



# AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA  
[www.airbasegeorgia.org](http://www.airbasegeorgia.org) [www.facebook.com/CAFAirbaseGeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/CAFAirbaseGeorgia)  
Col Frank Kalinowski, Editor - [fsk47@yahoo.com](mailto:fsk47@yahoo.com)

March 2022

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

## Welcome, New Cols

### Airbase Leader

Col Joel Perkins  
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### Executive Officer

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### Adjutant

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### Education Officer

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### Recruiting Officer

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### Public Information Officer

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[sforsyth106@gmail.com](mailto:sforsyth106@gmail.com)

### Marketing Officer

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

### Aircraft Rides Officer

Col Steve Hoofnagle  
[rides@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:rides@airbasegeorgia.org)

### Air Show Scheduling

Col Clint Cottrell  
[airshow@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:airshow@airbasegeorgia.org)

### Facility Rentals

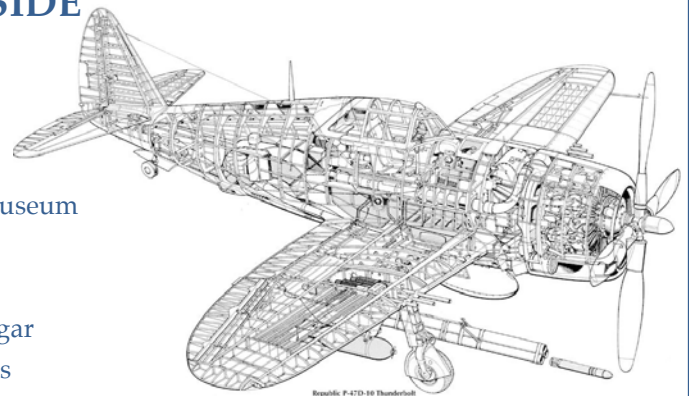
Col Dave Riesselmann  
[facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org)



At the March members meeting, Recruiting Officer Col Jim Dalton swears in five new Cols: Burt Puckett, Cooper Perkins, John Williams, and mother & son Joanna and Nicholas. Not pictured: Ellen Stearns, who was inducted in February.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 ..... From the Left Seat
- 3 ..... Rides / Facility
- 4 ..... P-47 Project
- 6 .... Education Officer – Museum
- 8 ..... Bessemer Fly-in
- 9 .... CAF Airpower Tour
- 11 ... Scenes From The Hangar
- 13 ... Corsair in New Orleans
- 14 ... PDK Good Neighbor Day
- 15 ... **WWII Heritage Days Poster**
- 16 ... On the Horizon



# From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

Airshow season is upon us and our ability to participate in all that the season entails is a result of the dedication and commitment of you, our talented volunteers. Each of you brings a unique and important talent to our organization. As I walk around the hangar and observe the hive of activity, I am constantly impressed with the character and skill of each of you. I want to recognize some of that talent this month as we begin our season.

First, our airshow sales team, consisting of Clint Cottrell, Jim Buckley, Heather Johnson, and Robert Harris, is making sure that we are getting contracts signed and securing that important revenue. Our Eglin TPS (Test Pilot School) team of Stan Musick, John Currenti, Randy Hawkins, and Rodney Higginbotham will be departing in April for two weeks at Eglin with the *Mustang*. I appreciate the commitment and sacrifice each one those team members are making to continue delivering an excellent product to our Air Force client. Our rides department, Stephen Hoofnagle and Jim Stearns, along with the aircraft liaisons and pilots, are doing a great job working our rides backlog and supporting new ride purchases locally and at our show events. Our *Stearman* team is making that project come to life and the progress has been remarkable. They have invested hours in making sure every aspect of that airplane will be perfect the first time it takes to the sky.

Our maintenance team has been hard at work for a couple months completing more maintenance tasks than this article will allow me to list. A special thank you to Randy Hawkins, Gregg Scott, Andy Cash, Rodney Higginbotham, Dennis Beach, Steve Barnshaw, Paul Brunks, Mike McGowan, Stan Musick, Rob Haley, Tony Stein, Jim Buckley, and Jim Arnold.

