



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

May 2022

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

Welcome, New Cols

Airbase Leader

Col Joel Perkins
joel.perkins@airbasegeorgia.com

Executive Officer

Col Jerry Robinette
xo@airbasegeorgia.org

Adjutant

Col Gerhard Frenz
adjutant@airbasegeorgia.org

Finance Officer

Col Peter Dalieri
finance@airbasegeorgia.org

Maintenance Officer

Col Randy Hawkins
maintenance@airbasegeorgia.org

Operations Officer

Col Peter Hague
peter.hague@airbasegeorgia.org

Safety Officer

Col Gregg Scott
gregg.scott@airbasegeorgia.org

Development Officer

Col Chris Madrid
development@airbasegeorgia.org

Education Officer

Col Jane Simpson
jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org

Recruiting Officer

Col Jim Dalton
LawDalton@aol.com

Public Information Officer

Col Steve Forsyth
sforsyth106@gmail.com

Marketing Officer

jmarketing@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



In what may be a record for a month, eight new Cols were sworn in at the May members meeting. Col Gerhard Frenz (L) inducts new Cols Steve Bachelor, Ed Wood, and Noelle St. John. Photos of other new Cols on page 3. Photos by Col Heather Johnson.

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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

The last few months have seen an incredible increase in the amount of activity for Airbase Georgia. We have accomplished some amazing things. Our operational tempo is higher than ever and none of this could be accomplished without each of you playing your role.

A special thanks goes to our rides coordinators, Cols Jim Stearns and Steve Hoofnagle, and our P-51 pilots Cols Stan Musick and Allan Miller for helping with the rides backlog.

Our maintenance team led by Col Randy Hawkins has done an amazing job of keeping us flying. The Mustang has a completely new Garmin avionics panel and is fresh out of its latest inspection. The Corsair just returned from Gardner Lowe with a new JPI engine monitoring system. Cols Greg Scott and Randy are now finishing up the installation of a new propeller control cable which is not an easy job. The Dauntless is flying more than ever thanks to Cols Andy Cash and Rodney Higgenbotham. After months of research and deal-making by Cols Mark Todd and Philip Beegle, the P-63 propeller and governor have been repaired and installed. Col Mike McGowan has tirelessly pursued excellence on the T34. Thanks, Mike.

Cols Stan Musick and John Currenti have been busy giving check rides to make sure our pilots are current, qualified, and most importantly safe. I am also pleased to see our pipeline of developing future fighter pilots emerge. Our Operations Officer, Col Peter Hague, and newly appointed Chief Pilot, Col Stan Musick are working together to make sure we are identifying and training the next generation of pilots to the highest standards. I firmly believe that we are well on our way to being the gold standard in the CAF in training and safety.

Our Airbase facility continues to be an attraction for events and an important source of rental income. Col Dave Reisselmann continues to do a

great job for us in this area. We have hosted several events in the last few months and I encourage more people to volunteer. No experience is required. You can even get checked out on our new floor scrubber.



Cols Jeff Clark and Chris Madrid have worked to launch our new website with a much-improved members area. Among other advances, this new site allows all members to view the active operations calendar that was previously only available to staff. Jeff is now working on phase two of the website improvements so there is more to come.

As if all this wasn't enough excitement, the P-47 has started to arrive. Our team, Cols Rodney Higgenbotham, Andy Cash, and Gerhard Frenz met with CAF Southern California members Cols Ronald Missildine and Mario Rodriguez to pack up and ship the parts which are now in our facility. The fuselage and wings will arrive shortly as Col Philip Beegle is still arranging the shipment. This aircraft will be an incredible addition to our fleet. We have the best restoration facility in the CAF with the most skilled craftsmen, the best maintenance department, and the most creative fundraising and development team. There are many opportunities for our members to participate in the success of this project so find your spot.

I apologize that I do not have enough room here to acknowledge everyone and their specific contributions. You are all appreciated and are a necessary part of our continued success. ➔

Cols Sworn In At April Meeting



Other new Cols sworn in at the May meeting: Alastair Taggart, Jeoffrey Lelliott, Ray Smith, Ken Holston.

