and I see signs of his ability and responsibility by the trust placed in him by his employer. So I ask you to vote for David Carr for Maintenance Officer in 2008.

Lastly, It is time for Wings Over Houston this October 25 & 26 so come support your local air show!

Don Price -Wing Leader



Col Bill Buchanan has been a CAF & Gulf Coast Wing Member for 14 years. Photo by S Thompson

An Award Winning Lifetime of Volunteering

He'll be 90 on November 02, but your first impression of Bill Buchanan is..."He sure doesn't look 90!" It's the smile, the sharp mind and his agile step. This man volunteers more than anyone else I know. In fact he was recently awarded the #1 Volunteer Humanitarian Award for the State of Texas and #2 for the US.

At Clear Lake Regional Medical Center, he's affectionately known as THE CANDY MAN. Not only does Bill give a smile to patients, family members and visitors, but he provides candy (regular and sugar free), toiletries, magazines and newspapers to folks who need uplifting. Bill's wife of 61 years, Marybelle was a

patient at the hospital and passed away in 2001...and according to Bill..."I wanted to reciprocate for the kind care she received." This month Bill volunteers at Wings Over Houston in Transient Aircraft Parking. Once you meet Bill, you never forget him. Col Buchanan, THANK YOU. Your good deeds do not go unnoticed!

TEXAS RAIDERS to RECEIVE MATCHING GRANT

MIDLAND, TX—September 17, 2008 Before a committee of four and eight additional visitors, Cols Walt and Sandy Thompson gave a pictorial history of the past, present and future of TEXAS RAIDERS in a 15 minute Power Point. Questions such as....Can you raise the money?....How are you measuring your membership retention?....How much money are you asking for?....and Are you sure you can relocate to another hangar in the condition that TEXAS RAIDERS is in? Of course, we had been preparing for nearly two months on this, so we came armed and felt we presented a clear case of importance and necessity. TEXAS RAIDERS was one of the first three bombers acquired by the CAF in 1967. To date the entire expense of restoration and AD compliance has been borne by the GULF COAST WING (with no debt to the CAF) , and most importantly, this aircraft is by far more valuable to the CAF "flying" than it is in pieces!

We were successful. Of the seven proposals received, the committee awarded five matching restoration grants, and we were notified first. We were the only unit to make a formal presentation, and we will be showing this brief power point to you at our next wing meeting, Saturday, October 11th. Since more than one award was given, the CAF has advised us that our initial matching funds will be \$17,500, and once we meet our Milestone #1 in our projected maintenance-management schedule (March 2009), we are then eligible to apply for additional matching funds.

HOW THIS WILL WORK: It's important to know that all funds supplied by CAF Headquarters will be granted based upon our deposits into our N7227C Headquarters Account. Dollar for Dollar will be matched up to a maximum (in our first level) of \$17,500. In other words if our deposits before March of 2009 total \$17,500, the CAF will match this amount. That will total a \$35,000 infusion into our account.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT ALSO: If you have been thinking of sponsoring TEXAS RAIDERS, either at the \$350-Supporting Level, the \$1750-Restoration Level, or the \$3500-Full Flying Level, now is the time to send your donations. These dollars you send (by check or credit card) to our N7227C Headquarters account will be matched up to \$17,500. If you have only a certain amount you can donate at this time (for example \$500 which is at least a Supporting Sponsorship level but you want to add to this in the future to reach the \$1750 Restoration level) your dollars will be matched until a \$17,500 maximum is met. Again, in March of 2009 we will revisit this grant again to request additional matching funds.

HERE'S WHERE YOUR DONATIONS MUST BE SENT: Please note that your donations are to be deposited into N7227C's account for TEXAS RAIDERS. Send your check or credit card account number to: CAF Headquarters—Accounts Receivable,

Att: Susan Branum P O Box 62000

Midland, TX 79711-2000

Coming to Wings Over Houston? Help Us if You Can

We don't have the B-17 available to fly this year at Wings Over Houston, but remember that TORA will be flying and there are many visitors who might be interested in joining the CAF and our wing. There are several wing members and volunteers who are going to be working the PX and in recruiting this year and we are envisioning great weather, but the sun does take its toll on our workers. If you could help us out by bringing either a six-pack or case of water to our wing-meeting on October 11th, this would be greatly appreciated. There are several coolers being donated for use in our PX tents and your water donations will be used to help hydrate us all. Thanks.

