

HIGHFLIGHT

CENTEX



Photo Credit: Ryan S. [www.Texastailwheel.com](http://www.Texastailwheel.com)

The cutoff date for the newsletter is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month



Place stamp here

COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE

The official newsletter of  
The Central Texas Wing  
Commemorative Air Force  
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Honoring American Military Aviation through Flight, Exhibition and Remembrance



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NEXT MEETING IS: TUESDAY, 14 JUNE

CAF HANGER SAN MARCOS AIRPORT  
7:00 PM.

MAIN DISH IS: Stuffed Bell Peppers  
Thanks: Jim Lyles  
STAFF MEETING AT 6:30PM ON June 13

### COMMENTS FROM THE CAT HERDER

By: Col. Grant Lannon Wing Leader

May was an exciting time when it comes to the Yellow Rose. Once again, parts on the left engine failed and on return from the Temple airshow, we had to divert to Georgetown. I will let maintenance describe how the Rose activities have been affecting CENTEX maintenance activities.

**Judy** noticed that we had the highest water bills in April and May since she has gotten usage comparisons from the utility company. This set up an intense search for a water leak in the hanger. After watching the water meter while we turned off main valves in the hanger (newly installed main valves), we decided the water leak was on the South side of the hanger. The plumber could detect nothing on that side and decided the leak was in the upstairs ladies room on the North side. However, we found the leak in one of the toilets in the men's room. Both leaks are in the process of being repaired.

We had several flyovers in May. **Billy Parker, Joe Enzinger**, and I flew over the Scott & White hospital complex on 20 May for a Memorial Day ceremony. I am sure the Ops Officer will tell about the fly-in at Hondo on the 21st, where we sent three

airplanes. We were quite disappointed the earth did not end that day because we were hoping to be airborne to have a really good seat to watch it. **Bill Fier** and I restarted the Onion Creek Golf tournament on May 26th with a two-ship flight over all the fairways so they would know when to start playing golf. We still have the Memorial Day flyovers (as I write this) on May 30th at Salado and Bastrop.

After watching the wind blow for two months, I packed up my windsurfing gear and joined friends in South Padre for four days of windsurfing. In windsurfing terms, we got "skunked" (no wind). Now people are suggesting I bring my windsurfing board to the hanger.

**Billy Parker**, who was providing the main course at the CENTEX meeting on Tuesday 14 June, was summoned to a mandatory family formation in California so **Jim Liles** is his substitute and is providing stuffed Bell Peppers as the main course. Thanks, Jim.



### Did You Know?

An **aviator** is a person who flies an aircraft. The first recorded use of the term (*aviateur* in French) was in 1887, as a variation of 'aviation' from the Latin *avis* (meaning *bird*), coined in 1863 by G. de la Landelle in *Aviation Ou Navigation Aérienne* (*Aviation or Air Navigation*). The term **aviatrix** (*aviatrice* in French) is used for a female aviator. The term is often applied simply to pilots, but is often extended to include aviation navigators, bombardiers, Weapon System Officers, and Electronic Warfare Officers.



## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**By: Col. Buck Willis**

At the Airport Commissioner's meeting in May the FAA Funding was released so the taxiway repair and staffing of the tower will begin this summer. Installation of the ATCT tower system will be completed by 01 July, which could be start of tower control.

Red Bird will be an FBO close to our hangar and they will have a flight school with simulators, a Café and they will also be selling fuel. I have proposed promising them 100% of our KHYI Fuel purchases if they promise to give us Full Service fuel delivery at the lowest, self serve price. (I will be meeting with them next month.)

Also the city announced a future goal to sell the old fuel tanks up the field. I asked that we be put in the bidder's list. I asked that we be included on the bidder's list for a possible October sale or auction of these tanks. If we get those tanks, I suggest raising wing dues for aircraft owners in exchange for fuel "at cost."

The Virtual Tour of the CENTEX Museum and Yellow Rose should be up on our website by the end of June and that will allow any website visitors to zoom in on any feature they wish to see more closely. We will be the first CAF Wing with this feature on our website!

Let's keep 'Em flying!

