



# AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA  
www.airbasegeorgia.org www.facebook.com/CAFAirbaseGeorgia  
Col Frank Kalinowski, Editor - fsk47@yahoo.com

December 2021

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

## Airbase Leader

Col Jim Buckley  
airbaseleader@airbasegeorgia.org

## Executive Officer

Col Jerry Robinette  
xo@airbasegeorgia.org

## Adjutant

Col Gerhard Frenz  
adjutant@airbasegeorgia.org

## Finance Officer

Col Peter Daliere  
finance@airbasegeorgia.org

## Maintenance Officer

Col Randy Hawkins  
maintenance@airbasegeorgia.org

## Operations Officer

Col Joel Perkins  
ops@airbasegeorgia.org

## Safety Officer

Col George Daneker  
safety@airbasegeorgia.org

## Development Officer

Col Chris Madrid  
development@airbasegeorgia.org

## Education Officer

Col Rick Kaczor  
education@airbasegeorgia.org

## Recruiting Officer

Col Jim Dalton  
LawDalton@aol.com

## Public Information Officer

Col Steve Forsyth  
pio@airbasegeorgia.org

## Marketing Officer

marketing@airbasegeorgia.org

## Aircraft Rides Officer

Col Steve Hoofnagle  
rides@airbasegeorgia.org

## Air Show Scheduling

Col Clint Cottrell  
airshow@airbasegeorgia.org

## Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann  
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

## From the Left Seat Col Jim Buckley, Airbase Georgia Leader Headin' for the last roundup!

I really have appreciated everyone's support for my eleven years as Wing Leader, plus terms as Finance Officer and Operations Officer. Together we have built a remarkable organization. I personally believe we are the best in the CAF! Shows and flying have slowed down, but still lots of activity in revamping our facility. I expect a lot from our new, younger Staff taking the helm in 2022, but I will be available to help in any way I can.



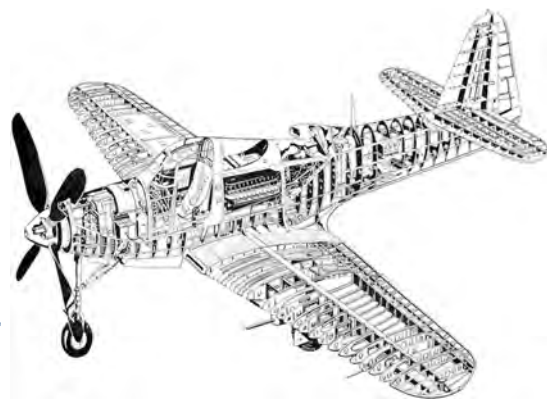
Sadly, after 20+ years of a symbiotic relationship, the American Legion Post 50 has found another home. We certainly wish them the best and they are welcome at our facility at any time.

ICAS, the International Council of Airshows, was held in person, in Las Vegas after one year of a virtual convention due to the Covid. Clint Cottrell, Robert Harris and myself were in attendance. Roughly 80% of the record 2018/2019 attendance returned. The Military was well represented after a year plus of cancellations. The convention was a success except for the fact that Robert and some folks from the Minnesota Wing picked up a mild case of Covid. All are recovering nicely in quarantine. My wish list for the New Year is to get our Corsair and SBD back in the hangar. Hoping you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ➔

Blue Skies and Tailwinds to All,  
Jim Buckley

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The staff and member meetings in January will be held on the second Saturday, that is on the 8th of January.

(P.S. **NOT** on the 1<sup>st</sup>!)

## ATTENTION AIRBASE GEORGIA COLONELS!

It's that time again. Your Airbase Georgia dues for 2022 are due. Your dues for 2022 will remain at \$48.00. We value your involvement with the Airbase and the Commemorative Air Force, and look forward to you continuing to be a member of the organization in the coming year.

Please submit payment now to the Finance Department to remain a member in good standing with the Airbase in 2022. Your dues may be paid by cash, check or credit/debit card. You may also pay online by visiting the AG website at <http://members.dixiewing.org> and entering your username and password. This will take you to the "dues payment" screen. NOTE: There is a \$1.00 service charge for using the online option for a total payment of \$49.00.

