

## AIRBASE Dispatch



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA www.airbasegeorgia.org www.facebook.com/CAFAirbaseGeorgia Col Frank Kalinowski, Editor - fsk47@yahoo.com

August 2023

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

<u>Airbase Leader</u> Col Joel Perkins joel.perkins@airbasegeorgia.com

Executive Officer Col Gerhard Frenz xo@airbasegeorgia.org

<u>Adjutant</u> Col Clint Contrell adjutant@airbasegeorgia.org

<u>Finance Officer</u> Col Peter Daliere finance@airbasegeorgia.org

<u>Maintenance Officer</u> Col Randy Hawkins maintenance@airbasegeorgia.org

<u>Operations Officer</u> Col John Currenti operations@airbasegeorgia.org

<u>Safety Officer</u> Col Steve Hoofnagle safety@airbasegeorgia.org

<u>Development Officer</u> 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

<u>Marketing Officer</u> jmarketing@<u>airbasegeorgia.org</u>

<u>Aircraft Rides Officer</u> Col Yvonne Haley rides@airbasegeorgia.org

Air Show Scheduling
Col Heather Johnson
Heather.johnson@airbasegeorgia.org

<u>Facility Rentals</u>
Col Dave Riesselmann
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

Skirting the rain showers in the background, our aircraft at Fond du Lac managed to carry out rides in perfect flying weather. For the complete story of AirVenture 2023, see page 8.



### WHAT'S INSIDE

2 ..... New Cols

3 ..... Safety Update

6 ..... Airbase Georgia Staff Elections

7 ..... Education Officer Update

8 .... Rides Update / AirVenture

20 ..... PT-19 Update

22 ..... Girls in Aviation

24..... Scenes From The Hangar

25 ..... Delta Veterans Day Event

26 ..... On the Horizon



## Welcome, New Cols





New Cols Steve Shankle and Brent Meleeche are welcomed to the Airbase by Recruiting Officer Col Jim Dalton following being sworn in at the August members meeting.





Although not a new Col by a long shot, Col Rodney Higgenbothan is congratulated by Col Jim Dalton for earning his A&P certification. Looks as though Rodney is already putting it to good use. Photo on right by Col Gearhard Frenz.

# Safety Update

Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

### **HOT TOPIC**

The biggest exposure this time of year continues to be Hot Weather. 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. We are working to have HVLS fans installed in the Shop.



### **SHOCKING DEVELOPMENT**

During our recent annual inspection we were cited by the Peachtree City Fire Marshal's office for having extension cords left plugged in and not attended and otherwise improperly arranged.

We need EVERYONE'S help to rectify this situation ASAP.

In addition to being a potential fire hazard, unattended extension cords also pose a tripping hazard when not properly stored.

All extension cords are to be UNPLUGGED and STORED when not in use.

In addition, extension cords CANNOT be permanently attached to the building structure or run behind walls, above ceilings, or beneath floor coverings. Please look around your area and remove any extension cords that are in these conditions. If you require a more permanent power source, please contact the Safety Officer and we'll work to get an electrician involved to evaluate options.

The small "residential" type extension cords are NOT PERMITTED to be used. If you see them, please unplug and remove them. If you need proper replacement cords or (even better) surge protectors, please contact the Safety Officer and you will be provided with suitable replacements.

On the next page is a recap of ABGA Policies on Extension Cords for your perusal.



Safety Update (cont)

## **ABGA Extension Cord Safety**

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (EFSI), approximately 3,300 fires yearly are caused by extension cords.



- 1. Always check an extension cord for signs of damage before use.
- 2. Ensure the wattage rating on the extension cord matches your equipment.
- 3. Use cords approved by an independent testing laboratory like Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- 4. Always use ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection in wet or damp environments.
- Unplug extension cords when not in use.
- 6. Do not daisy chain or "extend" extension cords by plugging them together.
- Do not "permanently" install extension cords by attaching to building structure. They are for TEMPORARY USE only.

Residential Type Extension Cords are not permitted at Airbase Georgia.



### Safety Update (cont)

### WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Please be sure to update your emergency contact information in the Airbase Georgia Roster. Log into <a href="https://www.airbasegeorgia.org">www.airbasegeorgia.org</a> with your Colonel Number and Name and click on the "Colonels" drop down in the upper right corner. The first choice is "Member Profile" and there is an "edit" button if you need to make changes. If you have issues logging in, please check with our Adjutant Clint Cottrell.



### RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY CANOPY

When practical, please keep aircraft canopies closed (e.g. overnight) to help protect against damage from roof leaks, accidental sprinkler discharge, etc. A storm could come overnight and cause damage/leaks that could damage electronics and instruments.

### YOU EVER BEEN IN A COCKPIT BEFORE?

Also, please keep in mind that it is Airbase Georgia policy that visitors and non-members are not to enter the aircraft. Only pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics, and applicable Riders should get into the aircraft. There is too much potential for injuries and/or damage to the aircraft.

### FIRE IN THE HOLE!!!

We are set to do **Fire Extinguisher Training** with the PTC Fire Department on Saturday, 21 October starting at 1000. **This is required training for marshallers per CAF Policy.** Please send an email to <u>safety@airbasegeorgia.org</u> by Saturday, 14 October if you would like to participate.

#### **KUDOS TO COLONELS**

Thanks to Colonels Mark Richards for updating the Offsite First Aid Kit that can be taken to Rides events and Dave Richardson for updating our MSDS book.

### THERE'S NO "ME" IN TEAM

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
- 4. Mounting fire extinguishers and brackets on the tugs

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.

Stand up for Safety!

## CAF Airbase Georgia - 2023 Staff Elections Election Day - November 4, 2023

The election for open Airbase Georgia Staff positions will take place during the regular monthly membership

meeting on Saturday, **November 4, 2023**. The following staff positions are up for election:

Airbase Leader: (Incumbent: Col Joel Perkins)

Development Officer: (Incumbent: Col Chris Madrid)

Education Officer: (Incumbent: Col Jane Simpson)

Finance Officer: (Incumbent: Col Peter Daliere)

Safety Officer: (Incumbent: Col Steve Hoofnagle)



Nominations: If you are interested in nominating someone to run for one of the open positions, contact Col Tom Walsh in the Nominations Committee at <a href="mailto:committee@airbasegeorgia.org">committee@airbasegeorgia.org</a>. You should receive an email reply within 24 hours acknowledging your nomination. If you do not receive a confirmation email, call Tom Walsh at (678) 758-4654. Please do not nominate someone unless you have discussed it with them first and they are in agreement to run for the position.

Nominations Deadline: The deadline to nominate is September 9, 2023 at the membership meeting. Nominees MUST be present at the meeting and agree to the nomination.

<u>Meet the Candidates - September 9, 2023</u>: The Nominating Committee will present the slate of nominated candidates and request nominations from the floor during the September 9th Membership Meeting. Candidates will address the membership to present their qualifications and plans for office.

<u>Absentee Ballots</u>: If you cannot attend the November 4, 2023 election meeting you may request an Absentee Ballot in order to vote. This can be accomplished via email to Election Committee member Yvonne Haley at ychaley@gmail.com or by letter addressed to her at 202 N Lakeshore Dr, Carrollton, GA 30117. An Absentee Ballot will be mailed to you along with candidate campaign statements and Instructions for returning the ballots.

<u>Election Day - November 4, 2023</u>: Paper ballots will be available to all members present and in good standing starting at Noon on Election Day. Your current CAF / Airbase Georgia membership status will be confirmed by the Election Committee prior to receiving your ballot. Ballots must be cast by 3:00 PM on Election Day.

<u>Election Results</u>: Election results will be announced via the Airbase Georgia Hotline during the week of November 6, 2023.

Col Yvonne Haley: Election Committee Chairperson

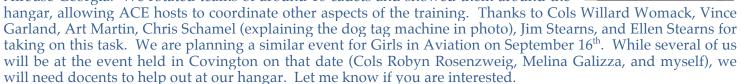
Col Tom Walsh: Nominations Committee Chairperson

### **EDUCATION OFFICER**

Col Jane Simpson

I hope everyone has noticed the red shirts floating around the hangar. Our docent team is slowly growing and defining its mission. We all recognize that a docent task is to show our visitors around the hangar, but as they say "Wait! There's more!"

Docents are a very important part of our ability to host events at the hangar. Recently, we welcomed over 70 young people from ACE Academy to host their training at Airbase Georgia. We rotated teams of around 10 cadets and showed them around the





In July (I have not been diligent in keeping you informed, sorry), our docents worked over six hours to pull all the library books from their shelves, clean them up, and then place them back in some semblance of organization (it was NOT EASY!). Thanks to Cols Kyla Young, Willard Womack, Daisy Tolbert, Lorraine deLoach, Vince Garland, Chris Schamel, George Harrison, and Mr. Bill Lowrey for tackling that task!

