

The Eagle's Scream



Commemorative Air Force Florida Wing



Volume 3, No 2

March 2009

Wing Officers

Wing Leader:

Colonel Peter Jacobs 386-322-0070

Executive Officer:

Colonel Michael Reale 407-207-4011

Adjutant:

Colonel Ann Conway 386-673-5742

Operations Officer:

Colonel Jimmy Powers 386-322-9706

Finance Officer:

Colonel Linda Jacobs 386-322-0070

Maintenance Officer:

Colonel Steve Moddle 386-760-0797

Safety & Recruiting Officer:

Colonel Joe Maiz 407-804-8953

Air Show Coordinator:

Colonel Dick Russell 386-760-6188

Eagle's Scream Editor:

Colonel Jim Bannerman 386-257-3853

PX Officer:

Colonel Alexis Montague 386-760-9006

Hanger Manager:

Colonel Frank Purcell 386-428-4678

Wing Leader's Message

Colonel Peter Jacobs



I'm pleased to welcome several members who have recently joined the Wing: Capt. Chuck Downey, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Wayne Gidick, and Stan Mitchell. Chuck (in addition to having flown the TBM in WWII) and Ward are experienced metalworkers and are working as a team on the wing root box rebuilds. Welcome all, and please enjoy your involvement with our dedicated restoration team!

Pictures of these folks and others at work on the TBM appear elsewhere in this issue.

Our thanks, too, to Michael Reale, who stepped up and agreed to serve as our Executive Officer, filling that important, vacant position. I'm certain that Michael will bring enthusiasm and his great marketing expertise to the Wing in important ways.

I had the privilege of addressing the Retired Military Officers Association meeting last month, at the invitation of Col. Jim Bannerman. It was an enthusiastic group, and I'm hopeful that several of their members will join our Wing. Virtually all were impressed with our TBM project, and some were truly eager to become a part of our hands-on effort. I hope to continue with these presentations, to other, similar organizations.

Our Finance Officer, Col. Linda Jacobs, has made our first deposit of the TBM donations we've been accumulating. Shortly after sending the \$10,244 the Wing collected to Midland, we have confirmation that our TBM restoration account is double that amount: \$20,488, the result of our having been awarded the CAF Headquarters Matching Grant. Col. Jacobs' report will detail where we stand in terms of meeting Col. Russell's \$4000 Challenge Grant.

We note with sincere regret, on behalf of all Wing Staff and Members, the untimely passing of Cols. Don Smith and Dennis Hynes. Don had been a valued, respected and talented worker on our TBM project, and graced

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Wing Leader's message continued

us all with his upbeat, smiling and enthusiastic attitude. Col. Hynes, who had moved to his home in Michigan, fought a long, valiant but ultimately unsuccessful battle against cancer. Dennis was an important contributor to the Wing, and a great supporter of our efforts. Both gentlemen will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to their families.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll read about our successful effort at the Vero Beach Aviation Day. Thaks go to Cols. Conway, Fortune, Montague, Maiz, and Prestopino who transported and manned the PX, and to Col. Jimmy Powers who flew Allie Gator down to the event. Col. Dick Russell and his RETRO Flight team flew formation at the event, and were praised by the crowd. You'll see pictures and a story about the Vero Beach airshow in this issue.

We are in the serious planning stages for our participation in the Sun N Fun airshow, along with the CAF Headquarters contingent. We hope to have both L-17's on site, and will have many of our PX items for sale at the CAF tent. Of even more importance, however, is the fact that we will have a Florida Wing recruiting table and staff in the main CAF tent. Hopefully, we will be able to attract several new members.

Calling all pilots! We need additional Sponsor pilots for our L-17's. Col. Powers' schedule makes it impossible – without additional pilots - to launch our Rides Program, which we are counting on to be an important source of funds for the Wing. An L-17 Sponsorship is \$1500, plus about \$400/year for insurance. Where else can you fly a Warbird almost for free?

I want to acknowledge the valuable contributions made to the Wing during the past year by several Colonels. The following Wing members were honored at our February 25th dinner meeting, and presented with plaques recognizing their "outstanding and dedicated service to the Florida Wing of the Commemorative Air Force:" TBM Head of Restoration Col. Alex Gardner, Hangar Manager Col. Frank Purcell, Restoration Volunteer Col. Don Smith, Restoration Volunteer Ted Cary, Recruiting Officer Col. Joe Maiz, Maintenance Officer Steve Moddle, and Don Proctor Restoration Volunteer.

