



The Eagle's Scream

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



Summer Newsletter

July 2015

Welcome all our new CAF and
Florida Wing Members:

Col Lou Nemeth
Col Juliana Pinto
Col Raymond Gage, MD
Col Stan Berry
Col "Kaz" Kaczmarczyk
Cadet Dustin Kaczmarczyk
Cadet Trent Smith

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Wing Leader	Col. Woodie Sprouse	woodie6@cfl.rr.com	(206) 708-9664
Executive Officer	Col. Art Patstone	Artpatstone@aol.com	(386)322-7611
Adjutant	Col. Patricia Mickelson	pmickelson@centurylink.net	(352) 351-5087
Operations Officer	Col. Joel Lonky	jlonky@gmail.com	(407) 733-8276
Maintenance Officer	Col. John Makinson	makinsonaviation@gmail.com	(386) 682-0426
Finance Officer	Col. Alan Herum	aldh1000@gmail.com	(305) 923-3810
Safety Officer	Col. Lou Beyer	LouisLinda@gmail.com	(386) 822 4359

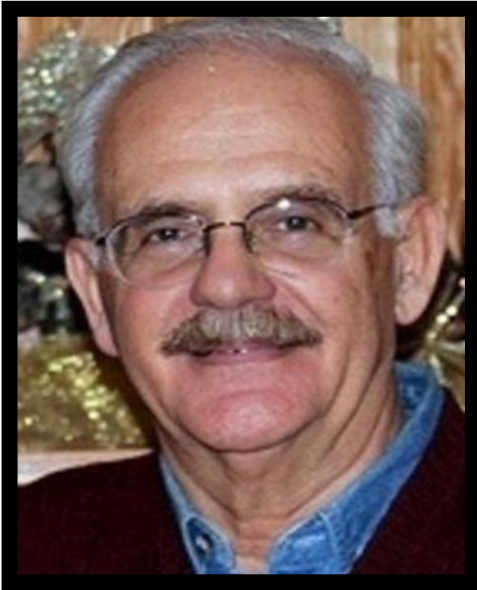
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Upcoming Events

T-34 Annual Inspection-August
End of WW2 DeLeone Springs-August 11
Boy Scout Camporee DeLand Airport-Oct 9-11

In Memory of George and Pamela Fonseca



On May 19th I received a phone call asking me for contact information for Pam and George Fonseca, local authorities in Southwestern Virginia were investigating a report that their aircraft, a Beech Baron, was missing. Later that day their son, Michael, confirmed that their aircraft, missing the day prior, crashed and there were no survivors. The FONSECAS were heading back to their home in Mansfield Ohio for the summer. They departed Spruce Creek the morning of the 18th amidst well wishes from their close friends "At the Creek." While the details of their tragic death will be the subject of an extensive FAA investigation, their loss to their friends here in The Florida Wing can be summed up in two words "unimaginable shock."

Pam and George, Life Members of the CAF, dropped into the hangar one day last summer and after asking a few questions decided to join our Wing on the spot. Long time supporters of the CAF's "B-24/B-29 Squadron" they threw their enthusiasm into volunteering with our programs: PX sales at the Embry Riddle "Wings and Waves" weekend, the Annual Meeting in December, the Red Tail "Rise Above" exhibit in March and the the B-24 "Diamond L'il" visit in April. Pam noted our excess PX inventory of model aircraft and purchased the entire stock for their annual "Aviation Day" that was to be held at their home field in Mansfield. Pam and George have been hosting the event for years and the model aircraft would be given to the children who attended.

George took a liking to our T-34 and became a pilot sponsor. Both he and Pam were looking forward to their return in the Fall. Pam had considerable professional experience in marketing and was discussing ideas for helping to raise money...again after they returned.

In Short, Pam and George were just very nice folks who enjoyed flying and helping others...young and old alike.

Col Woodie Sprouse, Wing Leader

We Salute our Nation's Flag

Thanks to donations from Col Joe Drach and Col Pat Foley, the Wing has a new lighted 30 foot flag pole. After much discussion, the decision was to "...get 'er done.." and Col's Foley and Drach made it happen!



Wing Leader Report

Colonel H.G. "Woodie" Sprouse

The Summer is here and a good number of our members have left for cooler clime's; nevertheless, things continue to hum here at the hangar. As you can see from the new members listed on the front page, we continue to attract new folks.

The B-24/B-29 Squadron's B-24 "Diamond L'il" stopped by in late April for almost a week while en route to Virginia for the "Arsenal Of Democracy" tribute and flyover of our Nation's Capital. Meanwhile, we continue to fly our T-34A to recruit for the CAF, promote our Wing "Show the Flag" as it were.

In the late Spring, we submitted our application to Volusia County for their consideration in awarding their next round of Cultural Grants. A "value added" aspect of the complex and detailed submission was the realization that the Wing is no longer an ad hoc organization, struggling to find its place in the community. We have a mission, we have a flying aircraft, we have an energetic Staff and we have a core of hard working volunteers. Along with this realization is the fact that we have a substantial annual budget which requires serious oversight. Last December, the membership stepped up to the plate when the call went out for donations to pay off the loan on the hangar. Their response was swift and positive...financial oversight is the least we can promise them in return.

