

HIGHFLIGHT

CENTEX



The cutoff date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month



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COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

The official newsletter of
The Central Texas Wing
Commemorative Air Force
1841 Airport Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 396-1943
www.centexwing.com
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NEXT MEETING IS: TUESDAY, 12 APRIL

CAF HANGER SAN MARCOS AIRPORT
7:00 PM.

MAIN DISH IS: Southwest Meatloaf
Thanks: Clint & Linda Epley
STAFF MEETING AT 6:30PM ON 11 APR

COMMENTS FROM THE CAT HERDER

By: Col. Grant Lannon Wing Leader

March was a pretty quiet month from an event standpoint, but you would not know it from the amount of work going on in the hanger. Col. **Clint Epley** is managing the repair of the hanger from the big freeze and the plumbing work continues. Most of the lines have been replaced but the toilets need to be replaced because the old valves are more expensive than replacing the toilet assemblies with more modern technology. There are also plans to bury the main line in front of the hanger.

Cols. Buzz Perez and **Greg Young** have put two bunks in the admin section that can be used for sudden unexpected overnights. We also figure we can use them for the "coming insurrection."

Col. Kelly Klaus has been running movie night on some Saturday nights. Work continues on all the airplanes (see Maintenance report). We do have some flyovers coming up in April and I will let the Ops Officer write about those. These include the Wimberly Butterfly Festival at 11:30 in the morning on Saturday April 16th.

We had the Shelby Cobra car rally at the hanger on Saturday March 26th. We always enjoy having them visit and they did their usual mass picture on the ramp (see pix). **Clint and Linda Epley** will provide the main course at the CENTEX meeting on Tuesday 12 April. The CENTEX staff meeting will be conducted by e-mail before the meeting.



It makes a great desktop background! EL

DUES REMINDER 2011 dues begin with the New Year. They can be mailed to the Centex Finance Officer at the hanger address or brought to the next general meeting.



Did You Know?

If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, the blue underlined portions are links. If you are on your computer, you hover over the link and click your mouse and be taken right to the linked site. E-mails work that way also. Give it a try!



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

By: Col. Buck Willis

As your XO I am blessed to share news of upcoming events that will help fulfill our CAF and CENTEX mission. On April 21st, the Leadership San Marcos group will hold a dinner for a small gathering (72 people) and they will be contributing the fee per person and for use of 1/4 of the hangar (\$100/fourth). That will help cover our time and expense in moving aircraft. The event will be from 1530 – 2130 hrs. Johnell Huebner is the owner of Clearly Classy Events, which could bring more events to our hangar.

CENTEX Wing will be hosting a small formation training session for 3-4 Stearman aircraft and pilots that following weekend (April 23-24) and of course, **Col. Grant Lannon** will be our primary IP. This will help us start to have more Stearman events at our hangar and the big event will always be the last Saturday of April, each year.

The BiPlane Fly-In will be Saturday April 30th, from 1000 – 1530hrs on. Last year we had 30 aircraft and this year we are expecting over 50! (The picture on the cover of our CENTEX membership directory was taken at that event.)

We need volunteers to help with parking the aircraft and Colonels to staff the gift shop and museum. We may also be asking for help in directing automobile parking. I think we will close the entry to our ramp and require all cars to park on the grass in front of the AC ramp or on the side of the road. (I will ask the USAF ROTC cadets to help with that.)

We are honored that **Col Jim Liles** will be our Grill-Master for lunch at this event and we will be serving Salsa-burgers, chips, tea, water, and desserts. (Any dessert chefs interested?) Lunch will be free for Fly-In aircrews, \$5 for CENTEX members, and \$9 for the public. We hope this will offset the cost of fuel for the Stearman aircraft that will be flying WWII Pilots! The pilots who mastered these aircraft almost 70 years ago

will be our priority passengers but we will also invite other WWII veterans to ride as well (based on availability).

