



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA
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September 2023

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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Cols Jim Stearns, Wanda Roberts, and Tom Walsh take a break during the Middle Georgia State University's annual Aviation Day Festival and Fly-In at the Heart of Georgia Regional Airport (KEZM). (Photo by Col Mark Richards) More on page 8.

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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



Dear Members,

As we sail through the skies of another remarkable year at Airbase Georgia, it is with immense gratitude that I take this moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for the incredible dedication and hard work of our outstanding volunteers. Without your unwavering commitment, the success we have achieved and continue to strive for would be an unattainable dream.

**** A Soaring Thank You to Our Aircraft Rides Program Volunteers****

Our Aircraft Rides Program has soared to new heights, providing unforgettable experiences for aviation enthusiasts young and old. This achievement would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and tireless efforts of our rides team volunteers. From greeting eager passengers with warm smiles to ensuring the safety and enjoyment of each flight, your dedication is the wind beneath our wings.

****The Stearman, PT-19 and P-47 Restoration Programs: Labors of Love****

Our three Restoration Programs are true testaments to the passion and expertise of our volunteers. The meticulous care and craftsmanship you put into preserving these historic aircraft are nothing short of remarkable. Your patience, skill, and devotion are helping us keep aviation history alive for generations to come.

****Facilities, Hangar, Docents and Aircraft Maintenance: The Backbone of Our Operations****

Behind the scenes, our Facilities, Hangar, Docents and Aircraft Maintenance teams work tirelessly to keep our operations running smoothly. Your hard work often goes unnoticed, but it is absolutely vital to our success. From maintaining the hangar, providing excellent tours and education, to ensuring our aircraft are in safe flying condition, your dedication is the heartbeat of the organization.

****On Track for a Spectacular Year****

Thanks to your relentless efforts, Airbase Georgia is on track for a truly spectacular year. Your passion for history, aviation, and your willingness to give your time, and your unwavering support are the driving forces behind our achievements. As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what the future holds.

****Join Us at the Airbase Georgia Picnic in October****

To celebrate the incredible work of our volunteers and the achievements of our wing, we invite you to mark your calendars for the Airbase Georgia Picnic in October. It will be a day of camaraderie, good food, and great company as we come together to appreciate our shared love for aviation.

In closing, I want to extend my deepest thanks to each and every one of you. Your passion, dedication, and hard work make Airbase Georgia a place where history is alive and their stories will never be forgotten. Let us continue to soar to new heights, for there are no limits to what we can achieve when we work together.

See you at the picnic in October, where we will celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to even greater successes on the horizon.

With warm regards,

Joel Perkins, Wing Leader
Airbase Georgia

Welcome, New Cols

Six new Cols were sworn in at the September meeting by Recruiting Officer Jim Dalton.



Above L to R: Mary Ridley, Dave Harris



Above L to R: Mary Jo Press, Will Langley

Below L to R: Mark Weinstein, Doug Maxwell



Safety Update

Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

This year, Fire Prevention Week is 8-14 October. Fire Prevention Week was established in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge and commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 8-10 October 1871 (remember Mrs. O'Leary's cow).

Please take this opportunity to give yourself an "annual checkup" on fire safety at home. You can start with these three items:

1. Smoke detectors – make sure to replace batteries and be sure you have smoke detectors in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Install them in the basement. Larger homes may require additional detectors to provide a minimum level of protection. Detectors older than 10 years should be replaced.
2. Carbon monoxide detectors – As the cold weather comes, so does the increased exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) from furnaces and fireplaces (and the ever-present gas water heaters, stoves, cooktops, and automobiles). Many detectors sold today are combination of smoke and CO. Follow the same guidelines for placement as for smoke detectors.
3. Fire extinguishers – while firefighting should be left to the professionals, it is prudent to have readily accessible fire extinguishers to use against small, contained, incipient fires. In general, you should have an extinguisher within 40 feet of travel and on the same level. If the fire does not go out after using one extinguisher, back out of the area, close the door if possible, and get safely outside and call 9-1-1. Only those who are trained or know how to use a portable fire extinguisher should use one, which is great segue to our next topic!!!

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

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, but is open too all Airbase Georgia Members.** Please send an email to safety@airbasegeorgia.org by Saturday, 14 October if you would like to participate.

HOT TOPIC

We have made great progress on the concerns found by the Peachtree City Fire Marshal's office, completing 5 of the 6 items (thanks to Cols Paulie Areson and Tom Walsh for replacing the missing ceiling tiles in the Meeting Room and AV Closet). We still have some work to do to remove any "permanently installed" extension cords. Please review your work area and remove any extension cords that are attached to the building or other structures (e.g. zip-tied to conduit, piping, etc.). If you need to have permanent power to operate equipment, lights, etc. that currently is being served by the extension cord, contact the Safety Officer and we'll arrange to have an electrician provide proper permanent electrical service.