Finally, I am glad to report that at long last, we are about to sign a contract for the construction of our 5000 sq. ft. hangar expansion. Plans will very shortly be submitted with our application for a building permit, and we hope to start construction before May 1st. The hangar expansion will be completed well before the end of the year, giving us the space to enable efficient work on the TBM restoration project.

Honored Colonels

During the February General Membership meeting at the Halifax River Yacht Club Wing Leader Peter Jacobs presented plaques to five Colonels in recognition of their outstanding and dedicated service to the Florida Wing over the past year.



Colonel
Alex Gardner
Head of Restoration



Colonel Ted Cary
Restoration
Volunteer



Colonel Joe Maiz
Recruiting
and
Safety Officer



Colonel
Dan Proctor
Restoration
Volunteer



Colonel
Steve Moddle
Maintenance Officer

Colonels Frank Purcell, Hanger Manager and Don Smith, Restoration Volunteer, were not at the meeting but also received plaques recognizing their service.

Finance Officer Report

Colonel, Linda Jacobs



I want to thank all of you for getting your dues in so nicely. We have a full 80% of the group who have paid, and I have sent reminder emails and letters to those who haven't.

Last time I mentioned the insurance payments for the airplanes and the ANUAC, and want to report to you that major payments have been made on each. Good news: We got our insurance bill for the hangar building itself this week (about \$3100) and it is over \$900 LESS than last year's bill. I have to confess that I did opt out of the terrorism insurance, which would have cost us more, so everyone needs to keep eyes open. As if! We did get the financing for the insurance so we will be paying a monthly payment for ten months. This makes it easier on our budget, since our income for the rest of the year won't be as nice as it has been for the last two months.

Thanks to the hard work of several Colonels, we are beginning to have an income again from the PX. We have ordered and paid for new stock and are looking forward to continuing to see an income line from this area. We will have some of our things for sale at both Tico and Sun N Fun, and look forward to that.

Our supplies' costs have gone down, with the advent of cold weather, and I am happy to report that the sale of lunches is now fully supporting the supplies that go with them (plates, napkins, paper towels, etc.) Thanks to Ann Conway and Earl Leone and others for their work in this department. It is saving our regular account about \$100 a month at this point.

We are now submitting all TBM expenses to Midland for payment from the restoration grant. Regarding Colonel Russell's generous matching grant, we are only \$680 from matching him. Let's see, 50 paid members for the year into that comes to just about \$13.00 apiece. Can we do this? Of course we can!! We are accepting donations in any amount, and remember, it is tax deductible. The total we have in the TBM restoration fund is well over \$20,000, which Colonel Russell assures us he will have no trouble spending. (We have spent over \$4000 of it already)

Our heating bill for the winter (and this is FLORIDA) is a bit more than the air conditioning for the summer. We are reminding everyone to turn off either the heat or

the AC when leaving the hangar. Each day it is left on when it isn't needed is about \$4 which we may as well have tossed out the window.

I promise to keep you all informed of our financial status. We do a report each month on this, and anyone is welcome to have a copy. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at JacobsL2@aol.com, or call me at (386) 322-0070.

Maintenance Officer Report

Colonel Steve Moddle



At this writing, (February 24) 4321K is just about finished with the annual inspection. It was a long struggle, the inspector took a long time to complete it. The good news is that the fuel valve passed the

Airworthiness Directive that all Navions have to have done. On 95C we had to replace the valve and it was very expensive. This time the money was spent just on the inspection. We will have to find someone else next year that will give us a better deal. I am looking forward to a flight in it as I have been grounded with a medical problem. I received my second class medical from the FAA yesterday. This will be my first flight since last October. 95C went to the airshow in Vero Beach and other than being hard to start with the cold weather for the trip down, I think all went well. Our next big airshow should be the VAC show in Titusville and then Sun N Fun in Lakeland. Hope we can get both aircraft there. We are now in the process of giving 21K a shine, it is hard work to get the bare aluminum to shine but it does look good when it is done. It is about one quarter done now and we will keep working on it till it is done. Any one with a bit of time come on out and give a hand, we have 2 buffing machines to help.



In Memorium Colonel Donald Smith 1927 - 2009

Our friend and colleague Don Smith passed away on February 26 after a short battle with cancer. Don was born on July 14, 1927 and after service in the U.S. Army worked as an engineer for Johnson Controls. He joined the Florida Wing of the Commemorative Air Force in October 2006 and was very active in the restoration of our TBM. While in Hospice care in early February he was awarded a plaque in recognition of his very valued service to our Wing. After his passing the American flag outside our hanger was flown at half staff in his honor. Don will be greatly missed but we are sure he is still with us in spirit at the hanger each Saturday



Vero Beach Airshow

Col. Dick Russell
Airshow coordinator

On February 7 we took our PX and the L-17 Navion south to the Vero Beach Aviation Day. Our reception last year caused our crew to express an eager attitude to participate again to an even larger crowd.