Please send the website

www.BiPlaneFlyIn.org to all of your email addresses and ask that any WWII veteran call my number 512-297-1833 and leave a message to reserve a ride. (**Dr Tom Matthews** is my #1 ride and he said that he would sign our Stearman cowling after the ride!) Who (besides R-2) would like to help be a BiPlane Judge this year? **Glenn Watson** will be our official photographer again and look at his slide show of last year's aircraft!

<http://glennwatsonphoto.com/images/flyin/index.html>

I am advertising our CENTEX aircraft to Air-shows and Fly-Ins (for fuel and accommodations). I have contacted a few events in Texas so let me know of the events that you would like us to reach.

BWStearman@yahoo.com

God blessed me with refinancing the Stearman through American Airlines Credit Union so they get my 110% endorsement! Like Uncle Fred used to say ... Let's keep 'em Flyin!

Cheers, Buck ><



SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

By: Col. Richard Hall

With upcoming flying events, both at the hangar and away, we need to be especially vigilant for safety of visitors and ourselves. If there are turning props, you need to be very careful to stay clear of the propeller arc; it is a good idea to do so even when they are not turning as sometimes someone might inadvertently turn on a switch that could cause a prop to rotate.

If you are towing aircraft, be sure to have sufficient wing walkers to advise you of clearances, etc.

If you plan to help with marshalling of aircraft, please review the hand signals for

cont...

Safety Officer's Report continued:

such activities. We have two locations in the hangar where these are located: one outside the briefing room at the SE corner and one outside the break room along the west wall. Please keep your work areas clean and safe for all involved, including our visitors. Please do not hesitate to report any unsafe actions/practices/work areas, etc. to me or any other staff member.



OPERATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

By: Col. Mike Renck

Airshow season is off to a slow start, but we are having some inquiries about fly-overs and appearances at some smaller shows. We can only hope that the price of fuel doesn't rise to rapidly! Check out the calendar on the wing website to keep up to date on potential appearances.

April 9 - **Bluebonnet Airshow** (waiting to hear back from them about fuel) (Burnet)

April 16-17 - **Muster Day** - American Heroes Fly-Over (Camp Mabry) (working on this)

April 17 - **Valero Texas Open** (San Antonio) Fly-Over.

April 30 - **Bi-Plane Fly-In** (San Marcos)

May 21 - **Hondo Fly-In** - (Hondo)

May 30 - **Memorial Day Fly-Overs** in various locations (working on this)

June 4 - **Aviation Expo** (small show) Coulter Field (Bryan/College Station)



MAINTENANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

By: Col. Ray Clausen

We have been in a sort of quiet mode for the past few weeks as we look forward to the air show season. Minor preventive maintenance is an ongoing activity at the **Cobra Den** and that is what has been going on for the most part. The majority of the maintenance work has been on the **Yellow Rose** and the **P-63**. We are working out an almost trivial vacuum problem in the **U-3**. The **Tora** birds are in tip-top shape and as I write this, the

310 Kate is out on the road for a three-week trip. We found another oil leak in **Ol' Yeller** and that has her looking cleaned than ever. The **St. Philips** crew came in on March 26th and did a weight and balance exercise on **Col. Bill Powers' CJ-6**. They enjoyed doing it so much that they hope to use our planes in future weight and balance classes. This will let owners get accurate data on their aircraft and its center of gravity.

The **P-63** project is racing along! Both fuel bladders are in permanently and the liquidometers were tested Saturday. The instrument panel work is complete and the cockpit has been installed. A fuel selector valve was located and is being fitted. Once in place, fuel can be put in the tanks for a leak check and soon after that, the boost pumps will be tested. The last control surfaces will be installed once the tanks are sealed up and then it is just installing panels before we make some noise with that beautiful new engine. The engine has been motored over on the plane's battery to test the electrical system and to tease the aircraft sponsors. Seeing that huge prop spin, even if only at the starter speed, is a big milestone, and it really has us anxious for that first run and flight.

