



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—
CAF



Volume II Issue X1

November 04, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

- SATURDAY, NOV 08
Staff Meeting at 0900 hrs,
General Meeting and Elections
at 1030 hrs, Potluck and
work on aircraft and
moving 1200n and beyond.
- TUESDAYS 1800 hrs work
on airplane and moving
- THURSDAY, NOV 13th
10:00am PRESS CONFERENCE
at Hangar ER-7
(time subject to change)

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Sunshine, Spunk and a Spellbound Crowd at W.O.H.

HOUSTON, TX — Record crowds, record gate-receipts, and record PX revenues were the mantra for this great 2008 WINGS OVER HOUSTON Air Show. We couldn't have asked for a better weather-day and the Thunderbirds were as spectacular as ever. Our Gulf Coast Wing PX netted a gross \$22,200 in PX sales. "I never thought we'd sell that many toys," says Vicki Thomas. There are so many people to thank for their volunteer efforts to make this a success: Cols Bob and David Cason, Mark Allen, Wayne & Kay Kennedy, Don Price, Joe Sellers, Kara Hueni, Phil Covington, Bob Brooks & son, Chuck Conway, Don Outler, Walt & Sandy Thompson, Ken Hyman, Ole & Mary Nygren, Suzie Bredlau, Bill Buchanan, Mike & Marsha Daly, Ken English, Craig Freeland, Everett Gibson, Kent Gillum, Jerry Hobbs & grandson, Charles Hutchins, Jim Ryan & TORA, Kevin Hong, Chris Ebdon, Marnel Lee Thompson, Bob Linguiti, Robert Oden, Rick Thomas, Curt Rowe, Bill Siros, Rick Sanchez, Howard Quoyeser, the Williamson family and Bill



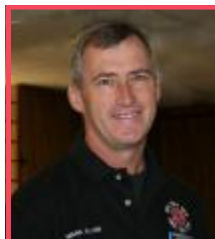
"OI 927", the CAF's B-24 graces the skies with a beautiful photo pass over Ellington Field. Photo by Col Kevin Hong

& Janis Roach along with our fearless AIR BOSS, Ralph Royce. All had a tremendous impact on making this event the huge success that it was. Vicki Thomas, a hard working volunteer who never said the words "can't be done" is due a hearty THANK YOU for her organization, loan of her garage and tireless inventories. And if it weren't for Chuck Conway's loan of a trailer, the portage of the PX items to Ellington Field would have been impossible. A great effort with great results. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time for this successful air show. More photos appear on our website and on page 5 within this newsletter.

CAF UNIT AWARDS

Each year at the CAF Headquarters General Meeting Friday before AIRSHO, Unit awards are presented for outstanding achievement toward fulfillment to the mission of the CAF. This year's awards for the Gulf Coast Wing Members were presented to the wing membership on Saturday, October 11th and are noted as follows:

Distinguished Maintenance Award, Col Mark Allen



Unit Service Award Col Suzie Bredlau



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From the Wing Leader

Now Things Are Getting Interesting!

As most of you have heard, we are losing our hangar space at the end of November. In fact StarFlite, the new tenant, has stated that they are changing the locks on Dec. 1st and anything left in the hangar will be considered theirs to sell. So we have to move a lot of parts over the next few weeks. We have already moved tons of B17 parts to various storage areas. John Alkire, Doug Loftin, Bud Bearce and yours truly have parts stashed in various nooks and crannies in our garages, warehouses and homes. GCW salutes you for offering up storage space! GCW also has a rented storage space on Radio Road off Alameda Genoa.

“GCW will do whatever it takes to keep the bomber in the Houston area.”

Col Don Price on Hangar Challenge at Hobby

As I write this we are offered ramp space by the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, which is only barely acceptable by CAF-HQ if the airplane is under a tent. We are holding a press conference to try and find indoor space. So now we come to the Philosophical part of our situation. All Options ARE OPEN at this point. By that I mean GCW will do whatever it takes to keep the bomber in the Houston area. Anything we come up with is subject to approval from HQ, but they are keen for us to come up with the best solution for preserving the Bomber.

Sometime around Nov. 13th we should have the Press Conference inviting all the news outlets that cover this kind of release. We are hoping it encourages someone with hangar resources at Hobby to shake lose with some hangar space for a bomber in need. Gary Austin- Dir. Of Maintenance for CAF visited us Nov. 3rd and surveyed the bomber, talked about our plans and told us of his concerns. Since he very much has Steve Brown's ear this was important to our future. Gary is not a big fan of Ferry Flights. He would rather see the wings de-mated, the airframe hauled to a suitable hangar and the project finished correctly.

We have an offer for a hangar at a great airport BUT IT IS NOT HOBBY. We are trying to stay at Hobby because obviously taking the wings off would delay us. But getting back to the Philosophy... We will do whatever it takes to keep the bomber with the Gulf Coast Wing.