Buck ><



## **SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT**

**By: Col. Richard Hall**

I encourage you to stay hydrated at all times while working at the hangar or at events away from home station. Actually, you should consider proper hydration even while at home doing whatever you may be doing; dehydration can sneak up on you and compound other medical issues you may have.

Thank you for keeping 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 of the other staff members.

Be safe at all times no matter where you are; safety awareness is not inborn, you have to adopt the mindset to be safe.



## **OPERATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT**

**By: Col. Mike Renck**

Things are starting to slow down for the summer. The increase in the price of fuel has affected shows and fly-overs. It looks as if we will only be doing two fly-overs for the Memorial Day holiday weekend, and both will be on Memorial Day.

Friday, 20 MAY, we had a fly-over of Scott & White hospital behind the outlet mall in Round Rock at 11:15 AM. Saturday, 21 MAY, we had two events scheduled, and they were going to fit together so well, something had to go wrong, and it did! The annual fly-over of the Boerne baseball fields was scheduled to take place at 1000 hrs, then we would press on to Hondo for the Tex Hill Wing's fly-in. Unfortunately the weather didn't want to cooperate. We spent the morning waiting to get VFR conditions as the San Marcos Airport had a ceiling of 300 feet and visibility of 1-1/4 miles!

Weather checks showed improvement at Hondo towards us, but it wasn't good enough in time to make our TOT at Boerne. They were called and told that we had to scrub due to weather. Naturally they understood and said that hopefully it would be better next year. Boerne was to be **Joe Enzminger** in his CJ-6A, **Calvin Allen** in his T-6, **Grant Lannon** in **Rich Ferguson's** SNJ-4 "Ol' Yeller", and **Mike Renck** in the U-11. Joe was not going to continue to Hondo due to other commitments.

While waiting for the weather to lift (I had ordered ceiling jacks to lift the clouds, and scud goggles too, but they didn't arrive), After lunch, conditions were almost good

enough to take-off at San Marcos, and better closer to Hondo. We pulled the planes out and started loading passengers.

We had three special passengers on this mission. **TSgt Amanda Stephens**, Executive Assistant to the Commander of the 340 FTG at Randolph AFB was invited along as a "thank you" for all the hard work preparing the retirement and the change of command ceremony for the commander of the 340th. Also invited were **SrA Nicole Jaszemski** and Amanda's father **Bob**.

The arrival was fun at Hondo. We made a formation photo pass before setting up for initial and break to landing. That's the photo on the cover! When we left, we departed with an encore formation photo pass.

Knowing it was going to be a small event, and not having a lot of space in the planes, we just took Cobra Den and Yellow Rose shirts, and Yellow Rose caps over, but did sell a few. Thanks to **Randy and Teresa Smith** for handing PX sales! **Teresa** rode over in the U-11, along with **Amanda** and **Nicole**. **Randy** was with **Calvin**, and Amanda's father, **Bob**, got a ride in "Ol' Yeller". We thought it fitting to give Bob a T-6 ride in appreciation for raising a daughter who has contributed so much to the defense of our country, and he's also a big airplane buff! On the way back, we switched some riders around. **Amanda** and her friend both got to fly back in T-6 type planes, her father came back in the U-11. Also in the U-11 were **Randy and Teresa**.

They have sent notes about their experience included below this article. If you would like to see photos from the Hondo Fly-In, they are posted on the Warbird Information Exchange. Here is a link to the page:

<http://warbirdinformationexchange.org/php/BB3/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=41043>. Thanks to **Ryan S.** of [www.TexasTailwheel.com](http://www.TexasTailwheel.com) for posting the photos, and for giving us permission to use the one of our formation photo pass arrival on the cover!

We are still working with the small show at Coulter Field, which will be on 4 JUNE.

They had requested the P-39, and were interested in the P-63. I am trying to talk them into other aircraft.

