



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

July 2022

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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

Col George Harrison Named 2021 Col Of The Year

Announced at the July member meeting, Col George Harrison was awarded the trophy for 2021 Col of the year.

Other Cols who received awards are pictured on page 3.

Additionally, Col Harrison has been nominated for induction into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame. Details on page 4.



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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

In my past articles, I have made sure to point out our accomplishments both individually and collectively. I have tried to focus on and celebrate the amazing talent and skill that pass-through our doors every day. In this column, I will talk about something that we do not always do well: **Communication**.

Every organization has communication issues. To be clear, there are several areas where communications can break down.

- A volunteer making a mistake due to miscommunication or not enough information given in training;
- Two volunteers doing the same task and not realizing it;
- A colleague not treating a client correct;
- Certain vital tasks not being completed or on time because no one on the team is giving updates to each other;
- A volunteer sending an email that is missing vital information to their team;
- A volunteer in a high-stress situation who does not take or feel they have the time to communicate all the necessary information effectively.

I think we have all experienced at least one and probably more of these situations. Each

of the above can harm any organization

but none of these examples, in my mind, have a more negative impact on an organization than the way we communicate with each other directly. Specifically, I mean the tone, body language, and words we use in addressing each other. I think sometimes we allow our situational frustration to overcome our good sense and the fact that we are all on the same team and share the same organizational goals. Let's not forget we are volunteers. We serve because we *want* to not because we *have* to. In any organization, there will be conflicts, disagreements, and miscommunication. All of that is very normal. I would encourage each of you to consider how you communicate with your fellow volunteer in these moments. Your choice will have a direct effect on the outcome of the situation for you personally and the organization as a whole.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to get angry.
James 1:19



Awards Presented At July Meeting



Col Jim Stearns holds his award for *New Col of the Year – 2021* along with his wife Col Ellen Stearns.

Right: Col Rodney Higgenbotham was named *Distinguished Maintenance Person – 2021*.

Not pictured: Col Paul Areson, who received the *Special Achievement Award*.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



MAJ. GEN. GEORGE HARRISON NOMINATED FOR GEORGIA AVIATION HALL OF FAME*



Long time CAF Colonel Member and Maj. Gen. George Harrison, USAF (Ret.) is nominated to be inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame. Harrison earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, and various other awards, decorations, and accolades.

Harrison, a well-known general aviation stalwart, has flown 103 different aircraft types for 9300 hours including 530 hours of combat flying. He has been a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) for over 40 years. Through the years Harrison has been an active CAF Member participating heavily with Airbase Georgia. He is an instructor in both the PT-19 and T-34. In addition to volunteering with

Airbase Georgia, Harrison has reached out to support other CAF Units getting up to speed in their newly acquired PT-19s.

The mission of the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame is to honor aviation leaders whose extraordinary achievements or services have made outstanding and lasting contributions to aviation.

To learn more about the candidates, visit the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame website at <https://www.gaaviationhalloffame.com/nominations/2023-gahof-candidates>. ➔

* From CAF's *On The Fly*.

Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann

The Corvair Society of America held a portion of their international convention in our hangar on 12 July. The Corvair pictured below reached 147 mph. at Bonneville. The aircraft pictured below is a Zenith Zodiac 601 powered by a Corvair engine. Our next hangar event will take place on 1 October, so we have somewhat of a respite from such activity for the moment. From that point until the end of the season, however, we will finish with a flurry of six hangar events. Please email me at facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org if you can make time to contribute to this vital revenue generating activity. No expertise is required – just your time. This is an excellent way for **NEW MEMBERS** to pitch in. Thanks as always to the Hangar Rats for helping make these events happen. ➔



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

The PT-19 restoration team is looking for more help. We will have a great deal of fabric covering to accomplish. If you are interested in learning a new skill and have the time to apply these techniques we are ready to instruct you. A hands-on class will be scheduled shortly. We can also use workers with woodworking skills. Please volunteer and help us return this important piece of history to flight. If you would like to assist in this project please contact me at heyload141@gmail.com.



During the past month we have moved from disassembly to repair of components. All of the control surfaces have had their fabric removed and are undergoing inspection. The all-wood flaps had some bonding failures. These were repaired using epoxy and have now been sealed and prepared for new fabric. Minor repairs have been made to fuselage stringers and other supporting formers. There has also been great progress on the annual inspection checklist thanks to our A&P mechanics including Colonels Frey and Beach. The repair and sealing of wooden surfaces is being accomplished by Cols Walker and Buchanan.

Cols Tom Thompson (above) and Lee Weaver (below) work on the PT-19.

A work in progress



Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



PT-19 Corner (cont.).



Above: Cols Forrest Buchanan and Dennis Beach work on the fuselage, as well as (right) Randy Hawkins.



Rides Update

Col James Stearns - Rides Coordinator



July, as expected has been a hot month, temperature wise and rides wise.

At the end of June Airbase Georgia was invited to the Birmingham Escadrille, our new neighbors. Pilot Robert Harris accompanied by Melina Galini one of our Rides people flew the T-6 in to their first fly-in and Family Day. It was hot! Alabama hot! But we sold a couple rides, made new friends, and returned home before the afternoon showers.

On the 16th of July, we enjoyed the Members Appreciation Day and picnic. Our T-6 and T-34 were busy providing some great rides to our volunteers and family. Our Leader, Joel Perkins provided rides in his Bird Dog. All in all, good friends, good food, and warbird rides, it was a great day.

If you're interested in helping and being part our "Rides Crew" please send me an email. Remember Airbase Georgia members receive a 20% discount on one ride per year.