The **P-39** was slipped in my work priorities while we worked to get the **Yellow Rose** running. Now that the **Rose** project is largely in the hands of the OPS officer and the pilots, I will be turning the majority of my attention to the **P-39**. Work has been progressing well, but the pace will pick up dramatically now. We are ready to begin the installation of the new leading edge skins and the removal of the last few dents and blemishes. The annual condition inspection will be performed in the next couple of weeks.

On March 19th, both engines of the **Yellow Rose** were started. It was a very good run. We finished the engine installation and completed the B inspection afterwards. On March 25th, she was taken out and put through some power checks. I had to adjust

Maintenance Officer's Report continued
the fuel pressure on the right engine (while it was running – gulp!) but the tests were completely successful and the performance of both engines was fantastic. The **Rose** needs a nosewheel tire, which should be in this week.

We are looking forward to a great air show season, and I encourage everyone to come out and participate! Thanks!



Centex Wing Meeting Minutes: 3/08/11
1943 hrs.

Centex Wing Meeting began and opened with Pledge of Allegiance and prayer led by Col. Billy Parker

The minutes from the February Wing newsletter Col. Buck Willis moved acceptance, Col. Greg Young seconded, and affirmed by members present.

New Members/Guests:

Steven Alexander, Airport Manager of San Marcos Municipal Airport attended. Mr. Alexander is also a Colonel in the CAF.

Gerald Mitchell, a friend of **Col. Doug Compton** was present.

Col. Richard Ferguson introduced **Ryan Everett**, Centex Wing financial adviser from Edward Jones.

Col. Mel Soderberg introduced **Marsha Harris** and her son **Justin** (USMC). They have both attended our annual Dinner Dance since 2005.

Executive Officer:

Col. Willis mentioned the upcoming Bi-Plane Fly-In and provided handbills for the event. The date of the fly-in will be Apr. 30th. The event is scheduled to be at least as big, if not twice the size as last years' fly-in, with a variety of different aircraft from around the region, including possibly an **AN-2 Antonov**, a large Russian Bi-Plane. WWII pilots present will be offered rides in Boeing Stearman Bi-Planes. **Col. Jim Liles** agreed to be "grill master" for the event.

There will be a **Heart Association Walk** on March 26th at the **Seton Medical Center Hays** in Kyle, Texas.

Clearly Classy Events is planning to rent space from the hanger, date to be determined.

The financing for **Buck's Stearman** has fallen though, and he asked members for help and suggestions. The **Centex Wing Staff** will meet regarding this matter.

Operations Report:

Col. Mike Renck reported on scheduled events listed on the Centex Wing web site www.centexwing.com.

The fly-over at the **Alamo** on March 6th was a success. **SNJ "Ole Yeller"** flown by **Col. Fier**, the U-

3 flown by **Col. Epley**, and the **U-11** flown by **Col. Renck** commemorated the 175th anniversary of the battle of the Alamo.

Finance Report:

Col. Judy McMillan presented the financial report to members. **Col. Colaluca** moved acceptance, **Col. McMillan** seconded; motion carried. **Col. McMillan** also stated that receipts last year exceeded expenditures. Dues are due in January each year.

Maintenance Report:

Col. Clausen had to leave due to a cold. **Col. Liles** gave the maintenance report and stated that repairs to the **P-39** are progressing. The skin should be put on the left wing leading edge soon.

Col. Randy (Sarge) Smith has been working on the fuel system on the **P-63**, and it is almost complete. Anti-freeze has been added, and oil should be added soon. Once the oil is in, the motor will crank without ignition to help circulate fluids. The newly rebuilt **2600 Wright-Cyclone** engine is on the **Yellow Rose**, and it may be fired-up Saturday.

Safety Report:

Col. Richard Hall has installed new eyewash stations throughout the hangar, and replenished fluid in the old stations. **Col. Hall** also brought a book that is for sale. The book is about Bombers from 1935 – 1960, with vintage aviation photographs from WWII, Korea, and the Cold War. The book is regularly \$26.00, but our price is \$13.90 if we purchased four at one time. Shipping would be free.

Adjutant:

Col. Klaus had nothing new to report.

