



THE INITIAL POINT

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Tour of the New Commemorative Air Force Web Site, by Beth McCale

If you haven't visited the headquarter's web site in a while, you may not recognize it! It has a completely new look and is full of information about the CAF and about current aviation news and events.

The web site address has not changed...it is still: www.commemorativeairforce.org. Much of the information on the website is 'public', so you can view it without signing on. However, to view the information that is 'for member eyes only,' you will need to sign on. There is a box on the right of each page that says 'CAF members log in here'. The Username that you should enter is the ID number from your CAF membership card. The Password is your last name, typed completely in lowercase letters.

An item that you won't want to miss on the first page of the web site is the 'CEO Blog - From the President's Desk'. At least once a week, Steve Brown adds information to his blog. In a very conversational manner, he talks about what is happening in the organization, answers questions, and gives his opinions and thoughts on

many subjects. You can browse back through all that he has written since the beginning of the year.

Other sections of the website to be sure and visit are: [Aircraft/Units](#) which contains information about each wing and beautiful pictures of the CAF planes; [Calendar of Events](#) - click on any day and you can see both na-

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 18 at 10 a.m. at our hangar. Our presentation will be about the history of Lockheed.

Air Expo planning meeting at 8 a.m.

Hangar Dance, June 20

The first hangar dance of the season will be held June 20. The Moonlight Serenaders will play. Tickets are \$20 per person and tables will seat 10. All seats are reserved. Ray Gentile will have tickets available for purchase at the April 18 general membership meeting. Any questions, contact Ray at 913-897-3422.

Learn About Lockheed's Role in World War II

Lockheed in the Golden Age of Aviation will be the topic of our April presentation. Roger Collins, Lockheed's former Vice President of Business Development, worked for the aircraft manufacturer from 1965 until he retired in 1999 and will be here to tell us about the early history of Lockheed from its beginning in 1913 as a two man operation to its peak during World War II when it employed nearly 100,000 workers. Lockheed aircraft set innumerable records and were flown by great pioneering aviators such as Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post, Charles Lindbergh and Howard Hughes. Roger has strong roots in Kansas and tells us several of

Lockheed's pioneering executives did as well. We are very much looking forward to having Roger as our guest speaker.

Oh...and wait until you see all the great airplane pictures!!!



This month in history...

1942-April 1 - Aircraft carrier USS Hornet leaves Seattle, Washington with 16 B-25B Mitchell bombers tied down to the flight deck, destined for Tokyo, Japan.

April 18 - Surprise U.S. 'Doolittle' B-25 air raid from the HORNET against Tokyo boosts Allied morale.

April 18 - U.S. code breakers pinpoint the location of Japanese Admiral Yamamoto flying in a Japanese bomber near Bougainville. Eighteen P-38 fighters locate and shoot down Yamamoto.

1945-April 1 - 50,000 American 10th Army troops land on Okinawa, Japan

April 7 - About 150 American planes engage the Yamato and the rest of the fleet. The Yamato sinks.

April 7 - B-29s fly their first escorted mission against Japan with P-51 Mustangs based on Iwo Jima.

April 17 - American bombers attack Dresden, Germany

April 25 - US Sect. of War Henry Stinson delivers a report on the atomic bomb to Pres. Truman. The document begins "Within four months, we shall in all probability have completed the most terrible weapon ever known in human history."

1955-April 4 - The Jet Transitional Training Unit was established at NAS Olathe, Kansas, to provide student training for aviators transferring from shore to sea duty. In addition to providing refresher training for these 'desk pilots', the unit was responsible for training pilots making the transition from prop to jet aircraft.

Red Tail Project a Big Hit at March Meeting

Heart of America Wing members were fascinated by the CAF's Red Tail Project at the March general membership meeting. Members watched the Red Tail Reborn DVD, a documentary that chronicles P-51 *Tuskegee Airmen's* history and original restoration and the tragic engine failure that resulted in the loss of pilot and project leader, Don Hinz. Red Tail project members made a promise to restore the airplane in honor of Don, and that restoration is nearly complete. After five years the aircraft will likely fly again in late May or early June.

The Red Tail story is one of the finest examples of our

mission as members of the Commemorative Air Force - they have a beautifully restored flying P-51 and people committed to telling the story of the men who flew them in World War II.

The Commemorative Air Force would not exist without dedicated airplane sponsor groups like the Red Tail Project. Learning about these projects helps us understand the magnitude of the commitment required to keep the more significant aircraft flying. HOA members showed their support by generously donating money to help the Red Tail group finish their project.

Sometimes we forget we are all members of one big

organization. It is easy to have tunnel vision about our own local goals and projects. The Heart of America wing is excited to recognize the efforts of CAF members outside our own wing who work so hard to "keep 'em flying."

Donation information will be available at the April general membership meeting. If you would like more information about the project, contact Kim Pardon, 913-636-6250 or go to www.redtail.org.



CAF Website, cont.

tional CAF events and wing events that are scheduled for that day.

On the members-only section of the web site, you can view CAF manuals and regulations and frequently-asked-questions (FAQs) about membership, units, aircraft assignment, etc.

