



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 2023

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

Airbase Leader

Col Joel Perkins
joel.perkins@airbasegeorgia.com

Executive Officer

Col Gerhard Frenz
xo@airbasegeorgia.org

Adjutant

Col Clint Contrell
adjutant@airbasegeorgia.org

Finance Officer

Col Peter Dalieri
finance@airbasegeorgia.org

Maintenance Officer

Col Randy Hawkins
maintenance@airbasegeorgia.org

Operations Officer

Col John Currenti
operations@airbasegeorgia.org

Safety Officer

Col Steve Hoofnagle
safety@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 Yvonne Haley
rides@airbasegeorgia.org

Air Show Scheduling

Col Heather Johnson
Heather.johnson@airbasegeorgia.org

Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

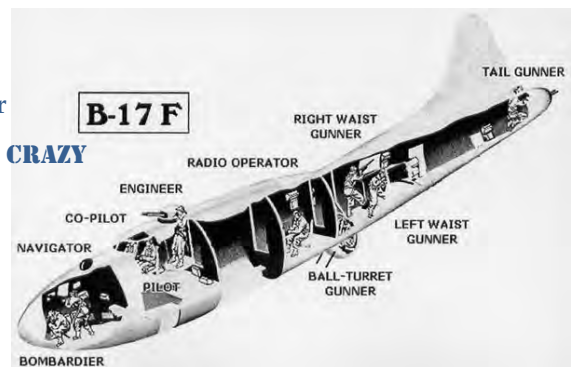
ABG Corsair to be Featured at 2023 AirVenture

This year's EAA AirVenture will be showcasing five of CAF Airbase Georgia's aircraft, including the popular P-51D "Red Nose", the SBD-5 Dauntless, LT-6 Mosquito, and T-34 Mentor. The Airbase's FG-1D Corsair will be participating in a special event, the Gathering of Corsairs, in honor of Jesse Brown, Tom Hudner, and the men of VF-32 in Korea.



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 From the Left Seat
- 3 Safety Update
- 4 Scenes from the Hangar
- 5 Facility Rentals; **PLANE CRAZY**
- 6 Library Clean Up
- 7 PT-19 Update
- 8 Stearman Update
- 9 Trivia of Aviation
- 10..... Remembering the Flying Fortress
- 11 WWII Lecture Series
- 14 On the Horizon



From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader

In most if not all of the left-seat articles I talk about our successes and attempt to highlight the contributions of our many talented volunteers or point out the progress on projects and encourage more people to become active. My focus is to share with you the positives, the accomplishments or just say thank you to all of you who make Airbase Georgia the great place that it is. This writing is going to be a departure from that pace and I am going to share with you a failure - an error in judgment. As the leader of this incredible organization, all the successes are yours, the volunteers, and the failures are mine. Please allow me to share with you some details that led to this poor decision.

I am always very focused on our economic outlook, our current cash position, and our forecasted cash position. Airbase Georgia is a very unique business because we experience a quarter every year in which we do not have any income and our cash flow changes. We don't know how many airshows we will be awarded, how many Navy Legacy Flights we will have, how much rides revenue will be generated and the big one is our test pilot school contract with Eglin AFB which is up for renewal this year. Allow me to pause for a moment and thank our TPS team, Randy, Rodeny, Stan, John, Robert, Gregg, and Philip for making that program the success it has been for us. And of course this year Peter Dalieri and Philip Beegle have developed and presented a renewal bid that will hopefully secure that income for another five years. Adding to those concerns I am always working with Randy to understand our maintenance needs. You all are aware that these airplanes are expensive to operate and maintain. All of you know about the new 9% tax on every dollar that comes in our door that was levied by HQ this year. At that time

I was concerned about how this new tax would impact our cash and operations because I did not have any historical data to lean on. There are other building-related and smaller operational costs we have to consider but these above are our major concerns. When I combined all of those items with the current state of the economy and the economic outlook for 2023, I turned even more conservative. I and the staff decided to not perform some building maintenance that could wait. We decided, at my direction, to forego some other purchases to better preserve our cash position and let the year unfold.

Now for the blunder ---- the member appreciation picnic. In past years ABG has funded this for the members. This year I took my conservative approach too far and we, as you know, asked members to purchase tickets to help cover the cost.

I am sincerely sorry. I apologize to every one of you. I would do it personally but there are over 500 members now. I hope that you can overlook the error in judgment and allow me to opportunity to right this wrong. With all that our volunteers give to ABG, ABG should be able to give a little back where we can come together as a family and share some food and fun.

We will reschedule the picnic for the early fall and there will be no tickets.

