



# AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA  
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Col Frank Kalinowski, Editor - fsk47@yahoo.com

June 2022

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

## HERE WE GROW AGAIN Welcome, New Cols

Four new Cols were sworn in at the June membership meeting, bring the total to 22 new Cols added to the Airbase since January ... quite a recruiting effort, I'd say!

To the right is new Col Jerry Sanchez, who rode on Red Nose at the PDK Good Neighbor Day and decided to join. Jerry is a social media and marketing person.

Other new Cols are on page 3.



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# From the Left Seat

## Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

Every day our organization continues to succeed because of the seen and mostly unseen acts of genuine teamwork from self-motivated people that believe in our mission and each other.

This month was no different. This month I want to recognize the heroes of the Reading Airshow. My words of gratitude will not nearly be enough to describe the success that was Airbase Georgia at Reading this year. There were untold acts of kindness and caring for each other and the people that came to us and rode in our aircraft. Our mission was shared, the public was inspired and unforgettable memories were made.

While I am not sure if this is a record, our team gave 51 rides between the P-51 and SBD, grossing around \$65,000.00. These are incredible numbers but let's not focus solely on the numbers. I urge each of you to think about the effort and dedication by our entire ground and flight crews to generate these numbers and more importantly the experiences for our customers. The reality is that we are a business masquerading as a volunteer organization and we had a well-oiled machine at Reading. Please take a moment and say thanks, shake a hand, or give a pat on the back to the Cols listed to the right when you see them.



Jim Buckley

Jerry Robinette

Jim Stearns

Rodney Higginbotham

Heather Johnson

Angela Decker

Tony Stein

John Currenti

Alan Armstrong

Mark Todd

Craig Hutain

Andy Cash

Casey Rozell

Gerhard Frenz

Gregg Scott

Tom Walsh



# Cols Sworn In At June Meeting



Left: Col Charlie McBride, who is working on his commercial license. He was a great help to Mike McGowan in getting our T-34 back in the air after a very through and exhausting (100 hour/Annual) inspection.



Right: Col Russell Stanford (that is, unless he REALLY is Clark Kent), recently retired as a Delta Captain.



Left: Col Jack Miller lives in Carrollton. His son, Chris Miller, flew from PDK to Carrollton and picked him up and delivered him to CAFABG (KFFC).

Photos by Col Michael Wewers. ➔

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

*Col James Dalton, Recruiting Officer*





## Col Calvin Barley

Col Calvin Barley of Peachtree City, Georgia, passed away on Friday, May 13, 2022. He was the second son of Edgar and Belva Barley, born on December 9, 1940.

Calvin grew up in Bellwood, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation from high school, and while just 17 years old, he followed his brother Marvin into the U.S. Navy.

After Basic Training, Calvin became an Aviation Fire Control Technician and was responsible for maintaining, troubleshooting, repairing and testing complex weapons systems employed by various naval aircraft. While stationed at NAS Whidbey Island he met and married his first wife Geraldine Lowery. They had two children, Kelly and Belinda.

Calvin led an exciting life in the Navy. He made several deployments with both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. He served during Vietnam and while doing so, survived serious fires aboard the USS Forrestal and USS Enterprise. He achieved the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. Calvin loved the sea and returned often to deep-sea fish or sail via cruise ship.

After the Navy, Calvin settled in Riverdale, California. His curiosity led him to Fresno State University, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Education. He and his family moved to Peachtree City in 2008, where he joined and loved time spent with the Dixie Wing / Airbase Georgia of the Commemorative Air Force.

A Celebration of Life Ceremony for Calvin was held Friday, June 17, 2022, at Airbase Georgia in Peachtree City. A reception followed at Line Creek Brewery in Peachtree City. ➔



Covid restrictions in 2020 did not prevent Calvin from showing his Navy pride.

# Rides Update

## Col James Sterns - Rides Coordinator



May and June have been quite busy to date. Our P-51, "Red Nose" visited Macon Georgia with our friends from the Gulf Coast Wing, the Texas Raiders, B-17. Thanks to our pilot, Col Alan Miller who completed 4 rides, one very special ride to the son of William Gamble who was a P-51 pilot in WWII and flew in the same squadron as Chuck Yeager and Bud Anderson. Our recent travel to the WWII Weekend in Reading, PA was a success. Pilots, crew chiefs, and Rides folks did Airbase Georgia proud, 51 rides were completed in 3 days between "Red Nose" and our "Lady in Blue."



