



# THE INITIAL POINT

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## Wing Staff Conference in Midland, Texas, by Beth McCale

The sky was blue and the temperature was mild as about 125 people from across the country gathered in Midland, Texas, for the CAF Wing Staff Conference. Our wing was well-represented by eight members: Jim Boughan, Steve Zimmerman, Karl Hines, Ron Wright, Phil Pardon, Kim Pardon, Jack McCale, and Beth McCale.

The Friday morning general session started off with the traditional roll call of the wings. This is always a fun event, with each wing answering the call in some unique way that is representative of their organization. This year, our wing and the Dallas/Fort Worth wing staged a mock 'battle' for the title of CAF's 'Friendliest Wing'!

Steve Brown's 'State of the CAF' message was one of the highlights of the day. Steve is an engaging speaker and had much to tell about the exciting things that happened in 2008 and that are planned for this year. You'll hear more about this at our General Membership meet-

ing on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

On Friday afternoon, sessions were offered on a variety of topics, such as: safety, maintenance, finance, grant writing, artifact conservation, PX. We all went our separate ways so that we could cover *(Article continues on page 2.)*

*Below: Steve Brown presents the CAF Spirit Award to the Heart of America Wing for member volunteer participation at Sun N Fun and AirVenture in 2008. Left to right: Jack McCale, Steve Zimmerman, Phil Pardon, Steve Brown, Kim Pardon, Beth McCale, Jim Boughan, and Ron Wright. (Photo by Alyson Trevino.)*



### General Membership Meeting

**Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m. at our hangar. Our presentation will be about *The Red Tail Project.***

**Air Expo planning meeting at 8 a.m.**



*Above: Richard Davy introduces Col Ron Wright at our February meeting.*

## Red Tail Project Subject of March General Membership Meeting

Col Ron Wright fascinated CAF members and guests with the story of his recent tour of duty in Iraq at our February general membership meeting. Over 50 members and guests enjoyed the presentation followed by lunch and lots of visiting.

**The "Red Tail Project" will be the topic of our March general membership meeting.** Almost five years have passed since the CAF owned P-51C "Tuskegee Airmen" crashed at a Memorial Day celebration in Minnesota. Don Hinz, the pilot and project leader, died from injuries he sustained in the accident that was caused by an unavoidable engine failure.

In tribute to Don and his passion for the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, the airplane sponsors and members from the Minnesota Wing have rebuilt the airplane which will likely make its first flight in late May or early June. This story exemplifies the true mission of the CAF – what we do, and why we do it – that is, telling the story of these important airplanes and the brave pilots who flew them first.



Members of the wing extend heartfelt condolences to Jon Miller and his family. Jon lost his only brother, Timothy, in an airplane crash near Atlanta on March 8. Please keep Jon and his family in your hearts and prayers during this time of profound sadness.

## This month in history...

### 1903 – March 23

The Wright brothers file a patent for an aeroplane based on their No. III glider.

### 1910 – March 8

Mademoiselle Elise Deroche becomes the world's first qualified female pilot, and the 36th French pilot, when she is awarded her brevet.

### 1913 – March 5

The 1st Aero Squadron of the United States Army is formed.

### 1915 – March 4

\$300,000 funding is passed by the United States Congress for the development of army aviation in 1916.

### 1926 – March 28

The first successful flight of one of Dr Robert Goddard's rockets takes place in the United States.

### 1943 – March 10

The 14th United States Army Air Force (USAAF) is activated with Major General Clair Chennault in command.

### 1949 – Feb 26 to March 2

The first non-stop round the world flight is made by the United States Air Force (USAF) B50 'Lucky Lady II', piloted by Captain James Gallagher. The aircraft is refuelled in flight four times during its 94 hour 1 minute flight and covers a distance of 37,742 kilometres (23,452 miles).

## Aircraft Sponsorship, by Phil Pardon, Operations Officer

The acquisition of our new PT-13 has precipitated questions from members about the details involved in sponsoring aircraft assigned to our wing. Sponsorship fees are set by headquarters and vary by aircraft. Let's use the Stearman as an example. Four categories of sponsorship are available:

Pilot sponsorship, \$ 1,500

Aircraft sponsorship, \$ 750

Restoration sponsorship, \$ 750

Supporting sponsorship, \$ 150

A pilot sponsorship is the only one of those four categories with additional qualifications. A pilot who wishes to sponsor an aircraft makes that request to the wing

flight evaluation board (FEB). The initial qualifications include being a current licensed pilot with no incidents or accidents on record per the FAA and a member of the Heart of America wing for a minimum of one year – active in attendance, helping with projects, and representative of the ideals of the CAF and its mission.

If approved by the FEB, the applicant completes CAF paperwork and submits his/her sponsorship fee. These forms are forwarded to CAF headquarters for their approval along with the pilot's current medical certificate, pilot certificate and current flight review.