Comments on the Flights:

*The flights on Saturday May 21 were a tremendous experience for me. If I can be of any assistance to the CAF I would be glad to help. I am have a great deal of experience trouble shooting problems in electrical systems in military hardware.*

*Thanks Again,*

*Robert F Stephens*

*The whole experience was awesome! I enjoyed every minute of it. It was definitely once in a lifetime opportunity, and I am thankful that I had a chance to experience it. The guys were very nice and knowledgeable. I would definitely do it again if I am ever given the opportunity.*

*SrA Jaszemski*

*Saturday was an amazing day for me, it was the perfect end to one of the most stressful weeks I've had in a very long time. Being able to fly in the U-11 and the T-6 all in the same day was an experience most will never get to have. The best part for me was the look on my Dad's face...like a kid in a candy store. When I realized we were going to fly over my parents home I knew he would be even more thrilled. My parent's neighbors saw the formation and commented on it to my Dad and he was more than excited to let them know he was in one of the planes. It is great that we have the CAF to keep the history of these planes alive and even better that you all are so close to Randolph. I look forward to getting our Group more involved with you all and would love to help you all out whenever needed. Thanks again for the opportunity of a life time!!!*

*AMANDA J. STEPHENS, TSgt, USAFR*

### **Additional from Ops:**

The economy and price of fuel took its toll on our fly-over requests this year, but we still had two on the books to do today. Salado, TX, at 0945, and Bastrop, TX, at 1030. Low, broken ceiling, but not too low. We had 1900 when we launched, with winds only 10 degrees off runway heading, but blowing 20 knots, gusting to 25.

Heading for Salado were Joe Enzminger in his CJ-6A, Grant Lannon and Rich Ferguson in Rich's SNJ-4, Terry Adams in his SNJ-6, and Mike Renck in the U-11A. We made our usual skirting of the Austin Class C airspace to the west, where we tightened up as we flew north on Loop 1 (MoPac) on the way to Salado. Two passes there, a Diamond, then a 90/270 with a switch to a strong right fingertip for the Missing Man. Then a turn toward Bastrop and #3 rejoining.

Once we were together again, lead called for a split into elements, then element lead changes, and a formation lead change as we got back together. It sounds like a cluster, but it went really well. The reason is Bastrop is my "hometown", and I know the landmarks and target very well. We made better time than we planned, so we made a couple of orbits over and around the federal prison to the north of the ceremony, then started the run to target, passing overhead exactly at 1030. (Oh, don't worry about the orbits at the prison, they were expecting us. I work there!) Bastrop was three passes. First pass was a diamond, then a switch to trail for the second pass, and then over to a strong right fingertip for the Missing Man. The weather and visibility were great....except for the wind! It's sure fun to fly tight formation with gusty wind bouncing you all over the sky. Good thing we all have good seatbelts!



### **MAINTENANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**By: Col. Ray Clausen**

It has been a busy month at the Cobra Den since the last newsletter. There hasn't been a lot of maintenance required by the usual stable of planes, but we've continued to work hard on the P-63 and P-39 while doing minor things to the other aircraft. **Billy Parker's** Zero got new brake pads and the new machine guns are almost ready for installation. The 310 Kate got a new Redline disc brake system installed. **Bill Fier** and **Jim Liles** did most of the installation with me watching over their shoulders. They did a great job and she was taxied and flown today. Ol' Yeller flew a mission last week and came back looking really good. I believe we have reached a point with her that good preventive maintenance will keep her ready and going strong. The U-3 has been quiet as **Clint Epley** has been away for a while but I've washed an engine and have been doing some minor maintenance and inspections on her. Both **Calvin's** Redtail T-6 and **Mike Collier's** T-6 told me a week or so ago that they'd like more air time. Calvin did fly his last weekend and it is performing beautifully. **Buck's** Stearman has a charging system issue that we will be investigating soon. I'll be starting **Bill Powers'** CJ annual condition inspection after Memorial Day. Bill will be putting the plane up for sale soon and that will be a first step in getting ready for that. The replacement engine for the Rose will be here in a day or so. We got it back to San Marcos last Saturday. We are working closely with AeroTrader to find any possible cause for the loss of the engine, other than simple bearing failure, but we haven't found anything yet.

