



COWL FLAPS

For Members of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



IMPORTANT DATES

- Mon-through-Fri each week 0830hrs to 1630hrs, work at WR-5 on TR
- TUESDAY & THURSDAY Nights each week, 1830hrs until closing, work at WR-5 on TR
- SATURDAY, AUG 08
0900hrs—Staff Meeting
1030hrs—Wing Meeting
1145hrs—Potluck & Lunch
1230hrs—Work on TR at WR-5 Hangar
- SATURDAY, SEP 11
0900 hrs— Staff Meeting
1030 hrs—Wing Meeting
1145 hrs—Potluck & Lunch
1230hrs—Work on TR at WR-5 Hangar

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Volume II, Issue XX

AUGUST 03, 2009

“TAIL IT” LIKE IT IS



Wing members attach tail cone in 100° + HOU weather.

Photo by Col Kevin Hong

As wing-members and contract workers coordinate their efforts in piecing this Flying Fortress back together, the goal of flight seems more attainable than ever. What is the target? Our maintenance team is working nearly 'Round-the-Clock to prepare TEXAS RAIDERS for flight testing in mid-October. The goal of flight for WINGS OVER HOUSTON (October 31—November 01) is plastered in each of our minds, recognizing that this B-17's painting and exterior cosmetics may not be complete by then. The efforts are extraordinary, considering we are an all-volunteer force. The tail-cone is attached, the engines are running smoothly, and the cockpit control panel is outfitted with nearly all required instruments, indicators and the new Artificial Horizon. Additionally, we have wing-tips and a

brand new tail wheel which will take current in-production tires! Now all we need is your help in pulling the rest of the incidentals back into position. Work is conducted at Hangar WR-5 every day except Sundays.

Col Sandy Thompson—Editor

Two Great CAF Air Shows





Wing Leader's Report

LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS

Who doesn't remember that WWII saying plastered on posters? If you "share" information with someone who does not have CAF-GCW's best interests at heart could "sink our ship" before we get to safe harbor. Sink enough ships and the war is lost.

So where will TEXAS RAIDERS be based? The answer is if God, Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, Krishna, and the entire GCW Staff were sitting at a table with me I can honestly tell you as well as all of them, that it has NOT been decided yet. Anyone spreading rumors that we are going to wind up at Hooks, The Hangar next door, Sugarland, Pearland, La-La-land, Ellington, Shangrila, or staying where we are right now... is blowing smoke. Honesty is the best policy, so ... if the question ever comes up, it has not been decided.

"The nature of rumors is that they are guaranteed to hurt the Gulf Coast Wing if they are heard AND BELIEVED to be Gospel by someone we are trying to either negotiate or compete with."

Col Don Price on the by-product and harm of rumors .

Negotiating can be done from a position of strength, where it does not matter whether our competitors know our plans, or weakness, where it behooves us not to broadcast our intentions. For an example of strong— think Donald Trump, who can outbid competitors. For an example of weak— think GCW.

The nature of rumors is that they are guaranteed to hurt the Gulf Coast Wing if they are heard AND BELIEVED to be Gospel by someone we are trying to either negotiate or compete with.

Last Saturday I was talking to a "heavy hitter" in the warbird world. He said TEXAS RAIDERS making it to Wings Over Houston this year was obviously not going to happen. Before I knew it, that became Gospel to everyone within earshot of the person who heard it straight from THE BIG DOG. The only problem was that his statement was based on the premise that TEXAS RAIDERS would be painted before her grand entrance. That was NEVER in our Project Plan for this year. Once that was known then our chances were increased to 50-50. That is more in line with what we have been telling everyone. As David Carr has said, "Wings Over Houston is not in the bag. Everyone has to keep working to make that happen."

The great news is that volunteers are stepping up and taking on critical projects that must be completed in order to get us flying again. There are new faces helping GCW out, as well as faces from the past. And that is how we will finish TEXAS RAIDERS to an airworthy status. If you hear that we won't make it and you decide to let up, you are probably right. If you decide that we will make it and you keep working to make it happen, you are probably right. But no matter what you hear, "Loose Lips sink ships."

