

# THE INITIAL POINT

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General Membership Meeting, Saturday, Jan. 17 at 10 a.m. at our hangar. Our featured speaker will be World War II veteran Stan Chambers, B-17 pilot.

Air Expo planning meeting at 8 a.m.



A U.S. Marine Corps bugler plays Taps at Earl's funeral ceremony.

## Stearman Arrives At Its New Home

Taking advantage of what appeared to be the best flying day forecast for that week, Tom Hall braved the cold weather and flew his Stearman to its new home on Monday, December 10. Karl Hines went along for the ride.

The airplane now looks right at home in our hangar full of World War II trainers.

All airplanes donated to the CAF are required to be inspected by the CAF's Director of Maintenance, Gary Austin, prior to being formally accepted into the fleet. We welcomed Gary to our hangar later that week. He went right to work inspecting the airplane. He found a few items he would like to see corrected, but no major issues whatsoever.

Right: Tom Hall arrives at our hangar with his PT-13 Stearman...a gift from him to the CAF and our wing.

Jim Boughan announced at the January staff meeting that the transaction is complete –Tom Hall's beautiful Stearman, N234X, is now owned by the American Airpower Heritage Flying Museum and assigned to the Heart of America Wing. *We are unbelievably grateful for Tom's most generous gift to the CAF and our wing.*

Right top: Gary Austin inspects the wing as Phil Pardon assists. Right bottom: Karl Hines, Jim Boughan and Phil Pardon were a captive audience.



## Saying Good-bye to Earl McCabe

As many of you know, Earl McCabe passed away on December 31, 2008. Earl had suffered some setbacks in his health the month prior to his death, and, unfortunately, was not able to overcome them. His death hit many of us particularly hard because we know how important the CAF had become to him and we will miss the enthusiasm he shared with all of us.

Earl's visitation and funeral was well attended by CAF members. Harold (Dave) Davis delivered a beautiful tribute to Earl, relating many of the personal stories

shared with him over the past couple of years. The U.S. Marine Corps honor guard was present and provided the graveside ceremony in recognition of Earl's service to his country. Our wing had planned to do a flyover at his service, but haze and low clouds kept the airplanes on the ground that morning.

His wife, Virginia, expressed her gratitude that he was able to find a comfortable camaraderie with fellow CAF members these past couple of years. He will be missed.

## About the Stearman:



*This nostalgic shot of our new PT-13 with the IXD tower in the background was taken several years ago by HOA member John English .*

Officially named the Boeing Model 75, this plane is almost universally known simply as the "Stearman". The Army designated it the "PT", the Navy the "N2S" and the Canadians called it the "Kaydet". By any name it is recognized as the quintessential primary trainer for American aviators in World War II.

The U.S. Army Air Corps first ordered the Model 75 in 1935, one year after the Stearman Aircraft Company of Wichita, Kansas was ac-

quired by Boeing. This two-seat biplane incorporates wood-framed wings with fabric covering and a fuselage with welded steel framework, also fabric covered. In 1940, with war on the horizon, production ballooned with 3,520 aircraft delivered in that year alone.

Other than engines, there is little difference between the PT-13/N2S-2 (Lycoming R-670/R680), the PT-17/N2S-1 (Continental R-680) and PT-18 (Jacobs R-755) models. The PT-27 version

was developed for the Royal Canadian Air Force and included cockpit enclosures, heating and advanced instrumentation. Production ceased in February 1945 for an airplane considered rugged, relatively forgiving, and overall an excellent trainer.

*(Some information for this article was contributed by CAF member Mark Bailey.)*



## PT-19 Repairs Necessary

Gary Austin stayed for the weekend and inspected the PT-19. The list of items needing attention on the PT-19 is considerably more extensive – thirty of them.

The most critical issues were a soft spot on the left wing requiring some immediate repair work to replace broken wood and skin and the removal of the right wing to replace all of the

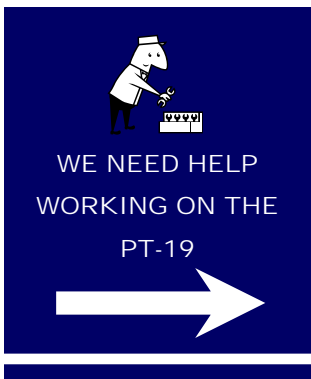
wing attachment bolts. Many smaller maintenance and cosmetic items were listed.

Karl Hines would love to have some volunteers he can direct to help him with some of these repairs. Anyone interested should come to the general membership meeting this Saturday prepared for an assignment.

Karl is planning to re-

move that right wing after the meeting and will be looking for willing helpers for that project.

Jon Miller and Steve Zimmerman are heading up the committee to oversee cosmetic work on the airplane. Anyone interested in helping with that, please contact Jon Miller. (913-634-0788, [jmiller@birch.net](mailto:jmiller@birch.net))



**Special thanks to the many members who contributed so generously to the lift fund. We were able to raise almost \$17,000 to cover the cost of the lift. Now many of our older members who might have stayed away because climbing those stairs to the meeting area was difficult are assured a safe ride to the second floor for our meetings.**

## Uplifting News - Our Lift Is Installed and Running!

Construction of our museum addition is nearly complete. We are currently awaiting a ceiling inspection so we can finish installing acoustical ceiling panels in the new room. Construction of the new area took away some focus from our members and meeting programs. Now that the area is nearly completed, we are looking forward to once again find-

ing quality speakers for our meetings and having more fun and less work.