We did start the P-63 and it sounds fantastic! There were a couple of issues with the cooling system and the fuel system but they were quickly found and fixed. **Mike Collier** has taxied the plane on a couple of occasions and even took it down to the FBO for fuel. We have begun installing the ailerons and

flaps. We will be installing and modern (and accurate) fuel quantity system as soon as it comes in. Once that is done, it will get a thorough going over and it will pretty much be ready to fly. **Wood Woodford** from CAF Headquarters will be coming to the hangar June 1 to inspect it and (hopefully) give it the CAF's blessing to fly. It will certainly be run that day, so come on out and hear that incredible Allison roar! Plane captain, **Mike Marando**, and I were checked out by **Mike Collier** on starting the P-63 and running it at low power. Let me tell you, that is a **WHOLE LOTTA FUN!!!**



We are really rockin' on the P-39. **Scott Phifer** and **Jim Liles** are doing some very good metal work on the wing skin (with a little help from me). Meanwhile, plane captain **Randy Smith** is servicing the plane and will be installing a new radio soon. His better half, **Teresa**, is also involved and has taken on the repairs to the horizontal stabilizer leading edge. She's a fast learner and that repair is progressing well. I've left the sheet metal off of the P-39 to show Randy some of the internals of the aircraft. The condition inspection is largely done and we'll start closing her up soon. The plane will look much better then. The battery finally died, but we got more than three times the expected life out of it. She probably won't be flight ready by our initial June 15 estimate, but maybe by the end of the month?

Come on out and join us if you can. You can turn a wrench, wash a plane, or just shout mean words at the owls (I saw six of them this morning) with the rest of us! Thanks!

## Centex Wing Meeting Minutes

5/10/11  
1924Hrs.

*Centex Wing Meeting began and opened with Pledge of Allegiance and prayer led by **Col. Mike Jones**.*

**Col. Grant Lannon** thanked **Linda and Clint Epley** for meatloaf dinner at the April meeting.

*Approval of the minutes from the April Centex Wing newsletter was moved by **Col. Buzz Perez**, seconded by **Col. Buck Willis** and accepted by members present.*

*The Centex Wing Staff approved funds for a new cooler that will be coming soon to the main floor break room. The current cooler is too noisy and may not last much longer.*

*The staff also approved funds for a welder which included other items including a portable compressor, a 6.5 HP generator, and a professional water pump. The compressor, generator, and water pump are available to be purchased from the wing. If you are interested in the items, contact **Grant** or **Clint**.*

### **Executive Officer:**

**Col. Willis** reported on the Bi-Plane Fly-In was a great success! Several aircraft, including 8 Stearman were present for the fly-in. Pictures of the event can be seen at [www.biplaneflyin.org](http://www.biplaneflyin.org). In the recent airport commission meeting, the control tower may be going active in mid July. The Redbird FBO facility should be breaking ground in 4 to 5 weeks.

**Col. Willis** also reported that the City is considering selling off some fuel tanks which the Centex Wing could purchase and use to store fuel.

### **New Members/Guests:**

**Col. Ken Gray** from Austin came as a guest and had been a member of Highland Lakes Squadron. Ken specializes in an RC plane group known as the Dare Devils.

### **Operations Report:**

**Col. Renck** reported that there are several fly-over events scheduled in the weeks ahead. Thursday the 12th, there is a fly-over Onion Creek. Mon. the 16th there will be a Young Eagles event at the hangar. The kids are from Grays School. Friday the 20th, there is a fly-over scheduled over Scott and White in Round Rock. On the 21st there is a four-ship fly-over Boerne baseball field on the way to the Hondo airshow. The only Memorial Day flight scheduled is a fly-over at Salado and Bastrop on Monday the 30th starting at 10:00 am.

The Coulter Field fly-over Bryan-College Station has been pushed back to Sat. June the 4th.

**Finance Report:**

**Col. Judy McMillan** reported that expenditures were high in April mainly due to the freeze damage repairs.

**Maintenance Report:**

**Col. Clausen** reported Col. Klaus has been fabricating new gun barrel mounts for **Billy Parker's** Zero.

The 310 Kate has been out on Tora practice missions and has been performing well.

The P-39 now has new skin on the left leading edge of the wing.

The P-63 has had several run-ups and appears to working well.

The B-25 Yellow Rose has lost its recently replaced left engine and metal was discovered in the oil.

**Saftey Report:**

**Col. Richard Hall** had no report.

**Adjutant:**

**Col. Klaus** had nothing new to report.

**PX:**

**Col. Hall** wanted to thank **Col. Lee** and his wife **Donna Lee** for volunteering running the PX during the Bi-Plane fly-in event.