Sadly, we lost Bill Ackermann this past month. The Gulf Coast Wing extends its condolences to the Ackermann family and we will miss Bill greatly. I wish I could write my favorite Ackermann story but stop by the hangar and hear it in person. Fair Tailwinds Bill!

And Van Skiles took another tumble. Get better Van and we hope to get you a ride on Raiders SOON!



Col Bill Ackermann

MAINTENANCE REPORT

As you were notified last month, our Maintenance Officer, Col David Carr will be leaving us to pursue a graduate degree program at M.I.T. in mid August. Our Deputy Maintenance Officer, Col Chuck Conway, has provided the following update on the progress on TEXAS RAIDERS. Thanks, Col Conway.



PROGRESS REPORT ON TEXAS RAIDERS

The current AD's are progressing nicely and should be done by mid Aug.

- Both Aileron's are installed
- Both Wingtips are installed
- New rear wheel and tire are ready for assembly and installation
- All air-boxes are installed
- All cables for flight control are being adjusted and safety wired
- All engine cables have been adjusted and are being safety wired
- Our IA has given the green light to install about 75% of the aircraft access/ inspection panels
- The Chin Turret is in work and should be finished by end of August & ready to install
- The Top Turret is in work and should be finished by end of Aug.
- The Pilot and Copilot's slide windows are in work and should be finished by the end of August

We have gone over the top and are rapidly headed to the finish line. We really need help now to do all the little things that are SO important before Texas Raiders gets buttoned up, YES, more cleaning, vacuuming, and installation of adel clamps, panels, interior floors, seats, tables Etc. and the list goes on.

We had a great workday Saturday, the 1st of August. We had lots of new volunteers, the normal maintenance crew (plus extras) and a great lunch for all.

Please, if you have some spare time and want to work on a piece of History and MAKE History, come out and join us.

Col. Chuck Conway, Deputy Maintenance Officer

"Please, if you have some spare time and want to work on a piece of History and MAKE History, come out and join us."

*Col Conway
On TR's current needs.*

Marshalling School



Kevin Hong brings aircraft out and around as Wayne Kennedy observes. Photo by S. Thompson

Directing aircraft on a busy airfield ramp is no easy feat. On July 18th a few GCW members spent the day in "Marshalling School" taught by Col Kathy Mizell at the West Houston Squadron's facility. Members learned the correct methods and hazards of directing aircraft movements while understanding the critical safety requirements of this important job.



Kathy Mizell instructs on the Safety elements of Marshalling. Photo by S. Thompson

GCW members on hand: Jerry Casey, Kevin Hong, Wayne Kennedy, Howard Quoyeser, Chris Ebdon, and Sandy Thompson. Kathy Mizell will conduct another Marshalling class later this fall. Col Wayne Kennedy, has applied to the CAF Marshaller's Detachment for further training and has volunteered to serve as a Marshalling resource for wing members.

PX Needs for W.O.H.

This year's Wings Over Houston Airshow will be held on October 31 and November 1, 2009. The gates will open at 7:30 am both days; the show is over at 5:00 pm on Saturday and 5:00 pm on Sunday. The PX volunteers need to be on-site sometime between 7:00 am and 7:30 am to help display the merchandise.

The Gulf Coast Wing will have 4 PXs set up this year; one of which will be a 'SALE' PX and one will be set up under the right wing of Texas Raiders (hopefully). Many items at the sale location will be at discounted prices in order to move some old inventory. We will need 5-6 people at each PX, with the exception of the TR Wing PX. We should only need 2-3 people there.

Once again, we are asking that our volunteers work in half-day or all-day shifts, if at all possible. Please respond to this email and let me know which day you prefer to work and which session (i.e., morning or afternoon). Morning will be from 7:30 am - 1:00 pm and afternoon will be from 1:00 pm - 6:30 pm on Saturday (5:30 pm on Sunday). Of course, we would love to have your help all day, both days if that will work with your schedule. If you have a preference as to which location you would prefer, let me know (Main PX, Secondary PX, Sale PX or TR Wing PX).

I would like to have 2 people from each PX be "Team Leaders". They would receive a briefing a couple of weeks prior to the show. This briefing would go over a few new PX guidelines, as well as reminders of past guidelines. These "Team Leaders" would also be responsible for the cash box and taking care of credit card customers, therefore, they would need to be CAF/GCW members. At least one Team Leader would need to be present at the PX at all times. Let me know if you would like to be a Team Leader!