Thank you all for what you do every day. →



Safety Update

Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer



The Safety Team has been busy with the annual inspections of the fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, and back flow preventers. These are annual inspections by licensed contractors required by law/code and are in addition to the monthly/quarterly inspections we do “in-house.”

The biggest exposure this time of year is the HEAT. We’ve posted warning posters for the signs of heat exhaustion/stroke and two thermometer/hygrometers to show heat and humidity: one in the Hangar and one in the Shop. The saying, “it’s not the heat, it’s the humidity” stresses that high humidity defeats the body’s natural cooling system (perspiration/evaporation), so even if the temperatures aren’t extreme, the combination with high humidity can be dangerous. Humidity levels of 60% or more are of concern! Please keep an eye on each other, take frequent water breaks, and go into the air-conditioned areas often.

Based on an excellent suggestion by Colonel Malcolm Lelliott, we are working to provide a HVLS fan in the Shop (similar to the one in the Hangar, but smaller in diameter). More details to follow on that.

We are now targeting to do **Fire Extinguisher Training** in September/October depending on the availability of the PTC Fire Department. Details will follow in the Dispatch and via Hotline emails. This is required training for marshallers per CAF Policy.

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 moving or running aircraft ESPECIALLY out on the ramp/taxiway!

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 will be providing permanent signage to this effect in the near future.

Thanks to Colonel Heather Johnson for organizing the Safety Cabinet in the Shop.

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.

Think Safety – it couldn’t hurt.



Scenes From The Hangar



Col Wanda Roberts wipes down the P-51 after it's return from an Airshow in Oklahoma over the 4th of July.

Photo by Col Charles Burcher

KEEP 'EM FLYING

JOIN AIRBASE GEORGIA

Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann

The facility rental season has been quiet but will pick up in September with six hangar events scheduled through December and another couple possible events to be added.

ATTENTION NEW COLS

These events are an easy way to get involved in Airbase Georgia activities, either cleanup on the Thursday prior or actual facility supervision on the day/night of the event.

15 September – Shepherds of the Meek banquet

23 September – Granada/Rahz wedding

06 October – Clothes Less Travelled banquet

11 November – G5 Gives Back gala

18 November – Zgoda wedding

28 December – Dalton anniversary

Contact facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org to volunteer. →



PLANE CRAZY



Something new on the airshow circuit for 2023 – the introduction of the B-1B.

ONE NINE FOR THE BOOKS

Col Jane Simpson, Education Officer

Earlier in July, Nine Airbase Georgia Docents tackled the task of cleaning up and reorganizing our library. At the same time, Vince, Willard, and George gave tours to over a dozen visitors. After 6 hours of hard work, we brought some semblance of order to the library. Both new and long-term members: Cols Kyla Young, Willard Womack, Daisy Tolbert, Lorraine DeLoach, Vince Garland, Chris Schamel, Bill Lowrey, George Harrison, Jane Simpson. ➔



Ah ... the question ... where to start.



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

Currently, there is very little repair or assembly being accomplished on the aircraft. Each work session is being used to apply the final paint color. We've begun by practicing our painting techniques on the smaller pieces. We are ready to move on to the

larger pieces including the fuselage and wings. I'm confident we will be reassembling the aircraft in August.



A set of masks was ordered from AirCorps Aviation, LLC to simplify the marking of the Army Air Corps insignia on the aircraft. Obviously these are red, white, and blue. If you are an aircraft owner with leftover white paint we could use a donation so we do not have to purchase a full can.

Cols Roy Handler, Chris Buzzeo & Tom Thompson paint some of the components from the PT-19 using our newly purchased potable inflatable paint booth



Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark



There is no big update this month on the Stearman. Col Malcolm Lelliott is continuing to finalize the electrical system. He is focused on the master solenoid and voltage regulator. (Left)

Below: Col Dave Miller (C) looks on as Cols John Flynn (L) and Malcolm Lelliott work on the electrical system.



Trivia of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell

The Australian Caterpillar Club

To be a member of the Caterpillar Club, air personnel had to successfully bail out of a disabled aircraft using a parachute made from caterpillar-produced silk. This gold caterpillar badge was awarded by the Irvin Air Chute Company to Flight Sergeant Norman Macdonald whose Lancaster was shot down over Germany on 2 December 1943.

Macdonald was sucked out of the starboard side of the aircraft but managed to open his parachute and land safely. He was captured the following day and became a prisoner of war in Satalg IVB until the camp was liberated on 23 April 1945. Source: Australian War Memorial.



Do-It-Yourself Ice Cream in WWII



One squadron commander, J. Hunter Reinburg, figured he could raise morale among his men if he could fix one of his F4U Corsair fighter-bombers to become a high-altitude ice cream maker.

