



## The Eagle's Scream

Official publication of the Commemorative Air Force Florida Unit based at Sidney H. Taylor Field in Deland, FL

### Florida Wing Fall Newsletter

Welcome New Members  
CAF Col John Grones  
CAF Col Nick Tramontano  
CAF Cadet Ryan Hollingsworth



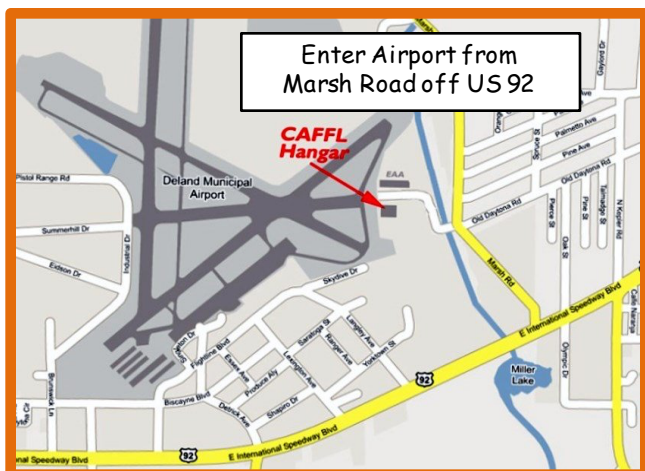
### Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting  
Election of Officers  
December 19, 2015

## Staff Officers

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Wing Leader	CAF Col Woodie Sprouse	<a href="mailto:woodie6@cfl.rr.com">woodie6@cfl.rr.com</a>	(206) 708-9664
Executive Officer	CAF Col Art Patstone	<a href="mailto:Artpatstone@aol.com">Artpatstone@aol.com</a>	(386) 322-7611
Adjutant	CAF Col Patricia Mickelson	<a href="mailto:pmickelson@centurylink.net">pmickelson@centurylink.net</a>	(352) 351-5087
Operations Officer	CAF Col Joel Lonky	<a href="mailto:jlonky@gmail.com">jlonky@gmail.com</a>	(407) 733-8276
Maintenance Officer	CAF Col John Makinson	<a href="mailto:makinsonaviation@gmail.com">makinsonaviation@gmail.com</a>	(386) 682-0426
Finance Officer	CAF Col Jon Shay	<a href="mailto:jonshay2001@yahoo.com">jonshay2001@yahoo.com</a>	(850) 375-3715
Safety Officer	CAF Col Lou Beyer	<a href="mailto:LouisLindaB@gmail.com">LouisLindaB@gmail.com</a>	(386) 822 4359

## Location and Contact Information



Physical Address: 1570 Old NDB Road, DeLand, FL 32724

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1944, DeLand, FL 32721

Bob Robbins Memorial Hangar and Museum Hours:  
Open Every Saturday and Wednesday 0900-1400  
(For other times please call 206-708-9664)

Telephone: (386) 377-4499

Email: [T34FLCAF@gmail](mailto:T34FLCAF@gmail)

Web Page: [caffl.org](http://caffl.org)

# In Memory of Harry E. Van Iderstien

July 13, 1930 – September 5, 2015



Col. Brad Lang, CO Red Tail Squadron and  
Col. Harry Van Edelstein, Florida Wing

CAF Col Harry Van Iderstien, a long time supporter of the Commemorative Air Force's Red Tail Squadron and a recent member of the Florida Wing, passed away at his home in New Smyrna Beach in September following a long illness.

Born in Massachusetts, following his discharge from the Army he assumed a position in the Sheidow Bronze Foundry located in Brooklyn, NY. In 1963 he moved the foundry to Kingwood, WV. Where he volunteered his spare time to the Volunteer Fire Department, served on the Kingwood City Council and was subsequently elected Mayor.

Always an enthusiast of everything that had an engine, he found his greatest joy working and restoring antique automobiles: Duesenbergs, Rolls-Royces...but his favorite was the Cord! It was no secret that from his home in New Smyrna Harry became the unofficial "Cord Mechanical Expert" up and down the East Coast.

In the 1970's Harry expanded his love of engines to aircraft. He first owned a Cessna 182 and then purchased first one and then two additional T-34's that he maintained and flew from Massy Field south of Edgewater. In December 2013, Harry decided to donate his three T-34's to the CAF and asked CAF Col Patstone if he would help in the transaction. Harry's only proviso was that his T-34A, which he had restored and painted in the same scheme as the CAF Red Tail Squadron's P-51C, would be assigned by the CAF to the Red Tail Squadron.

