



The Dispatch



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May 2021

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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From the Left Seat Col Jim Buckley, Airbase Georgia Leader

The Air Force Test Pilot school program for spring has been completed, again with 100% reliability. Way to go team!! Now time for rest and re-inspection of Red Nose.



Routine maintenance continues for the rest of the fleet. Many of the pilots are getting re-qualified after the yearlong pandemic shutdown. I am very proud that no one contracted Covid-19 at our facility. We are cleaning up from the first "Atlanta Airshow" to be held at Falcon Field. Corsair pilots Mark Hubbard and John Currenti did a great job flying in the show. The event was well organized and well carried out. Now off to KRYV McCollum Field (Cobb County International Airport), on tour with the Boeing B-17 "Texas Raiders." After that, pack up again for one of our biggest events of the year, Reading PA. Last years event was cancelled so there should be a lot of pent up demand. ➔

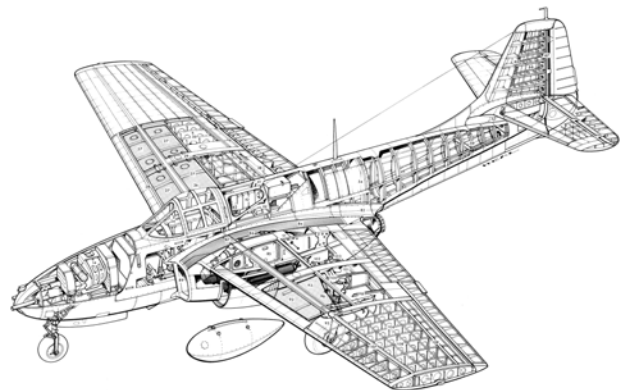
Blue Skies to all,

Jim Buckley

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Recruitment
- 3 Scenes From The Hangar
- 4 Development Officer Report
- 8 Gone West
- 9 TRARON Clinic
- 10 Slow But Deadly at 1/4 Scale
- 12 Airbase GA Logo Selection
- 13 Follow Up
- 14 On the Horizon;

PLANE CRAZY





RECRUITING * ORIENTATION * RETENTION

Col Jim Dalton, Recruiting Officer

First, let us welcome new Col Ann Marie Dalton.

My main message this month is that we are beginning to open up for rides and membership meetings and I am asking that each member be thinking of individuals who might appreciate an invitation to join the Airbase Georgia team of the CAF. Help get the spouse out of the house!!

My secondary message is that we have a recruiting event, which overlaps the Peachtree City Airport Airshow and Memorial Day celebrations. The Thrillville Carnival is coming to the Atlanta Speedway 20 through 30 May 2021 and has booth opportunities for non-profits (of which we are one) to sell rides and recruit potential new members. Anyone interested can contact me at my office. ➔

James J. Dalton, II, Attorney
1044 Highway 54 West
Fayetteville, GA 30214
678-467-6881

Semper Fidelis!

Jim



Scenes From The Hangar



Photos by
Col Charles Burcher

Above: Col Lorraine DeLoach works on the fabric for the tail of our Stearman.

Below: Col John Basch patiently steams plywood to get the needed curve for the PT-19 wing.



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.



BLUE SKIES AHEAD

CAF Airbase Georgia is 34 years old. We are unique among CAF units in that our membership has grown over the last year. Activity around the hangar has steadily increased over the last few months, with the result that our aircraft are flying regularly. I am increasingly hopeful that we will formally reopen to the public this Fall. Over the next few months, we will be making repairs and updates to the briefing room and hangar with the eventual goal of proudly reintroducing the Commemorative Air Force and Airbase Georgia to our neighbors, business community and educators.

With all our growth and success, we have many new and long-time members who have yet to find a role in the organization. To celebrate our accomplishments and bring together all our members, we will host a Member Picnic, Sat July 17th. Our vision is to create an annual event that includes rides, food and entertainment.

REOPENING PREPARATIONS, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As I mentioned in my April update, Education Officer Rick Kaczor is leading a Museum Refresh Project in anticipation of our Fall Opening. The project goal is to reorganize the museum exhibit displays around themes that link our aircraft to classroom learning objectives. We are also working with Georgia State University to onboard a graduate research assistant. The intern, with the support of GSU faculty, will work with the Museum Refresh Team and provide us with a strategy, guidance and written plans to support our refresh and long-term efforts. The intern will

work 10-15 hours week, August 2021-May 2022. Please contact Rick if you are interested in volunteering, richard.kaczor@und.edu.