**Special Projects:**

No special projects reported.

**Sick Call / Gone West:**

**Col. Allison Ender** reported that **Mike and Jo Colaluca** were not present during the meeting due to illness.

**Good of the Wing:**

**Col. Tim Black** shared with the members that **Col. Colaluca** gave a tour of the hangar and museum to a retired officers women's club. **Col. Black** also mentioned that tours through the hangar should be taken through the PX to help boost sales.

**Old Business:**

**Col. Epley** has a 2010 Dinner Dance book for someone who had purchased it. If you have not received your purchased book, please contact **Clint**.

**Clint** also reported that the upstairs bathroom doors should be kept closed to not waste A/C.

**New Business:**

**Col. Lannon** is putting together a grant request on putting up new windows and siding on both sides of the hangar. If members know contractors who replace windows or siding

should contact **Col. Mike Colaluca**.

**Col. Soderburg** needs some help conducting a tour of some home schooled children through the hangar on Fri. the 13th.

**Col. Allison Ender** brought up **Renny Armstrong** who introduced **Glen McDuffy** to the Centex Wing. **Mrs. Armstrong** is putting together a book dedicated to the Centex Wing. The book is titled **"Wings and a Ring"**. The book is to be released soon and plans are to have a book signing at the hangar.

Allison also mentioned that its time to start organizing for the 2011 Dinner Dance which will take place in November. **Col. Ender** would like to have someone be the lead person on advertising for the Dinner Dance. If anyone wishes to volunteer, please contact Allison.

**Good of the Wing:**

Nothing new was reported.

**Col. Renck** made motion to conclude the meeting, seconded by **Col. Buzz Perez**. Meeting concluded approximately 2005 Hrs.

*Col. Kelly Klaus, Adjutant*

**MOVIE NIGHT**

Now playing at the CenTex Hangar!

June 4 at 1900hrs Blue Max

George Papard and James Mason

June 18 at 1900hrs Fly Boys

James Franco

Popcorn and drinks are available: Come all!



Oct 7-9 Airsho!

CAF HQ

Midland, Texas

[www.commemorativeairforce.com](http://www.commemorativeairforce.com)

Oct 15-17 Wings Over Houston Airshow

Ellington Airport

Houston, Texas

[www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com)

**Col. Mel Soderburg writes:**

I received this message is from my daughter after a recent event at the hangar. My grandchildren loved the event. "Today was a great day at the Commemorative Air Force in San Marcos! We celebrated Lincoln's birthday, toured a San Marcos fire truck, saw some awesome planes, ate delicious cake, kids got to climb in the B-25, Dad brought his 'stang, and Megan actually smiled for some pictures! At the end of the day the kid's were nice and worn out and I got some sun as well. We lived life today, Sara" Mel



*Billy Dawson, Mel & Grandson*

**Sam Bulger writes:**

*I would like to take a moment to thank everyone in our squadron who has served in the Armed Forces or their children and loved ones. Thank you on this Memorial Day weekend*

**Carl Spooner writes:**

*I have been involved for all ten years that we have been having it (the Bastrop Memorial Day Fly-Over). This year was perfect on timing and execution. Could not have been better. However I was watching south for your first approach and didn't see your first approach until you were approx. 1/2 mile out. Our service music for the different branches of service had just started as you passed over on the first pass. Excellent, Keep up the good work. Pass this along to all involved.*

**MCHUMOR.COM** by T. McCracken



"Dad, may I use the plane tonight?"

**Grace Preparatory Academy Visits**

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, Grace Preparatory Academy from New Braunfels visited the hangar for a Young Eagles fly day and hangar tour. These young people were very attentive and want to come back. The school will offer an Aviation Class this fall semester and hope to use the hangar in some of their classes. Thank you **Cadet Amity Dohoney** for working the PX again and taking in over \$30.00.

Thanks also go out to **Col.'s Rich Hall, William Foster, Peggy Jones**, and a special thank you to **Stan Jensen** for coming all the way from Georgetown. These guys and gal gave their time (vacation time from work), fuel, and planes to fly these young people. I think this makes over 90 Young Eagles so far this year.

Col. Mel Soderburg