Colonel Jimmy Powers flew one of our L-17 Navions and parked it in a location where electric power was available. Colonel Joe Maiz decided that many people would enjoy having a photograph of themselves sitting in the L-17 with the headphones in place just like a real pilot. It proved to be a great idea and one that brings in some revenue. A color printer provides a color photo in real time.



Colonel Alexis Montague-Fortune and her husband, Tony, transported the trailer and helped set up the tent. Colonels Ann Conway, John Prestipino, and our new Executive Officer Colonel Michael Reale and his friend Kim made up the remainder of the ground crew.

While this is a static show, the sponsors appreciated the fact that our 4 ship flight team did some flybys to stir up the crowd. Vero Beach is a rather busy airport and the control tower was reluctant to allow any flight activities except for the normal takeoffs and landings. Our telephone appeals to them were not successful for a few passes down the runway on arrival but they did allow us to do an overhead break to landing. Our planes were on display in a special area so we would be able to depart without disturbing the crowd. Again, we requested a few passes and were finally allowed to make just one! The trend is to have one day air fests

and if we pick the right ones to attend, our efforts will be rewarded. It is always wonderful to receive a note like the following one from Assistant Airport Manager, Mr. Todd Scher:

Just a quick e-mail to thank you for being part of Vero Beach Aviation Day 2009. We had a safe, successful event that was very well-attended and, from the comments and feedback we have received, enjoyed by all. Without a doubt, the warbirds and formation flyovers were a very positive part of our event and provided a lot of entertainment. When the formation passed over the event northbound on departure, there was a tremendous reaction from the crowd, lots of applause and people shouting their appreciation.

Hopefully we were able to make you feel welcome. Please pass along our appreciation to your wingmen, and I hope you will consider joining us next year.

We plan to attend the following airshows plus others which may come up:

- March 13-15 VAC Warbird Airshow Titusville, FL
- April 21-29 Sun N Fun Lakeland, FL
- Nov. 14-15 VNA Airshow Stuart, FL

CAF Florida Wing has two new Colonels

Ward **Gidick** grew up in rural Pa (read: cows and mountains) and now resides with Mickey and Minnie in Orlando, Fl. He served in the USAF with the 339 Fighter Interceptor Group during the Korean War. While stationed in Japan, he was a Crew Chief on the F-94B aircraft. Upon returning home, Ward started his professional career as a Nuclear Submarine Design Engineer with General Dynamics. He then moved to the Koppers Corp. where he was a Project Manager in charge of the design and construction of their steel production plant. After relocating to Orlando, Ward accepted a position with Lockheed Martin as a Project Manager and Field Engineer. His responsibilities included construction of their new ordinance missile assembly facilities and ordinance storage bunkers.

Now retired from Lockheed Martin, he especially enjoys spending time with the CAF Florida Wing Group, where he is actively involved in the restoration of our TBM Avenger. Ward is an avid golfer and excellent duplicate bridge player. A little known fact about Ward is he is an expert on the Endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker found in the Florida woodlands.



Chuck **Downey** began his aviation career in the 1930's when he was presented with THREE [of 4] trophies by Igor Sikorsky at age 15, for excellence in model building at the Connecticut Annual Aircraft Meet.

He served during WWII in the U.S. Navy as a dive bomber aviator attacking the enemy from Pacific Fleet carriers for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. He was selected for Captain at age 39, youngest in the Navy in 1964. He served as Wing Commander for three years and retired from the Navy in 1975.

He is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has held various executive positions in the aviation community. He was inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame, the Quiet Birdmen, and the Military Aviation Hall of Fame of Illinois.

Flying 8500 hours over 66 years he is qualified in over 40 aircraft including heavy tail draggers SNJ, Dauntless, Helldiver, Corsair, Avenger and Hellcat. He owns and flies an antique Meyers-OTW which he restored in 1960. He is still flying in his 85th year!

Welcome Ward and Chuck

Florida Wing General Membership Meeting and Dinner

Tuesday Evening April 7
at the
Halifax River Yacht Club
in beautiful downtown Daytona Beach

Cocktails at 1800 hrs. Dinner at 1900 hrs.

Mixed green salads - assorted dressings on table.

Roast top sirloin w/ au jus
Herb creamed mashed potatoes
sauteed vegetable medley

or

Shrimp Newberg served over parslied rice
sauteed vegetable medley

dessert - warm apple crisp Ala mode
all for \$19.00

Our speaker for the evening will be Robert (Bob) Gandt, renowned Pilot, Speaker and Author.