We will be getting our "re-inspection" from the Fire Marshal's Office in October, so please make this a priority.

The next page is a recap of ABGA Policies on Extension Cords as a reminder.

Safety Update (cont)

ABGA Extension Cord Safety

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) 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.
5. Unplug extension cords when not in use.
6. Do not "daisy chain" or extend extension cords by plugging them together.
7. Do not "permanently" install extension cords by attaching them to a building structure. They are for TEMPORARY USE ONLY.

Residential Type Extension Cords (e.g. lamp cords) are NOT permitted at Airbase Georgia.



YES



NO

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.

Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer safety@airbasegeorgia.org 770-309-5584

Let safety be a sponge - soak it up!!!

CAF Airbase Georgia - 2023 Staff Elections

Election Day - November 4, 2023

The election to fill open unit staff positions for the 2024 / 2025 term will take place at the November 4th Airbase Georgia Membership Meeting.

Here are the candidates running for open staff officer positions:

Airbase Leader:	Col Joel Perkins (Incumbent)
Development Officer:	Col Chris Madrid (Incumbent)
Education Officer:	Col Jim Dalton Col Phillip Beegle
Finance Officer:	Col Peter Daliere (Incumbent)
Safety Officer:	Col Steve Hoofnagle (Incumbent)



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

Absentee Ballots: Absentee ballots must be returned post marked not later than October 28, 2023, per the instructions sent with them.

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

If you have questions about the election process, contact Col Yvonne Haley at (678) 313-6835 or yvhaley@gmail.com.

Thank you,

The Election Committee: Col Yvonne Haley, Col Mark Richards, and Col Jim van den Heuvel

Airbase Georgia's PT-17 *Stearman* Selected as One of CAF's Annual 12 Planes of Christmas.

The Commemorative Air Force will host its annual "12 Planes of Christmas" online giving campaign this December. Designed to support the aircraft of the CAF, the *World's Largest Flying Museum*. This event highlights the efforts of the organization and its volunteer members, who restore and preserve its fleet of over 175 World War II aircraft.

Each year, 12 aircraft of the fleet are selected to be featured during the "12 Planes of Christmas" campaign, each with different historical significance and in various stages of restoration; some need support to become airworthy.

Once again one of the planes assigned to Airbase Georgia has been selected to join 11 other aircraft on the list. Our *Stearman* is in good company, joining two other trainers: Music City Wing's SNJ-4 and New England's PT-23.

PLANE CRAZY

Submitted by Col Casey Roszell

Or I suppose it should be called "Train Crazy." The M-497 was a railcar test bed of the New York Central Railroad, developed and tested in 1966. It used two General Electric J47-19 jet engines. If they look familiar, it is because they came from a Convair B-36 *Peacemaker*.



On July 23, 1966, the car reached a speed of 183.68 mph, an American rail speed record that still stands today.