Several years prior, Harry met CAF Col Brad Lang of the Red Tail Squadron at the New Smyrna Balloon Fest. Harry sincerely supported the mission of the Red Tail Squadron to spread the story of the Tuskegee Airmen and the role African-American men played in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War. From that point on Harry became a dedicated contributor to the CAF's Red Tail Squadron and supporter of the Florida Wing which he joined in 2014.

Last March, Harry joined the Wing in sponsoring the Red Tail travelling "Rise Above" exhibit and its four day visit to DeLand's, predominatly African-American, Southwestern Middle School. Over 900 students and teachers experienced the exhibit which included a 160 degree surround screen movie depicting the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. The next weekend the exhibit mover to the Wing's hangar where it was joined by Col. Brad Lang and his Red Tail P-51C.

On Saturday March 21st more than 200 visitors witnessed the official transfer of Harry's Red Tail T-34 to the CAF's Red Tail Squadron....The Commemorative Air Force and the Florida Wing will miss Harry!



CAF Col Lang receives the official  
CAF LOGO from CAF Col Van  
Iderstien for the Red Tail T-34A



CAF Cols Harry Van  
Iderstien and Lang and the  
Red Tail P-51C





## Wing Leader Report

### CAF Colonel H.G. "Woodie" Sprouse

I hope everyone is settling in for a pleasant Florida winter and getting set for two months of fall holiday activities? Unfortunately, or more correctly, fortunately for the Wing, the summer has been very busy for the your Wing Staff.

There are a number of topics that will be discussed more thoroughly throughout the newsletter but here's a list of the more interesting topics: N88RM completed it annual inspection along with a number of significant upgrades; the sandblasting of the NAS DeLand airport rotating beacon is now complete and has been preserved for painting and reassembly; the Wing commenced an exploratory effort to relocate it's facilities from Deland to the New Smyrna airport where a new, larger hangar might be built, the annual membership meeting will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the hangar.

CAF Col Butch Stevens and I attended the CAF's General Membership meeting in New Orleans on October 23<sup>rd</sup> which coincided with The Joint CAF/WW2 AirExpo. While there we were able to meet with all the Senior CAF Officers and discuss the future of our Wing...their opinion of the Wing's progress remains high and we continue to have their support.

## NAS DeLand Airport Beacon Restoration Report

For several years now the Florida Wing has discussed refurbishing the NAS DeLand Airport Beacon which had been languishing outside behind the Airport Manager's building. Last Spring the decision was made to "just do it..." and with the concurrence of the Airport Manager, Mr. John Eiff, the beacon was moved to the hangar and put under the control of the "Beacon Project Manager" CAF Col John Prestopino. John established a small but determined work team who disassembled the beacon and prepared it for sand blasting which was donated by DeLand Metal Craft Co. .

This Summer, the frame sandblasting was completed and returned to the hangar. The next step was to protect the newly cleaned surface and prepare it for painting when Col. Prestopino and his team returned for the Winter.

Thanks to the efforts of CAF Col Don Hollinsworth and CAF Cadet Trent Smith the protection and preparation phase was completed and the Beacon is now awaiting CAF Col Prestopino and his TLC!



The guys that made it happen:  
CAF Col Don Hollinsworth and CAF Cadet Trent Smith

## N88RM Completes its Annual Inspection and Upgrades



N88RM is back in our hangar having completed its annual inspection and upgrades at George Baker Aviation.

The annual inspection revealed only minor discrepancies which were quickly addressed. While the aircraft was located at George Baker Aviation the Staff elected to address a number of items and improvements that have been the "N88RM to-do" list for some time. These included interior and exterior touchup painting, corrosion prevention, new seat belts/harness for both front and rear cockpits, installation of a JPI engine monitoring system and GAMI fuel injectors and the relocation of the Hobbs Meter and flap position indicator.

The T-34 now sports the airframe identification of a 1960's Naval Training Squadron 1 (VT-1) primary trainer based at Naval Auxiliary Air Station Saufley Field, Pensacola.

A big thanks to the following Wing Members who assisted CAF Col Curtis Boulware and his associates in completing the work: CAF Cols Joel Lonky, Art Patstone, Jon Shay and Pat Foley.