While some of us were working away in early May, Recruiting Officer Col James Dalton was taking it easy on the beach. Nevertheless, he sent this emergency message to the editor:

"Okay, Frank: I have lost my plane and I'm trapped in Margaritaville, St. Thomas USVI, but even so, I was out on Coki beach and was wearing my P-63 shirt. Chris Hamilton, who lives three doors down from Bob Heath, came up to me and said he had been, finally, thinking about joining CAFABG! So, I immediately emailed Bob Heath to get on the job, as an assistant recruiting OFFICER. Bob, immediately, emailed me back and said he had known Chris for a very long time. This is proof positive that each of us has a friend, a neighbor, or an associate that needs to hear our message!"

RECRUITING IS THE LIFES' BLOOD OF ANY 501 (c) (3), volunteer organization.

Recruiting, retention and assimilation are the key to a successful volunteer organization.

Col James Dalton, Recruiting Officer

Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann

No Tail Wheel Endorsement? No Problem.

You can still operate Airbase Georgia's newest operational equipment if you stop by to help prepare for one of our numerous upcoming rental events. Setup activities usually occur on the Thursday prior to the event. We will likely have an event on June 18th and the next event will occur on July 12th. It just takes time – no expertise required.



Our new floor cleaner. Col Daisy Donovan remarked "it's a dream to operate" and Paulie was simply overwhelmed at how effectively it cleans the floor.

Thanks to Col Jim Prendergast, who cleaned half the floor for our most recent hangar event after no more than two minutes of instruction on the new cleaning machine. Thanks also to Cols Art Martin and Steve Hoofnagle for help with parking. And, of course, thanks to the Hangar Rats.

Please consider if you can spare time to help and contact me at facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org ➔

CAF AirPower History Tour

National Air Tour of Historic World War II Aircraft



By Col Bill Bateman

Our trip to the CAF Air Power History Tour in Columbus, GA was enjoyed by everyone and they had a great time. We had a total of 15 people for the tour. They really enjoyed seeing B-29 *Superfortress* "FIFI" and B-24 *Liberator* "Diamond Lil." We were given a tour of each aircraft. Col Jacques Robitaille with the CAF and his crew from the B-24 / B-29 Squadron were just great. Our own Col Truitt Harper took a ride on the *Stearman* (bottom photo). We also saw P-51 Mustang *Gunfighter*.



The motorcoach I chartered was able to park near FIFI and Diamond Lil. We had lunch at the Country Road Buffet, and everyone was really happy with their lunch. The rides on FIFI and Diamond Lil were already sold out for Saturday and Sunday. Everyone really enjoyed the trip on the motorcoach. Col Jim Dalton and our driver enjoyed talking as they both were Marines.



Columbus trip (cont.)



Above: Some happy travelers. Below If you're going to go, at least go in comfort.



EDUCATION OFFICER

Col Jane Simpson

Airbase Georgia continues to give educational tours and speeches thanks to Willard Womack, George Harrison, and others. We haven't forgotten about the Docent Training for our members either; we plan to put together a short training that will give an overview and references for our aircraft, artifacts, and plans for the museum annex. In the meantime, we will open on Memorial Day for visitors to come by and visit with us. Please join us and get started on your docent training!



Col Willard Womack speaks to folks in Newnan. He's explaining how the Corsair's wings fold!

www.airbasegeorgia.org, navigate to Events/WWII Heritage Days, then tap on the "Volunteer Registration" button. That's it! You're in!

One last note for the next General Meeting. If all goes to plan, we hope to place a number of framed photographs in the back of the room for interested members to take for their own collection. Donations will be greatly appreciated. Please note that any article that included directions for a return to owner will be honored as much as possible. We appreciate all our donations, but we have too many photographs that are deteriorating in the trailer.



Plans for WWII are progressing as expected. We are looking for a volunteer who can help coordinate the speakers and build questions and a program to guide the conversations. It will require some knowledge of WWII and aviation history. Contact me at jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org for more information. Also, the registration site is active; please register to volunteer with WWII Heritage Days. Go to

Education Officer (cont.)