We are especially pleased that the new lift is installed and working well. Members who may have stayed away because of the difficulty accessing our meeting space will be quite pleased to see how easily they may now be transported to the second floor.

Things still look a little rough downstairs, but we will be directing our attention there this spring as soon as it is warm enough to work comfortably.

Thank you for your patience with us while these improvements were made.



## Winter Staff Conference March 5 through 8

This year's Wing Staff Conference will be held March 5-8, 2009, at the MCM Grande Hotel Fun Dome in Odessa, Texas. While all staff and support staff members are expected to attend, the conference is for ALL CAF members. The conference includes sessions where HQ staff and general staff address all of the attendees and a variety of mini-sessions anyone may attend covering a myriad of topics from pilot safety to fund raising. There is also plenty of free time (or some may

want to skip the smaller sessions) you may use to visit headquarters and the museum. Registration fee for the conference is \$89.00 which includes dinner Friday and Saturday night and lunch on Saturday. Breakfast is free at the hotel.

Winter Staff Conference is a great time to learn more about the CAF and to meet members from other Wings.

A block of rooms has been reserved at a special price for CAF members: \$80 to \$150 per night depending on the

amenities. Attendees should identify themselves as being with the CAF Wing Staff Conference when calling for reservations. Reservations should be made by Feb. 19th to receive this special rate. After Feb. 19, reservations will be accepted on a space and rate available basis. For reservations, call the hotel toll free at (866) 362-2311.

If you wonder what Midland is all about, this is your opportunity to go see the CAF HQ and meet the staff and fellow CAF members.

### 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).

### Wing Dues Reminder

**Your annual wing dues were due as of January 1, 2009. Thank you all who have paid on time. If you haven't forwarded your dues to Darrell Werner, please do so right away.**

## Keeping Up With Col. Ron Wright

After spending almost two months at Tallil, the unit with whom Ron Wright was serving was to be sent home early. Consequently, Ron has recently been transferred to Camp Bucca by way of Ali al Salem, Kuwait. From there, he was fortunate enough to be transported to his new assignment in a *Blackhawk* helicopter.

Camp Bucca is an EPW (enemy prisoner of war) camp, the largest in the theater, located near Umm Qsar, Iraq which is about 40 miles from Basra. Ron will spend the next 30 days providing emergency dental treatment to the detainees at the TIC (theater internment facility) and also at the camp's TMC (treatment medical center).

We are looking forward to hearing the interesting stories Ron will have for us when he returns in March.



Above: Col. Wright on a typical day in Tallil, waiting for the shuttle with his fellow soldiers. Below: Ron outside of Camp Bucca.



Jim Boughan, Unit Leader

816-822-7171 / [jboughan@kc.rr.com](mailto:jboughan@kc.rr.com)

Jon Miller, Executive Officer

913-634-0788 / [jmiller@birch.net](mailto:jmiller@birch.net)

Darrell Werner, Finance Officer

913-685-8864 / [dewerner@kc.rr.com](mailto:dewerner@kc.rr.com)

Karl Hines, Maintenance Officer

816-589-8028 / [airbikeflyer@embarqmail.com](mailto:airbikeflyer@embarqmail.com)

Dave Swartzbaugh, Adjutant Officer

816-361-1810 / [davidswartzbaugh@yahoo.com](mailto:davidswartzbaugh@yahoo.com)

Phil Pardon, Operations Officer

913-432-0868 / [philpardon@kc.rr.com](mailto:philpardon@kc.rr.com)

Steve Zimmerman, Safety Officer

913-302-4452 / [swzaviator@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swzaviator@sbcglobal.net)

Jack McCale, PX Officer

913-638-6392 / [jackmccale@hotmail.com](mailto:jackmccale@hotmail.com)

Beth McCale, Development Officer

913-706-8986 / [elizabethmccale@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethmccale@hotmail.com)

Kim Pardon, Public Information Officer

913-432-0868 / [pardon@kc.rr.com](mailto:pardon@kc.rr.com)

Mike Batliner, Hangar Manager

816-746-9335 / [LBATS@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LBATS@sbcglobal.net)



Commemorative Air Force  
Heart of America Wing  
6 Aero Plaza  
New Century KS 66031  
Phone: 913-907-7902  
www.kcghostsquadron.org

## Honoring American Military Aviation

### Calendar of Events for 2009

**SAT Jan. 17, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Planning Committee Meeting**

**SAT Jan. 17, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting**

**THU Feb. 5, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting**

**SAT Feb. 21, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Planning Committee Meeting**

**SAT Feb. 21, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting**

**THU Mar. 5 thru SUN Mar. 8 – Wing Staff Conference in Midland TX**

**THU Mar. 12, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting**

**SAT Mar. 21, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Planning Committee Meeting**

**SAT Mar. 21, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting**

**THU Apr. 2, 7 p.m. – Executive Staff Meeting**

**SAT Apr. 18, 8 a.m. – Air Expo Planning Committee Meeting**

**SAT Apr. 18, 10 a.m. – General Membership Meeting**

**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**

**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**

**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**