Lastly, our latest addition to our team is Mr. Panasonic Camcorder. Here is a photo of the dashing fellow:

While we are still getting acquainted with Mr. Panasonic, we have made testimonials of happy clients after riding in one of our fabulous warbirds, and we have finally completed taping Willard's presentation on the Invasion of Normandy! [We will find

a home for our presentations at some point, and we will work on a way to allow the community to "check out" a presentation. Stay tuned). Willard spoke to a group of over 60 seniors/not-so-seniors, and everyone enjoyed it immensely – including Newnan's mayor who stopped by to listen in. Afterwards, we listened to a number of stories shared with us about relatives in the War – including a lady whose father was a B-17 gunner (she



showed us a wonderful photo of her father with the crew; we hope she visits soon). When I feel I have become proficient enough with the camcorder and we identify what's working and what isn't, I plan to hold a class on how to use the camcorder. In the meantime, have SD Card, will travel.

If you have any questions, issues, or concerns, OR you want to join the Red Hots, please contact me at jane.simpson@airbasegeorgia.org.

# Rides Update Col Yvonne Haley - Rides Officer





The SBD and P-51 travelled to Ketchum, Oklahoma for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks and Airshow at Duck Creek. Pilots John Currenti, Wes Stowers, and rides crew members Wanda Roberts and Yvonne Haley provided rides in both airplanes on July 2-5. Riders came from all over Oklahoma to see and experience Airbase Georgia's airplanes. The owner of

two large marinas on Grand Lake, Arrowhead Yacht Club and Cherokee Yacht Club, is the main sponsor of the airshow. He supported Airbase Georgia by purchasing rides for himself and his friends in "Red Nose". The P-51 and SBD flew in the airshow over the lake between his two marinas. Thank you to Col Paul Mackey for continuing to invite our airplanes to come out to Oklahoma for rides and festivities.

Right - Col Wanda Roberts loading and briefing a Mustang rider.

Below – SBD Pilot Wes Stowers displays to the public the range of motion of the rear guns in the Dauntless. Photos by SBD rider Shawn Bethel.







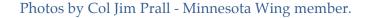


The Duck Creek 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks show is the largest in the state of Oklahoma.

Photo by Col Yvonne Haley

### Wings of the North Air Expo

The SBD was well received in Eden Prairie, Minnesota at the "Wings of the North Air Expo." Six rides were prebooked before it left home. Pilot Robert Harris completed the rides along with multiple aerial flight demonstrations. Andy Cash, SBD Crew Chief, joined Robert for the trip helping with rides and keeping the airplane in tip-top shape. The SBD finished Wings of the North and travelled to Oshkosh for its next event.







# <sup>)</sup> A I R V E N T U R E <sup>:</sup> DSHKOSH

AirVenture 2023 in Oshkosh WI was a banner event. I want to thank each member of the Oshkosh team for finding their strengths and running with them. Rides crew members, pilots, mechanics, and ground crew all worked together to further our mission and made Oshkosh 2023 one for the books. We completed 88 total paid rides in the P-51, SBD, LT-6, and T-34. Airbase Georgia's success was made possible by the hard work of each team member. Some had the role of casting a wide net to tell the public we were there

by using social media, yard signs, rides brochures, and business cards which contained our website and phone number. Jeff Clark, our newest P-51 pilot, is multi-talented and built Airbase Georgia's website that allowed riders to purchase and schedule their ride from wherever they were at Oshkosh whenever they were ready.



Left - Cols Matt Kenner and Rob Haley flew the LT-6 from Peachtree City to Fond du Lac. It doesn't normally go on the road this far from home, but the LT-6 was ready to join the rides adventure of Oshkosh again. The T-34 and LT-6 were great options for people who wanted to ride but couldn't afford the SBD and P-51.

Photo by Col Yvonne Haley

Right - Cols Mike Lamble, Wanda Roberts, Brad Postage, and Matt Kenner.

Photo by Col Rob Haley.

Below - Our airplanes were very thirsty from all the flying and would sometimes require two fuel trucks, especially the SBD Dauntless and P-51 Mustang.





The line men at the Fond du Lac airport took very good care of us. They were quick on the fuel and kept our corner of the ramp clear. For those of you that are not familiar with the Fond du Lac (KFLD) airport, it is about 20 minutes from Oshkosh and provides camping and overflow airplane parking for Oshkosh AirVenture attendees. It gets pretty busy around there that week. Over the years, we have developed a special relationship with the FLD line men. This year had several nights when severe weather was in the forecast. They always found hangar space for our fleet even when they were "full." Gary, in the picture fueling with Col Tom Walsh, has been taking care of us for years. This year was bittersweet as this was his last year before retiring.