If you have not yet volunteered but have found some time now to be able to volunteer, please contact either Marsha Daly at mnmcaf@comcast.net or 281 807 7765 or Vicki Thomas at vthomas4@comcast.net They will be able to advise of the disposition of passes and parking permits for this event.

Wings Over Houston Media Day: A Glimpse of this Great Air Show

Photos by Col Kevin Hong



*These photos may also be
viewed at www.gulfcoastwing.org*

CAF SERVICE AWARDS

Each year, the CAF awards unit members who have demonstrated exceptional qualities in areas fulfilling the mission of the CAF and Unit. The following awards were presented on Friday, September 19th at the General Membership Meeting prior to AIRSHO in Midland, Texas. These awards will be formally presented at our Wing Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 11th at the Hangar. Please try to attend the meeting to discover WHO will be receiving the awards. The awards (and number to be presented) will be distributed by the Nominating Committee Chairman, Col Kent Gillum and are identified in the following categories:

DISTINGUISHED MAINTENANCE AWARD (1)

SILVER MAGNOLIA BLOSSOM AWARD (1)

UNIT SERVICE AWARD (3)

INDIVIDUAL MAINTENANCE AWARD (3)

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (2)

BRASS JACKASS AWARD (1)

Although we are in possession of these award plaques and citations, the Last and often the most coveted award, The Brass Jackass Award is an annual (rotating) beautifully encrusted trophy with distinguished names of CAF airmen who have made a "mark" in aviation through deeds ordinarily described as somewhat questionable...and this particular award is in the possession of our very own Col Billy Parker. So herein is the citation presented to Col Parker. (Note: Though Col Parker was not available to receive the award, Col Pat McClure who accepted on Billy's behalf, begged me to "alter" the photo as you can see to the right).

Membership Reaches 171



We should feel proud of our membership numbers, considering the challenges our hangar, the economy and Uncle Ike have handed us. We reached a new total of 171 members as of October 01, 2008. But what's impressive is the number of returning members. We have 156 members who have returned from last year. That's a 91% retention rate. Be proud of your fellow members who are confident in the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing. Our staff will continue to work diligently with our members who hold trust in our mission and organization. This is a great organization and with Wings Over Houston just around the corner, there are numerous possibilities to recruit more members. Thanks for a great 2008!