Call Colonel Ann Conway (386) 673-5742 for your reservations and menu selection

Robert “Bob” Gandt

Our honored speaker at our April 7th Dinner Meeting.

Bob's dual passions in life have been flying and writing. He has logged over 25,000 hours, written eleven books and published countless articles since soloing at 16. He has been a Navy fighter/attack pilot, weapons test pilot, flight instructor, air show performer, and airline captain. As a carrier-based attack pilot, Bob logged over 300 carrier landings and nearly 2,000 hours in the A-4 Skyhawk.

A writer both of non-fiction and fiction, after 26 years of flying around the globe for Pan Am and later Delta, his non-fiction books *China Clipper* and, later, *Skygods*, first recount the incredible era of the flying boat and, separately, the meteoric descent and crash of the once-great Pan Am. Other non-fiction works include *Season of Storms*, the story of the World War II battle for Hong Kong, *Fly Low, Fly Fast*, an inside account of the Unlimited class in the 1998 Reno Air Races, and *Bogeys and Bandits*, a fact-based account of an F-18 Hornet training squadron.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear this renowned author, veteran and pilot

Whats Happening Around the Hanger

Colonel Dick Russell
TBM Restoration Project Manager

A great deal has been accomplished in the past few weeks with all the ground equipment in working order, getting that Ranger engine down from the loft, the clean up and re-organizing the hangar and equipment, the work on the stub wings, the re-installation of the wing tanks, priming the stabilizers and other parts, completion of the repair in the tail, installing new bolts in the cockpit area, installation of the horizontal stabilizer brackets, and completion of the annual on the L-17.

Jim Goolsby reports that he has finished the second aileron and hopes to return both of them and pick up the rudder. Alex brought down our TBM brakes to see if we need to replace them. It was determined that we have 2 brakes and 3 main plates. One plate is cracked and will not be any good. We also had a visit by Bill and Dee Strawn and their daughter. Bill works on the bombers at American Aero and has been doing brakes and is involved in many other phases of their projects. He inspected our brakes and believes that we have a good set of brakes but are missing some parts. He has access to detailed drawings of our brakes and knows about the availability of parts. He outlined what we need to do with our brakes and Jim Bannerman stepped up and accepted the job.



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APPLICATION FOR COMMISSION

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____
HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

CELL _____ EMAIL _____

PROFESSION _____ COMPANY & TITLE _____

IF RETIRED, PAST PROFESSION _____ COMPANY _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ MARRIED _____ IF YES, SPOUSE'S NAME _____

Please list aviation related skills, business skills, historical/museum skills _____

List CAF members, if any, with whom you are acquainted _____

Print name as you would like it to appear on name tag _____

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

1. To acquire, restore, and preserve in flying condition a complete collection of combat aircraft which were flown by all military services of the United States, and selected aircraft of other nations, for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations of Americans.
2. To construct or obtain museum buildings for the permanent protection, maintenance, and display of these historic aircraft, period artifacts, and documents as a tribute to the thousands of men and women who built, serviced, and flew them and to build and organize the "Combat Airman Hall of Fame."
3. To perpetuate the spirit in which such combat aircraft were flown in the defense of our nation, in the memory and hearts of all Americans.
4. To establish an organization having the dedication, enthusiasm, and Esprit de Corps necessary to operate, maintain, and preserve these aircraft as symbols of our American Military Aviation Heritage.

▪ Please remit a total of \$275 with this application. (Annual dues are \$200.00 for National membership with an additional \$75 for Florida Wing Dues).

Annual membership dues of \$200.00 include \$30.00 for a 1-year subscription to Dispatch magazine. If you do not wish to receive Dispatch please check here. (Membership dues will remain \$200.00)

Life Membership

Life membership contribution is \$2,400.00.

\$2,400.00 is enclosed.

Deferred Life Membership ~

\$200.00 is enclosed and I will remit \$200.00 monthly for 11 months.

Charge the above credit card \$200.00 monthly for 12 months.

The COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE is a self-supporting, all-volunteer organization. It is non-profit, tax-exempt and incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas for charitable and educational purposes. You do not need to be a pilot or military veteran to become a member of the CAF. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older.

I certify that the statements made by me in this application are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I will give my full support to the aims and objectives of the COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE and will assist the General Staff in attaining these goals.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Please provide this additional information if applicable

Are you a pilot? _____ Total flying hours _____ What aircraft types have you flown? _____

Certificate: Student Private Commercial ATR

Ratings: _____

If you served in the Armed Forces, which branch and what country? _____

Date of Service _____