Some days at Fond du Lac, the airplanes would part the rain showers and the storms would miss us turning the skies into perfect flying weather. Photo by Col Rob Haley.



Photo by Col Angela Decker.



People travelled from all over the world to Oshkosh and chose to ride with us during their stay. This gentleman came all the way

from India and rode in the LT-6 with Col Matt Kenner. Others came from France, England, and Belgium. Riders from the USA came from as far as California, Texas, New York, Georgia and many states in between. Photo by Col Rob Haley.

GHER



Left - One of our guests, Michelle "Shelly" Hara, rode in all four of our airplanes over the span of the week. She inherited money from her mother after her death with the instructions that it must be spent on adventures. One airplane her mother dreamed of flying in was the SBD Dauntless which was Shelly's inspiration for finding us. She wore her mother's pants for each ride and was in tears after her aerobatic LT-6 ride because it made her feel so close to her mother. Pictured above are Michelle "Shelly" Hara and Col Rob Haley after the flight.

Photo by Col Yvonne Haley.





Our newest SBD pilot Col Robert Harris and rider Michelle Hara following her first flight with Airbase Georgia in the SBD Dauntless. She volunteers her time at Oshkosh with Warbird security and threatened to come volunter with us in Peachtree City along with her husband. We are going to hold her to it and put them to work when they do.

Photos by Col Angela Decker.





(Left photo) Left to right are Cols Matt Kenner, Wanda Roberts, Tom Walsh, Brad Postage, Mike Lamble, Mark Richards, Phillip Beegle, and Jeff Clark having dinner at Schmitty's.

(Right photo) Left to right are Cols Rob Haley, Tom Walsh, Wanda Roberts, Mike Lamble, Brad Postage, Matt Kenner, Mark Richards, and Yvonne Haley at Ala Roma.

Col Phillip Beegle had a special mission at Oshkosh to meet with the Ray Foundation. During the 12 Planes of Christmas campaign last year, they made a generous donation of \$100,000 to Airbase Georgia's P-47 restoration project and wanted to do more based on the project's needs. Through the meeting at Oshkosh, Phillip was able to secure a large yearly donation of \$50,000 to the P-47 restoration project that will continue until the airplane is finished. The upcoming 12 Planes of Christmas has a goal of raising enough money to get the P-47 on its landing gear and wings attached.

Photos by Col Rob Haley.



Left – Fond du Lac tent Photo by Col Yvonne Haley
Right – Oshkosh tent Photo by Col Angela Decker



Airbase Georgia's outreach to the local community and those that traveled in was tremendous. The team gave countless tours of the airplanes at Oshkosh and Fond du Lac. This service fulfilled our mission to educate the public, honor the men and women that served, and inspire the public to keep the stories alive. We had lots of happy guests including those that shared their stories of family members who served in WWII.







Col Matt Kenner gave tours of the LT-6 and T-34 to the air traffic controllers (pink shirts) working the KFLD tower. Each day a new group of controllers would come to work the tower at Fond du Lac. They couldn't resist coming over to see our airplanes and the pilots were gracious with tours, answering questions, and "talking shop." The controllers gave the T-34 the call sign "Mellow Yellow."

Photos by Col Angela Decker)

T-34 pilot Jim Dalton brings back another smiling rider. Tom Walsh had his work cut out for him marshalling ABG's four airplanes with all of their many arrivals and departures. He was assisted by Rides crew member Wanda Roberts and ground crew Mike Lamble.

Photo by Dasher Evans – son of rider Charlton.





Col Jim Dalton with father and son from the flight above who said the T-34 ride was the "highlight of their Oshkosh trip."

Photo - Col Yvonne Haley.

Right Col B J Dalton and T-34 "Mellow Yellow" with a happy rider and family.

Photo by Col Angela Decker.



Left to right are Cols Mike Wewers, Jacob Dalton, BJ Dalton, and their barkeeps Big John and Tammy. Col BJ Dalton was signed off earlier this year as a new T-34 pilot. BJ and his nephew, Col Jacob Dalton, made the 2-day trip from Peachtree City to Fond du Lac in the T-34.