You may stop by the Finance desk at any time and pay your dues in person. If you should decide to mail your dues payment, please use the following address:

**CAF Airbase Georgia - ATTN: AG Dues**  
**1200 Echo Court**  
**Peachtree City, GA 30269**

If you should have questions, please email the Finance Department at: [finance@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:finance@airbasegeorgia.org)

Thank you in advance for the prompt payment of your 2022 dues.

Col Peter Dalier  
Finance Officer



## Scott Named Recipient of Niehouse Award

Congratulations to Col Gregg Scott (left) on being the 2021 recipient of the Col Ray Niehouse award. The Col Niehouse award is the highest award presented to a member of CAF Airbase Georgia (formerly Dixie Wing) for outstanding service and dedication to the Unit. The award was presented to Col Scott by Executive Officer Jerry Robinette at our annual Christmas dinner on December 12. Thanks to Col Jane Simpson for the photo. ➔





# Rides Update

## Col Steve Hoofnagle

### Rides Officer



We will be offering a "Rides 101" introductory training course for prospective Rides Personnel. Our goal is to develop a group of skilled Rides Personnel who can help facilitate Rides at the Airbase at first and then eventually at offsite Rides events.

The class will be limited to 6 people and will be held on Saturday, 5 February from 0900-1200 in the Meeting Room. If you would like to apply for the class, please send an email to [rides@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:rides@airbasegeorgia.org) by Saturday, 22 January. In the email please provide any experience you have relative to Rides (e.g. marshalling, loading aircraft, previous Rides volunteer work, computer skills, etc.). Also, give a statement on why you want to be part of the Rides Program and how you'll help it to be a success. All candidates will be considered and those selected for the class will be notified by Saturday, 29 January.

As mentioned in the November issue of the Airbase Georgia Dispatch, we will be instituting a price increase on all aircraft (except the SBD) as approved by the Staff at the November Staff Meeting:

AIRCRAFT/ RIDE TIME	2017 PRICES	2019 PRICES	2017-2019 % Increase	Approved 2022	2019 - 2022 % Increase
P-51 - 20	\$1,595.00	\$1,695.00	6.3%	\$1,895.00	11.8%
30	\$1,995.00	\$2,095.00	5.0%	\$2,295.00	9.5%
40	\$2,295.00	\$2,395.00	4.4%	\$2,595.00	8.4%
60	\$2,695.00	\$2,795.00	3.7%		
SBD - 20	\$995.00	\$995.00	0.0%	\$995.00	0.0%
30	\$1,195.00	\$1,195.00	0.0%	\$1,195.00	0.0%
40	\$1,395.00	\$1,395.00	0.0%	\$1,395.00	0.0%
LT-6 - 20	\$350.00	\$350.00	0.0%	\$395.00	12.9%
30	\$450.00	\$450.00	0.0%	\$500.00	11.1%
60	\$650.00	\$650.00	0.0%	\$700.00	7.7%
T-34B - 20	\$195.00	\$195.00	0.0%	\$250.00	28.2%
40	\$265.00	\$265.00	0.0%	\$320.00	20.8%
60	\$325.00	\$325.00	0.0%	\$380.00	16.9%
PT-19 - 20	\$150.00	\$150.00	0.0%	\$195.00	30.0%
40	\$225.00	\$225.00	0.0%	\$270.00	20.0%
60	\$275.00	\$275.00	0.0%	\$320.00	16.4%



## Rides Update (cont.)

This is the first increase in prices since September 2017 on all aircraft but the Mustang which had a modest increase in January 2019. The increases are a result of the higher insurance and operating costs and put us in line with prices charged by other warbird operators. Below is a breakdown of the new pricing structure which goes into effect on 1 JAN 2022 (NOTE: We will no longer offer a 60 minute Ride in the Mustang):

We are looking forward to a safe and successful Rides season in 2022. Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.✈

[rides@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:rides@airbasegeorgia.org)

770-309-5584 (new Airbase Georgia Business cell number)

Hoofer

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## Welcome, New Cols

Sworn in at the November meeting:

L-R: Mike Kennington, Tom Andrews





Col Jane Simpson recently received a thank you note from our very own Rosie the Riveter, Betty Bishop.

