



# AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA  
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Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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## From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

As your newly elected Airbase Leader, I am humbled at the opportunity to serve as the head of such an incredible group of people who are dedicated to the preservation of this important history. We are caretakers of these beautiful machines to be used to make sure that the voices of those who fought for our freedom may never fade.

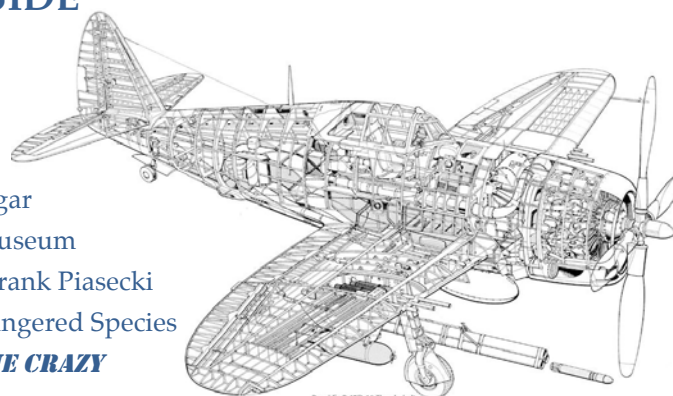


A little about my background: I was born in 1973, grew up in the Tyrone and Peachtree City area and graduated from Fayette County High School in 1991. I attended Georgia State University and Clayton State University, graduating with degrees in information technology and management. During that same period I earned his pilot certificates and married my high school sweetheart, Michelle Perkins. We have been together for 31 years with three children, Chandler - 23, Cooper - 19, and Britton - 16.

As to my professional career, I have served at AirTran Airlines as the datacenter manger and Year 2000 Project manager. From 2000 to present I've served as Director of Information Technology for a local engineering firm, was a founding member of the Caledonian Land Company and in 2010 returned to cockpit flying the Citation XLS for Westrock Corporation. In 2011 I founded Inserv360 that provides a wide array of technical support and consulting services to agencies for the Sate of Georgia, the City of Atlanta, non-profits, and private industry. Before being elected as Wing Leader, I served Airbase Georgia for two years as the operations officer sponsoring the LT-6 and flying my own SNJ and Birddog providing Young Eagles rides and sharing the history of these airplanes with the public. ➔

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# Operations Update

## Col Peter Hague – Operations Officer

We are finishing up our annual recurrent ground school classes in February. We are now using Zoom.com to broadcast over the internet our ground schools for out-of-town pilots. With the new system in place, users can participate in classroom discussions over the meeting room's public address system.



On March 12 we will see two events that will be a first for the Airbase. In the morning we will hold a "Maintenance Safety Standdown" where we will discuss safety for our maintenance and machine shop volunteers. This program will discuss the accident chain of events and teach methods to recognize and stop the error chain before an incident or accident occurs. All Airbase members are welcome to attend.

Also on March 12, we will hold our first "Airbase Georgia Master Class: Warbird Instructor" series. Col Stan Musick will teach our 4 prospective instructor pilots the techniques and procedures for instructing in our T-6. This is a closed class offered to our new prospective instructor pilots, Colonel's Clark, Kenner, Perkins, and Cottrell.

**Upcoming Airshows and Events: Confirmed Events.** (Update at Membership Meeting of March 5.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Show</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Pilot/Crew</u>
March 18-19	New Orleans Gainesville FL	F4U T-34	Hubbard Kenner / Anderson
March 24-28	Columbus AFB MS	Kate SBD F4U	Armstrong / OPEN Hague/Cash Musick
March 31- April 3	Shaw AFB	F4U	Musick
April 1-2	Ellijay GA	SBD Kate T-6 T-34 P-51 T-34	Hague/Clark Armstrong / OPEN Cottrell/ OPEN TBD/ OPEN TBD/ OPEN TBD/ OPEN
April 9	Birmingham AL	SBD Kate	Hague/Clark Armstrong / OPEN

If an Airbase member is interested in attending a show or event, please email your name and request to [Peter.Hague@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:Peter.Hague@airbasegeorgia.org) or drop a note into the operations officer mailbox. ➔

# Rides Update

## Col James Sterns - Rides Lead Person

No Rides this month, however, Airbase Georgia's Rides Program was busy getting ready for our upcoming Rides season.

We are currently scheduling rides for the upcoming weeks. Pilots, planes, and good weather are all we need. Airshows and other special events are continually being scheduled, and we are actively working on getting our lengthy backlog of P-51 and SBD Rides accomplished. Rides are posted on the bulletin board in the Hangar (near the kitchen door) and generic entries on the public calendar: <https://airbasegeorgia.org/calendar/>



Our thanks to the following members who volunteered, and we're specifically selected, to endure a rigorous "Rides 101" Rides Program training session this month. Attending were Jim Dalton, Ron Gause, Truitt Harper, Heather Johnson, Dave Richardson, Robyn Rosenzweig, Ellen Stearns, and Laura Tolbert. These members learned the basics of the required paperwork, briefing passengers on their Rides, safety measures and many other topics.