Dave Reisselmann has done a remarkable job renting our facility and supporting the customer events from start to finish. This is a very important part of our revenue generation. I sure all of you have noticed the improvements we have been able to make to the meeting rooms and the parking area. These include new paint, flooring, ceiling tiles, a bookshelf, and new asphalt. Thank you to Paul Areson for overseeing these improvements. Let's not forget those craftsmen who quietly come in the side door and operate the lathes and presses to create much needed parts that keep us going. They are truly artisans.

There are certainly more valued volunteers working behind the scenes for our success and I don't have room to mention you all here, but you are appreciated. We have a great team and Airbase Georgia is better every day for it. Thank you for all you do. I look forward to seeing you around the hangar! ➔



# Rides Update

## Col Steve Hoofnagle

### Rides Officer



By Steve Hoofnagle, Rides Officer

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

770-309-5584

With the arrival of Spring, the 2022 Rides Season is off and running and we are working on catching up on our backlog of paid flights that built up during the COVID slow down.

We tell our prospective Riders that we have to line up the "Four P's" of pilot, plane, passenger, and perfect flying weather. The Rides aircraft are emerging from their annual maintenance work and the pilots are finishing up their recurrent training (ground school) and proficiency check flights. The passengers are chomping at the bit to take their Ride. That gets us three of the "Four P's," but we continue to do battle with the weather that has postponed several recent Rides.

We post upcoming Rides on the bulletin board in the Hangar by the kitchen door, but we're

working on an electronic calendar and display to replace this paper system.

There are several aircraft appearances booked where Rides aircraft will participate, including the PDK Good Neighbor Day on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

We will also have our perennial Rides Events at Reading and Oshkosh this year, so we're looking forward to a successful Rides season this year.

As a reminder, Airbase Georgia members in good standing are entitled to a 20% discount on Rides (one per aircraft type per calendar year) taken at the Airbase (not at offsite events). If you would like to book a Ride, contact us at [rides@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:rides@airbasegeorgia.org) or 770-309-5584. ➔

# Facility Rentals

## Col Dave Riesselmann

A shout out, as the kids say, to the following for their help with the hangar event on March 12th:

Jim and Jacob Dalton  
Laura Donovan  
Mike Lamble  
Dave Richardson  
And, of course, the Hangar Rats

Merikay Franklin's expertise was also instrumental early in the day. Randy Hawkins and Tom Walsh helped store tables and chairs the following day.

You will read this when two more events occur on March 26th. No hangar events are scheduled for April but stand by for an opportunity to pitch in when hangar events resume in May. ➔

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





# Rare P-47 *Thunderbolt* to Join CAF Airbase Georgia's fleet of WWII Warbirds

Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia is acquiring a rare World War II P-47 *Thunderbolt* as a long-term restoration project. The P-47 will join the noteworthy Airbase fleet of operating aircraft, including its SBD *Dauntless*, P-51 *Mustang*, FG-1D *Corsair*, and P-63 *Kingcobra*.

Weighing 10,000 pounds empty, the *Thunderbolt* was the largest single engine fighter built during WWII. The aircraft was effective as a short-to-medium range escort fighter in high-altitude air-to-air combat and ground attack in both the European and Pacific theaters. 15,636 *Thunderbolts* were built by Republic Aviation between 1941-1945, but only four remain flying today. The aircraft coming to Airbase Georgia did not see fighting during the War, but it was used effectively in Nicaragua and Guatemala in the 1950s. It was the last of its type to record an aerial victory, during a dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 1955.



The CAF acquired the aircraft and brought it to the United States as part of its early fleet building prior to 1970. It was heavily damaged when it caught fire during takeoff about 10 years ago, severely burning part of the fuselage and the right wing. The P-47 had been undergoing preliminary renovation at the CAF SoCal Wing in California. The rebuilt sections and parts will be shipped to Peachtree City, Ga., for Airbase Georgia to complete the restoration over the coming few years.

"Our mechanics will utilize their skills to restore and replace parts, fabricate when necessary, and eventually complete the P-47 by adding an engine and modern avionics," said Airbase leader Joel Perkins. "This will require painstaking work, but the final product will be a magnificent warbird that will serve the mission of the CAF and be in demand for airshows around the country."