*"Thank you for interest shown, and the kind words. At this stage of my life, I absorb every one. I feel very blessed for contact made with the CAF. It's been a wonderful experience, plus meeting those who are really interested in these planes. They have made me feel like family, advising me of changes and updates---and just messages or responses. I enjoyed my visits there more than I have words to describe---and just sorry I can no longer attend. So glad you found the poem appropriate for use there. I was asked to write something for a special birthday party and that was it. (Still writing poetry, plus my "words of wisdom" for FB friends.) I love and appreciate every one of you and appreciate your message. Anxious to hear more!!"*

Col Simpson sent Betty a thank you note for the poem with a photo magnet of Col Robyn holding it in front of the P-63. ➔



## Rosie

Just taking a moment to remind you  
Of the women of World War II  
Leaving their homes, family, and friends  
For a venture so totally new.  
Some were wives of soldiers,  
Some of us still in our teens  
Wanting to help the war effort  
By any way or means.  
Some worked on ships, tanks, and more,  
Some of us worked on planes.  
No matter what the job entailed,  
You seldom heard us complain.  
Somewhere along the production line  
A lady "riveter" was shown.  
So now down through history  
"Rosie the Riveter" has been known.  
So glad to see interest now showing  
To keep this interest alive  
By those taking time to remember  
And for us, old memories revive.

Betty Webster Bishop  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

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# Scenes From The Tarmac

Col Willard Womack is all strapped in and ready for a flight in Col Stan Musick's (Left) Cessna L-19 *Bird Dog*. Willard flew this type of plane in Vietnam in the '60s.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher



Preparing for take off, Willard turns around. Is he saying, "Stan ... do you really know how to fly this thing?"



## Scenes From The Tarmac (cont)

## A Gathering of Morgans

Photos by Col Charles Burcher

December 4<sup>th</sup> brought a rare gathering of at least seven Morgans of the Morgan Car Club to Airbase Georgia. For those who are not familiar with the car, it is a handcrafted British motorcar built since 1909. The style present at the gathering traces to 1936 with the introduction of the Morgan 4/4. ➔





**Scenes From The Tarmac (cont.)**

Col Matt Kenner captured this photo of Red Nose during the night portion of the photo workshop in November.



# EDUCATION OFFICER

## Col Jane Simpson

As we enter the new year, one of the best resolutions you could make is to spend more time at CAF Airbase Georgia helping us with our education mission! We still need volunteers to train as docents, to inventory and value artifacts, and to assist with our task to create the best WWII Heritage museum in metro-Atlanta. Our team has photographed the items in about 10 of the approximately 64 boxes in the artifact trailer. Probably half of the collection involves toys, mostly paper models and games. But in every box, we continue to find one or more artifacts that are especially illustrative of the era of the Second World War. If you join our task force, you can get access to our photographs and help us determine which items are worth keeping in our collections. Please see the Highlight below for one of the most interesting artifacts that we have discovered so far.



In addition to inventory management, we continue to explore our options for a museum annex. It is hoped that we will have plans to share with you very shortly - stay tuned!

If you would like to sponsor an artifact in the next issue or if you would like to join our Task Force, please send me a message at [jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org).

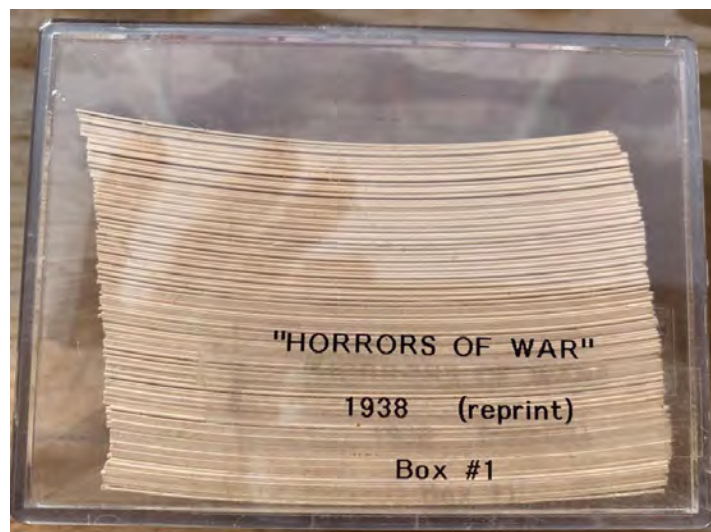
See you at the hangar!!

## ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHT - VOL. 1, ART. 2

### "Horrors of War" Trading Cards

While exploring Box 15 in the Museum Trailer, a set of trading cards was discovered hidden among the dusty old manuals. It was a complete set of 240 trading cards dated 1938 and entitled "Horrors of War." The artwork was intriguing (and sometimes a bit disturbing...) and the stories on the flip side fascinating. The fact that the cards were in excellent condition, labeled as "reprints," but with the date 1938 as the only date showing anywhere, we are uncertain as to the true date of this artifact. But here is what we were able to find out.

"Horrors of War" trading cards were created in 1938 by the Philadelphia based company Gum, Inc. Bubble gum cards were very popular in the 1930s, and most people are familiar with the sports trading cards. However, the company president, Warren Bowman, and advertising specialist George Moll developed these cards for the purposes of teaching the target audience (children) that war was awful. The cards depicted horrors of the Chinese-Japanese War, Spanish Civil War, the Italian invasion in the Ethiopian Wars, the Russian and Japanese conflict in Manchuria, and ultimately, the build up to World War II. The cards were discovered by then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who used the cards to demonstrate how cruel other countries could be in international conflict. US Senators criticized FDR's use of the cards as "bubblegum diplomacy."





"Horrors of War" (cont.)



## 285 Sudetens and Czechs Engage in Civil War

Following Hitler's speech assuring Sudeten Germans of his readiness to use force in order to guarantee them their rights, disorders broke out in the German territories, and the Sudeten German Party issued an ultimatum to the Czech Government demanding that the martial law imposed on Sudeten communities be revoked within six hours after 7:30 p. m., September 13, 1938. All peace negotiations between the two factions were broken off. The most serious of the disorders occurred in the Sudeten area near the border north of Eger in the town of Habersparirk. The Sudeten version was that Communists threatened Sudetens in the main section of the town and fighting started. Local policemen tried to quiet the troublemakers, made some arrests. The police station was surrounded, shots rang out and soon the Sudetens had taken possession of the police station. When reinforcements of Czech troops and policemen arrived at least forty were killed.

### To know the HORRORS OF WAR is to want PEACE

This is one of the **SECOND SERIES** of Horrors of War picture cards and true stories of today's warfare. Save to get a complete history. Copyright 1938, Gum, Inc., Phila., Pa. Printed in U.S.A.

REPRINT

This artifact best demonstrates how critical the task of collection management is to the CAF Airbase Georgia. With the proper collection, we can educate future generations on events that shaped our current culture and political environment. ➔

#### Resources:

<https://www.psacard.com/articles/articleview/6534/historic-illustration-ronnie-palogers-1938-horrors-war-trading-card-set-psa-registry-2009-hall-fame-inductee>

<https://www.deanscards.com/c/503/1938-Gum-Inc-Horrors-of-War>

<https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/horrors-of-war-trading-card-collection-168-c-a5b4c56b09>







## Airbase Georgia Attends ICAS

L-R: Cols Robert Harris, Jim Buckley, and Clint Cottrell attended the 2021 International Council of Airshows (ICAS) in Las Vegas from Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Airbase Georgia had one of the twelve booths for the CAF. The Airbase Georgia airshow sales team was able to interact with military and civilian airshow organizers and quote/contract several shows for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Keep an eye on the website calendar to see the 2022 airshows supported by Airbase Georgia! ➔





# Development Officer Update

## Col Chris Madrid

*As Development Officer, one of my priorities is to support member engagement and project success by assisting members in building plans and teams to implement and sustain their individual projects. Together we can demonstrate to the business, civic and education communities that the CAF Airbase Georgia is a resource that impacts the quality of life in Fayette County and throughout Georgia. Establishing a positive reputation, track record and relationship building are key to all future fundraising success.*



During CAF Airbase Georgia's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Warbird Formation Clinic in November, John Willhoff lead a photography workshop that resulted in the image above. John's generosity in sharing his talent, skill and time produced several compelling photos, but more importantly John introduced the CAF mission to a new community. One of the photographers joined the CAF after attending the clinic. The spirit of service and collaboration that John demonstrated is vital to the success and growth of every organization, especially non-profits that thrive – or die – based on volunteers' contribution.

As I prepare my work plan for 2022, one of my priorities is to continue support of member engagement. The CAF has a tradition of excellence in restoring and operating vintage military aircraft, participating in dozens of airshows annually where the aircraft are seen by millions of spectators

The CAF mission is to “educate, inspire, and honor through flight and living history experiences.” For warbird enthusiasts, the mission is exciting and fulfilling, but in an increasingly complex world where everyone has competing



commitments and priorities we must seek and strategically create opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals, communities, and organizations. If you are a new member and haven't yet found your place, please reach out to me.