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT - VOL. 1, ART. 7

Graphotype Dog Tag Machine, Model 6341

The Graphotype Keyboard-Electric Model 6341 was made by the Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio from the mid-1930s through the 1950s. There were thousands of variations made within this series, varying in embossing and printing techniques. The Graphotype was known to be used for making military identification tags (aka dog-tags) in WWII and data plates for electronic motors. *Source: The Computer Museum, <https://museum.syssrc.com/artifact/115>*

Even more interesting than the machine itself, is the information that was imprinted for WWII soldiers. At the start of the war, the tags included name, serial number, blood type, next of kin and an address to contact next of kin. In subsequent years, it included tetanus immunization and religious preference. The rules for the serial number and for the placement of the information are far more complicated than imagined. Check out this source: <https://www.med-dept.com/articles/u-s-army-ww2-dog-tags/>



Airbase GA has two dog tag machines, this Graphotype Model 6341 and a "mobile" version (not pictured) that requires manual rotation of the keys.

Scenes From The Hangar

Photo by Col Charles Burcher.



Here's something you don't see every day: A *Wildcat*, *Helldiver*, *Dauntless*, and *Corsair* sharing the same ramp space. Our two guests were on the way to "Good Neighbor Day" at Dekalb Peachtree Airport. Unfortunately the *Corsair* was not able to make the trip.



And from Col Willard Womack, a nice panoramic photo of the four jewels in the Airbase Georgia's crown.

P-47 RECOVERY



Who are you going to send to the CAF Southern Cal Wing of to recover and prepare for transport our newly assigned P-47 *Thunderbolt*? (Some assembly required!)



From Airbase Georgia: Cols Andy Cash, William Freyman, Rodney Higginbotham. Col Gerhard Frenz took the photo.

P-47 Recovery (cont.)



CAF Southern Cal Col Ronald Missildine, Rodney, Andy, SC Wing Col Mario Rodriguez, Col Gerhard Frenz. Photo by Col Freyman

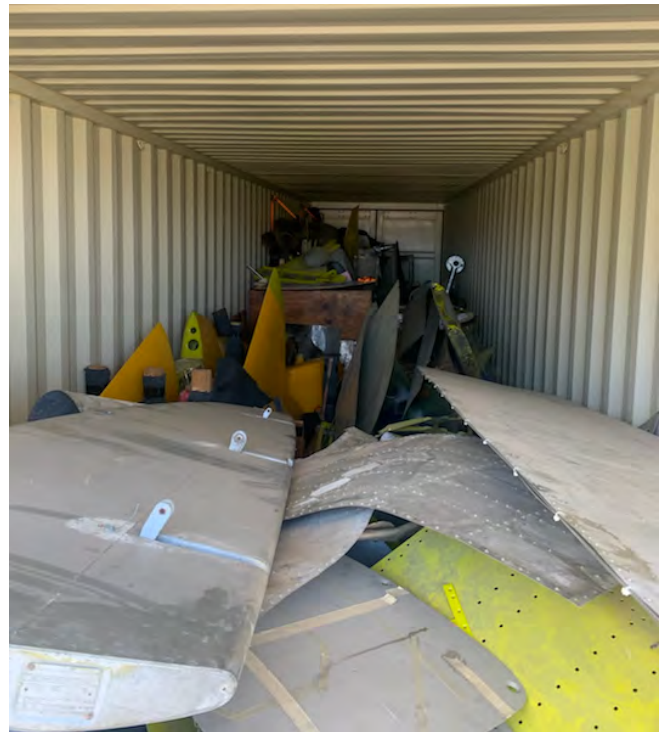


Chris Moon Super K Express
Newnan GA

P-47 Recovery (cont.)



There was lots to load!



P-47 Recovery (cont.)

After a leisurely drive from Camarillo, CA, the parts arrive and are unloaded in the hangar. Photo by Col Charles Burcher:



Up next – having the fuselage delivered. And then it is off to work, the expected results being this:



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.



The Airshow season and rides season is wheels up!! Our participation at PDK Good Neighbor was a success thanks to the Rides and PX teams, and PDK liaison Mo Aguari. Pilots, John, Casey, Clint, Peter, Mark with their ground crew Tom and Paulie, were outstanding! Robyn, Heather, Daisy, Ellen, Melina helped complete seven rides in less than two hours. We also sold \$2,900 in PX merchandise. Keep an eye out for other local events where you can become involved and meet other members.

Warbird Restoration Update: One mission, three projects. The CAF has been restoring and flying warbirds since 1957. In the last 20 years, CAF Airbase Georgia has restored a P-63, SBD, LT-6 and several other aircraft. With the ongoing PT-17 project, arrival of the P-47 and upcoming kick-off of the PT-19 restoration, members have opportunities to become part of the CAF legacy of preserving America's military aviation heritage.

