

For Friends of the Gulf Coast Wing—CAF



COWL FLAPS



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Volume 1

Issue

www.gulfcoastwing.org

Texas Raiders Cleans Up for Duty!

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HOUSTON, TX
When Mom tells you to “Get yourself ready” for school, or church or wherever you’re expected to perform, practice or play...you must first clean-up. That’s exactly what Texas Raiders has been primed to do. This Flying Fortress will celebrate her 63rd birthday next month, so we’re doing our best to remove all corrosion, cleaning every inch with extreme care.



New Plexiglas, clean paint and crevices ready for attachments. Texas Raiders is being prepared for an award winning Reveal.

Photo by Col S. Thompson

Although a flight certification date is yet to be determined, the progress is admi-

nable, measurable and within our sights and new gratifying. With a project members added to our volunteer workforce, this B-29 place, matching grants 17G is *continued page 2*

If you have questions regarding the Commemorative Air Force or the Gulf Coast Wing, feel free to contact any one of us listed in this newsletter. We have membership applications and information which can be mailed or emailed to you.

Thanks for helping support our mission of Keeping 'em Flying.

Col E. Stuart Watson - 1918—2008

Col Ewing Stuart Watson held a special place in the hearts of Gulf Coast Wing members. His description of his 47 missions over Europe with the 533rd Squadron, 381st BG during WWII kept us enthralled as he spoke to our group during one of our annual recurrent Ground Schools in the late 90s. He flew B-17s over



after he learned his wife was pregnant while he was stationed

Europe and his Flying Fortress, “Dream Baby” was named in Europe.

in Europe.

During one of Texas Raiders’ 2001 missions, Col Watson and several other 381st BG WWII veterans flew with us over the Dallas Ft Worth area. His son, Paul Watson, stated that it was one of Col Watson’s favorite memories, flying once again in *continued page 2*

Texas Raiders Cleans Up *continued from page 1*



One of the few Top Turrets in the world being prepared for installation.

being methodically prepared for successful flight certification. An engine test-stand is being procured for examining and testing the power-plants. As we proceed, we'll keep you apprised along the way.

As a non-profit organization, we depend on public funding and donations to see us through this process.

Your contributions are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. The best way to assist in this project is to join the CAF

and our wing, the Gulf Coast Wing. You can locate applications on our website at www.gulfcoastwing.org

Donations for TEXAS RAIDERS (N7227C) should be made payable to Gulf Coast Wing-CAF and mailed to:

Col Mark Allen, Wing Finance Officer, 18042 CR 127, Pearland, TX 77581

Your contribution in any amount is not only appreciated, but is directly applied to the maintenance of this aircraft.

Col Stuart Watson, *continued from page 1*



a B-17. great contributions given to our country during WWII. The veterans of the 381st BG, and their stories can be found on the

earlier this year at the age of 89. A graduate of the University of Texas Law School in 1947 he later became VP of Arco Oil and Gas Land, Dallas, Texas.



Texas Raiders is painted in the colors and markings of the 533 B.

Sqd, 381st BG. Tail Winds, Col Watson and a salute to the Mighty Men of the 381st. "Heroes All."

Thank you to Mr. Paul Watson, son of Col Watson for providing the photos and updated information.

"Dream Baby" was named after I learned my wife was pregnant, and I could only dream about my Baby at home.
Col E. Stuart Watson



Col Charlie Rowan, one of our newest members. Welcome aboard Charlie

Just for the Fun of It— Rhode Island Show

Some of the best moments you can experience as a member of the CAF come when you least expect it. Col Kevin Hong, a CAF Gulf Coast Wing Member recently had the opportunity to photograph the Red Arrows Flight Demonstration Team and ride with the Army Black Daggers Jump Team in Rhode Island.

Thanks, Kevin.
Hope you enjoy these.



From The Wing Leader



Fight or Flight?

First off, I have to salute the FAA in OKC. In nine days they had the CD with ALL of TEXAS RAIDERS' maintenance records in my mailbox. The great news is, while some of our original ink documents haven't made all the transfers from Maintenance Officer to MO, the FAA has the critical documents on file.

Things appear to be hitting a new, solid pace at the hangar. As important as the progress on the airplane is the general tone of our operation. GCW was starting to be known as the Wing where people would rather Fight than Fly. While some of us still have our differences of opinion, the majority of folks are making solid contributions through their work and they are a lot more fun to be around.

The whole Wing extends its prayers to the various members who either have personal health problems or loved ones who are encumbered with the ailments. And our condolences go out to Col. Bill Steffel, who lost his brother George in Illinois this June.