Contact:  
Steve Forsyth  
Public Information Officer  
CAF Airbase Georgia  
770-714-7750  
[sforsyth106@gmail.com](mailto:sforsyth106@gmail.com)

# HELP BRING IT HOME



## Airbase Georgia Members:

As ya'll have heard we have had the honor of being assigned a P-47N project, which is one of the original CAF aircraft. In fact, if you look in our hallway there is a black and white picture there that shows most of the original CAF fighters and we now are caretakers to 4 of them. The project currently sits near Los Angeles CA, in the CAF's Southern California wing hangar.

We are seeking volunteers to help bring the project home. Here is what is needed:

- 1 28' box truck with an 8' opening door.
- 1 30' gooseneck trailer transport the fuselage.
- 4 - 6 people who can spend 5 to 8 days driving or flying to CA to help pack up the project.
- Donations of blankets to wrap the control surfaces and parts.
- Monetary donations to help offset the expense of bringing the plane home.

Airbase Georgia will pay for gas, lodging, and food. If you are interested in being part of a cross county mission to bring the P-47 home please email Philip Beegle at [pbeegle1@gmail.com](mailto:pbeegle1@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support.

Philip Beegle  
Airbase Georgia

# EDUCATION OFFICER

## Col Jane Simpson

If you attended the last general meeting, you had the opportunity to see the new plans for the Museum Annex. Thanks to Jim van den Heuvel, we have schematics and floor plans that help us visualize the addition. Here is just one of the views of the annex and a proposed outdoor stage. Our next step is to find and hire an architect to develop more specific plans that we can use to seek private funding. If you have any recommendations, please pass that information on, and as usual, send any comments or suggestions about the museum to [jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org).



### HISTORY HIGHLIGHT - VOL. 1, ART. 5

#### WWII Wartime Dartboards

An exhaustive search of the internet (in other words, I stayed up late trying to find information, and I was exhausted by the effort...) did not produce much except for a very interesting article from the website "Darts501" on WWII wartime

targets, see <http://mail.darts501.com/wartime-dartboards.html>. It seems that games were used by British intelligence (M19) to sneak in useful items for British POWs in German prison camps. Silk maps, saws, and other tools to assist in escape from the camps were smuggled in dartboards (and other games) with false fronts or places where objects could be hidden:





## Dartboards (cont.)

"MI9 used the services of former stage magician Jasper Maskelyne to design hiding places for escape aids including tools hidden in cricket bats and baseball bats, maps concealed in playing cards and actual money in board-games. It is suspected Maskelyne also came up with the idea of using a dartboard as a means of concealment of escape tools."

The dartboards that we have are ones designed by the U.S. (left) and the U.K. as wartime support for use on the Home Front, and not for the POWs (Obviously!). Take a look at the two we have at Airbase Georgia. It's pretty easy to interpret the Anti-Japanese board, but can you identify what location the German target represents?



A note about the Japanese Dartboard: In the early months of WWII, after repeated Japanese victories and with a string of allied defeats in the Pacific, a little frustration might have been relieved by striking a blow against Imperial forces (albeit vicariously) through the liberal use of darts.

As with many conflicts in history, opposing sides portrayed their enemy in unflattering terms and in pictures with exaggerated features that might emphasize national, racial, ethnic, or religious differences. With that in mind, the images on the "Get Those JAPS!" dartboard were relatively tame compared to common caricatures at the time which portrayed the Japanese with buck teeth, horn rimmed glasses with thick lenses, or as little monkey-like creatures (including tails). Likewise, Japanese propaganda often portrayed Americans as large, smelly, ape-like creatures.



Held at the Bessemer Municipal Airport: 900 Mitchell Field Road, Bessemer, AL. CAF Airbase Georgia will sending several aircraft, including the SBD, LT-6 and T-34



# CAF AirPower History Tour

National Air Tour of Historic World War II Aircraft



## Coming to Columbus, GA

May 4 – 8, 2022

Featuring



Plus other classic warbirds !!