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## Florida Wing Receives 2015-16 Volusia County Cultural Grant

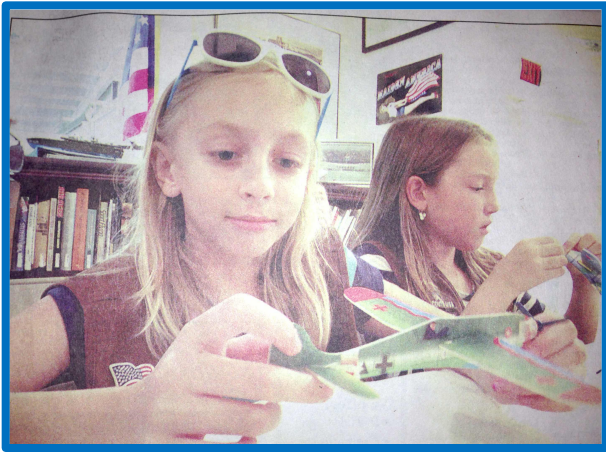
For the second year in a row, the Florida Wing received an award under the Volusia County Cultural Grant Program. The Grant is awarded to non-profit organizations that best provide a worthwhile and note worthy artistic and cultural experiences for the tax payers of Volusia County. Last year the Wing received \$5,206.00 and this year's award was increased to \$6,898.00. This year's grant proceeds will be distributed in four, equal, quarterly payments commencing in November of this year.

Applying for the Grant was and is a time consuming effort. The mission of the Florida Wing is education, such that generations of Americans will value and support the contributions of military aviation in assuring our nation's freedom. Expressing and quantifying this mission in terms that are meaningful to the County's Cultural Grant Committee has, at times, been difficult. However, over the course of these past two years, your Wing has striven to focus our education programs on the County's youth. In so doing, we have demonstrated that our mission is a valid cultural expression and worthy of financial support.

The lion's share of gratitude for the past two year's County Grant awards goes to CAF Cols Patricia Mickelson and Joe Drach as well as the volunteers who helped present and support the various youth programs in 2014-2015.



## Girl Scouts Return to Our Hangar



On September 5<sup>th</sup> the Girl Scouts returned to the Wing Hangar for the Wing's third Girl Scout Introduction To Aviation Event....specifically tailored for young girls.

While there is a well established Aviation Merit Badge curriculum for Boy Scouts there is no comparable Program for Girl Scouts....So, thanks to CAF Cols Patricia Mickelson, Dianne Moore, Joe Drach, "Kaz" Kaczmarczyk, Art Patstone; CAF Cadets Dustin Kaczmarczyk and Trent Smith they created a program. All together over 55 Girl Scout Brownies, Daisy Scouts and adults representing the Girl Scouts of Citrus, spent the day in the hangar learning how and why airplanes fly.

CAF Cols Dianne Moore and Joe Drach explained to the girls, and the adults, the basics principles of just how and why a

large metal airplane is able to get off the ground. CAF Col Dianne Moore, a commercial pilot herself, gave the girls a perspective of the various professional opportunities available to young women today. While most of the girls had flown on large commercial airliners they were curious about all the other big and small airplanes that they had seen flying around their homes.



CAF Col Joe Drach - Aviation 101



Girl Scout Pilot Time

After lunch, the day's sessions concluded with a personal inspection of the T-34, including some " front cockpit seat time" for the girls and a rare photo opportunity for parents and grandparents! The graduation ceremony culminated with each of the girls assembling a small glider and a flying competition.



CAF Col Dianne Moore assists in assembling a glider



One of Two Girl Scout Classes



## Volusia County Boy Scouts Takeover The Florida Wing For Three Days

On October 9<sup>th</sup> 22 Boy Scout Troops arrived at the Florida Wing's hangar for a three day Aviation Fall Camporee. There were 181 Scouts and 45 adults in attendance...165 Scouts participated in the Wing's Aviation Merit Badge counseling sessions!



Morning Colors With a Spruce Creek Flyover Salute  
"Looking Good and On Time"

The Scouts were divided into five groups which then rotated between Wing Training Teams, each covering a portion of the Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge Counseling requirements.



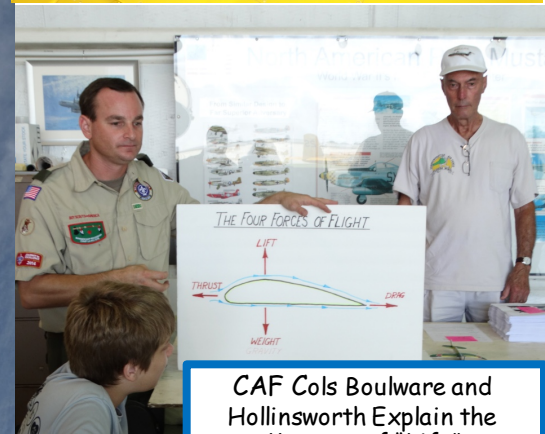
CAF Cols Dianne Moore and Jon Shay Explain and Airport Layout Followed by a Driving Tour