Special thanks to Peter Hague and Tom Walsh who provided specialized training. This included hands on training in loading and briefing rides passengers and Rides Safety Observer (RSO) training for operational Rides aircraft.

With this training under our belts, we're looking forward to plenty of Continuous Education and OJT working towards a busy and safe rides season.

Remember, active ABGA Members are entitled to a 20% discount on Rides (one per year per aircraft type). Contact us at [Rides@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:Rides@airbasegeorgia.org) if you are interested in flying. ➔

*James Sterns, Rides Lead Person*

[james.stearns@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:james.stearns@airbasegeorgia.org)



The February members meeting was preceded by a Rides Training session. Here, Col Stearns serves as a model for the topic at hand – "Uniform of the Day." ➔



# Facility Rentals

## Col Dave Riesselmann



## Upcoming Hangar Events

Airbase Georgia kicks off the hangar rental season with a wedding reception on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, and the return of the Whitewater High School baseball boosters on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please consider being present on the Thursdays prior, that's March 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, to help the Hangar Rats make the facility presentable, especially if you're new to Airbase Georgia and you're looking for a way to get involved. No skill is required, just your time.

The hangar rental program represents a considerable benefit to Airbase Georgia in at least two ways. First, inquiries for the year amount to over \$30,000 of revenue so far. Such funds will be vital to our upcoming restoration and operating expenses. Additionally, these events result in exposure of our activities to people who might not otherwise be interested.

To be added to my manpower mailing list please contact me at [facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org). ➔



# Safety

## Col Gregg Scott, Safety Officer

My 44 years in the aviation industry as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician has taken me to many locations within the US and abroad, with Increasing levels of Leadership within Tech Ops from Lead Technician, Training Instructor to Manager of Delta Express nationwide.

Of particular importance to my new position as Safety Officer for the Airbase, I've had additional responsibility in MCO as the Regional Safety Manager of Florida which included both Maintenance and non-Maintenance stations.

My training includes being Team Member in all facets of Aviation Safety Action Program ASAP an FAA oversight program to promote Safety and reduce accidents and incidents. Additional training has been as a Safety Management System representative for both Tech Ops and Flight Control.

Going forward, safety should always evolve -- it should never be stagnant and we all know we have had some "close" calls and I will leave it at that.

I intend to work closely with Maintenance and the Operations side to better coordinate and communicate all operations and any potential risks. ➔

# Scenes From The Hangar



Although pilots don't like a low ceiling, I think we can all agree that the one being installed in the meeting room is something we can all get under.

Photo by Col Charles Burcher.

Col Peter Hague looks pretty happy as he prepares to take the SBD on a check-out flight.





## Scenes From The Hangar (cont.)



The Stearman crew: (L-R) Cols Joe Broker, John Flynn, Malcom Lelliott, Frank Piasecki, Mike Lamble, Robyn Rosenzweig, Jane Simpson, Loraine DeLoach, Doug Franklin.

Photo by Col Charles Burcher.



## Scenes From The Hangar (cont.)



A recent visit of a STEAM group called for several volunteers to help out with the group.

Left: Col George Harrison Takes some of the group in the hangar.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Below: Col Willard Womack explains a P-51.





## Scenes From The Hangar (cont.)

Right: Col Matt Kenner introduces a student to our T-34 *Mentor*.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Below: Col Willard Womack (in SBD) and Col Kenner talk about the importance of the aircraft during WWII.





# EDUCATION OFFICER

## Col Jane Simpson

Do you realize that October 8<sup>th</sup> is only just over SEVEN months away? Maybe that sounds like a long time, but it will go quickly, and we need Airbase Georgia volunteers to make the “WWII Heritage Days and the Dawn of the Space Age” a successful event. The poster has been approved, so make sure you come by the Hangar to pick some copies up. And sign the Task Sheet while you are there! Here is a sneak peek of the poster:



The event will include all the aviation and WWII items from past events, but items from the emerging space race will be introduced to visitors. It is a work in progress, so please send any comments or suggestions to [jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org).

### HISTORY HIGHLIGHT - VOL. 1, ART. 4

#### Post-WWII American Culture – The Atomic Age

While the surrender of Japan in WWII was accelerated by the use of the Atom Bomb, its

powerful destruction in Japan was (and still is) an extremely controversial use of a military weapon. After the war, the United States was eager to turn attentions away from the destructive force of the technology, and direct attention to the use of atomic energy for positive purposes. The Atomic Energy Commission was created in 1946 to give the federal government more control over the use of atomic energy, both for military and civilian purposes. The positive spin on atomic energy was adopted by manufacturers and marketing firms, and soon representations of atomic energy emerged on the American scene. The structure of the atom itself was often incorporated into American design and culture in a light-hearted fashion, and the potential beneficial applications of atomic energy was on the minds of everyday Americans.