The starting lineup at Macon, GA with ships from the CAF Gulf Coast Wing.

Special thanks to all who worked hard especially the maintenance guys who got all our planes ready before leaving the barn. We kept hearing this plane or that plane was "iffy" for making the trip to Reading. The next morning they're all sitting on the ramp drawing crowds! Our pilots Cols Craig Hutain, and Wes Stowers, Mark Todd and John Currenti put on three great shows and provided 51 great rides. Our ground crew and crew chiefs Cols Andy Cash, Tom Walsh and Rodney Higgenbotham kept our planes oiled, fueled, cleaned, and then loaded riders 51 times!





## Rides Update (cont.)

The rides crew - I'll match them with any unit in the CAF, Cols Heather Johnson, Ellen Stearns, Gerry Robinette and George Areson got it done! Thanks to Cols Jim Buckley, Tony Stein - the TEAM WORK! Seeing everyone, though you may not have been named here, we know who you are and appreciate your help, pull together doing any task needed really showed how the members of Airbase Georgia shine.

If that wasn't enough, and not to be outdone, our T-6 "Mosquito" piloted by Col Matt Kenner completed five rides on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, assisting the Texas Raider's while their SNJ was down.



I'd like to remind all our members to check our calendar for upcoming "rides" events. If you have an interest in joining a busy, fun, crew email me and let me know. The "Rides" crew is always looking for energetic volunteers, and we have jobs for all.

Remember - Airbase Georgia members receive a 20% discount on one ride per year.

James Stearns, Rides Coordinator  
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[rides@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:rides@airbasegeorgia.org)

Above: A line forms at the Rides Tent at Reading's WWII Weekend.

Right: I'm not sure who took the photo, of Red Nose, but if it were I, I'd be looking to enter it in a photo contest.



Rides Update (cont.)

The Honor Flight at Reading – Our own P-63 “Miss Betty” with a P-39, P-51 Red Nose, and a P-40.





## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

But sometimes you don't need that many, such as when our own Col Matt Kenner opened up his copy of the CAF Dispatch's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue (which I DID NOT RECEIVE, by the way) and discovered that one of his photos was being used that he had taken a few years ago of our restored P-63.

But he did get credit for the great shot of the restored *Kingcobra* Taking off. ➔



**P-63 KINGCOBRA** Acquired by the CAF in 1980



1970s-era Photo



2019 Photo by Matt Kenner



## P-51 Mustang Visit Delights WWII Veteran Pilot in Rome, GA

### By Col Steve Forsyth, Public Information Officer

Airbase Georgia's P-51 Mustang brought a smile to the face of a 101-year-old U.S. Air Force hero in Rome, Ga., June 2. Jim McCubbin flew P-51 fighters in Europe until near the end of WWII, and had not seen one again until the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia staff arranged a fly-in visit in his honor at the Richard B. Russell airport in Rome, Georgia.



Above: Jim with his P-51 Mustang "Mary-A1"

McCubbin resides at the Renaissance Marquis Retirement Village in Rome, where his wartime accomplishments are well known. McCubbin is credited with destroying nine enemy aircraft before his plane was shot down in 1945 and he became a prisoner of war. Resident Services Director Catie Mason wanted to honor him in a special way, and made a request to the CAF for a visit.



Jim sits in the cockpit, ahead of his display of six "kills."

CAF Airbase Georgia agreed to send the aircraft to Rome to honor McCubbin. "Red Nose" is a highlight at airshows and aviation events around the country, and the audience at Rome was delighted to see and hear it.



Jim was escorted out to Red Nose.

When Airbase Georgia pilot Col Craig Hutain taxied Red Nose to the apron of the airport terminal, a round of applause broke out from dozens of residents of the Renaissance Marquis in attendance, many of them also U.S. veterans who were recognized in the day's ceremonies. McCubbin was escorted to the side of a P-51 one more time, and posed to "recreate" an old photo showing him standing next to his aircraft in the 1940s.