Special Projects:

Col. Epley reported that he received several bids on repairing the freeze damage on the plumbing throughout the hangar. The plumbers should complete the repairs soon. Water has been restored to the upstairs Officers Club, the adjacent restrooms, and some parts of downstairs. The fire suppression system is now operational.

Sick Call / Gone West:

Col. Mike Colliers' father had passed away.

Col. Ed McCafferty's family sent a letter thanking the **Centex Wing** for their support. There is also another Obituary on **Col. McCafferty** in the room.

Cols. Ray and Alison Enders' daughter had passed away, after battling illness for 13 years.

Old Business:

Col. Ender reported that the **Glen McDuffy** autographed photos have arrived. **Glen McDuffy** is the man made famous by the Time Square photo known as the "Kissing Sailor" taken at the end of WWII.

Good of the Wing:

Col. Lannon announced that the *Commemorative Air Force* awarded the *CenTex Wing* the **2010 Distinguished Unit Award**. The Unit Leader presented a banner and plaque to the membership.
Col. Colaluca announced that he had placed a picture in the museum of **Cols. Grant Lannon and Tim Black**, along with a recent visitor to the Wing; a Medal of Honor winner from the Vietnam era.
Col. Alison Ender wanted to congratulate the effort by **Clint Epley** on the making of the 2010 Dinner Dance photo book. The book is for sale at \$54.00. Discounts are available with an on-line purchase.
Col. Jim McKinley motioned to adjourn the meeting, and **Col. William Foster** seconded.
Meeting was concluded at approximately 2020 hrs.
Col. Kelly Klaus, Adjutant

MOVIE NIGHT

Now playing at the CenTex Hangar!
April 2 at 1700hrs Flying Leathernecks
John Wayne
April 16 at 1700hrs 12 O'clock High
Gregory Peck

Popcorn and drinks are available: Come all!

FINANCE OFFICER'S NOTE:

By: Col. Judy McMillan
Everyone who has been a member of the Centex Wing for more than a year, knows that **ANNUAL DUES SHOULD BE PAID IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR**. Period. New members who join in January through September also pay the next January. There have been reminders in the newsletter for several months and many members from 2010 have not yet paid for 2011. Centex does not survive on dues payments alone but we need your support and interest and that is what dues payments provide the Wing. As a member, you receive the newsletter, email 'blasts' that keep you informed of activities and a Roster. The biggest benefit to you furthering the purpose and aims of the CAF, and keeping the CAF Hanger at San Marcos operating.
If you have not already, please mail your dues to: Finance, Centex Wing, 1841 Airport Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666. Or you can bring them to the Wing meeting on April 12. Thanks for your continued support.

**CENTEX WING WINS CAF 2010
DISTINGUISHED UNIT AWARD!**

THE CENTEX WING HAS INVIGORATED ITSELF WITH ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERS WHO ARE KEEPING ALL 16 CAF/PRIVATELY OWNED AIRCRAFT IN THE CENTEX HANGER IN REFURBISHMENT OR OPERATIONAL FLYING CONDITION. THEY ARE REBUILDING THE CAF P-63 AND MAINTAINING THE ONLY FLYING P-39 IN THE WORLD WHILE PROVIDING CRITICAL HELP IN KEEPING THE B-25 YELLOW ROSE OPERATIONAL. THESE AIRCRAFT PERFORM MANY AIRSHOW APPEARANCES, SPECIAL EVENT FLYOVERS, FORMATION TRAINING SORTIES, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. CENTEX MEMBERS MAINTAIN THE WING'S LEASED WWII CAF HANGER IN SAN MARCOS, TEXAS SO THAT MANY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CAN TAKE PLACE THERE. THE 2010 VETERAN'S WEEKEND HANGER DANCE WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN HISTORY IN TERMS OF NUMBERS ATTENDING (OVER 1000), SATISFACTION OF THOSE ATTENDING AND NET REVENUE. THE CENTEX MUSEUM IN THE HANGER, MAINTAINED BY UNIT MEMBERS, IS VISITED BY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE EVERY YEAR INCLUDING VETERANS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS. THE REPUTATION OF THE AIRCRAFT AND THE WING HAS RISEN TO THE LEVEL OF ABSOLUTE DEPENDABILITY. THE UNIT'S ESPRIT DE CORPS TRULY REFLECTS THE CAF MISSION TO "ESTABLISH AN ORGANIZATION HAVING THE DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM AND ESPRIT DE CORPS NECESSARY TO OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE MILITARY AIRCRAFT AS SYMBOLS OF OUR AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION HERITAGE."