GSU Graduate Research Assistant Museum Project 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

GSU Intern Donation Update – The cost to onboard the GSU intern is \$4,092 to benefit to the Georgia State University Research Foundation. Two members have generously funded the project.

CAF AIRBASE GEORGIA TRANSITION UPDATE: LOGO, WARBIRO T-SHIRTS, AND UNIFORM SHIRTS

During the April Membership Meeting, the staff introduced a pair of logo concepts for CAF Airbase Georgia. All current CAF Airbase Georgia members are invited to vote for the logo of their choice through mail or by dropping off a ballot in the ballot box in the Staff Office. Voting will continue through June 30th. The winning logo will be announced at the July Membership Meeting. Ballots are available in this month's Dispatch and the hangar. Please note you will



Development Officer Update (cont.)

need to provide your COL number on the ballot.

Uniforms:

For members interested in purchasing CAF Airbase Georgia warbird t-shirts, our first order will be received this month. If you would like to update your CAF Dixie Wing uniform shirt, our local vendor **Uniforms for America** can sew "Airbase Georgia" and your name onto your shirt. Members representing CAF Airbase Georgia at airshows and other public events are expected to wear a CAF Airbase Georgia shirt. **Uniforms for America** is located at 135 Huddleston Road, Peachtree City. Phone: 770-632-0253.

Save the Date: July 17
MEMBER PICNIC

WWII Heritage Trail a TrailBlazer Award. CAF Airbase Georgia will distribute a media release announcing the award to our local community. The trail partnership is planning a major announcement this Fall, which will increase for CAF Airbase Georgia awareness, visitors, donations, and aircraft rides sales when we fully reopen to the public. All members are welcome to visit the trail website at <https://www.georgiawwiitrail.org/>

- Hangar Tours – Effective Dec 9, 2020, the hangar is closed to the public until further notice. Please refer visitors to the airbase website for current info.

EDUCATION & MUSEUM OUTREACH

- University Partnerships – In June CAF Airbase Georgia will participate in a virtual Holocaust Workshop hosted by the Museum of History and Holocaust Education (MHHE) at Kennesaw State University. The program will feature Willard Womack and Red Nose in a segment "Paving the Way for Liberation" which will explore the contribution of the P-51 Mustang and 8th Air Force in liberating the Concentration Camps.
- Fayette County Schools – Our 2020-2021 program calendar is complete and we are now beginning plans for the next school year. Education Officer Rick Kaczor and I are planning to meet with Fayette school staff over the summer to prep for next year. Our education outreach is critical to connecting with foundations and employers that might support our restoration mission.
- CEC College & Career Academy Aircraft Walkaround Series – We have struck a partnership with Central Education Center (CEC), a College & Career Academy located in Newnan, GA, to create an aircraft walk-around segments by working with one of Georgia's most respected college and career academies Broadcast Video Production Classes. The segments will be professionally produced and available for our use on an ongoing basis, i.e., posted on our website for distribution to high school aviation students, JRTOC, etc.

STEARMAN RESTORATION PROJECT

The project team will meet immediately following the June 5th Member Meeting. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Project Manager Jeff Clark, Jeffrey.clark@gmail.com



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Recruiting & Retention – We have so far recruited 20 new members in 2021, progress which complements our 44 new members recruited in 2020. Our next Virtual Recruiting Open House is scheduled for June 2nd, 7pm. If you know a potential recruit, please contact Jim Dalton (lawdalton@aol.com) or Dave Serafin (dserafin58@comcast.net).
- Georgia World War Heritage Trail – On May 18th Explore Georgia awarded the Georgia



Development Officer Update (cont.)

The program kick-off has been delayed until the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19.

- **Docent Program** - A visit to the hangar is a powerful recruiting tool and introduction to potential donors. Rick Kaczor is working with Willard Womack to review the guidelines and determine how we might repurpose the info for our use in the future. If you are interested in volunteering as a docent, please contact Education Officer Rick at; richard.kaczor@und.edu.
- **Website** - We have added a new Education tab on www.airbasegeorgia.org. The tab includes info for scheduling a tour, requesting access to the WWII Home Front lesson plan program and the Living Aviation History Day guest speaker series.