If you plan to make a purchase from the PX, be sure that you sign on first so that you will receive the 10% member discount.

The information on the web site is updated frequently. So, keep an eye on what is happening in other wings and in the national organization by taking a few minutes to browse the web site occasionally.

Private WWII Museum

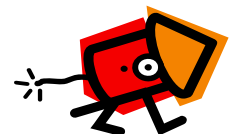
HOA member Dennis Okerstrom has informed us Lt. Col. John Angolia, a friend of the Wing who has donated many artifacts to our museum, has moved to Mission, Kansas. He has set up a fantastic museum of World War II artifacts in his home, and he welcomes CAF members and guests to tour his exhibits.

Col. Angolia's telephone no. is 913.681.8508. Members should try to arrange visits in groups of three to six, so as to take best advantage of his generosity and time.



Any Pyro Volunteers?

The wing is looking for a few good pyromaniacs to help the CAF's Blastards with their pyro show at the Whiteman Air Force base air show this June 6. This is a one day show. A total of 20 volunteers are needed and we already have 8 confirmed. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. CAF members are preferred, but we will be able to use volunteers from outside the organization if we get in a pinch. Please contact Jim Boughan if you are interested in helping at 816-822-7171 or email at jboughan@kc.rr.com.



Kansas World War II Vessels, by Beth McCale

For a state located in the geographic center of the United States, far from both coasts, a surprisingly large number of WWII military vessels were linked to Kansas by name. Twenty-one Navy ships and thirty-three cargo vessels of the U.S. Maritime Commission bore the names of famous Kansans and of Kansas cities, counties, and rivers.

Five Navy fighting ships were named for native Kansans who met death in enemy action. Two destroyers, U. S. S. Hawkins and U. S. S. Timmerman, were named for Marine Corps heroes born in Kansas. Three destroyer escorts bore the names of Navy heroes, two of them pilots. These vessels were:

U. S. S. Kendall C. Campbell, U. S. S. Tabberer and U. S. S. Wintle.

Navy cruisers, frigates, cargo ships, transport ships, and barrack ships were named for such Kansas locations as Wichita, Topeka, Emporia, Hutchinson, Abilene, Ottawa, Haskell, Sheridan, etc.

Twenty-nine Liberty ships of the United States Maritime Commission were named for individuals associated with Kansas, such as Amelia Earhart, Wyatt Earp, James 'Wild Bill' Hickok, William Allen

White, James Lane (one of the first two senators elected from Kansas), Ralph T. O'Neil (National Commander of the American Legion 1930/31), Albert A. Robinson (railroad builder), Charles Robinson (first governor of Kansas), Mary Bickedyke (Civil War nurse and champion of enlisted men's rights).

For more information on these WWII ships, go to the Kansas Historical Quartermasters web site: http://www.kancoll.org/khq/1947/47_2_henderson.htm



Left: U.S.S. Tabberer Above: U.S.S. Wichita

New PX Items

The PX now has several new CAF items for sale. You can purchase them at the April meeting, or call or email Jack McCale: 913-638-6392, jackmccale@hotmail.com.

- \$5.00 - White coffee mug with the CAF wings on it.
- \$6.00 - Navy blue travel mug with the CAF wings on it.
- \$10.00 - Navy blue hat with the CAF wings on it. This will match the new shirts that we are ordering

All members should have received an email or a letter about the new CAF shirts that are being ordered. If you haven't yet ordered your shirt, contact Jack as soon as possible.



Old 56 Car Show

We will have a CAF information booth at the Old 56 Car Show:

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 8:00 to 3:00
Wheatridge Middle School
318 East Washington,
Gardner, KS

If you'd like to help, please contact Beth McCale, 913-706-8986 or just stop by the car show and visit with us while you are there!



Newsletter Staff Needs Your Help!

If you have an interesting idea or photograph for a newsletter article or would like an assignment, please let us know. Forward suggestions to Beth McCale (913-706-8986) or Kim Pardon (913-432-0868).



- Jim Boughan, Unit Leader
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Honoring American Military Aviation

Calendar of Events for 2009

SAT Apr. 18, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Planning Committee Meeting
SAT Apr. 18, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting
SAT Apr. 25, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Old 56 Car Show

THU May 7, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting
SAT May 16, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Planning Committee Meeting
SAT May 16, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting

THU June 4, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting
SAT June 20, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Planning Committee Meeting
SAT June 20, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting
SAT June 20, 7:00 p.m. - Hangar Dance

THU July 2, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting
SAT and SUN July 11 and 12 – Heart of America Wing Air Expo
SAT July 18, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Debriefing
SAT July 18, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting

THU Aug. 6, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting
SAT Aug. 15, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting

THU Sep. 3, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting
SAT Sep. 19, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting
SAT Sep. 19, 7 p.m. - Hangar Dance

THU Oct. 1, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting
OCT. 9 thru 11 – AIR SHO, Midland, TX
SAT Oct. 17, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting (Elections)

THU Nov. 5, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting
SAT Nov. 21, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting

THU Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Party
No General Membership Meeting in December