One BIG thing that is helping that goal is the successful Wings Over Houston. The revenue from the PX is record breaking and the attendance for both days was huge. We have not heard final numbers, and won't for awhile, but the irony is that now that our financial worries are eased we are in a crunch for hangar space to complete the mission.

Thanks to all who worked to make Wings Over Houston the success it was and to all who are knocking out great work on the bomber and to all who have helped with the move and storage.

Now things are getting interesting!

Col Don Price - Wing Leader

CAF UNIT AWARDS *continued from page one*

Unit Service Award
Col Kevin Hong



Unit Service Award
Col Walt Thompson



Individual Maintenance Award
Col Craig Aronson



Individual Maintenance Award
Col David Carr



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MAINTENANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

I always appreciate comments both good and bad, regarding the TR project as a whole. It is important to get outside viewpoints lest we become too far divorced from reality. That said; please let me offer some progress reports of what we have accomplished. We have countless individuals working very hard to complete the numerous steps required to get TR back into the air. This is a huge project, but we ARE succeeding. If I may say so myself, we now have one of the most dedicated, organized and efficient teams working very hard around the clock. You might not immediately recognize all the progress at first glance, so I submit to you here a list of items that have been completed just since October 11, only two weeks ago:

FUSELAGE:

- Removed 40 of 4 of the (really stuck) bolts holding up our major structural repair project (the compression strut tie)
- All wing spar compression strut tie bolts installed
- All longeron compression strut tie bolts installed
- Completed all sheet metal work below the floor in nose section
- Installed floor in nose section
- Completed more Plexiglas repair work on the nose bowl
- Primed brace structure in bomb bay
- Painted rudder access covers and trim tab
- Replaced all fuselage "popped" rivets
- Determined appropriate sealant for nose bowl installation
- Damaged stringer section near copilot removed

WINGS:

- Left wing damaged stringer replaced
- Flap jack boot repairs approved by our IA
- Test fit the #2 Lower wing panel
- Submitted more wing gusset repair paperwork to the FAA designated engineering representative
- Completed IA "clear to close" inspection for R wing panels

FUEL SYSTEM

- Installed the #2 engine main fuel tank (all fuel tanks now in)
- Closed out installation details on all tanks except #2 (waiting on parts)
- Added 110 gal of 100LL to tank #4 Replaced leaky boost pump on tank #1
- Removed and bypassed leading fuel transfer valve
- Tested fuel transfer pump
- Successfully leak checked tanks #1, #3 and #4

ENGINES

- Successfully pressure tested all four of our rebuilt cowl flap actuators
- Installed cowl flap actuators on engines #1 and #4
- All carburetors ready for installation
- Located engine mount and pressure panel bolts
- Ordered replacement engine mount nuts and washers

GENERAL:

- Removed crane from wing
- Vacuumed nose section, cockpit, and R wing intercooler
- Prepared documentation for the yokes, cockpit elevator quadrant, horizontal and vertical stabilizers, carburetors, firewall accessories, flap jacks, rudder trim jack and tab, R wing fuel tanks, fuel shut off valves, boost pumps, Tokyo tank repairs and landing gear legs.

All of these items have been completed in the last 18 days. That's two weeks when you subtract Wings Over Houston. Even though our crew must split time between the move and working on the airplane, the maintenance team is kicking some serious behind. Now is not the time for infighting and blaming. Now is the time to step up and take responsibility for our project and move it forward. The next few weeks should be an exciting time. The jacks can now be removed, and Raiders can rest again on her own gear. The groundwork has been laid to seal the undersides of the wings, and four R-1820-97s and their nacelles are ready to be reunited. The enemy is not a lack of progress, because no such shortage exists. The enemy is an unwarranted negative attitude – that I invite you to squash today.

Col David Carr, Maintenance Officer

*"..we now have one of the most dedicated, organized and efficient teams working very hard around the clock."
Col David Carr*

Wing Elections 2008

The Candidates:



Col Bud Bearce
Supply Officer

"Looking forward to continued service to the GCW as Supply Officer."



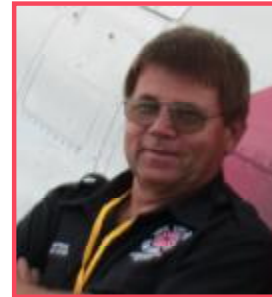
Col Wayne Kennedy
Executive Officer

"As we continue to move forward, I will do everything possible to help us move forward and eliminate as many backward steps as possible. Thank you for your support in my past four years as XO and for your continued support in the future. Semper Fi."



Col Ky Putnam
Safety Officer

"I will continue working hard to restore this B-17 airplane, seeing that it flies safely in the future."



Col Jim Ryan
Fighter Operations

No response was made following a request for comments.