Restoration Project Team Leaders

PT-17 Project Lead – Jeff Clark

P-47 Project Lead – Philip Beegle

PT-19 Project Lead – Tom Thompson

New Website launched May 10, 2022

Thanks to the hard work of Jeff Clark, has a new website. The website retains the same design, but it has been streamlined to improve visitor experience. The website includes an online PX with Airbase Georgia merchandise, calendar of events and past issues of Dispatch. The members only section is live and includes past Hotline emails. Future enhancements include Volunteer opportunities, online dues payment and member roster.

Online PX Product of the Month: Airbase Georgia t-shirt



Development Officer Update (cont.)

Social Media, Tourism Partnerships and Community Outreach

Social media and media relations are the primary tools we use to communicate with our community. We now have 41,000 followers on Facebook and Instagram, resulting in increased awareness of our restoration projects and rides program. While we have followers across the United States, we know 70% of our members and most future members live in Georgia. As a result, we are deliberate in targeting aviation and history enthusiasts in Fayette and Coweta Counties, the Atlanta metro area, and cities throughout Georgia. We distribute media releases on a regular basis and intentionally connect with like-minded organizations in our state to increase our profile and credibility. Beginning in June, media releases will be distributed via Hotline.

The Georgia WWII Heritage Trail and Peachtree City Convention and Visitors Bureau are key partners that have directly and indirectly promoted rides sales, hangar rentals and visits to Airbase Georgia. Thanks to those partnerships, over the last month we were featured in Georgia Magazine, Guide to Georgia and Group Tour magazines.

Videos and photos - All members are encouraged to send videos and photos to Kevin McNulty by email or text. Be sure to include your contact info and background regarding the images; who, what, where, when, and why, and copy PIO Steve Forsyth and me. To ensure that the content is accurate, appropriate, and consistent with our goals, all videos and photos of aircraft ops are reviewed and approved by the Airbase Leader, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer and Development Officer prior to posting. If you have questions, please contact me before sending videos or photos to Kevin.

Video & Photos

Email: kevin@netweaveonline.com

Text: 941-737-8575

PIO email: sforsyth106@gmail.com

Dev Officer email:

chris.madrid@airbasegeorgia.org

Community Outreach



- **Memorial Day Open House, May 30, 10am-3pm** – Willard Womack is coordinating our first-ever Memorial Day Open House, a program we hope will become an annual tradition. The open house will be free to the public and showcase the aircraft, workshop and restoration projects. Please contact Willard if you are interested in assisting.
- **The Birmingham Lafayette Escadrille CAF Family Reunion has been rescheduled for June 25** in Bessemer, AL, 10am-2pm. Additional info will be shared via Hotline.
- **Our Annual Member Appreciation Picnic scheduled for July 16** is open to all CAF members and their family members. Save the date! Please contact me if you would like to assist in planning.
- **WWII Heritage Days “Dawn of the Space Age”, Oct 8, 2022** – Our keynote speaker is a retired Space Force Officer. We plan to sell rides and host a fly-in, particularly for PT-17s and PT-19s. We also plan to introduce the public to the PT-17, PT-19 and P-47 restoration projects. Please contact Education Officer and WWII Heritage Days Chair Jane Simpson if you are interested in participating.
- **Atlanta Airport Chamber of Commerce Veterans Tournament, Nov 16, 2022** – We have joined the Airport Chamber with the explicit goal of connecting with aviation employers. If you are interested in volunteering, please save the date. More info will be available by Hotline and the June Dispatch.

Development Officer Update (cont.)

- **Recruiting & Retention** – We have over 450 members on the Airbase Georgia roster. Our focus for 2022 and 2023 is to encourage all members to become more involved Airbase Georgia. Our new website was designed with members in mind. Please visit the members only section to learn about volunteer opportunities and upcoming events. If you know a potential recruit, please contact Jim Dalton (lawdalton@aol.com) or Dave Serafin (dserafin58@comcast.net).
- **Hangar Tours and Docent Team** – The hangar is open for tours! If you meet a visitor, please welcome them and encourage them to sign the Guest Book at the main entrance. Jane Simpson and Willard Womack are creating a docent team and handbook so that we can host groups of up to 50 people. Our goal is to charge admission for commercial group tours starting this summer. Please reach out to Jane and Willard if you are interested in becoming a docent.