In 2022 we will stand-up several new programs to advance the CAF mission in Fayette County and throughout Georgia. We will increase our profile in the business community. We will host the first-ever Fayette Aerospace & Aviation Career Exploration Fair next November. We will stand out as a stop on the Georgia WWII Heritage Trail. We will partner with the CAF Gulf Coast Wing and coordinate a Georgia Warbird Tour. We will continue our partnerships with Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University, Fayette County Public Schools and Georgia high schools with Aviation Pathways. CAF Airbase Georgia will become a unique and irreplaceable resource.

Finally, I want to express to all members my respect and appreciation for Airbase Leader Jim Buckley. Jim has served CAF Airbase Georgia as a pilot and staff member for the 20 years I have been a member of the CAF. During that time, Jim was faithful to the mission and provided a steady hand as the organization navigated many challenges and achievements, ultimately guiding us to an Airbase designation.



**COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE®**  
**AIRBASE GEORGIA**



## Development Officer Update (cont.)



### Stearman Project Gains Momentum

The Stearman "Rosie" Restoration Project has been included in the 2021 "12 Planes of Christmas" online fundraising campaign. While our Stearman is not one of the 12 featured aircraft, the program is an opportunity to highlight our project to a broader audience and prep for future online campaigns. The restoration team is making steady progress and we are now providing regular updates to our 39,000 Facebook followers, including videos coordinated by Jeff Clark. Steve Forsyth distributed a media release to the local community. You can support the Stearman project by making a donation at [12 Planes of Christmas PT-17 Stearman "Rosie" N50329](#)

The project team will meet immediately following the January 8, 2022 Member Meeting. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Project Manager Jeff Clark, [Jeffrey.clark@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffrey.clark@gmail.com).

### 2022 Hangar Rentals

In past years hangar rentals generated over \$30,000 in revenue to support our restoration and maintenance efforts. Events are also a valuable source for members and potential donors. Please contact Hangar Rental Officer Dave Riesselmann if you are interested in assisting with the profitable program. Also, please pass on rental leads to Dave, [facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org).

## CAF Airbase Georgia Commemorates Pearl Harbor

2021 marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. CAF Airbase Georgia joined The Museum of History and Holocaust Education at Kennesaw State University to offer digital opportunities for students, teachers and the public to commemorate the event. CAF Airbase Georgia's Willard Womack contributed a video segment that introduced students to the World War II flying museum's replica Japanese Kate torpedo bomber and restored US Navy Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber. The program was one of only three Pearl Harbor commemoration events held in Georgia this year. The program was promoted by media release courtesy Steve Forsyth and Facebook posts. Thanks to the partnership, we connected with 651 educators, homeschoolers and students across Georgia and eight other states.



### GSU Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)

Georgia State University GR) Ben Schmidt is working with the Museum Refresh Team to design a strategy and action plans to support our refresh and long-term efforts. Please contact Jane Simpson if you are interested in volunteering.

### Scope of Work

- Exhibit design strategy aligned with the Post Pandemic Refresh plan
- Artifact inventory plan to be executed by GRA with CAF Dixie Wing volunteers
- SOPs for ongoing inventory management by volunteer staff
- Recommendation for digital collection management system for continuity





December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

CAF Airbase Georgia  
1200 Echo Ct.  
Peachtree City, GA 30269

To the Board of Directors:

Thank you so much for hosting the Business After Hours on November 18<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Digital Collective. Your hospitality was warm and well-received by our members who attended. Our staff enjoyed working with your team to make this event happen.

CAF Airbase Georgia is an important asset to Fayette County, contributing to our local economy by bringing visitors to Peachtree City and by engaging students in the aviation industry. I cannot thank you enough for the economic impact your organization has on this region.

Please know that we welcome any opportunity to work together again to further the missions of our respective organizations. If I can be of any assistance in the future, please let me.

Thank you again for your gracious welcome at the Business After Hours and I hope can visit again.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin Martin", written over a faint circular stamp.