Also during this period, WWII German scientists developed long-range unmanned rockets that were the first to reach space in 1944. Similarly, the Germans fielded in combat the first jet-powered aircraft in combat during WWII. The United States, due to the success of the Allies in WWII, benefitted from this newfound technology by utilizing the knowledge developed from these German scientists. The race towards space exploration was on. And the culture of this era reflects the hope of these new and promising forms of technology. Aviation and flight took center stage, so it is this enthusiasm that we seek to carry to our annual event.

Check out the next page for some of the art and design of the era, and see if you can determine the influencing factors!



## The Atomic Age (cont.)



Resources: "Atomic Age Design" (August 1, 2018) Atomic Heritage Foundation, [www.atomicheritage.org](http://www.atomicheritage.org)  
"Space Age Design" [www.spaceagedesign.org](http://www.spaceagedesign.org) →



# Member Profile – Col Frank Piasecki

Col Steve Forsyth, Public Information Officer

Col Frank Piasecki has brought a lifetime of experience to the CAF Airbase Georgia. He can be seen working on the Airbase's newest project, the Stearman, in particular the upper center section of the wing where the fuel tank is located.



Frank holds a Charles Taylor award, the Federal Aviation Administration's formal recognition for more than 50 years as an aviation mechanic. That is only part of his story, because he began at Aviation High School in New York City, where he and the other students made a complete wing section as part of their training. Comparing the fabric work to the Airbase's Stearman, Frank says "it's the same knot we use today."

After earning his Associate Degree in Aircraft Operations from the State University of Farmingdale, NY (SUNY), Frank joined the U.S. Army and was assigned to Germany as an aircraft mechanic supporting Cessna Bird Dogs, Dehavilland Beavers and Grumman Mohawks through 1968. Frank received his A&P certificate in 1968 and went to work at TWA at JFK Airport, performing hangar and line maintenance work on DC-9s, Convair 880s, and Boeing 707 and 727 aircraft. He earned a bachelor's degree in Aircraft Maintenance Technology from the Northrup Institute of Technology in 1972, and started work

at McDonnell Douglas as a powerplant engineer in Long Beach, Calif.

He accepted a field service engineer position for Douglas at Kastrup Airport in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1976, providing technical support for SAS Airlines in Norway and Sweden until 1982. He then transferred to Rome, Italy to support Alitalia Airlines until 1987, followed by several years in field support in Canada. He became Area Manager for Field Services in the Eastern United States and South America until 1997. He transferred to Atlanta to work on the Northwest Airlines DC-9 fleet modifications before becoming the Boeing Field Service Engineer for the McDonnell Douglas/Boeing fleet at Delta Air Lines.

Frank took on a field training assignment in Spain in 2011 before moving to UPS as a Boeing Field Representative until his retirement in 2017. He moved to Canton, Ga., with his wife, Eileen, until she passed away in 2020. He felt that he then could devote time to a program like Airbase Georgia, and he has been a steady contributor in the shop, working on the Stearman since he joined.

"I enjoy woodworking, and I love all mechanical work including cars and motorcycles," Frank said. He continues to ride motorcycles, especially enjoying traditional trips to the Blue Ridge Parkway friends from Delta.

"The biggest challenge here (for his Stearman work) is configuration control, for the right parts and configuration," he said. That includes research on the FAA site for all relevant aircraft directives. "We also have to pass on some of these skills that are not taught anymore, and we have to get younger people involved."

To support that thought, Frank recommends a formal orientation of the machine shop and the various aircraft for any new member. He was pleased to be part of 2021 WWII Heritage Day because the team was able to show the parts and unique fabric skills required to restore the Stearman. ➔

Photo by Col Charles Burcher

# Flying one of an endangered species

Col Frank Kalinowski, Editor

Some readers may remember – (has it really been six years?) – an article in the February 2016 Dixie Dispatch about the cross country trip of Col Jerome Kline ... a 1978 solo trip in his newly purchased Fairchild PT-19 that took him from Los Angeles to Ft. Myers, Florida. Imagine flying 2,342 miles in an open cockpit aircraft, aided only by some traditional flying gear: leather flying hat, goggles, scarf, long johns, thermal socks, long sleeve wool shirt, sweater, and a parka.

But this story is not a repeat about the trials of that 1978 journey. Instead, it is about a reporters experience with that antique airplane.