Rides Update

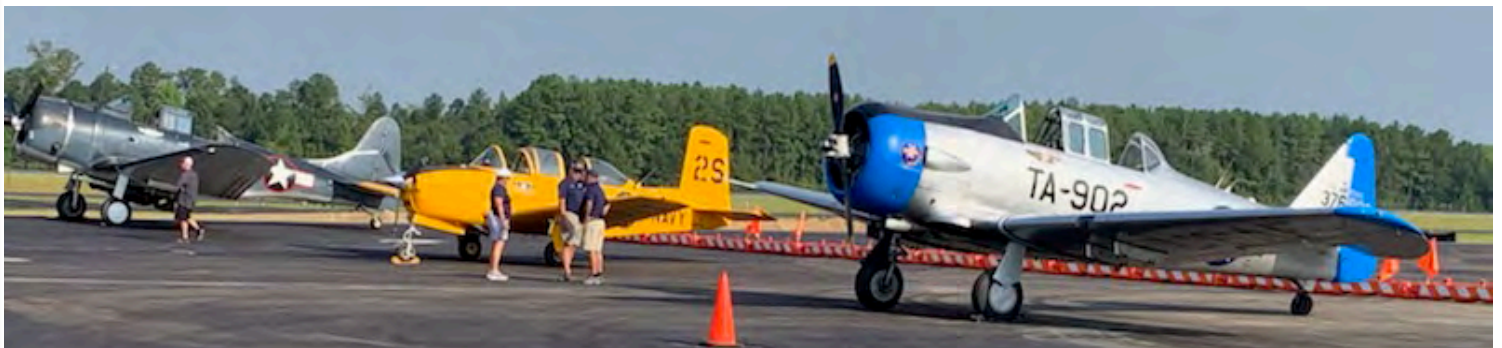
Col Yvonne Haley - Rides Officer



Airbase Georgia travelled south to Eastman with four airplanes on August 19th. Middle Georgia State University hosted their annual Aviation Day Festival and Fly-In at the Heart of Georgia Regional Airport (KEZM). This airport is part of the campus for the University. ABG's docents (Cols Jane Simpson, Vince Garland, and Ron Gause) had their work cut out for them talking to the public about our airplanes. Students from the aviation school and locals all flocked to see our warbirds. The P-63 was static on the ramp while the SBD, LT-6, and T-34 gave 13 rides. Thank you to everyone that came and helped make this event a success.



Airbase Georgia's P-63, Rides tent, and crew ready for the day at MGA.



Our fleet on the ramp at MGA getting ready to show off for the public. (Photos by Col Mark Richards)

Rides Update (cont.)



Col Vince Garland talking with the public. (Photos by Col Jane Simpson)



Cols Ron Gause and Jane Simpson talk with visitors by the P-63. Panels were removed to allow viewing of the engine behind the cockpit and the 37mm ammo that fires through the propeller hub. (Photos by Col Jane Simpson)



Rides Update (cont.)



Left to Right: Col Jeff Clark, rider Anthony J. Dinini, rider Anthony K. Dinini, and Col Matt Kenner. Anthony J. Dinini rode in the SBD and posted this picture on Airbase Georgia's Facebook page. His quote was "Amazing pilot and amazing ride. Thanks Jeff!" His son rode in the LT-6 with Col Matt Kenner.



Col George Harrison and a T-34 rider.
(Photo by Col Mark Richards)

Rides Update (cont.)

The SBD shows off its flaps on landing and a well cleaned under belly while flying at MGA. (Photos by Curt Jennings)



Rides Update (cont.)



Airbase Georgia's Leader, Col Joel Perkins, came down to Eastman in his SNJ to support the team and join in the fun. (Photo by Curt Jennings)



Left to right: Cols Tom Walsh, Ron Gause, Mike Roberts, Wanda Roberts, Yvonne Haley, Jim Prendergast, Mel Duhon, Brad Postage, Casey Roszell, Vince Garland, Joel Perkins, Jane Simpson, Ellen Stearns, Jim Stearns, Jeff Clark, Mark Richards, Matt Kenner, and George Harrison.

Scenes From The Hangar

Col Jane Simpson holds a coveted "Rosie the Riveter" candle that was presented to her for her two years of service as Education Officer for Airbase Georgia. During her term as Education Officer, Col Simpson portrayed "Rosie" in a number of outreach activities, took steps to organize the museum archives, and spearheaded the creation and development of the "Red Shirt" docent program.

Col Simpson, thank you for your outstanding service.

Photo by Col Tom Walsh.



Not every job around the Airbase is glamorous or receives a lot of notice, but all are necessary to keep the Airbase clean, safe, and appealing to our members and guests.

Col Dave Riesselmann takes advantage of an almost empty hangar to take a few spins through it with the floor cleaning machine.

Thanks Dave.

Photo by Col Charles Burcher.

Scenes From The Hangar (Cont.)

Dennis Beach works on a P-47 wing.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



SBD readies to leave for the Eastman Aviation Day Festival and Fly-In.



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

The hot weather has finally broken and we are painting every session. All of the Randolph Silver will be complete by the end of September. Next will be red, white, and blue colors on separate days to complete the Army Air Force insignia. Since the wings have completed the final overall color, we have started reassembly by attaching control surfaces. The nosecone was reinstalled, but as of this writing the fuselage remains the last large item requiring final paint.



Left: Cols Chris Buzzeo, Steve Shankle & Jim Prendergast load PT-19 wing into paint booth. Right: Cols Chris Buzzeo & Roy Handler apply 1st coat of silver on PT-19 wing. Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

L-R Cols Forest Buchanan, Gary Spencer & Roy Handler with help of Tom Thompson & Arthur Richez working underneath attach aileron to newly painted wing.



PT-19 Corner (cont.)

We've added a new team member, Arthur Richez, who is helping on a wide variety of parts preparation and painting tasks. Arthur is a senior at McIntosh High School. He is in a work-based learning program in Fayette County School District where he gets credit for completing assignments related to his work at Airbase Georgia. He usually attends on our workday mornings and completes a set number of hours based on the school time missed. Then he attends school for the remainder of the day. Arthur's brother Adrian worked with Airbase Georgia in a similar program a few years ago and is currently a Midshipman first class at the United States Naval Academy.

Arthur Richez works on restoring a P-47 canopy that will be presented to a donor later in the year.