FUNDRAISING

- **CAF Development Team** – Members interested in assisting in fundraising are invited to join the CAF Airbase Georgia Development Team Zoom Meeting June 8, 6:30pm@ 7pm. Jane Simpson, Steve Forsyth, Rick Kaczor, Philip Beegle, and Jim van den Heuval have so far joined the effort. We are developing a list of small grants opportunities, to include the Georgia Humanities Council and Explore Georgia. Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Development Team, chris.madrid@airbasegeorgia.org
- **Aircraft Rides** – Effective March 6th, aircraft rides are reopened for business. By the time you receive Dispatch the 2021 Atlanta Airshow will be in the books and we will be providing rides at Cobb County Airport (KRYV) with the Gulf Coast Wing. If you are interested in assisting with the rides program, please contact Rides Officer Steve Hoofnagle at rides@airbasegeorgia.org or chris.madrid@airbasegeorgia.org. In the meantime, Rides Officer Steve Hoofnagle has many previously purchased rides to fulfill.



WWIIHD Sponsorship – If you are interested in supporting the event, please contact me.

- WWII Heritage Days (Oct 9) and 1940s Hangar Dance Fundraiser (Sept 11) – On May 5th we announced WWII Heritage Days in coordination with CAF HQ. WWIIHD is our annual open house where many people meet the CAF for the first time. The 2021 theme will combine a Stearman Fly-in and a Tribute to Rosie the Riveter. Our goal is to host 20+ warbirds and transform the event into an annual fly-in. Warbird Rides will be heavily promoted in advance. wwiideays.org and online registration are now live. Ten organizations have so far registered. The team is meeting every other Tuesday. Next meeting: June 1@ 7pm via zoom

2021 WWII Heritage Days Team

Chris Madrid	Libby Heath
Dave Riesselmann	Lynne Lasher
Dave Serafin	Mike Daly
Dick Hyde	Mike Wewers
Jane Simpson	Peter Hauge
Jeff Clark	Rick Kaczor
Jeff Johnson	Robyn Rosenzweig
Jim Dalton	Scott Paul
Jim van den Heuval	Steve Forsyth
Joel Perkins	Steve Hoofnagle
John Wilhoff	Willard Womack
Lee Johnson	Jerome Kline



Development Officer Update (cont.)

- **Hangar Rental** – The planned reopening this Fall will revitalize our program. Please contact Hangar Rental Officer Dave Riesselmann if you are interested in assisting with the profitable program. Please pass on leads to Dave, facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org.
- **Airshow Sales** – While COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation of numerous Spring and Summer shows across the nation, there are signs that late Summer may see the beginning of the return of airshows. Airshow Marketing Officer Clint Cottrell continues to mine opportunities.

PROGRAM COORDINATION

- **Dispatch** - The Dispatch is the primary communications tool for keeping members up to date. All members are encouraged to read the Dispatch. Dispatch Editor Frank Kalinowski is seeking articles from members.

- **Marketing & Fundraising Ops Team** - The mission of the team is to coordinate plans for promoting the wing fundraising and education outreach programs and look for ways to encourage other members to participate in wing projects. Next Meeting: June 7, 7pm EST.

IN THE PATTERN: Other Local Aviation Events

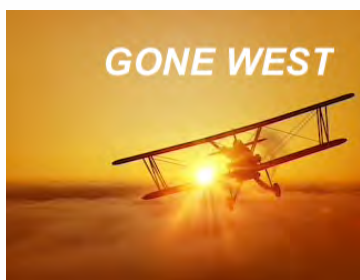
- *Flags for the Fallen: 26,000 flags | One Mission (May 27-May 31)* – The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Museum in Pooler, Georgia will display for the first time a memorial flag garden of remembrance includes a 48-star American flag for each of the 26,000 men lost. For more info, visit <https://www.mightyeighth.org/flagsforthefallen>
- **Vintage Day and Vendor Fair** (June 4-5) - Peach State Aerodrome, Williamson, GA <https://airshowatlanta.com> ➔



www.cafriseabove.org | info@cafriseabove.org

CAF RISE ABOVE
971 Hallstrom Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066
(888) 928-0188

The CAF RISE ABOVE Squadron is a volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that operates as part of the Commemorative Air Force. FEIN #74-1484491.