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE®
AIRBASE GEORGIA

**FOLLOW THE
WWII HERITAGE TRAIL
LEARN HOW GEORGIANS
HELPED WIN
THE WAR**

**AS AMERICA MOBILIZED FOR WAR,
GEORGIANS ANSWERED THE CALL.**

Overseas, they experienced the harsh realities of war. At home, they worked in factories and shipyards, trained servicemen, and supported those on the front lines.

Explore how Georgians rose to the challenge and did their part to defend freedom and democracy.

**VISIT
georgiawwiitrail.org**

CAF Airbase Georgia has been working closely with the Peachtree City Convention and Visitors Bureau for several years. The PTC CVB placed an ad in the Spring 2022 Guide to Georgia promoting our rides program. If you are interested in joining the Rides team, please contact Rides Officer James Stearns. To see the magazine online go to [Guide to Georgia Home \(guidetogeorgia.com\)](http://Guide to Georgia Home (guidetogeorgia.com))

Guide To GEORGIA

State-wide

- Events
- Attractions
- Fairs & Festivals

Spring 2022



Spring Arts in the Park • Blue Ridge, May 28 & 29

**Warbird
RIDES**

**AIRBASE
GEORGIA**

SBD-5 Dauntless

T-6 Texan

T-34 Beechcraft

P-51 Mustang

Enjoy a lifetime thrill by flying in a historic World War II airplane. From the iconic P-51 Mustang to the the Hero of the Battle of Midway, the ultra-rare SBD-5 Dauntless, you are sure to find a warbird experience you'll never forget.

SCHEDULING YOUR MISSION

- Rides scheduled by appointment only with minimum 5 business days advance notice.
- Please note aircraft availability before purchasing a ride
- Rides provided at CAF Airbase Georgia, Atlanta Regional Airport-Falcon Field, Peachtree City, GA. NO ONE WAY RIDES.
- After completing online purchase of your ride, schedule your ride by contacting Rides Coordinator Steve Hoofnagle at rides@airbasegeorgia.org or by calling 770-309-5584.
- 2022 prices effective Jan 1, 2022
- **Note: Ride certificate good for 12 months after date of purchase**



1200 Echo Ct.
678-364-1110

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269
www.airbasegeorgia.org



visitpeachtreecity.com

CAF Airbase Georgia has been working closely with the Peachtree City Convention and Visitors Bureau for several years. The PTC CVB place an ad in the 2022-2023 Group Tour Magazine. Group tours can introduce CAF Airbase Georgia and Peachtree City to bus tour companies and provide funds for our mission. If you are interested in joining the Docent Team, please contact Education Officer Jane Simpson. To see the magazine online go to [Group Tour Magazine and Student Group Tour \(grouptourmedia.com\)](http://grouptourmedia.com)





COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE® AIRBASE GEORGIA

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia, based in Peachtree City, GA, is the Georgia chapter of the CAF. Founded in 1987, the Airbase restores, maintains and flies seven vintage military aircraft including a P-51 Mustang, FG-1D Corsair, SBD Dauntless, and P-63A Kingcobra. Airbase Georgia, composed of more than 400 volunteers, is also a founding partner of the Georgia WWII Heritage Trail.

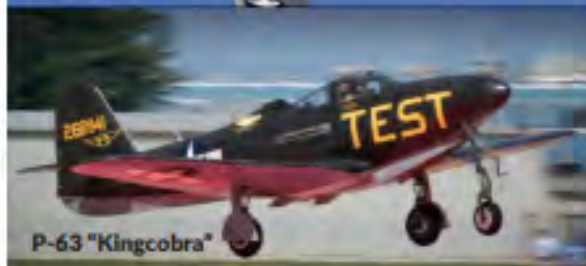
The CAF is world's largest flying museum dedicated to honoring American military aviation through flight, exhibition, education and remembrance. The CAF is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that relies on contributions of time and funds to carry out its mission. For more information about CAF Airbase Georgia, go to www.airbasegeorgia.org/.