The CAF VP of Opera-

tions approves the application and forwards it to the HQ Operations/Flight Safety committee composed of CAF members, for final approval. The wing operations officer receives notification of approval and the candidate must then pass a check ride given by a CAF check pilot. If the pilot checks out he is then required to purchase and show proof of the required CAF insurance.

Members of the Heart of America wing's FEB are Jim Boughan, Phil Pardon, Steve Zimmerman and Karl Hines. Questions about sponsorship should be directed to one of those members.



## Wing Staff Conference, by Beth McCale (cont. from page 1)

as many of the sessions as possible. So much good information and so many great ideas!

Some of us were able to make it over to the CAF's Airpower Heritage Museum. This is truly a world-class museum with unusual WWII exhibits, the world's largest collection of original WWII nose art, and, of course, the planes of the CAF. Fifi and Devil Dog were in the hangar for maintenance, and other CAF planes were on display, including the F-82 which the Air Force is attempting to repossess.

Although we are not one of the large wings of the CAF, our wing is known in the CAF as being a spirited

participant in CAF programs and functions and as being dedicated to the vision and the mission of the CAF. The Membership Retention award that was created in 2008 bears the name of our own super recruiter, Chuck Esterline.

Tom Hall was awarded the 2008 Aircraft Acquisition Award for donating his PT-13 Stearman to the CAF. And, our wing was awarded one of the 2008 Spirit Awards for our member participation at Sun 'n Fun and AirVenture at Oshkosh.

Throughout the conference, there was ample opportunity to share ideas with members of other wings and to get to know the headquarters staff. We worked hard

but we played hard, too! And we came away inspired and refreshed and ready to get back to work!



The first annual Charles Esterline Membership Retention Award was presented to the Great Plains Wing. Above: Larry Lumpkin accepted the award from Steve Brown.





## 2009 WINTER STAFF CONFERENCE



*Clockwise starting above: The American Air Power Heritage Flying Museum; headquarters entrance; Jim Boughan, Jack McCale, Karl Hines, and Steve Zimmerman at the museum entrance; Jack McCale tries out one of the flight simulators; Steve Brown, Donna Blalock, and Kim Pardon in the Gunfighter Pub at the new Commemorative Center; B-25 Devil Dog currently at Midland for repairs. (Photos by Beth McCale and Aly Trevino.)*



*Photo by Aly Trevino*

## Naval Air Station History - Navy Hill, by Beth McCale

When the Olathe Naval Air Station opened in 1942, housing was scarce. The Federal Housing Administration authorized construction of homes in the Highland Park area of Olathe for naval officers and their families from the Olathe Naval Air Station. This area had originally been platted in the 1920's for prosperous homeowners but, by 1941, only five of these homes had been built. In 1942, thirty single family homes were built for officers. In 1943, twenty-five duplexes were added to the development. The WPA paved the streets, and the City of Olathe provided water and sewer lines.

This area soon came to be known as "Navy Hill".

The homes were built in the "minimal traditional"

style, which was developed during the depression of the 1930's. This style reflected the form of traditional houses but lacked the decorative detailing. Most of the Navy Hill homes were rela-



tively small (less than 1,000 square feet), one-story wood structures built on concrete foundations. A few were customized with brick or stone facades. The homes cost between \$4,000 and \$4,500, with a few peaking at \$6,000. Many of the Navy Hill homes are still in use

today, 65+ years later. Garages and room additions have been added to some, but the basic structures are still visible.

On a beautiful spring day, why not take a detour on your way home from the hangar. Drive through Navy Hill and experience another piece of local aviation history. From 135<sup>th</sup> Street (Santa Fe), turn south onto Keeler Street. (Keeler is west of I-35. McDonald's, KFC, and UMB Bank are on the corner.) Turn right (west) on Cedar Street. When you reach Ocheltree Street, you will be on the north east corner of the Navy Hill area. Cedar Street being the northern boundary and Ocheltree the eastern. Lane Street is the west boundary.

*Photo by Beth McCale*

## 2009 Area Air Show Schedule

May 9-10, Branson Air Show, Branson, MO,

May 23-25, 21<sup>st</sup> Salute to Veterans, Columbia, MO,

June 5-7, Wings Over Whiteman, Knob Knoster, MO

June 19-21, World War I Fly-In, Gardner, KS



June 26-27, Antique Fly-In, Gardner, KS

July 10-11, Fly Iowa, Storm Lake, IA

July 10-11, Wingnuts Flying Circus Fly-In, Tarkio, MO

July 11-12, CAF Heart of America Wing Open House

August 22-23, KC Aviation Expo and Air Show

August 29-30, Defenders of Freedom Air Show, Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE

Sept. 12-13, Kirksville Regional Air Festival, Kirksville, MO

Sept. 19-20, McConnell AFB Open House, McConnell AFB, Wichita, KS

*Photos by Kim Pardon*



### 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).



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## Honoring American Military Aviation

### Calendar of Events for 2009

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  
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