Col George Philip "Phil" Watkiss, passed away on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at Southwest Christian Care. Phil was born on November 24, 1945 in Jacksonville. He served in the United States Army and is a distinguished and decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. After Vietnam, he attended Jacksonville University, earning his B.A. in Marketing and went on to the University of North Florida where he studied Transportation and Logistics, ultimately arriving in an Executive Program at Stanford University.

Phil's extensive career in airline transportation began with National Airlines in sales. A career move to took him to Texas where he became the Director of Sales and Marketing for Southwest Airlines. Another door opened for him in Atlanta with SITA, a company based out of Geneva, Switzerland, where he served as the Senior Global Account Manager for 24 years. His time with SITA led him to travel the world, his favorite office being in London.



2016 - Phil accepts a letter of appreciation from Col Bob Grove on behalf of the Wing for his work on the T-34.

After his retirement he enjoyed extensive travel with his wife, Gina. His love for aviation extended to his family and into his retirement where he enjoyed flying radio-controlled airplanes with his sons and grandchildren. He became a member of the Dixie Wing, Commemorative Air Force where it was quoted that "Phil was the driving force of the restoration and maintenance of the Dixie Wing T-34 aircraft." He spent many days with the Dixie Wing working on various aircraft.

A memorial service was held on May 22, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newnan. Interment followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Park with military honors being rendered by the United States Army. ➔



2016 - Phil "enlisted" his granddaughter Julia to help him work on the T-34

Cols, Update Your Member Information

Reminder: The updated Airbase Georgia Members area is now accessible on our website. Please check your profile to make sure we have the correct information for you. If the information is correct no action is required. If you have to update your information, enter the correct data once and click SAVE. Our Adjutant and Recruiting Officer will receive a notification.

The members area will allow you to stay updated with the activities at the Wing, please make sure to check it out weekly.

Here's how you access the members area: Visit <http://members.dixiewing.org/>

- (1) Enter your Username: (your CAF Colonel #)
- (2) Enter your Password: (your last name)

TRARON Formation Training Clinic Returns

Hey Everyone!

Airbase Georgia is holding its second annual Veterans Day TRARON Formation Training Clinic this upcoming November 11-14th. The key mission for CAF TRARON is promoting, teaching, and maintaining the skills to safely fly aircraft in formation. We will be holding our clinic to facilitate this mission and burn a little alright, a LOT, of avgas throughout the 2021 Veterans Day Weekend. This past year's event was a resounding success for the Airbase! We had over 20 aircraft participate including T6 Texans, Twin Beeches, T34s, and many others along with visitors and members from 15 states.

We are asking for everyone to pass the word about the clinic to those who may be interested in working on their FAST Card and especially for those members who would like to volunteer in helping facilitate this event. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Clint Cottrell at clint.cottrell@airbasegeorgia.org or (907) 231-6983. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time!

Col Clint Cottrell
Airbase GA Formation Clinic Lead



Slow But Deadly at ¼ Scale

No ... Our SBD didn't give birth! What you see is the result of 3 ½ years of dedicated work by Bob Knight who hails from Weston, FL.

Bob has been building RC airplanes since he was 13, and his fleet includes a 1/3 scale *Super Chipmunk* and 1/2 scale *Pitts Special*.

Bob's attention to detail really shows in close inspection. One of the reasons for the visit to Airbase Georgia was to take photos of the cockpit and instrument panel so that he can apply some finishing touches. Once that is accomplished he will build the twin cal 0.30 machine guns for the rear cockpit.



Wingspan: 10' 4.5"
Length: 8' 1 ½"
Engine: 5 cyl 250cc



Above: The already detailed cockpit is sure to look like the real thing once Bob is finished.

Right: Who wouldn't be proud to stand by their creation.



Slow But Deadly at 1/4 Scale (cont.)