P-51 "Mustang"



FG-1D "Corsair"



P-63 "Kingcobra"



Douglas SBD-5 "Dauntless"



CAF AIRBASE GEORGIA

1200 Echo Court
Atlanta Regional Airport-Falcon Field
Peachtree City, GA 30269

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday
9am to 4pm

SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY!

678.364.1110

www.airbasegeorgia.org
www.commemorativeairforce.org

CAF AirPower History Tour and CAF Gulf Coast Wing were featured in the May issue of Georgia Magazine, promoting the CAF rides program and Georgia WWII Heritage Trail. CAF Airbase Georgia is a founding member of the trail and supported several stops, including a bus tour to Columbus May 4th and participation of Red Nose in Macon May 20-22.



Warbirds tour showcases World War II Heritage Trail

You're not seeing things if you spot vintage World War II aircraft in the skies over Georgia in May and early June. Their appearance is part of a seven-city tour of historic planes from the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) to introduce the 10-site World War II Heritage Trail. The private, nonprofit trail highlights cities in the state that played significant roles in the war.

"People will have a chance to see these historic aircraft up close and even go on rides," says Chris Madrid, development officer for CAF Airbase Georgia in Peachtree City. "The tour is set up with World War II Heritage Trail partners and other communities to call attention to Georgia's contributions to the war, and it's an amazing opportunity to relive history."

Organized by the CAF, the seven stops will feature cockpit tours and rides in these fully operational, restored aircraft, along with other on-site activities.

Four of the multi-day events are being conducted in partnership with trail sites; three are taking place in other key cities to spread the word about the significance of the trail.

The aircraft are being provided by two CAF units that tour nationally, the AirPower Tour and Texas Raiders. Tours of the aircraft and rides will be available at each location.

The tour stops include:

- May 4-8, Columbus Airport, Columbus. (850) 449-5318. airpowertour.org. Partner organization: National Infantry Museum, Columbus.
- May 18-22, Brunswick Golden Isles Airport, Brunswick. (850) 449-5318. airpowertour.org.
- May 20-22, Middle Georgia Regional Airport, Macon. (855) 359-2217. b17texasraiders.org. Partner organization: Museum of Aviation, Warner Robins.
- May 25-28, Augusta Regional at Bush Field Airport, Augusta. (850) 449-5318. airpowertour.org.
- May 26-30, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, Savannah. (855) 359-2217. b17texasraiders.org. Partner organization: National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, Pooler.
- May 31-June 2, Douglas Municipal Gene Chambers Airport, Douglas. (855) 359-2217. b17texasraiders.org. Partner



Vintage warbirds fly the Georgia skies to promote the World War II Heritage Trail, which includes the Currahee Military Museum, Toccoa; the Commemorative Air Force Airbase Georgia, Peachtree City; the Museum of Aviation and the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame, both in Warner Robins; the National Infantry Museum, Columbus; the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, Pooler; the National Prisoner of War Museum, Andersonville; the World War II Flight Training Museum, Douglas; the World War II Home Front Museum, St. Simons Island; and the St. Marys Submarine Museum, St. Marys.

organization: World War II Flight Training Museum, Douglas.

• June 3-5, Cobb County Warbird Expo, Cobb County International Airport, Kennesaw. (855) 359-2217. b17texasraiders.org.

For more information about Georgia's World War II Heritage Trail, visit georgiawwiiheritagetrail.org.

—Pamela A. Keene



2022 WWII HERITAGE DAYS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Registration for the 18th Annual WWII Heritage Days is now open! The one-day event, themed World War II and The Dawn of the Space Age, will be held on Oct. 8, 2022, at Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field in Peachtree City, Ga.

WWII Heritage Days is the oldest and largest WWII and 1940s event in Georgia. This year's event will feature World War II aircraft, military vehicles, food trucks, living history displays and presentations. The programs will recognize how America recovered from the war and used promising new technology to usher in what is commonly referred to as "The Space Age". Atomic energy, science fiction, space exploration, computing and automation were some of the prevailing interests of this era.

All registered participants and volunteers will receive complimentary breakfast and lunch.

This year we are using Waiverfile for Registration and Authorization for use of Photos and Video. As a result, all participants and volunteers must register individually.