Colin Martin  
President & CEO

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## Spotlight on Col Truitt Harper

Col Truitt is one of those aviators who is not content to only belong to one CAF unit. In addition to being a long-time member of the Dixie Wing / Airbase Georgia, he is also a member of the B-29 / B-24 Squadron. That Squadron recognized Col Harper earlier this year in their "Volunteer Spotlight," with the article being Reprinted, with permission, on the next four pages.

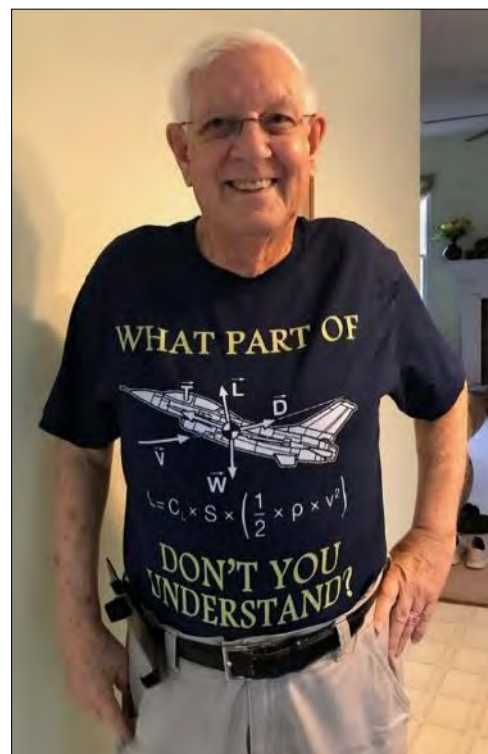


# Volunteer Spotlight Truitt Harper

*By Konley Kelley*

It's way too hard to pick just one label to give CAF B-29/B-24 Squadron member Truitt Harper and his amazing career in aviation. So why not a word cloud?

**Missionary Pilot** A&P | Aircraft Mechanic  
**Chief Pilot of Lockheed Flying Club**  
**Airline Transport Pilot** APITT Tour Veteran  
Pilot/Inspector - Home Built **Warbird Pilot** B-29 Scanner  
**Flight Instructor**  
Cargo Pilot **Seaplane pilot** Formation Pilot  
Test Pilot **Bush Pilot** Airshow Pilot



If you asked Truitt, he'd also want you to know he is husband, proud father of four, and "Dee-Daddy" to 16 grandkids while living a comfortable and content life in the little suburb of Hiram, just west of Atlanta, GA.



*Truitt Harper and Don Boccaccio*

CAF Development Officer and Tour Leader, Don Boccaccio, recommended Truitt for a volunteer spotlight. He told me Truitt has an incredible life story. Now that I've interviewed Truitt, I totally agree.

Truitt was born on January 6, 1943 in Atlanta, GA. His father, Truitt Sr., was a successful architect and mother, Eva Payne, a homemaker. He has a younger sister named Patsy. It was a happy childhood in a close knit family. He enjoyed school and was active in football, basketball, and a starter on the track team. He wasn't a big kid but enjoyed the competition and "toughed" it out.

He was fascinated by airplanes at a very young age and bought model kits and balsa wood gliders at the local dime store. He regrets misplacing or destroying so many of these neat models and toys as a kid. He's made up for that in the years since (more on that later).

Truitt's Dad worked very hard, often bringing his work home. Truitt hung out with the neighborhood kids. In the summer he helped the breadman make deliveries. He remembers Uncles coming home after serving in the military and the family celebrations that followed.

After high school, he enrolled at Georgia Tech to study aerospace engineering. He was never one to make the Dean's list but hung in there and passed his classes. He also joined the civil air patrol but said all his unit really did was march and study for classes.

Ultimately, his smart choice for a major was validated when he landed a job and went right to work three days after graduating college as a test engineer at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, GA in 1966. In a pneumatics lab, his team tested fatigue on the wing and fuselage components of a C-5 Galaxy. In his free time, he took flying lessons and eventually achieved ratings for many types of aircraft. He was a member of the Lockheed Flying Club and put in a lot of hours.



Truitt stayed at home to save money. With his income, he bought a 1966 GTO. Between flying and work, he didn't have a lot of time to think about much else but that all changed when he met Joy at church. Joy was in nursing school and the daughter of missionaries. Truitt and Joy married in 1971. Around that time, work at Lockheed slowed. He had an opportunity to go to Africa with his wife and her parents and fly for church and humanitarian needs. He asked his boss if he could be laid off versus quitting which set him up a little better financially. Before they left for Africa, the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) sent them to orientation at Biola College in La Mirada, CA.