BY ORDER OF:
JETHRO E. CULPEPER
COLONEL, CAF
COMMANDER



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LET'S GO FLY!

April 2-3 West Houston Squadron Open House
West Houston Airport, Texas
www.westhoustonsqdn.org

April 9 Bluebonnet Airshow
Burnet Municipal Airport, Texas
www.bluebonnetairshow.com

April 14-17 Doolittle Raiders Reunion
Strategic Air & Space Museum
Omaha, Nebraska
www.doolittlereunion.com

April 16 Hops and Props
CAF HQ Commemorative Center
Midland, Texas
www.commemorativeairforce.com

April 30 Biplane Fly-In
San Marcos Municipal Airport, Texas
www.biplaneflyin.org

May 20-22 Hondo Air Field Fly-In
South Texas Regional Airport
Hondo, Texas
Contact: gibeaujp@aol.com

Oct 7-9 Airsho!
CAF HQ
Midland, Texas
www.commemorativeairforce.com

Oct 15-17 Wings Over Houston Airshow
Ellington Airport
Houston, Texas
www.wingsoverhouston.com



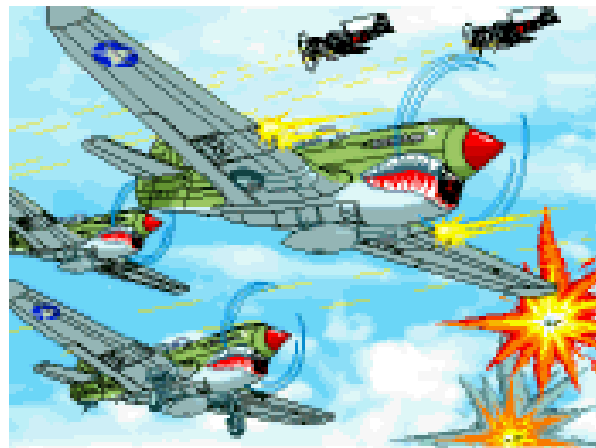
Photo: Tony Rogers

daunting task, but new data shows that the EAA Young Eagles program is making a significant impact in creating aviators.

The results emerged from a joint EAA/FAA project that matched the names of Young Eagles, now ages 15-34, flown since the program's inception in July 1992 with the FAA registry. Among the findings is that more than 1.1 million Young Eagles who are now age 15 to 34 are 5.4 times more likely to earn a pilot certificate than those of the same age who have not had a Young Eagles flight. Already, 7.3% of all pilots below age 35 are former Young Eagles, a number that will grow as the group reaches the age — late 30s to early 50s. Other facts to emerge from the study:

- 9% of those pilots are female, a 50% difference when compared to females being just 6% of the current U.S. pilot population.
- Two out of every 100 young people who take their first Young Eagles flight at age 17 earn pilot certificates. The older a Young Eagle is at the time of a first flight, the more likely that young person is to become a pilot. Young Eagles ages 13 and up are especially more likely to pursue a pilot certificate.
- The more flights for a Young Eagle the more likely it is that the young person will become a pilot.

EAA founded the Young Eagles program in 1992. There have been more than 1.6 million free demonstration flights provided to young people around the world through the efforts of 43,000 volunteer pilots and 50,000 ground volunteers. More information is available at www.YoungEagles.org.



YOUNG EAGLE FACTS

From an article by: Janice Wood, 3/3/2011
Getting young people engaged in flying in the midst of a technology-filled world may seem like a

"When this war's over, I'm joining the CAF!"