TO REGISTER:

Registration: <https://www.waiverfile.com/b/CAFABGA/Waiver.aspx?formid=642693bb-b1ea-43ce-af10-b6c5490b08bb&id=404239ff-dd09-406f-b1e4-e24d924b072b>

Authorization for use of Photo and Video: [1 Authorization for Use of Photo and Video | WaiverFile](#)

Feel free to pass on the registration info to other World War II history enthusiasts!

Jane Simpson
Education Officer
WWII Heritage Days Chair
CAF Airbase Georgia
jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org





WWII ★ ★ ★ ★
HERITAGE
DAYS **DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE**

**WWII AIRCRAFT
LIVING HISTORY DISPLAYS
PRESENTATIONS
MILITARY VEHICLES**

**OCT 8,
2022**

**A VINTAGE CAR SHOW,
COSTUME CONTEST,
WARBIRD RIDES,
DEMONSTRATIONS,
AND FOOD VENDORS
10AM - 4PM**

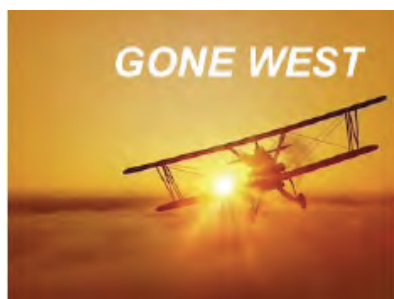
**SWING DANCE IN THE
HANGAR UNTIL 7PM**

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

ATLANTA REGIONAL AIRPORT
FALCON FIELD
PEACHTREE CITY, GA 30269
<https://wwiideays.org/>

WWII
COMMERCIAL AIR FORCE
AIRBASE GEORGIA

Peachtree city



**Harold "Hal"
Duane Coonley**

On May 21st 2022 a memorial service was held for Captain Harold Duane Coonley U.S. Army Air Forces Ret. The location was in the Experimental Aircraft Association's Chapter 976 hangar on the West Georgia Regional Airport O.V. Gray Field. Hal was a founding member and one of the driving forces behind the creation of Chapter 976.



Hal started flying in a Waco 10 in the early 1940s. He then joined the USAAC after graduating from Spartan School of Aeronautics and became part of the Ferry Command through the "Flying Sergeants

Program." After delivering a new B-17 from Hawthorn California to England, he was transferred to the 8th Air Force and was the only survivor after being shot up over the English Channel. He then transferred to the 9th Air Force and flew two combat tours in the P-47 Thunderbolt and completed 100 missions. Hal then completed a third tour as the squadron engineering officer.

After the war, Hal designed, built, and raced his own aircraft at the Cleveland and Miami Air Races called the Coonley Special "Lil Toot." At Eastern Air Lines, Hal started as flight engineer on the Lockheed *Constellation* and retired as Captain on the Boeing 727. He amassed over 32,000 hours total time. He was awarded the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot award as well as the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award. Hal was a constant influence on the aviation community.



Airbase Georgia members recognized Hal's accomplishments and provided a missing man flyover to honor Hal as well as all those who have served. Col Clint Cottrell organized the pilots and their privately owned aircraft. All of these men volunteered their time and resources. All of the pilots were Airbase Georgia Members. Col Wes Stowers led the formation in his AT-6D and Clint was the Missing man in Col Stan Musick's SNJ-4 "Catch 22". Col Alan Armstrong flew his Kate and Col Steve Maehr in his T6-G tucked in tight to complete the formation. The weather was challenging, but the group did a very safe and professional job. For Hal's family, the Carrollton area community, and people who attended from all over the country, this occasion demonstrated how much Airbase Georgia and its members care for and appreciate what has been given for our freedom. Cols Robert Harris and George Harrison attended and represented Airbase Georgia in person. So few WWII veterans are left. In this case, the Commemorative Air Force's members seized the opportunity and made an unselfish, heartfelt gesture for all to remember.



ON THE HORIZON

June 4, 2022	Staff & Members Meetings
July 2, 2022	Staff & Members Meetings
July 9, 2022	CAF Airbase Georgia Member Appreciation Picnic
August 6, 2022	Staff & Members Meetings
October 8, 2022	WWII HERITAGE DAY
November 8, 2022	Peachtree City, Atlanta Air Show

PLANE CRAZY

I'm not 100% sure, but I think I may have been ripped off wth buying a bootleg copy of the new "Top Gunn" movie. The star is Tom Cruz, isn't it?