\* Arrives Friday at noon



Attending aircraft subject to change

### LOCATION

Flightways Columbus FBO  
Columbus Airport  
3250 W. Britt David Road  
Columbus, GA 31909

### SCHEDULE

Open To The Public for Rides and Tours  
Wednesday May 4 through Sunday May 8  
9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. each day

B-29 flies Sat & Sun at 9 a.m./10:30 a.m.  
B-24 flies Sat & Sun at 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.  
Other aircraft rides available each day  
Aircraft tours available when planes are not flying

### COST

Adults \$20 Youth 11-17 \$10 10 and under FREE  
\*\* Price includes FREE cockpit tours \*\*

### RIDES

Get more information at  
[www.airpowertour.org](http://www.airpowertour.org)  
and book your ride on  
"FIFI" and the other  
warbirds! Seats fill  
quickly! Book online  
TODAY and SAVE!



[www.AirPowerTour.org](http://www.AirPowerTour.org)



# BUS TOUR

## Columbus, GA May 4

*See FiFi and Diamond Lil!*

Available to CAF Airbase Georgia members, family and friends.

Itinerary - Thursday, May 4

- 8:30am - Depart Airbase (90 min. bus trip)
- 10:00am - Arrive CAF AirPower Event
- 2:00pm - Lunch on your own @ Country Road Buffet
- 3:30pm - Depart Columbus
- 5:00pm – Arrive Airbase Georgia

Cost:

- \$37.50 per person (Minimum 40 people required)
- AirPower History Tour Admission \$15 for CAF Airbase Georgia members, \$20 for all others
- Lunch at local restaurant (on your own)

Deadline for registration: April 2 Member Meeting

Contact Bill Bateman at 770-703-1552 for more info.



# Scenes From The Hangar



Col Mike Lamble works on the Stearman's fabric covering.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Col John Miller takes a "brake," as he is up to his elbows in grease working on the P-63.



### Scenes From The Hangar (cont.)

Pictured is our own "Rosie", Betty W Bishop, who worked on this very P-63 in our hangar - a P-63 which is now named for her.

Our *Kingcobra* rolled out of the Bell plant in Niagara Falls on 24 February 1944, where it was formally accepted by the United States Army Air Force as a P-63A-6 and given serial number 42-68941.

73 years later, it would fly for the first time after our restoration on 18 February 2017. February is a big month for Miss Betty, so-named for Betty Bishop, a real life "Rosie the Riveter" who worked on Bell P-63 *Kingcobras*, including our own. It's an honor to be trusted with this much history.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Below: Col John Miller, sworn in as a CAF Col earlier in the day, takes his hand to our Link Trainer. This is not the first time behind the stick for John ... he was a TBM pilot and in July will celebrate his 99th birthday.





Earlier in March the *Corsair* participated in the United States Navy's Legacy Flight in New Orleans. Representing the Navy was the F-35C Legacy Team. Top photo by Aaron Haase Photography @PhoreverPhotographyAH · Media/news company.



DEKALB PEACHTREE AIRPORT PROUDLY PRESENTS

# 2022 *Good Neighbor Day* OPEN HOUSE & AIRSHOW

*Celebrating the*  
**80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of NAS ATLANTA**

**SATURDAY  
MAY 14  
12-5PM**

**FREE  
ADMISSION**  
PARKING \$15 PER CAR



FOR THE LATEST INFO, VISIT: [POKAIRSHOW.COM](http://POKAIRSHOW.COM)

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2022**

**A VINTAGE CAR SHOW,  
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DEMONSTRATIONS,  
AND FOOD VENDORS  
10AM - 4PM**

**SWING DANCE IN THE  
HANGAR UNTIL 7PM**

ADMISSION IS \$10 FOR ADULTS,  
\$5 FOR AGES 11-17.  
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

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## ON THE HORIZON .....

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

April 2, 2022 Staff & Members Meetings / CAF Warbirds at Gilmer Airport, Ellijay, GA

April 6, 2022 CAF Family Reunion Fly-In, Bessemer Municipal Airport, Bessemer, AL

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 Air Force.

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**



Cols .... remember that every Airbase Georgia Col is also a member of the recruitment team.

Questions about recruitment: Contact Col Jim Dalton: [lawdalton@aol.com](mailto:lawdalton@aol.com)