Col Craig Freeland, Adjutant

Citation for the 2008

Coveted

Order of the Brass

Jackass

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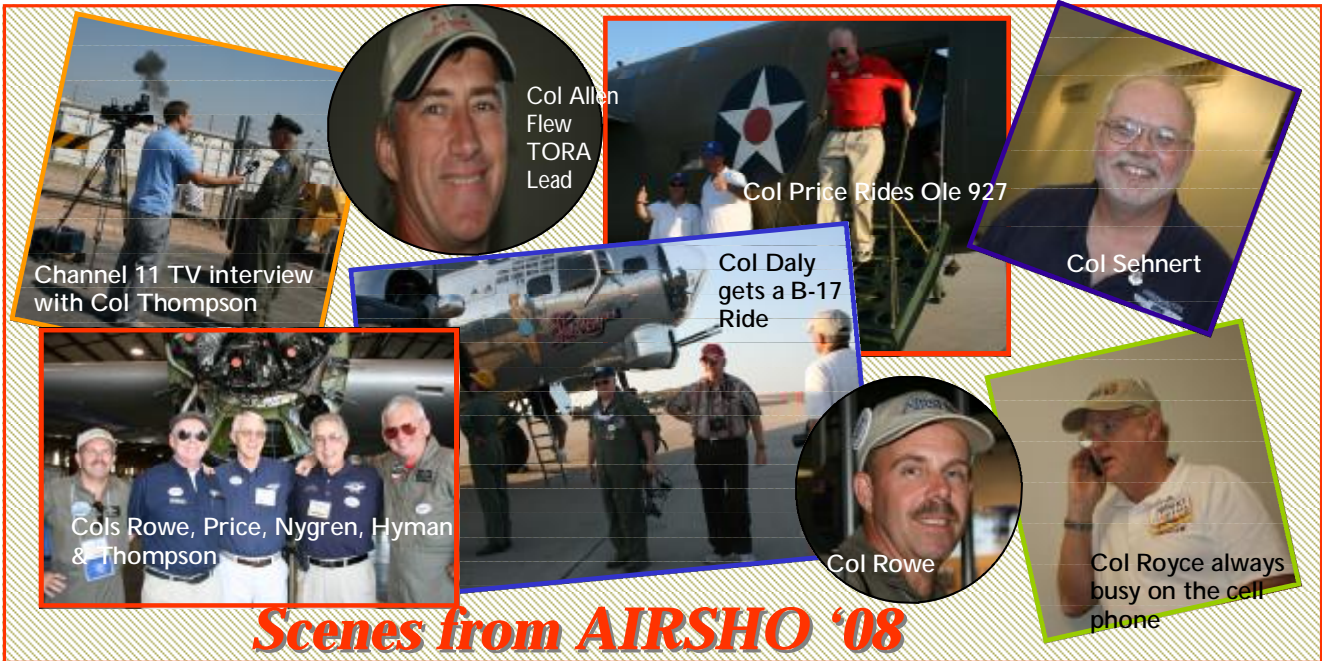
One fine day in Central Texas, in the city of San Marcos, following in the true traditions of the CAF and in the interest of fun and in an effort to keep his flying skills honed to a fine edge of proficiency, experienced Pilot Colonel Billy Parker ventured forth. He arrived at the airfield to preflight the CAF Kate N-2047. It should be noted at this point that Colonel Parker is an experienced and confident CAF Pilot who has been serving the CAF with his personal Kate for 14 years. He is however, a new sponsor of the CAF's Kate N-2047, hence the need for a CAF check-ride. As an experienced and skilled Kate Pilot, Colonel Parker did an excellent job up to a point. Now Colonel Parker has been around the CAF for quite a long time and has seen many other "experienced and dedicated skilled Pilots" who have received the coveted BRASS JACKASS AWARD. Well, on this day, Colonel Billy Parker could wait no longer to join this "Special Group". On the second landing Colonel Parker was to execute a "Go-Around", and according to the check pilot he complied properly, raising the gear as part of the procedure and entering the pattern for another landing. Now we may never know what motivated Colonel Parker at this point, to make the key decision to NOT put down the landing gear this time! Could it have been a hidden desire to join the long and prestigious list of folks named on the BRASS JACKASS AWARD, or the desire for a little excitement in his life? Anyway, his choice made the landing much more entertaining than the previous years of landing with the gear down. By the way, it worked; Colonel Billy Parker now has his name on the BRASS JACKASS AWARD and a brand new flight suit.

In the true tradition of our leaders and test pilots, Colonel Billy Parker has shown exceptional skill and questionable judgment while serving the Commemorative Air Force and is hereby awarded the coveted order of

THE BRASS JACKASS.



Sorry, PAT, Photoshop can only do so much !!



Scenes from AIRSHO '08

Nominations Open for November GCW Election

Our staff elections this November 8th will have the following positions open for voting:

EXECUTIVE OFFICER // SAFETY OFFICER // SUPPLY OFFICER // MAINTENANCE OFFICER

And FIGHTER OPERATIONS OFFICER. *Per the CAF Unit Manual Sec 3-(4) a pg 20, Nominees for unit staff officer positions shall be current dues paid members in good standing with the unit and the CAF. It is preferred that the nominees have at least two (2) years of unbroken service as a member in good standing with the Unit and CAF. Any GCW member who meets these basic qualifications is eligible to be nominated. The Nominating Committee is chaired by Col Bob Linguiti. If you wish to recommend a candidate to Col Linguiti, please do so immediately, as the slate must be available to members prior to the election date. To be eligible to vote in this election, members must be current in dues-payment to the CAF and Unit and in good standing with the Unit. All voters must display evidence of CAF and Unit membership dated not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election. The slate of candidates will be announced by the nominating committee at the next wing meeting on October 11 at 1030 am.*

" We are looking forward to a great show with great attendance and great (in fact, STELLAR) weather. See you at the Air Show."

**WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW
October 25-26, 2008**

We are full steam ahead with only 2 more weeks until Wings Over Houston Airshow!!

If you have reserved a hotel room for WOH, you may want to call and confirm your reservation. Due to the visit from the uninvited interloper IKE, several Clear Lake area hotels have either sustained damage or are housing evacuees and relief workers, and may not be able to honor your reservation.

We are looking forward to a great show, with great attendance and great (in fact, STELLAR) weather!! See you at the AIRSHOW!



Col Van Skiles, a CAF and GCW member for 46 years is a patient at St John Nassau Bay Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

**GULF COAST WING
WINGS OVER
HOUSTON AIR
SHOW October 25 & 26
www.wingoverhouston.com**

Col Sandy Thompson
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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
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 Herb Duncan.....	duncanenterprises@gmail.com
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



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