His crew cut the ends off of a drop tank, created a side access panel. And strung a .50 caliber ammo can in the panel. He put canned milk and cocoa powder into the container. Reinburg then set off to climb into the freezing sky above 25,000 feet and come back with 5 gallons of ice cream.

Upon his return, the mixture was more like thick chocolate milk than ice cream. However, the Marines devoured it anyway!



Opportunity for Cols

From our friends at the
Museum of Aviation,
Robins AFB:

“The Scott Hangar will be open from 9-noon with WWII reenactors, the ropes will be pushed back to allow an up-close look at the B-17, and people can talk to our restoration team and ask questions. Our Heritage Series event will begin at 2:00. We will have our ribbon cutting dedication for the B-17, members of the 483rd Group Association will give a presentation and we will have a flag furling to shutter their association. Our key note speaker, Donald Miller, will speak for an hour on *Masters of the Air*, and also discuss the book to screen process, he will also have a short audience Q&A session.”



MUSEUM OF AVIATION PRESENTS
HERITAGE SERIES II

REMEMBERING THE FLYING FORTRESS



Guest Speaker:
Dr. Donald Miller
New York Times bestselling
author of 10 books including,
*Masters of the Air:
America's Bomber Boys
Who Fought the Air War
Against Nazi Germany*

AUGUST 18, 2023

2:00-4:00

FREE TO THE PUBLIC
CENTURY OF FLIGHT HANGAR



SCAN FOR INFORMATION
AND FREE SEATING
RESERVATIONS
MuseumofAviation.org

Other Events That Day Include:

B-17G Ribbon-Cutting
Completion of Restoration
483rd Bombardment Group
Shuttering the Association

Contact: kross@museumofaviation.org



NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to connect people to Coastal Georgia's dynamic history through the stories we share and the collections we preserve.

Summer 2023

Chautauqua Lecture Series

World War II Home Front Experiences – Here and Abroad



Shipyards employees, ca. 1943

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of our Home Front Museum, the Society will present four programs devoted to World War II topics. Our lectures will delve into the dramatically different wartime experiences in three nations – Britain, the United States, and France. The series will also examine one of the most significant and controversial achievements of the war, the development of the atomic bomb, as seen through the eyes of the brilliant scientist who headed the project. This series gives us the opportunity to invite back four exceptional speakers who presented popular programs in the past.



Donald L. Miller, Ph.D.

On **Thursday, August 17**, best-selling author Donald L. Miller, Ph.D., will kick off the series with the lecture "**Over There: The British Home Front during World War II.**" Dr. Miller will examine the impact of the war throughout Britain, especially those areas in close proximity to U.S. military bases. He will draw from personal journals kept by ordinary citizens.

Continued on page 2

Author of 10 books, Dr. Miller is the John Henry MacCracken Emeritus Professor of History at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania. He is a frequent consultant and adviser on historical productions for PBS, HBO, The History Channel, and Apple Productions. A miniseries based on his book *Masters of the Air* is scheduled to be released in the fall. Dr. Miller previously presented three programs for the Society, the most recent topic being his award-winning Civil War history, *Vicksburg*.

The following **Thursday, August 24**, historian Robert M. Citino, Ph.D., will examine the U.S. home front in the lecture **"Cradle of Victory: The American South in World War II."** As the region where vast U.S. military forces trained and prepared themselves for war, the South played a key role in America's victory over the Axis alliance. No region of the country was more dramatically affected by the war. The impact spread across social, economic, and military fields, and left no part of the region untouched, including Coastal Georgia.



Robert M. Citino, Ph.D.

Dr. Citino is the Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian at the National World War II Museum, New Orleans, and has published 10 books and numerous articles on 20th century military affairs. In 2021, he won the Society for Military History's Samuel Eliot Morison Prize for lifetime achievement in the field. When the Home Front Museum opened in 2018, Dr. Citino presented the keynote address.



Clay Jenkinson as J. Robert Oppenheimer

After skipping the Thursday before Labor Day, the series will continue with the return to Coastal Georgia of humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson on **September 7**. Mr. Jenkinson will present a **dramatic portrayal of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Los Alamos Laboratory**, site of the development of the atomic bomb. Oppenheimer was selected for this position by General Leslie Groves, head of the Manhattan Project. When researching Brunswick's role in Liberty ship production, Society staff discovered that General Groves attended the launch of the 80th Liberty ship built at the J.A. Jones Construction Company shipyard in Brunswick. Shortly after the launching, Groves traveled to Los Alamos to meet with Oppenheimer to plan testing of the bomb.