I especially want to thank our maintenance crew for keeping these



airplanes maintained to such a high level that allowed us to complete so much flying without issues. Randy Hawkins, Rodney Higginbotham, Robert Karge, Andy Cash, Mel Duhon, Steve Barnshaw, Mark Chabot, Mike McGowan and others that assist them.

And if you haven't heard.....Congratulations to Rodney Higginbotham for obtaining his A&P license just in time for Oshkosh! Photo by Col Jim Dalton.

Cols Rodney Higginbotham, Casey Roszell, and Mark Todd (far right) getting much deserved down time while catching up with friends at Oshkosh. All three stayed busy with flying and maintenance.



These custom-made Corsair chocks were given to us by the Warbird ground crew at Oshkosh. Pictured left to right are Cols Rodney Higginbotham, our newest Corsair pilot Mark Todd, and Robert Harris. Our Corsair joined 9 others at the 2023 Corsair Reunion. Pilots Mark Todd and John Currenti provided interviews and aerial flight demonstrations throughout the week in the Corsair along with rides in the P-51.

Photo by Col Mark Richards.







Col Mark Todd aerial demonstrations.

Photographer unknown.



Pictured above is most of the Oshkosh Crew having a relaxing dinner at Salty's at the end of a long week of hard work. Left to right are Mike Lamble, Matt Kenner, Tom Walsh, Wanda Roberts, Yvonne Haley, Robert Harris, Rodney Higginbotham, Rob Haley, Casey Roszell, Jeff Clark, Brad Postage, and Mark Richards.

We closed out the week with 10 P-51 Mustang rides on Saturday and Col Casey Roszell was a rock star flying all of them. After taxiing in from his last ride and drenched with sweat, Casey opened the canopy and yelled out with arms raised, "Yvonne, is that all you've got?!"





The sun set on a banner mission to Fond du Lac. Photo by Col Rob Haley.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Opportunities are available with the Rides Team. Any Airbase Georgia member interested in joining can reach out to Col Yvonne Haley at <a href="mailto:rides@airbasegeorgia.org">rides@airbasegeorgia.org</a> or 678-313-6835 for more information.

### PLANE CRAZY

This type of behavior is definitely not sanctioned by the CAF for any rides program.



# **PT-19 Corner**Col Tom Thompson

During the past month we have learned a great deal about applying the final color coat on the aircraft. In rough terms there are three coats; a tack coat that takes about 15 minutes to setup before a second coat is applied. This must then sit for 30-45 minutes before we apply final coatings. All of the metal parts, such as the nosecone/engine area and various access panels are complete. Flat black was applied to antiglare panels around the cockpit. We have moved on to the fabric-covered control surfaces.



Photos by Col Charles Burcher.





Due to the hot weather, we are restricted to painting from about 0800 to 1100 on our work mornings. This has slowed progress, but we are continuing as weather permits. Large pieces such as the fuselage and wings will have to wait for the heat to break so that we can complete them as a single process. All of the stencils are complete and ready for when they are needed.

Left: PT-19 goes into inflatable paint booth for final silver colt coat. Cols Forest Buchanan, Tom Thompson, Roy Handler& Chris Buzzeo.

Below: Cols Roy Handler & Chris Buzzeo.



### PT-19 Corner (cont.)







Right: Col Handler paints black anti-glare panels.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.





A Women in Aviation International®Event

Saturday, September 16th 2023

Covington Municipal Airport



Volunteers, Corporate Exhibitors and Static Display Fly-Ins\*

> 9am-4pm Lunch Provided

For details and sign up visit: www.tinyurl.com/WDS-GIAD-23

Register by August 9th

\*Fly-Ins to land by 8am



GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

SEPTEMBER • 16 • 2023 COVINGTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

VISIT: WWW.TINYURL.COM/WDS-GIAD-23





## Scenes From The Hangar

Well  $\dots$  OK, so it was outside of the hangar where concrete repair was made to the ramp on the  $17^{th}$ . Photos by Col Tom Walsh.













### ON THE HORIZON .....

September 9, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings;

September 9, 2023 Nominees for staff elections presented (see page 6)

October 7 & 8, 2023 Atlanta Airshow, Falcon Field

October 14, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings; Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

November 4, 2023 Staff & Members Meetings; Election of Staff Officers

November 9 – 12, 2023 TRARON Formation Clinic

### Facilities Rental Events for 2023:

September 15 Shepherds of the Meek banquet

September 23 Granada/Rahz wedding

October 6 Clothes Less Travelled banquet

November 11 G5 Gives Back gala

November 18 Zgoda wedding

December 28 Dalton anniversary