Thank you so much for your willingness to help get TR back in the air!

Col. Vicki Thomas vthomas4@comcast.net
 Commemorative Air Force
 Gulf Coast Wing - PX Officer
 281.620.5639 (cell)
 281.573.3302 (home)



RIVET CERTIFICATES and DVDs



RIVET CERTIFICATES: \$25 each or \$30-for matted copy, \$40-for framed copy. Please indicate the name you wish printed on the Rivet Certificate and the mailing address where you wish it to be mailed.



DVDs \$10 each

PUT YOUR HANDS ON A PIECE OF HISTORY !
 Either one of these items makes a great gift for someone special, or for yourself. It also brings needed revenue into the Gulf Coast Wing.

To order, send check or money order payable to GULF COAST WING—CAF to:
 Col Sandy Thompson, GCW Public Information Ofcr
 113 Coldwater Creek Lane
 Weatherford, TX 76088-6402

Questions? thompsonb17@uwmmail.com

FYI— Combined sales to date on these items now total \$1030. Every penny helps. If you would like a DVD or even a "framed" Rivet Certificate, please let me hear from you. Col Sandy Thompson

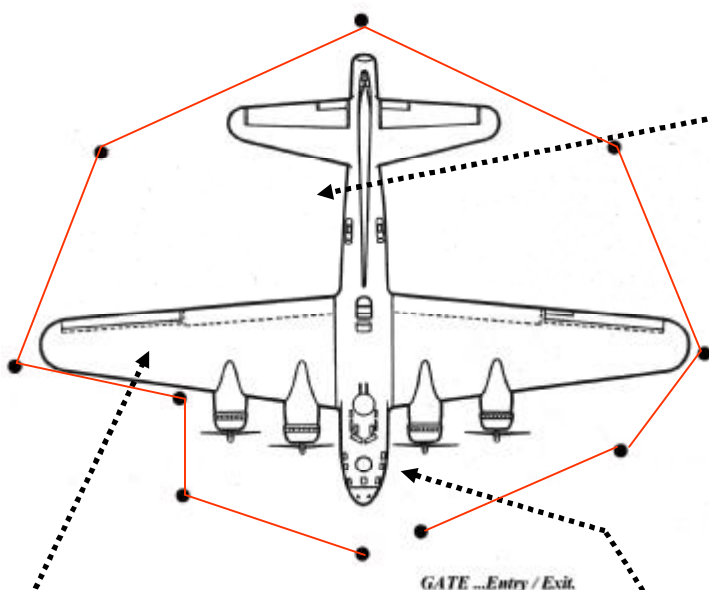


Col W Thompson

B-17 TOUR TIPS

We anticipate flying to/from, and hopefully "IN" Wings Over Houston this year. It is a milestone, and Tours conducted through TEXAS RAIDERS are revenue-producers for us. Below you'll find a diagram of the traffic-cone and line set-up for tours. More information will be provided in our B-17 Ground School.

TOUR TRAFFIC-CONE & LINE SET-UP



Ladder or step for EXIT. This should be clearly posted as an EXIT, to avoid patrons from entering the aircraft here.

Police the area around the aircraft perimeter frequently. Patrons have a habit of leaving soda cans, plastic bags, hats, bags etc. in and around the aircraft, wheel-wells, near the tires and ball-turret. These are safety hazards and considered "FOD" (foreign object damage).

When the aircraft is ready to move, ALL persons must be cleared from inside and away from the perimeter. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Air Show marshalls will advise when this must be done.

PX Table normally set-up under Right wing, accessible to both interior as well as exterior patrons.

Ladder to Entry

GATE ...Entry / Exit.

SAFETY is critical in tour procedures. No Smoking will ever be permitted around the aircraft at any time! Place a step at the rear/exit of the aircraft and if manpower permits, rotate a crew member at the back door to ensure safe exits. Always position a crew member at the entry-ladder area of the aircraft.

PROFESSIONAL IMAGE will help the public understand our mission. The mission Tour Director will advise the uniform for the tour. This image will assist the public in seeking the appropriate member(s) for answering questions, joining the organization or making a donation.