Bouncing over the Caloosahatchee River in Kline's recently-acquired PT-19 is as different from riding in a modern jet as riding in the rumble seat of a sports car is from lounging in the air-conditioned comfort of a handcrafted Rolls-Royce

Even weekend pilots in their tiny but modern two-seat planes cannot match the experience – snugly tucked away as they are in the canopied cocoons of their aircraft.

With only a windshield in front and nothing overhead to protect me from the elements, I helped strap myself securely into the rear seat of Kline's antiqued plane, straddling the "wobble pump"



Kathleen Powell was a staff reporter for the Ft. Myers News-Press when she accepted an offer to ride in Jerome's PT-19. This is her story as reported in the February 27, 1979 edition of the newspaper.

## *Flying one of an endangered species*

There may be no more exciting way to gaze on the benign face of Florida than from the open cockpit of Jerome Kline's World War II small army training plane.

that can be activated as dual control if a pilot and student are about to take off on a training flight. I took notice of a warning sign that read, "Intentional spinning with flaps extended PROHIBITED." And hoped Kline knew too, that this sort of nonsense – whatever it was --- was verboten.





(Endangered Species, cont.)

The headgear – a soft warm cap fitted with earphones (much more comfortable than a balloonist's or bike-rider's crash helmet), gave me my only connection with Kline, who piloted the plane from the front seat. (During its military career, the PT-19 carried the student up front and the instructor-pilot in the rear.)

As it happened, my tenuous connection with the pilot was particularly tentative because I rarely could understand what Kline was telling me through the rattling earphones. Also, nobody had remembered to instruct me in the use of the mouthpiece and I did not have the wit to notice it dangling from the headgear I was wearing. These things were minor to an experience I long to duplicate.

Everything double-checked and all systems go, Kline revved the engine and we began sliding our way from the apron of the Florida Airways hangars to the airport runways. Headed into a 15 – 20 mph wind, we waited momentarily for instructions from the control tower. Abruptly I saw Kline thrust up his left hand, thumb pointed skyward. We were off and away into a spectacularly beautiful wide blue yonder. Both the takeoff and landing were unbelievably smooth. Under Kline's expert piloting, the PT-19 left the ground and settled back onto it as daintily as a butterfly.

In the air, the plane had anything but a solid character. It responded to every nuance of the atmosphere, lightly dancing and swaying in the wind. We flew at an average speed of 100 mph, watching the landscape unroll beneath us, sometimes at crazy angles as we banked for a slow seemingly motionless turn. The disorientation occasioned by the sliding about of the landscape – sometimes below, sometimes besides, sometimes almost overhead – gave a dreamlike quality to the flight. That, with the intermittent slap of wind against my face, caused me to feel free and heady. I wanted to keep going ... and going ... and going. This kind of flying can only lead to adventureland.

Kline had told me that piloting his PT-19, especially on his cross-country flight two months ago to bring his antique plane to its new home

base, gave him a sense of pioneering he had experienced no other way. He called the trip "great and fulfilling" and said it gave him an appreciation of what earlier pilots experienced.

"Without modern navigational instruments in an open cockpit, you really feel you are on your own," he said. "It's a wonderful feeling."

With so few earthbound frontiers left to conquer, Kline may have hit upon a rare and unique way to prove himself. Even as a passenger, I could understand why the PT-19 meant so much to him. It is a symbol – but more. Teaming up with the gallant little airplane meant becoming sensitized to the spirit of the forebears of all of us: men and women who were not afraid to step across the thresholds of new experiences and had the fortitude to test their own strengths against the challenge of nature. ➔



Reporter Kathleen Powell – Ready to Fly!



## ON THE HORIZON .....

March 5, 2022 Staff & Members Meetings

April 1, 2022 Medical & License updates due to Operations Officer

April 2, 2022 Staff & Members Meetings

May 4, 2022 (Columbus, GA) - AirPower Tour B-29 FIFI and B-24 Diamond Lil. Contact Bill Bateman for CAF Airbase Georgia bus tour details, [bbate1@comcast.net](mailto:bbate1@comcast.net)

May 7, 2022 Staff & Members Meetings

May 14, 2022 PDK Good Neighbor Day

May 20-22, 2022 (Macon, GA) - CAF Gulf Coast B-17 Texas Raiders with Museum of Aviation.

May 26-30, 2022 (Savannah, GA) - CAF Gulf Coast B-17 Texas Raiders with National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Flags for the Fallen Memorial Day Weekend.

May 31-June 2 (Douglas, GA) - CAF Gulf Coast B-17 Texas Raiders with WWII Flight Training Museum.

June 4, 2022 Staff & Members Meetings

July 9, 2022 CAF Airbase Georgia Member Appreciation Picnic

October 8, 2022 WWII Heritage Day

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## ***PLANE CRAZY***



Not only was Rover man's best friend ... he also turned out to be mans best co-pilot.