Airbase members Cols Chris Madrid, Steve Forsyth and Philip Beegle were on hand for media and to assist McCubbin to the aircraft. He was clearly pleased to see his beloved P-51 one more



## P-51 Mustang visit (cont.)

time, 77 years after he was shot down over Germany in his last mission. He was a prisoner of war for three months, but he says it felt like three years. He said he knew the end of the war was near when a German guard showed them that he had no bullets in his rifle.



Jim does a good job of recreating the pose of him with "Mary-Al" in 1944.

McCubbin had many amazing experiences during his war years, but as he said in his personal memoirs, he loved flying the P-51.

His first mission was emotional for McCubbin. *"On this typical damp English morning of Sept. 23, 1944, as I sat in the cockpit of my beautiful D Model P-51, waiting for the 'start engines' command, I could hardly believe that finally I was going on my first combat mission. I think this dream, which was about to be fulfilled, started at the age of 12, a long time to wait."*

*"The memory of the emotions at that particular moment, even after these 50 years, is still strong enough to bring tears to my eyes. The Thrill of 50 Rolls Royce, 12-cylinder, 1600- horsepower engines, coughing and struggling to catch enough fuel to start. The first deep-throated roar as one caught, quickly reinforced by an ever-increasing thunder until the whole field shook and vibrated. These feelings never diminished, even after 44 missions that equated to almost 200 combat hours."*



Many of Jim's neighbors came to share with Jim his reunion with a P-51.

"This is why we do what we do," said Airbase Georgia leader Col Joel Perkins. "Our mechanics, pilots and many other volunteers keep these planes flying so we can honor our veterans, educate the younger generation about the accomplishments of the 'Greatest Generation,' and inspire more youth to become involved in aviation." ✈



# EDUCATION OFFICER

## Col Jane Simpson

This month, we had a historic marker with the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. And this year, Col Willard Womack suggested we remember and honor the service of these brave men and women (and all others who sacrificed in other conflicts) on Memorial Day. So, with a short turn-around, Airbase Georgia opened its doors on May 30 for the community. It was a tremendous success! While we were unable to guess the number of visitors, we had a steady stream of folks from 9:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. or so. Over \$900 of t-shirts and caps were sold, and over \$400 donated by visitors. Every volunteer enjoyed themselves immensely! For our artifacts, we displayed our Eagle Squadron uniform, the “gun camera”, and our newly discovered USN M-592 pack (more in next issue, stay tuned....) among some toys and other assorted memorabilia.



Col Willard Womack, taking a well deserved break on Memorial Day.

See some additional photos from Memorial Day later in this issue.

As for the museum project, funds were approved to rebuild the doors on the back showcase and so the renovation of the displays in those cases has begun. The general plan is to select our best artifacts, conduct research on the item, and build a single section of the showcase with facts about that item (including a QR code). The storyboards will serve as a backdrop only, but we will attempt to match the storyboard with the item if possible. For example, see the “before” and “after” on the first section (this is not the final suggestion, just a sample):



We have explored most of the museum trailer, but we do have a bit more. As we continue to assess our inventory, we will also slowly build temporary exhibits in our showcase. Volunteers always welcome! ➔



# PT-19 Status Report

## Col Tom Thompson

Our PT-19A is currently undergoing significant maintenance work. This aircraft is a Fairchild model M-62A manufactured in November of 1943 and delivered as serial number 43-7098. The aircraft requires its annual maintenance inspection and during this downtime we will also remove and replace all the fabric covering. Although the flight surfaces such as the wing are covered in wood, those areas are then covered in fabric that will also be replaced. While the fabric is removed we will complete a more extensive inspection on those areas that are now exposed. Since the aircraft was flying as recently as January 2022 we expect few mechanical issues and we will repair those and any structural wear before fabric recovering.

Progress in the past month has consisted mostly of disassembly. First, the wings were separated from the aircraft. Each wing is connected to the center section by four large attachment bolts. Although a few of these fought us to the end, we now have the wings removed and ready for inspection. The edges of the fuselage covering are hidden under many other components such as the canopy and horizontal stabilizer. Therefore, the fuselage is now taken completely apart to expose and remove this covering. Next time you are in the hanger take advantage of this disassembly to look at the 1940s era engineering of this trainer.



