



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



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

April 2023

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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Proving that a leader will never ask someone to do something they would not do, Airbase Leader Col Joel Perkins takes a turn with mopping the hangar floors ... and on his birthday no less!
Photo by Col Tom Walsh.



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 New Cols
- 3 Safety Officer Update
- 4 Education Officer Update
- 6 Development Officer Update
- 7 Stearman Update
- 8 PT-19 Update
- 11 Flags For The Fallen
- 12 Tuskegee Fly-In
- 13 On the Horizon



Welcome, New Cols

It was a family affair at the March members meeting as Chris Barringar, Amy Barringar (top left and right), and son Carter Barringar (bottom left) were sworn in as Cols. Rounding out the new Cols was Gary Spencer (bottom right). Photos by Col Michael Wewers.



Safety Update

Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer



We had a successful Active Shooter Training with Sergeant Courtney Lumpkin of the Peachtree City Police Department (left) following the April Monthly Meeting. Twenty-six Airbase Members attended. We learned important steps to take should we ever be faced with this situation.



We are targeting to have CPR/AED/First Aid Training in May/June and Fire Extinguisher Training in June/July. Details will follow in the Dispatch and via Hotline emails.

If you are interested in attending the CPR/AED/First Aid and/or Fire Extinguisher Training, please send an email to safety@airbasegeorgia.org by 6 MAY 2023.

Please continue to use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including **safety glasses** when working with tools and/or chemicals and **hearing protection** and vests when around running aircraft.

The Fire Marshal noted during his recent visit that we had fire doors propped open at the firewalls between the Office/Shop/Hangar Buildings. We must maintain these doors closed, so the doorstops have been removed. Please maintain these doors closed.

The Hangar is very crowded at present as our "squadron" grows and as maintenance and restoration activities compete for space. **Please be sure that any Visitors are always escorted by Airbase Members to help prevent accidents.**

We could use help with the following Safety Items if you are interested in joining the Safety Team:

1. Evacuation Maps
2. Lock Out/Tag Out Program
3. FOD Precautions

Please let us know if you would like to join our Safety Team as we have plenty of areas where you can contribute. All you need is a desire to help ... we'll provide any needed training.

Safety Is Free, Use Plenty of It. ✈️

EDUCATION OFFICER

Col Jane Simpson



The Docent Handbook and identification of artifacts is ongoing, but we can still train new Docents for Airbase Georgia tours. Join us on Saturday, April 22, from 10:00 to noon in the Airbase Georgia Conference Room. We will discuss:

- The role of the Docent
- Setting hours for tours and method of assignment
- Tools for learning about our artifacts and airplanes
- Techniques for tours (Col Womack will give us his tips)
- “Selling Airbase Georgia” – how to sell merchandise and rides
- Suggestions for public interactions (Col Tolbert makes this interesting)
- NEW! Living History – taking it on the road (Col Rosenzweig will lead this discussion, along with Cols Tolbert and Galizzi)
- Safety and emergencies
- [Anyone who wants to stay can “practice”!]

NEW DATE!
DOCENT WORKSHOP,
SATURDAY, MAY 6
FROM 10:00 TO NOON

We will have refreshments for you, so PLEASE register so we know how many to expect. I have created registration for the workshop on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/airbase-georgia-docent-workshop-tickets-583791886247>

If you have any questions, issues, or concerns, please contact me at jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org. See you at the workshop...



Education Officer (cont.)

EDUCATION OFFICER

On March 24, Judith Miller presented her documentary film, "Courage in the Clouds: Cornelia Fort and the First Female Pilots of WWII" at Airbase Georgia. Cornelia Fort was the second woman pilot accepted into the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) in 1942, and unfortunately the first female pilot to die in service to her country in March of 1943. Her story was beautifully told in "Courage in the Clouds," and the event was well attended. Members of the Fort family were present to share their personal stories of Cornelia Fort's legacy. Airbase Georgia was proud to be a part of this event, and we hope that we see many more like this!



Cornelia Fort (second from left) and fellow pilots Barbara Towne, Evelyn Sharp (also killed on duty) Barbara Erickson, and Bernice Batten beside a Vultee "Vibrator" basic trainer.

The photo was taken March 7, 1943, two weeks before her fatal crash. ✈️



Development Officer Update

Col Chris Madrid



My priority as Development Officer 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.

Baseball, Airshows and Communication

Spring brings baseball and airshows. It's early, but the Braves are leading their division and thanks to the maintenance team, our aircraft are primed for a busy schedule prepped by the airshow and rides sales teams. Airbase Georgia's Stearman, PT-19 and P-47 restoration projects are making steady progress and our active membership continues to grow.

On March 24th ABG hosted the premiere of *Courage in the Clouds: Cornelia Fort and the First Female Pilots of WWII*. The documentary which tells the story of Cornelia Fort, a Nashville born aviator who became famous for being part of two aviation-related organization Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Service (WAFS) and Women Army Service Pilots (WASP). The documentary includes the ABG PT-19, a type flown by Fort. Over 30 people attended the premiere.