Craig Aronson, MO, has secured an Engine Test Stand, and while it is a "fixer-upper" it is major jumps ahead from having to construct one from scratch. David Carr, Asst. MO, has a DER (Designated Engineering Representative) sign-off on the critical Compression Strut Tie in the Bomb-bay and will be getting that made. Our Flight Controls Team has a bunch of new cables made. Global Warming has been solved and AV/Gas will be back to \$1.25 a gallon any day now! (OK, I made those last two items up but I can dream can't I???)

I would like to acknowledge Ron Dietes for coming down and spending a "working" vacation on the engines and the cowl flap actuators. Ron brought back the first of the yellow tagged carburetors and took three "slightly used" carburetors back to the certified Repair Station for bench testing and approval.

There is also a renewed push to make certain that ALL of our volunteers have joined or "re-upped" on their CAF and Wing memberships. This is vital because workers who are NOT members are NOT covered by CAF insurance when they are working at any CAF facility or event. Part of the big wallop we take paying ANUAC and dues goes to cover the liabilities that are inherent in flying and maintaining aircraft.

I will finish with a THANK YOU to the volunteers in ALL capacities. I am heartened by the fact that the pace has not slowed from the Summer doldrums. If anything it has picked up and more and more items are getting signed off as RTS (Return To Service) on our Project Plan.

Don Price, Commemorative Air Force, Gulf Coast Wing- Wing Leader

WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW Oct 25-26, 2008

If you miss this one, you'll punch yourself, saying you'll not let another year go by without spending some time with the family visiting the famous Wings Over Houston Air Show. This year's event features the Thunderbirds, and a few of the descriptions of their show would be *Outstanding, Thrilling, Dynamic and Pretty Spectacular*. And those are the subtle comments. For a full schedule, listing, lodging, locations and pricing, go to www.wingsoverhouston.com



Many of the nearby hotels and inns provide special discount rates for Wings Over Houston participants and guests. It's important to make your lodging reservations as early as possible. When calling the hotel or inn, please refer to the WINGS OVER HOUSTON AIRSHOW special rate. These rates are based on space-availability, so the earlier you make reservations, the better your chances of securing the rate you want. The Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake Hotel is offering a special \$85.00 per night room rate for single or double occupancy, call 281-333-9300 or visit hilton.com. The Extended Stay on Bay Area Blvd., (281-338-7711), The Hampton Inn and Suites also on Bay Area Blvd., (281-332-7952), and The Extended Stay on NASA Parkway (281-333-9494), are also offering special rates; call them for details. Hope to see you there!

Gulf Coast Wing - CAF

The aircraft of the Gulf Coast Wing consist of Zeros, Vals & Kates in the **TORA** fleet and the B-17G **TEXAS RAIDERS**. We are the third oldest wing in the CAF, and are headquartered at Houston Hobby Airport at 8411 Nelms Road, Houston, TX 77061. Our phone is 713 649 7227 and our website is www.gulfcoastwing.org

We welcome you to volunteer with our group each Tuesday evening at 1800 hours and on Saturdays at 0900 hours. Please contact our Maintenance Officer, or our Wing Leader for security clearance, if you wish to join us at the hangar.

OCT 25 & 26 , 2008

Mark Your Calendars Now !

WINGS OVER HOUSTON

Air Show

To Volunteer, Call Bill or Janis Roach

281 579 1942

Gulf Coast Wing Elected Staff

Wing Leader.....Col Don Price..... don_price56@hotmail.com.....713 988 2765
 Adjutant.....Col Craig Fredand..... craig@swtgroup.com.....281 298 1818
 Finance Officer.....Col Mark Allen..... mallen@triconex.com.....832 493 1368
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 Fighter Opns.....Col Jim Ryan.....tora113@yahoo.com.....979 233 5919
 Safety Officer.....Col Ky Putnam.....713 683 8930
 Supply Officer.....Col Bud Bearce.....budk5jgn@hal-pc.org.....713 864 7435
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Gulf Coast Wing Appointed Staff

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 Public Info Officer...Col Sandy Thompson...thompsonb17@uwmil.com.....817 341 1541
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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

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

All donations are tax-deductible. We are a 501 (c) 3 Organization

If you believe in old war birds, the legacy of those who flew them, and the stories provided within, you can help us preserve and honor our past in one of several ways. You can either:

- Join the CAF and our Wing . We can e-mail you an application.
- Donate any amount of tax-deductible money to our non profit organization.
- Donate or volunteer any time to the restoration of our aircraft, or to the Wings Over Houston event.

Any of the above efforts will be genuinely appreciated. If you have questions, contact any staff member listed here. Donations should be mailed to

Finance Officer, Col Mark Allen
 18042 CR 127
 Pearland, TX 77581



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