Above: Cols Steve Beck and Lee Walker remove the wing attachment bolts from the aircraft.

Removal of the fabric covering has begun on some control surfaces. For the most part the fabric has come off in one piece and will be kept and used as a template. It has taken use of lacquer thinner to remove the old glue in some areas. The outer recovering will be accomplished using modern polyester and products from Stewart Systems. This company's glue and fill system is completely waterborne and will be much safer for our volunteers than the 'dope' products used in the past. My thanks go to those who have contributed to the early work on this restoration. If you have any questions or would like to assist in this project please contact me. ➔

# Stearman Update

## Col Jeff Clark

If you haven't been by the hangar recently, you are missing out on the impressive progress being made by our Stearman team. The project is moving along rapidly and you really should come check it out.



The photo to the left shows the progress on the center section. Col Frank Piasecki has repaired and replaced some of the wood that needed attention, and has now started replacing the sheet metal that forms the leading edge. When the center section repairs are finished, the fuel tank will be installed and the entire unit will be covered in fabric.

Col Malcom Lelliott has worked miracles building up the electrical system. To the right you can see the electrical control panel, and at the top of the next page the beginnings of the mounting for the radio and transponder.

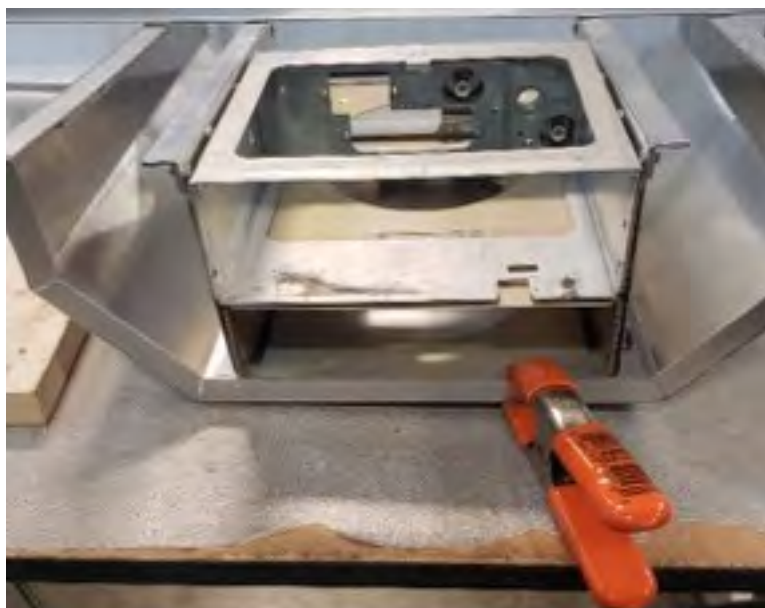




Stearman (cont.)

Right: The beginnings of the mounting for the radio and transponder.

Cols Joe Broker and Geoff Lelliott have also made impressive progress installing the birdcages on the fuselage. The left, right, and top cages are installed, but the bottom birdcage is being rebuilt to repair some minor damage.



In addition to the colonels I've mentioned, I also want to call out the work of Cols Mike Lamble and Lorainne Deloach, who did amazing work repairing and recovering the vertical and horizontal stabilizers and rudder, and Col John Flynn, who is building a new firewall for the airplane. Many other colonels have also contributed to the restoration efforts, and I will highlight their efforts in future updates. If you would like to join the Stearman restoration team, please contact me at [jeff.clark@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:jeff.clark@airbasegeorgia.org), or just come by the hangar and visit the project team in the shop. ➔



# Scenes From The Hangar

Photo by Col Charles Burcher.



Perhaps this one should have been under the heading of “Scenes From The Flight Line.” This shot of pilots (L-R) Matt Kenner, Dave Riesselmann, Bob Heath, & Clint Cottrell returning from a flight brought to mind a photo I once saw of four RAF pilots following a mission.

And, speaking of flight lines, Col Charles Burcher submitted a photo of NAS Deland FL. During WWII. It was an SBD training base. By his count there are approximately 150 airplanes in this picture. Our SBD flew down there several years ago.



# Memorial Day Open House Scrap Book





# Memorial Day Open House Scrap Book





# 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  
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WWII Heritage Days Chair  
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**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.

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