Airbase Georgia was recognized with the 12 Planes of Christmas Award at CAF Winter Staff Conference, a team effort. 192 individuals donated over \$149,000 to the P-47 Project. Keep an eye out for a P-47 video update on the Airbase Georgia Facebook page. For more info about units recognized at the conference click [HERE](#)

Staying in the loop: Your resources for finding volunteer opportunities:

- Airbase Georgia [WEBSITE](#) – Upcoming airshows and events, media releases and hotlines are posted on the website. The

members only section enables members to update personal information, especially email addresses so that you can receive Hotlines and the Airbase Georgia Dispatch.

- Hotlines – Quick member updates are provided 1-2 times per week. We also use Hotline to distribute Dispatch.
- Airbase Georgia Facebook page and Instagram – We now have over 44,000 followers on Facebook and Instagram. We post stories Mon-Sat that our community will find interesting, to include airshows, rides, restoration progress, and events. Members are encouraged to send photos and short videos to kevmcnulty@gmail.com. Please keep the videos to less than :60.
- Airbase Georgia members only Facebook page – Inside info for ABG members.
- Airbase Georgia Dispatch – Our monthly newsletter which includes staff and member submission. Editor Frank Kalinowski is always looking for stories.
- Commemorative Air Force [HQ WEBSITE](#) – Excellent source of info. The CAF Dispatch is also available for download.

Continued on the next page. 

Development Officer Update (cont.)

On the Horizon

- Media Relations Training – Our airshow and rides teams are often spokespersons while on the road. PIO Steve Forsyth and I are working with CAF HQ to provide members with “Do’s and Don’ts” when interacting with the media. The virtual training is planned for late April. Look for a Hotline announcing date and time.
- TJ3 History – Last year ABG partnered with YouTube channel TJ3 History to produce and broadcast six programs featuring ABG members and aircraft. Combined, the six programs were viewed over 4.2 million times, extending our reach to a new audience. We are beginning planning for “Season 2”. Stay tuned.
- CAF Warbird Tube – Our goal this year is to provide regular updates about our restoration projects. We worked with CAF HQ to feature our three projects on CAF Warbird Tube in February, March and April. To see the PT-19 and Stearman webinar recordings click on [PT-19](#) and/or [Stearman](#). The P-47 is on deck.
- Member Picnic (July 1) – Along with the Christmas Party, the picnic is an annual event. Our goal this year is to provide rides. If you are interested in assisting with the picnic, please contact me.

Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

Col Malcolm Lelliott continues his work on the Stearman’s fuel system. Photo by Col Charles Burcher.



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

The warming weather permits us to consistently work with the fabric bonding liquid while in the hanger. Therefore, the wing center section has gotten a lot of attention in the past few weeks. All prior wear or damage has been repaired, filled, and received a coat of protectant. The fabric is now being attached and there is time-consuming application of protectant tapes around the various wing openings for landing gear, fuel tank access, flaps and others.



New Col Gary Spencer helps Col Roy Handler smooth out new fabric on horizontal stabilizer, preparing to shrink & glue fabric in place.

The other major fabric project of covering of the recently repaired horizontal stabilizer is near completion. Another significant step planned for April is primer coating the metal components which have been diligently cleaned, repaired, and prepped by the team. We've decided to replace nearly all of the cockpit 'glass'. The sheet goods are on order. If you have experience in forming Plexiglas parts we need your help! As mentioned last month, we could also use assistance with cutting stencils for the various aircraft markings.

Right: Once the new fabric is positioned on the horizontal stabilizer, Col Chris Buzzeo uses a tacking iron to secure the new fabric.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



PT-19 Corner (cont.)

Col Brad Postale uses sandpaper to strip down the PT-19 canopy frame to bare metal. Behind him Col Paul Bunks and Col Lorraine Deloach also work on the project.



Photos by Col Charles Burcher

What has already been sanded.



PT-19 Corner (cont.)



PT-19 Project Manager Col Tom Thompson works on preparing the left wing for fabric covering.

Photo by Col Frank Kalinowski.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE



Our friends at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force are honoring and remembering the 26,000 airmen of the Eighth Air Force in World War II who never returned home with *Flags for the Fallen: 26,000 flags | One Mission.*

This unique memorial flag garden of remembrance includes a 48-star American flag for each of the 26,000 men lost. The men of the Eighth in WWII served, and many are buried, under this flag.

The public is invited to experience the garden beginning Thursday, May 26 through Monday, May 30, Memorial Day.

The mission of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force is to preserve and share the stories of the heroes of the Eighth; each of these flags represents a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice.

To see the full details of how you can support this event, go to:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/i3Cm6w?vid=y6jlf>

Be sure to share this information on your social media sites.

For any additional questions or information:

Sheila K. Moore

Executive Administrative Assistant to the President/CEO

National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force

smoore@mightyeighth.org | (912) 988-1836



54th Annual Memorial Day

FLY IN

Honoring the Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen



Moton Field, Tuskegee
Saturday, May 27, 2023

10am - 2pm



City of Tuskegee



Barge Design Solutions





ON THE HORIZON

- May 2, 2023 Trip to the Museum of Aviation, Robins AFB
- May 6, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings
- May 6, 2023 Museum Docent Workshop 10 AM - Noon
- June 3, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings



In The Shadows: (L-R) Cols Dennis Beach and Robert Karge work on the P-51.
Photo by Col Charles Burcher.