James Stearns, Rides Coordinator

james.stearns@airbasegeorgia.org
rides@airbasegeorgia.org



The grandchildren of Col Stearns seem quite interested in WWII aircraft. Meanwhile, our recruiting officer asks the question, "When can we induct them?" ➔

Airbase Georgia at CAF Birmingham Escadrille Fly-In

By Col Pat Grogan CAF Birmingham Escadrille

On June 29 we had an outstanding event at the Bessemer Airport.

We had a wonderful turnout of wing members, other CAF wing members from Airbase Georgia, the FloraBama Wing and the Mississippi Wing. Our event was very safe with no incidents. Two rides were given by Airbase Georgia, and one passenger was our own Jay Miller who had his first T-6 ride piloted by Airbase Georgia's Col Robert Harris (photo to right).



Thanks to Cols Chris Madrid, Jim Stearns and his team for attending the event and showing us how to run a great PX and to manage rides in the future. Thanks to Col Rodney Higgenbotham from Airbase Georgia for bringing a working dog tag stamping machine and donating it to our wing!!

Several aircraft attended the event. Airbase Georgia T-6, T-34 (Thank you Tony Dietz) a FloraBama wing member, L-5 from the Mississippi Wing and T-6 (Chris Davis), and Jorge Barnard's Bird Dog from our own Birmingham Wing. A beautiful 1947 Navion in USAF colors showed up as well.

Our PX did very well selling several wing T-Shirts, toys and dummy ammunition. Thanks to Mike Richardson for the donation. Several members donated water, ice and helped pay for the pilot lunches. The Hangar restaurant impressed our visitors and are looking to return to the Bessemer Airport in the future.

Thanks also to Cols Bruce Bevers and Eric Huvar with the CAF Marshalling Detachment helping to spot the aircraft. Thanks to Tim Wysaluka and Jim Johnson from the Bessemer Authority to help us plan this event and make it possible.



This was our first event and it went better than I had hoped. Our experiences will help us plan future events and I want to personally thank all involved with helping our new wing grow!! If I missed anyone that helped please forgive me, but I do appreciate all that you do.



Scenes From The Hangar

Photo by Col Dave Riesselmann



Cols Rodney Higginbotham and Randy Hawkins “conduct” the 25-hour inspection on the Mustang. Meanwhile, Col Yvonne Haley actually replaces the spark plugs as daughter Anne looks on. ➔

Report From Across The Pond

Did you know that the CAF has a United Kingdom Wing? Well, soon we may have a close link as UK Wing Col Tristram Carter (pictured below) who travels between England and Atlanta has expressed interest in joining the Airbase Georgia.



Tristram shared this information about a recent WWII reenactment event:

BOTTISHAM 1940'S WEEKEND 2022

CAF UK WING at the Bottisham Airfield Museum, 1940's Weekend. With the fabulous P51 Mustang replica that has been restored in the colours of Col. Jack Christian, the commanding officer of the 361st Fighter Group at Bottisham. Jack

was KIA on August 12th 1944 whilst flying from Bottisham, the Mustang is a fitting tribute to his memory. CAF UK Wing recruiting stand was present at this superb WW2 event, which saw the unveiling of the completed Mustang, along with a large number of WW2 re-enactors, historians collectors and members of the public. There were flypasts from P51 Mustang and Spitfires from near by Duxford, many vintage and 1940's stalls and entertainment. <https://commemorativeairforce.org.uk>



Members Picnic Scrap Book

Photos by Cols Charles Burcher and Chris Madrid



Members Picnic Scrap Book (cont.)



Following in his father's "pedal steps," young Philip Beegle III takes Little Red Nose for a spin around the hangar. ➔

Airbase Georgia's Latest Acquisition Reported in Air Classics Magazine

In the "Better late than never department," the May issue of Air Classics magazine featured the assignment of CAF's Republic P-47N *Thunderbolt*.



The heavily damaged P-47N after the takeoff fire at Albuquerque.



Much work had been accomplished on the P-47N when it was displayed at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum.

THUNDERBOLT ON THE MOVE AGAIN

On 21 March 2002, the Commemorative Air Force's rare Republic P-47N Thunderbolt 44-89436/N47TB was nearly destroyed after the R-2800 engine caught on fire while taking off from Albuquerque. Considerable restoration work was undertaken but the project was eventually put on hold since costs were constantly escalating. After being displayed in the Cavanaugh Flight Museum, in 2018 CAF Headquarters made the decision to transfer the airframe to the CAF Southern California Wing at Camarillo. At the time, the wing was a hotbed of activity and prospects for rebuilding the Thunderbolt looked good. However, after the plane arrived very little work was accomplished as the wing experienced a change in personnel. During March 2022, another change took place when the P-47N moved to CAF Airbase Georgia at Peachtree City. Airbase Georgia operates the CAF SBD, FG-1D, P-51D, and P-63A. This project will take several years and we look forward to future reports on its progress.



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://wwiidays.org/>

WWII
COMMERCIAL AIR FORCE
AIRBASE GEORGIA

Peachtree city



ON THE HORIZON

August 6, 2022

Staff & Members Meetings

September 3, 2022

Staff & Members Meetings

September 10–11, 2022

Smoky Mountain Airshow – McGhee Tyson Airport - Knoxville, TN

October 1, 2022

Staff & Members Meetings

October 1, 2022

Annual Open House / Fly In – Crossville Memorial Airport, TN

October 8, 2022

WWII HERITAGE DAY

November 5 & 6, 2022

Atlanta Air Show, Peachtree City, <https://airshowatlanta.com>

November 17-20, 2022

TRARON Clinic – Atlanta Speedway Airport (KHMP)

PLANE CRAZY



“Honey ... now don’t get mad, but”