Mr. Jenkinson is author of a number of books on significant U.S. personalities and places and has appeared in several Ken Burns documentaries, the most recent being *Benjamin Franklin*. A recipient of the National Humanities Award, Jenkinson has hosted the nationally syndicated radio program "The Thomas Jefferson Hour" since 1994. Mr. Jenkinson portrayed Thomas Jefferson for our 2021 Chautauqua Series.

The closing lecture on **September 14** will focus on France and the crucial role women played in resisting Nazi occupation. According to U.S. intelligence sources, women were the lifeblood of the resistance movement. Our speaker, Lynne Olson, will draw from her two most recent books, *Madame Fourcade's Secret War* and *Empress of the Nile*, to explore this often-overlooked contribution in the presentation **"The Forgotten Women of the French Resistance."**

Before becoming a full-time author, Ms. Olson worked as a journalist for ten years, first with the Associated Press as a national feature



One of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade's false identity cards.

Continued on page 3

writer in New York, a foreign correspondent in AP's Moscow bureau, and a political reporter in Washington. She left the AP to join the Washington bureau of the *Baltimore Sun*, where she covered national politics and eventually the White House. In 2019 she spoke on her best-selling book *Citizens of London* at the Society's annual meeting.

The programs will be presented on Thursday evenings, August 17 and 24 and September 7 and 14 at 6 p.m. at the St. Simons Presbyterian Church. They will also be available via live stream. Please note that the schedule skips August 31. The cost of the series is \$50 for members and \$95 for non-members. To register, visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org.

The 2023 Chautauqua Lecture Series is generously sponsored by
Raymond James and Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin, P.C.



GILBERT HARRELL
GILBERT, HARRELL, SUMERFORD & MARTIN, P.C.

Exciting Additions to the Home Front Museum



We are pleased to announce that a new 86-inch interactive touch table has been added to the Airship Gallery. The animated experience is centered around operating an airship (blimp) during World War II. Visitors can select from five flight crew positions – rudder pilot, elevator pilot, mechanic, rigger, or radioman. Working as a team or individually, players can patrol shipping channels to protect the convoy of merchant ships, search for submarines, and drop depth bombs on German U-boats. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) animations make the interactive

a fun and interesting teaching tool for the many students who visit the museum each year. We are grateful to the **DeLong-Sweet Family Foundation** for making this touch table possible. Other changes have been made to the gallery to reposition images and the personal stories station for easier visitor access.

A significant interactive station has also been added to the Legacy Gallery. Visitors can now enjoy an audiovisual presentation of six personal stories about life in Coastal Georgia after the war. We extend our appreciation to the **Terry Thomas Foundation** for their support of this project.

To maintain the quality and aesthetics of the museum installations, the original firms, Gallagher & Associates and 1220 Exhibits, were selected as designers and fabricators. The software was developed by Relative Scale of Raleigh, North Carolina, a creator of bespoke digital products.

Members are encouraged to visit the Museum and enjoy these new experiences.



ON THE HORIZON

August 5, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings

September 2, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings

October 7, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings

November 4, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings

AUGUST:

Airshow/Event: Thunder Over Michigan

Location: Ypsilanti, MI

Airport: KYIP

Aircraft Attending: Corsair

Rides Aircraft: NA

Dates (Open to the Public): August 12 & 13

Website: <https://www.yankeeairmuseum.org/airshow/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ThunderOverMichigan>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thunderovermichigan/?hl=en>

Airshow/Event: Props & Pistons Festival

Location: Akron, OH

Airport: KCAK

Aircraft Attending: Corsair (Acro)

Rides Aircraft: NA

Dates (Open to the Public): August 19 & 20

Website: <https://www.flyohio.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/flyohio>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/papf_akron/

ON THE HORIZON (cont.)

Airshow/Event: Eastman National Aviation Day

Location: Eastman, GA

Airport: KZEM

Aircraft Attending: P-51, SBD, LT-6, T-34

Rides Aircraft: P-51, SBD, LT-6, T-34

Dates (Open to the Public): August 19

Website: [NA](#)

Facebook: [NA](#)

Instagram: [NA](#)

SEPTEMBER:

Airshow/Event: Georgia Business Aviation Association Static Display & Luncheon

Location: Cobb County, GA

Airport: KRYY

Aircraft Attending: SBD, P-63, LT-6

Rides Aircraft: NA

Dates (Open to the Public): September 6 (website says GBAA members only - unverified)

Website: <https://www.gbaa.org/>

Facebook: NA

Instagram: [NA](#)

Airshow/Event: NAS Oceana Air Show

Location: Virginia Beach, VA

Airport: KNTU

Aircraft Attending: Corsair (Navy Legacy Flight)

Rides Aircraft: NA

Dates (Open to the Public): Sept 16 & 17

Website: <https://www.oceanaairshow.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OceanaAirShow/>

Instagram: [NA](#)