CAF Cadet Trent Smith Conducts Preflight Instruction For His Group of Scouts



CAF Col. Joe Drach Explains Why Pilots Take Fuel Samples When Doing an Aircraft Preflight



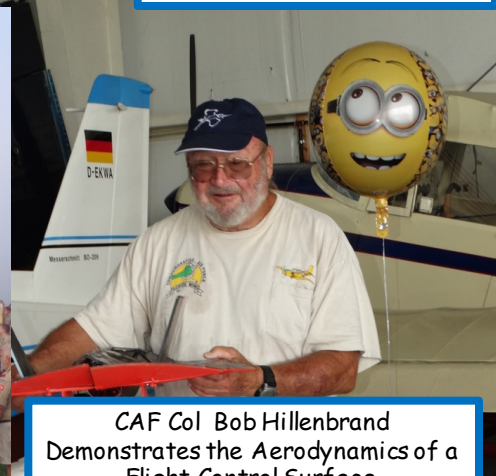
CAF Cols Boulware and Hollinsworth Explain the Mystery of "Lift"



CAF Col Bill Kaczmarczyk Conducts a Class on Types of Aircraft and Their Uses



A Final Scout Salute Before Breaking Camp and Heading Home



CAF Col Bob Hillenbrand Demonstrates the Aerodynamics of a Flight Control Surface

The Camporee was an unqualified success, The young men were well disciplined and enjoyed the weekend. It could not have happened without the help and support of the DeLand Airport Manager, John Eiff. The credit for the Aviation Merit Badge counseling really goes to the Wing Volunteers who spent a very long day teaching what they love....Aviation!

Thank you: CAF Cols Boivin, Boulware, Drach, Hillenbrand, Hollinsworth, Kaczmarczyk, Mickelson, Dianne and Richard Moore, Dale and Nancy Nicholson, Patstone, Shay, Sprouse, assisted by Brenda Ricci and Lance Martin and CAF Cadets Kaczmarczyk and Smith



## A New Home For the Florida Wing? A Letter to the Membership

Dear Florida CAF Wing Member,

October 31, 2015

The Wing has been located in DeLand since 1996 and in its present location since 2006 when the hangar was finally completed. In all those years, the Wing has not made a lasting connection with the greater DeLand community. Recognizing this fact, I began reaching out to the community "...showing the flag, as it were." We have joined the Chamber of Commerce, attended business meetings, written articles for the local paper, sponsored significant events such as: the Red Tail "Rise Above Tuskegee Airmen Exhibit" at a minority middle school, hosted the visits of "FIFI" and "Diamond L'll", most recently the Fall Boy Scout Camporee and still we are an unknown quantity.

In my mind, developing and nurturing such a relationship requires routine access to a greater density of aviation enthusiasts. Despite our almost 20 year relationship with DeLand we have only seven (7) members who reside in the DeLand Area, of which, three (3) actually participate in Wing activities. In comparison the Wing has twenty-seven (27) members who live in the Daytona/Port Orange area, eleven (11) of whom routinely participate in Wing activities...driving distance to DeLand being the reason for their not participating...although we have dedicated members who drive much further from Ocala, The Villages and Celebration in Orlando!

Over the past two years we have informally explored alternative hangar facilities on the DeLand airport. The options were then, and are now, minimal. Early this summer I had a discussion with the DeLand Airport Manager concerning future development plans for the City owned airport. He shared his concept for a future "Light Sport Aviation Business" theme in our area of the airport. Without a doubt, such a focus brings increased positive marketing attention to all the existing structures in this area...including our hangar. Later, after the City revealed this plan in the local press, the subject of selling our existing hangar took on a greater significance and I engaged an appraiser to provide us with a current hangar market value. The immediate question in my mind was "Is DeLand the most advantageous location for a new hangar?"

To answer the question we spoke to the airport manager of New Smyrna. Why New Smyrna? It's location: located on Highway 1 with both visibility and ease of access, greater population density between Daytona and New Smyrna, in proximity to Spruce Creek with our greater membership density as well as its general and warbird aviation assets, co-located with both George Baker Aviation and American Aero Services. None of these actions foretell a decision to leave DeLand or to sell our hangar.

Neither I, nor the Staff, will take any action or make any commitments without including you...the membership. However, before we can make recommendations to you we need facts and figures....and that is what we've been doing...collecting fact and figures.

Sincerely,  
CAF Col "Woodie" Sprouse  
Wing Leader