GATE ENTRANCE is positioned at the forward nose-area of the aircraft.. Rotation of crew members is critical to ensure that no one member becomes over-heated, dehydrated or tired. This position requires collection of money, and distributing informational folders to the public. To ensure efficiency it is helpful to station two (2) crewmembers at this location. You will start the tour with "seed" money (usually \$50) and when collection of monies exceeds \$100, see that this money is deposited into the TOUR money pouch, found in the TOUR BRIEFCASE.

Remember...your help is needed at WR-5 to see that we reach this milestone.

Col Walt Thompson—Bomber Ops



One And Done



WHY RECRUIT? Duh...WHY not keep history alive? WHY not help that interested person join in on the fun you're having? WHY not encourage tax-deductible membership? Why not contribute to the CAF educational mission? And WHY not help restore and fly these wonderful aircraft with the incremental revenue from increased membership? ALL IT TAKES IS ONE !! Once you've recruited a new CAF Colonel you will receive a new **ONE-AND-DONE** lapel pin (above left & right). And if you recruit a second member, you'll receive another fun thank-you gift. We already have some recruiters in our midst: Col Chuck Conway and Col Larry Doucette as well as yours truly have recruited some new CAF and wing members who are already contributing in the restoration efforts of TEXAS RAIDERS. It's not difficult to recruit, as we have many incoming visitors at WR-5 and there are plenty of CAF recruiting forms on the wall near the entry door. Once they're inside it's nearly **ONE-AND-DONE** !



New CAF & Wing Member Jim Fitzgerald working on the tail-gunner's windows.
Photo by S. Thompson

TORA's 2009 Schedule



Photo: Col C. Ebdon

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Date	Location
August 13	Chicago, IL
August 14-17	Offut AFB—Bellevue, NE
August 22-23	Selfridge ANGB—Detroit, MI
October 02-03	Jackson, MS
October 10-11	Sheppard AFB—Wichita Falls, TX & Midland, TX
October 17-18	Edwards AFB —California
Oct 31 Nov 01	Ellington Field —Houston, TX
Nov 07-08	Randolph AFB —Shertz, TX & Monroe NC

Photo: Col K. Hong



Photo: Col C. Ebdon

Wing Elections—November 14, 2009 (Ref. CAF Unit Manual sec 2-13)

The annual wing elections are planned for Saturday, November 14th and the slate of candidates will run for the offices of: **WING LEADER, ADJUTANT, FINANCE OFFICER, & BOMBER OPERATIONS OFFICER.** If you are interested in running for one of these offices or if you have a candidate interested in an office, please advise a member of the nominating committee of your candidate suggestions. The nominating committee members and election committee members are being appointed now and will be announced very soon. **Nominating Committee members** are CAF and Wing members in good standing and must be approved by the Wing Staff. The nominating committee must provide a list of nominees for the unit staff positions to the Wing Staff, the Election Committee and CAF Headquarters at least 30-days prior to the intended election date. The **Election Committee members** must also be CAF and Wing members in good standing and be confirmed by a majority vote of the Wing Staff. Election Committee members may not be involved in the election in any form except as eligible voters. They cannot be members of the Wing Staff, Wing Nominating Committee or a candidate for election. The Election Committee member's duties are to conduct the election, mail the absentee ballots (if used), tabulate and report the results of the balloting. Only current dues-paid members of the CAF who are in good standing with the Unit shall be eligible to vote. Membership should be dated no fewer than 30-days prior to the election date. If you are interested in serving on either committee, please contact any member of the GCW Staff.

Progress at WR-5





WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW

OCT 31—NOV 01 2009
www.wingsoverhouston.com

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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

COWL FLAPS

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@uwmail.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 David Carr.....	dc@dcarr.org	817 907 1998

Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

Webmaster.....	Col Herb Duncan.....	duncanenterprises@gmail.com	
Public Info Officer...	Col Sandy Thompson...	thompsonb17@uwmail.com	817 341 1541
Deputy Mtce Ofcr....	Col Chuck Conway.....	chucksautoelectric@sbcglobal.net	281 482 8980
PX Officer.....	Col Vicki Thomas.....	vthomas4@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 8249 Travelair, 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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