More detail of the existing cockpits, but Bob wants to get it "just right." Also shown below are three other RC planes that Bob has built. Bob, thanks for stopping by. ➔





CAF Airbase Georgia Logo Ballot

All current members of Commemorative Air Force Airbase Georgia are invited to vote for a new unit logo May 1, 2021-June 30, 2021. The winner will be announced at the July 2021 Membership Meeting. One ballot per member,

Instructions: (1) Provide Colonel # (2) Circle logo of your choice (3) fold ballot (4) drop off ballot in CAF Airbase Georgia Ballot Box or (5) mail ballot to:

Attn: Logo Project
CAF Airbase Georgia
1200 Echo Court
Atlanta Regional Airport-Falcon Field
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

CAF Colonel # _____



LOGO "A"



LOGO "B"



As they say, truth is stranger than fiction. One of the Dispatch readers happened to attend the CAF Airpower Tour in Chattanooga and had hoped that I was there. I was.

I was handed a copy of a book page that had a photo of Convair's proposed YB-36C, modified to increase the performance of the bomber with the installation of six 4,300 horsepower Pratt & Whitney R-4360-51 engines. It was hoped to increase the speed of the aircraft to 410 mph.

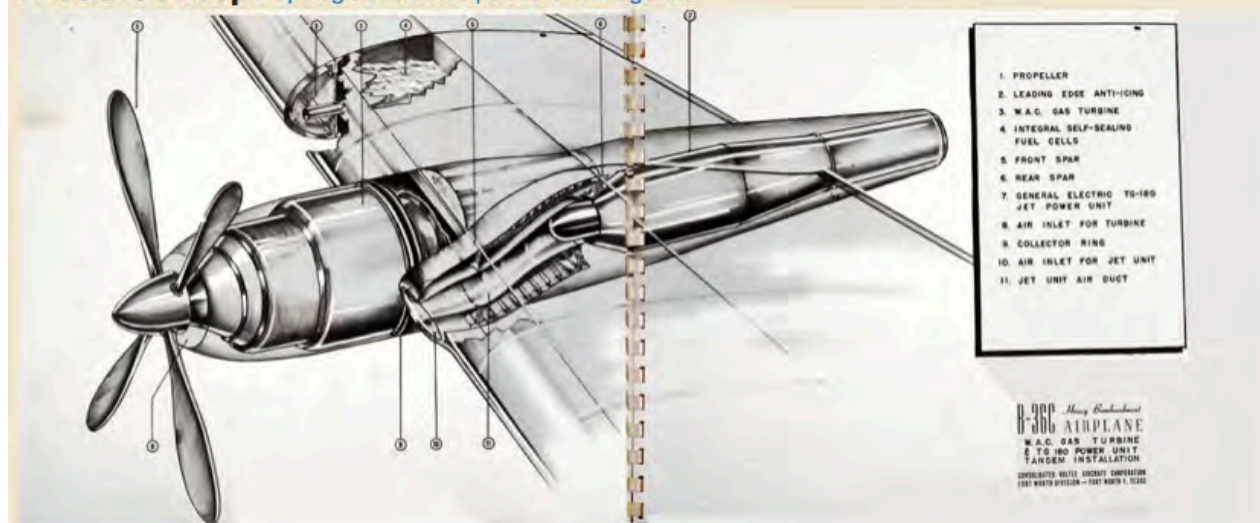


Although not a “flipped wing,” the reversed engines now placed the propellers to the front of the wing (see below). Since the new engine was to occupy the same position aft of the rear main spar as the standard B-36, it was necessary to extend the prop shaft forward out the leading edge of the wing. With approval of the project in October 1947, the engine did not materialize and the project was cancelled on 21 May 1948. The 34 aircraft destined for the tractor installation were completed as B-36Bs.

Also see:

<https://www.simpleplanes.com/a/qJi42V/Convair-YB-36C>

B-36C Concept Spotlighted Photos | Code One Magazine





ON THE HORIZON

June 5	10am Staff Meeting; 1pm Airbase members meeting
July 3	10am Staff Meeting; 1pm Airbase members meeting
July 17	Member Picnic (Details in June Dispatch) 
August 7	10am Staff Meeting; 1pm Airbase members meeting
September 4	10am Staff Meeting; 1pm Airbase members meeting
September 11	1940s Hangar Dance
October 2	10am Staff Meeting; 1pm Airbase members meeting
October 9	WORLD WAR II HERITAGE DAYS

PLANE CRAZY

Who knows perhaps this photo was taken in Spain.