To that end, we have just completed a mid year financial review of all our revenue and expense accounts; performance year to date and estimates for the balance of the year. To be sure there are challenges ahead but we now have a better idea where to focus our attention and activities for the next six months while continuing to plan for 2016.

The Little Yellow T-34A continues to perform well in excess of our estimates. She will be heading into her annual inspection in August where we will also take the time to spruce up her paint and install a donated new JPI fuel monitoring system. Come the Fall she'll be ready to greet all our returning members.

DeLand Welcomes Diamond L'il and Crew



The B-24/B-29 Squadron of the CAF chose the Florida Wing for their crew rest location while en route to Virginia to participate in the Washington DC "Arsenal Of Democracy" flyover.

Building on their 2014 visit of the world's only flying B-29 bomber, "FIFI," to DeLand, the squadron knew that the welcome mat was always out for their remarkable B-24 aircraft "Diamond L'il." Their B-24 is just one of two that remain flying today. During WW2 over 24,000 B-24 bombers were in service in Allied Air Forces.



While here, the remaining B-24 crew assisted by Florida Wing Volunteers conducted tours and signed up folks for a revenue ride on May 3rd. All in all, the several hundred visitors viewed the B-24. To show our "Thanks" to the visiting B-24 crew, our Operations Officer, Col Joel Lonky, gave B-24 crew members T-34 appreciation rides.

As part of our 'Outreach' effort the Florida Wing welcomes any and all CAF Units when they are in the area...someday, we'll be able to play with the Big Boys and Girls Too!!!

The C-54E "Spirit of Spirit of Freedom" makes a brief stop in DeLand

During his April 25th visit to Sun-N-Fun, our own Col Pat Foley noticed a C-54 parked out in the Large Aircraft display area and thought it looked familiar. He was not wrong. The C-54 was the "Spirit of Freedom" a surviving veteran of the 1948-49 Berlin Airlift. The interior of the aircraft has been converted into a flying museum that portrays the story of the Berlin Airlift.



Tim Chopp, the Founder of the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation and Pilot of "The Spirit," was out and about but Col Foley left his contact information and they soon renewed a professional aviation relationship spanning decades. Tim and Pat soon arranged for the "Spirit" to stop in DeLand en route to North Carolina from Sun-N-Fun.

While here the West Volusia Beacon newspaper sent a reporter to interview the pilot and crew. The flying museum has been a hit wherever it stops. The unsung and largely forgotten heroics of those crews who flew the supply missions that kept the people of West Berlin alive for 18 months is not taught in our schools. Thanks to Col Foley, the story was recorded in a full page article!



Operation Outreach by Col Joe Drach

As the only Commemorative Air Force unit in the State of Florida, our Wing Leader has developed a program to send our T - 34 to visit other towns in Florida to show the CAF flag. Colonel Sprouse delivered 88RM to the Ocala International Airport where it was taken over by another crew. Colonel Joe Drach and our Adjutant, Col Pat Mickelson, spent 6 days on tour in Marion and Levy Counties. 88RM was based at the Sheltair facilities in Ocala where Kyle Van Atta and his team at Sheltair provided us with first class treatment.

With 7 hours of flying time and 35 landings at airports in the area, our T-34 was visited by school groups and community leaders. Our estimate is that approximately 200 people visited and watched our plane in action. We recruited 2 new members along the way and made many new friends.

For those members of our Wing who do not live in the De Land area, it is possible that a visit by our plane and crews could be of significant value to the area where you live. It would certainly be of value to the Wing as well.

If any members would like to take advantage of this new initiative and have a visit by 88RM and one of our crews, contact the Wing Leader directly.



Col Pat Mickelson with Marion Montinari, owner and trainer of thoroughbred champions.



Wing Leader Comment:

This was an initial effort geared to breaking out of the DeLand—Daytona cocoon and showing the CAF Flag throughout the State. We were fortunate to have Cols Drach and Mickelson willing to devote the time and effort to accept this project. The CAF is not well known beyond the local boundaries of Lakeland (Sun-N-Fun) and the immediate East Coast from the Cape north to Flagler Beach. The Florida Wing of the CAF is even less known!

Central Florida from Tampa to Daytona and north to Jacksonville are prime areas of year round General Aviation flying as well as home to many military friendly communities. It is inconceivable to me that we must remain an unknown quantity. We have a mission and a story to tell. Going to Air Shows is one way to tell that story, showing up at small FBOs, having lunch and leaving printed material on their bulletin boards is another...to be successful it not a matter of doing one thing it's a matter of doing everything and finding out what works!

A Chinese Fire Drill?

Wednesday June 3rd, was a slow hangar work day...at least it began harmless enough. Around 0930, just as the donuts were disappearing, Beverly Lewis the assistant airport manager, drove up and introduced your Wing Leader to a group of Chinese visitors. They were seeking a location to film a short video about the wonderful world of private aircraft ownership...something not encouraged in the Peoples Republic. Besides filming a preflight sequence on the ramp, they wanted to show an aircraft being pushed into and out of a hangar. The entire sequence in the hangar would take; "...maybe an hour and a half...and involve maybe 7 or 10 folks" "Sure," said your fearless Leader, besides they agreed to donate a couple hundred dollars to the Wing for making their life easier! The Fire Alarms were beginning to ring!