In 1972, they arrived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In the first few months, he worked alongside his stepfather and the government to set-up an aviation ministry program, establish airstrips, and raise money for aircraft and supplies. A return trip to the U.S. afforded him the opportunity to attend an A&P program in Elizabethton, TN. While in the U.S., a civil war in Ethiopia ended hopes to return so his family redirected to West Africa and the city of Naimey, in Niger. Here Truitt began flying a lot. He piloted a Comanche and Cherokee Lance.

On one memorable day, he was flying a missionary family over a desolate region and had engine trouble. He radioed mayday and a British aircraft responded. He lost engine power but landed safely with damage to the landing gear. He said it couldn't have been that bad a landing because one of the children in the plane slept right through it. Five hours later a Land Rover came to the rescue. They pushed the plane under a tree and a local villager was hired to guard it. Returning three months later, they replaced the engine, repaired the landing gear, cleared a makeshift runway, and flew away.

Overall, Truitt spent six years involved with mission work overseas and stateside. While in Niger, he logged 600-800 hours per year flying medical supplies, students and missionaries to various destinations. As missions became more established and self-sufficient, flying assignments decreased.

He and Joy also began raising a family. Michael was born in Ethiopia. Scott was born in Tennessee and a girl, Melody, was born in Niger.



*Truitt with his damaged aircraft in February, 1977.*

In 1977, they returned to Atlanta, GA. With no job, Truitt did some flight instruction but it wasn't enough money to get by. A friend hooked him up with a cargo company flying DC-3s for FedX. He flew routes all over the south and earned his airline transport certificate and rank of Captain. He and Joy also welcomed a little girl named Karen.

Truitt's boss at Lockheed reconnected and offered him an engineer's position testing aircraft again. It was 1980 and he was pretty much back with the same team. The components they were testing now were composites made of carbon fibers covering the surface of aircraft rudders and leading edges. They worked on everything from the Osprey to jets for Gulfstream. His team did composite manufacturing for components of the F-117 Stealth and F-22 Raptor. This job continued for 13 years and he began to supervise a team of engineers.



*Truitt gave flying lessons to the owner of this DC-3 in 1981*



He never got to fly in one of these incredible aircraft but did spend time in an F-22 flight simulator. He also rejoined the Lockheed Flying Club and became their chief pilot and instructor.

He was invited to a meeting at the Airbase Georgia of the CAF. Truitt loved the old warbirds, particularly a C-45 Expeditor called *Bucket of Bolts* that he flew for six years. He retired from Lockheed and became an instructor-pilot with the Airbase Georgia flying in many of their famous warbirds including the P-51 Mustang *Red Nose*, the first plane acquired by the CAF, SDB Dauntless, T-6 Texan, Japanese Kate, Fairchild PT-19, and T-34 Mentor.

His friend, Joe Broker, introduced him to the CAF B-29/B-24 Squadron. Truitt joined up and did B-29 Ground School in 2014. He has been a regular at the Scanner position on tours from 2014 to present including the Arsenal of Democracy flyover in 2015 and Canada tour in 2018.

Truitt was on the transition flight aboard *FIFI* this summer from Sioux Falls, SD to Lincoln, NB. In the left scanner position, he spotted some smoke from #2 and alerted the flight crew. *FIFI* was grounded and, in a few days, our Texas maintenance crew arrived to swap out the engine.

He has had some memorable interactions with WWII veterans. A B-29 tail gunner told him he was ordered to search the aircraft for something that was smoking. He found a shorted electrical box in the bomb bay. With no warning the bomb bay doors opened. His headset was blown off and, unable to reach him, the crew thought he'd fallen out the bomb bay.

Truitt also remembers getting permission to take a veteran to the gunner compartment and watching him work our gunsight nearly 70 years since the airman did this on active duty in WWII. It was remarkable to watch. It has been his privilege to meet so many veterans and represent the Squadron.

Truitt is very fond of his touring crews and especially tour leaders like Phil Pardon and Don Boccaccio, both very good friends of his. He once bunked in the same home with Neils and Archie at Oshkosh. Other Squadron members he has pleasure of knowing include Toni and Steve Rabroker, David Oliver, Jonathan Oliver, Bill Goeken, Steve Zimmerman, Al Herum, Al Benzing and many others. He has a long list of CAF folks he can call friends. He also believes he honors the aviation friends he's personally lost over the years by continuing to volunteer and serve the mission of the CAF.