Note from Editor: The above and following quotes are printed directly from the candidates. Should you wish to comment on these quotes from the candidates you may contact them via email or telephone.



Col David Carr
Maintenance Officer

"Before the elections this coming month, I'd like to share a little bit about myself and my experiences working on Texas Raiders. Many of TR's supporters are far afield, and I'm sure there are many of you I've not yet had the chance to meet. Although the following is certainly no substitute for that handshake, I'm hopeful it will help you get to know me a little better until then. I joined the wing in the spring of 2007 after graduating from Rice University with a degree in electrical engineering. I'm employed by ExxonMobil and manage project work currently totaling about \$5M in an offshore

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Col Chuck Conway
Maintenance Officer

"Dear Gulf Coast Wing, my name is Chuck Conway and I am running for Maintenance Officer. I am retired from the USAF / ANG with a total of 34+ years of service. As an Avionics Technician since 1967 I have been involved with many different type of Aircraft and many different maintenance operations. I have been a CAF member for several years and actually did some troubleshooting of Texas Raiders Fuel Quantity many years ago on the Ellington Ramp. Please vote for whoever you feel is right for the position of Maintenance Officer. Your vote is important to the Gulf Coast Wing!! Thank You. Col Chuck Conway #30561



Col Al Maxwell
Maintenance Officer

"I have given this nomination a lot of thought. I believe my time will be better spent backing and supporting Col David Carr. I will probably be needed when we fly TR."

Best Regards Al Maxwell.



Col Rick Thomas
Maintenance Officer

"To: All — Hello again. It has been a long time since I have sent anything out and thought I needed to do this part directly. Due to the political climate within the Wing, I feel I would not be able to perform the duties of Maintenance Officer. I feel I have a lot to offer, being a licensed Aircraft Mechanic, as well as recently securing a \$2000 Exxon-Mobil Grant for Texas Raiders. However I believe all members should put their trust in another candidate who can work more successfully within our Wing's administration. Therefore, I would like to remove myself from the running for MO for undisclosed reasons, and request that all members

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ELECTION 2008 — continued

Col David Carr — continued

oil and gas field near Mobile, AL. To date, I've logged about 500 hours working on Texas Raiders. Recently, I finished my payment toward a full-flying sponsorship of Texas Raiders.

For the past six months, I've served as Assistant Maintenance Officer and was recently appointed Maintenance Officer by the wing staff. In that time, I developed the engineering justification, obtained FAA approval, and oversaw fabrication and installation on our major structural repair project in the bomb bay. This was not a smooth road, but I believe the quality and low final cost of the result will speak for themselves. I also developed the TR project plan that was instrumental in securing our \$35K matching grant from headquarters. The balance of my time spent with TR has been spent doing so many of those greasy and sweaty tasks that everyone on the maintenance team is so acquainted with. I hope that before you read the rest of my comments that you take a moment to look at my letter from the maintenance officer this month and see the great list of maintenance team accomplishments. At the risk of sounding redundant, we did all of this in only two and a half weeks!

The reason that this great amount of work was possible in such a sort period of time is that we have a solid plan, and we are now using it to work very efficiently. In fact since Oct. 11th, every work activity has been selected and scheduled at least two or three weeks in advance. This enables us to ensure that all people, materials, and expertise are in place to make each step happen when and how we want it to. Yes, there are still unexpected surprises, but this level of planning enables us to much more adeptly handle those situations.

The schedule holds some very exciting events in the next few weeks and I hope I'll see you at the hangar to help make them possible. With your support I'm confident that when TR rolls out the doors of ER-7 on Nov. 30th, our results will be inspiring.

Thank you
Col David Carr

Col Rick Thomas — continued

seriously consider Chuck Conway as MO. Chuck has the background in aviation and runs his own very successful small business. Other candidates cannot offer these qualifications. I also feel Chuck will not insult or dismiss good workers for his own personal agenda and will work hard to get TR flying again.

Thank You all.
Col. Rick Thomas, Ssg. USA ret.
CAF Gulf Coast Wing
Texas Raiders

WING PX VOLUNTEERS IN FULL ACTION !!



Packing the PX van and Trailer had never been so much fun..... Especially when you finish with a beer !!

Left to Right:
Rick Thomas, Vicki Thomas, Walt Thompson, Don Outler, David Cason, Bob Cason and center Robert Oden.

CAF UNIT AWARDS, *continued from page two*

Individual Maintenance Award
Col Stan Turner



Silver Magnolia Blossom Award
Col Sandy Thompson



Letter of Commendation
Col Bud Bearce



Letter of Commendation
Col Ky Putnam



Congratulations and THANK YOU to the wing members who have volunteered countless hours toward the preservation and restoration of these vintage airplanes. The mission of the CAF to keep them flying is personified by the deeds of our hard working wing members.

GULF COAST WING

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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

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|
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| 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 |

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| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------|
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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 |

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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