At 1030, a large tour bus, the kind that carry folks from New York to Miami, drove up and about 30 Chinese visitors disembarked. My one and only reliable translator had disappeared. Whiffs of smoke from our hangar were observed by folks in the EAA hangar. The visitors began setting up equipment for some sort of competitive games...in the hangar! Still no translator "...No English speekee...but lots of smiles..."

A little after 1330, the four General Aviation aircraft arrived, they had been hired for the day and would be the props used for filming. Four? I thought there was only one aircraft to be filmed...still no reliable translator. Then a caravan of rental cars arrived...the Chinese camera crew. Your Leader is still looking for the person in charge..no translator, more smiles...what's going on? "We are waiting for the "Stars," What Stars? It was now a four alarm blaze!

Well, you see...you Yankee blue eyed devil... this was really a three part event... (1) there is a promotional video being filmed for the sale of GA aircraft in China, (2) a public service (in China?) video extolling the virtues of GA and lastly (3) a Chinese Reality TV episode which included some of China's most up and coming young TV stars! Yup...Stars competing against each other in games involving a GA Aircraft. And..."TV Stars are never on time...don't you know anything you silly goose Wing Leader?"

The donation threshold just went up to \$500! And the hangar doors are coming closed at 1700!!!



Your Dear Leader never did find out who was really in charge...the camera men (all older men) took photos of everything in the hangar (including the bathroom,) did not smile or interact with the others...strange?

At 1700, the Fire Drill was over...we had five crisp, new, sequential \$100 dollar bills and the hangar doors were closed...the big bus was loaded with the workers...the Stars, et al, on their way in their rented SUV's...Spruce Creek would be their next stop for the following days filming.... He,he!

Tomorrow I would be first in line at the bank to deposit the \$100 bills...but, I should have asked for \$1,000!

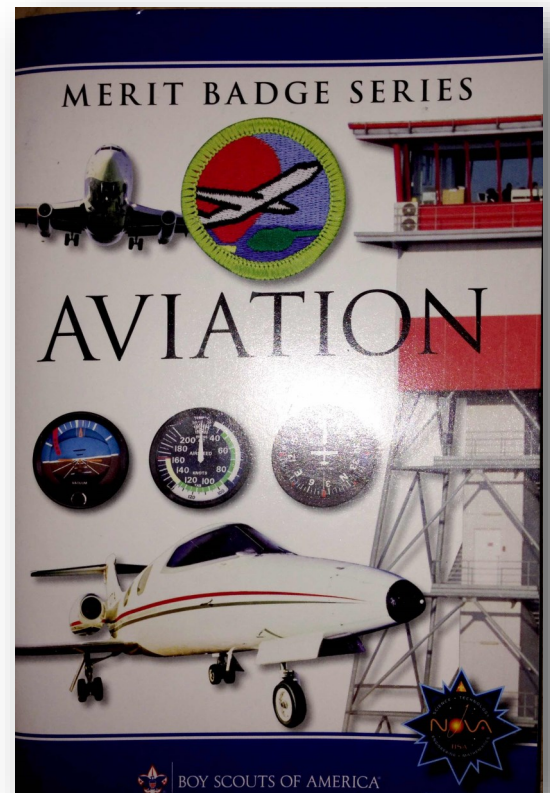
Wing Nuts and Bolts

- The twelve members of the Volusia County Cultural Grant Selection Committee asked to have their quarterly morning meeting in our hangar on Friday July 31st . This committee is very familiar with most of the other grant applicants who are located in the Daytona Beach area. The meeting on July 31st will provide us a great opportunity to introduce them to our hangar, museum, library and activities. We want to make a good impression, so on July 25th we will be having a Hangar/Office clean up day beginning at 1030, so, ya'll come help out!
- The Staff has decided to invest in a bookkeeper to assist in the day-to-day financial record keeping. Col Jon Shay was appointed as deputy finance officer, a non-voting position, to assist in the making the transition.



- We now have two cadets as members: Dustin Kaczmarczyk and Trent Smith. These young men are hard chargers and want to learn about history and aircraft!

- The Wing has been asked to host the 2015 Tuscarora District Boy Scout District Camporee and conduct two Aviation Merit Badge events. Mark your calendar for Saturday October 10th...we'll be running two Merit badge classes, the scouts will feed us and we'll show a movie in the hangar that night!



Florida Wing CAF
1570 Old NDB Road, DeLand Airport
www.caffl.org



**COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE**

Hangar and Office - Open Saturday and Wednesday 386-337-4499
Wing Leader - H.G. "Woodie" Sprouse 206-708-9664

- To assist in spreading the "Word" about the Wing we have printed business cards with the address, web site, hours of operation and contact information . The next time you are out to the Hangar, stop at the desk and pick up a few....you never know when you may need to answer a question about the Wing...or just leave one at an FBO...

Found During The FOD Walkdown