*Bucket of Bolts*



*Red Nose*

Photo by John Willhoff



*FIFI at the Arsenal of Democracy (2015)*



Truitt had a bout with cancer in 2020 and was touched with the outreach from his CAF family checking on his well-being. It meant a lot to him. Today he is cancer free and feeling better day by day.

He is blessed his children live near him in Atlanta and his family has grown to include 16 grandchildren. His friends are urging him to write a book. He has meticulously kept a logbook since 1956 and can tell you about every plane he has ever flown. In 2017, he received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award and Charles Taylor A&P Master Mechanics Award from the FAA, only the fourth person in GA to receive both. He has been an active member of the EAA and AOPA. Truitt also claims to have one of the most spectacular aviation-themed basements in the world with a rare collection of die cast aircraft, models, art, books and a unique collection of airline boarding passes and sick sacks. As a pilot, Truitt said he takes special pride in saying he has never failed to come down in the same plane in which he left...he has never had to jump.

Truitt gives thanks to the Lord for 55+ years in aviation. Thank you Truitt for making the CAF part of your incredible flying career.



*Sitting in a F117 cockpit at the SAC Museum*



*Chatting with a B-29 bombardier.*



*Not facepaint, forehead paint 😊*



*Receiving both FAA awards in 2017.*



*At the grant opening of the B-29 Café in Ozark, MO.*



*Diamond Lil and Truitt in 2021*



*L-R: Michael, Truitt, Scott, Joy, Karen, Melody.*



*The whole family.*





# Stearman Project

This month, the annual CAF [#12PlanesOfChristmas](https://fundrazr.com/71soD7) campaign launched and we hope you'll consider supporting our Stearman N2S-2 Kaydet restoration. You can donate anytime at <https://fundrazr.com/71soD7>

This project is dedicated to "Rosie the Riveter," the cultural icon representing women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, helping transform America into the Arsenal of Democracy! The campaign to raise \$10,000 began on December 1, and will continue through December 31, 2021. These funds will be utilized to help a purchase a new engine and propeller.

The Kaydet, a two-seater biplane introduced in 1934 by Stearman Aircraft Division of Boeing in Wichita, Kansas, became an unexpected success during World War II. Kaydets had fabric-covered wooden wings, single-leg landing gear, and an over-built welded-steel fuselage. Over 8,428 Stearman were manufactured for use by the United States to train military pilots for service. During 11 years of military service, more American military pilots learned to fly in the Stearman than any other similar airplane. Though it was an N2S to the Navy, do you know what designation the Stearman had in the Army?

You can help us restore our own Navy Stearman dedicated to Rosie the Riveter by donating to our [#12PlanesOfChristmas](https://fundrazr.com/71soD7) campaign at: <https://fundrazr.com/71soD7>

Pictured below are Airbase Georgia volunteers Cols Mike Lamble and Teresa D'Emilio working on fabric preparation for the Stearman restoration project. The historic WWII biplane trainer will be the newest addition to the Airbase Georgia fleet with the help of donations from this year's #12Planes campaign! ✈







# ON THE HORIZON .....

**IMPORTANT  
DATE  
CHANGE**

**January 8, 2022**  
Staff & Members Meetings

January 12, 2022 Virtual Recruiting Open House

February 5, 2022 Staff & Members Meetings / 0900 - Rides 101 Training

March 5, 2022 Staff & Members Meetings



## WEB WATCH

Ever hear or use the phrase “on the beam?” Better yet, have you ever wondered about the origin of the phrase?

Well ... wonder no more and prepare to be fascinated with the story in the article *FLYING THE BEAMS* at <https://flyingthebeams.com>. For you older pilots you may recall using the system, but the Low Frequency Radio Range (LFR), aviation’s first radio navigation system, was replaced before we transitioned from rotary dial telephones and automobiles without standard seat belts.

The article provides an extensive review of early navigation systems in the twentieth century during the “Golden Age of Air Travel.” Read the article for the complete story, and enjoy the photos of that golden age.

Thanks to Col Tom Thompson for forwarding this article to the Airbase Georgia Dispatch’s Editor.