Painting in the paint booth is completed under the careful eye of Col Roy Handler. All photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Trivia of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell



Jonny Cash in the United States Air Force, 1952: In 1950, at age 18, Jonny Cash enlisted in the USAF. He was stationed in Germany. He was a crack Morse Code operator, and actually the first American to know that Stalin had died.



ARM3C Robert L. Brown inside his F6F *Hellcat* aboard USS Yorktown with "Scrappy," the ship's Mascot.



Lt. John D. Grant of Chadwick, New York, sits on the wing of his North American P-51 *Mustang* as he fills out his flight form. Iwo Jima, Bonin Islands, July 1945.



12th Anniversary



2023



FLY DELTA JETS



Veterans Day – Nov. 2 & 3

Delta Technical Operations

1775 M.H. Jackson Service Rd., Atlanta, GA 30354

- * 30+ Vintage and Active Duty Military Aircraft on Display
- * 200' Wall of Memorabilia, Military Vehicles, & Static Displays
- * Food and Drinks available at the event

Thursday, 11/2

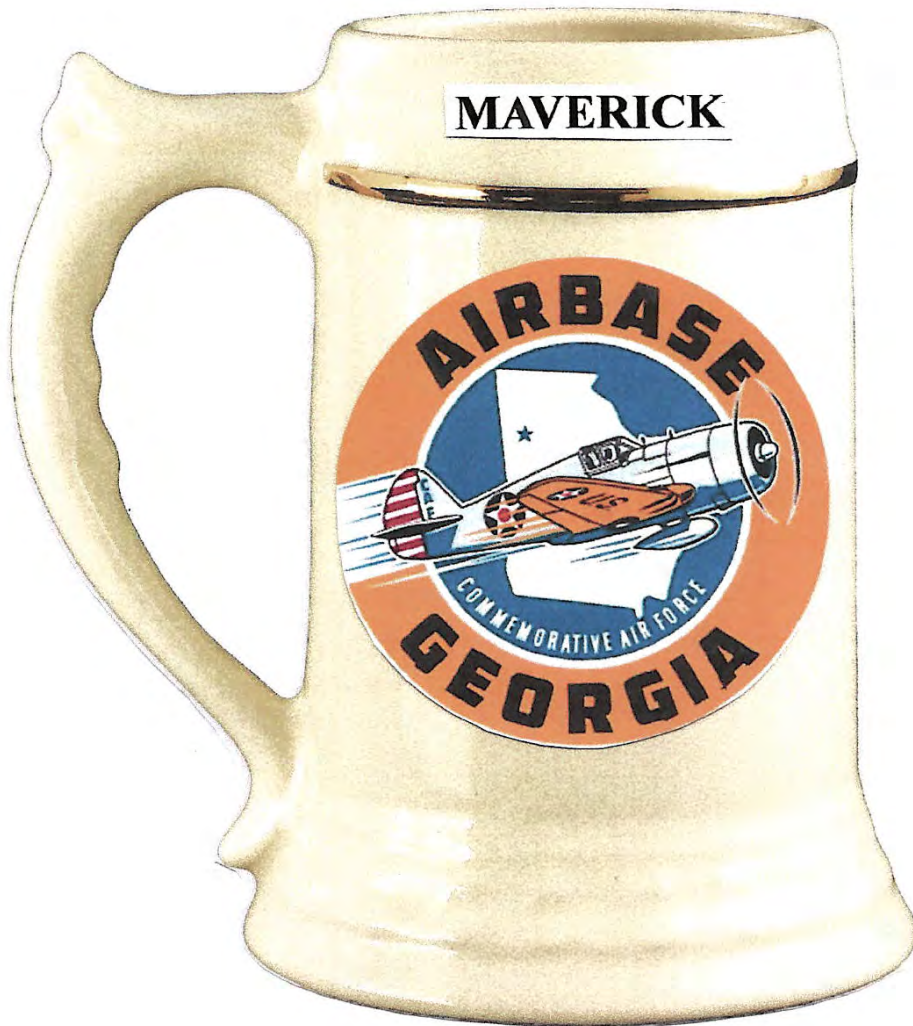
- * Celebration Begins Thurs - 3 PM
- * Ceremony & Cake at 5PM
- * Ceremony & Cake at 11PM

Friday, 11/3

- * Ceremony & Cake at 9AM
- * Aircraft Departures 12 PM
- * Event Closes Fri - 3PM

**FOR AIRBASE GEORGIA MEMBERS & SPOUSES
ONLY**

AIRBASE GEORGIA BEER MUGS



CONTACT TONY BERG

404-245-3323

IMAGES AT AJMUGS.COM

Iceberg7@bellsouth.net



ON THE HORIZON

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:

October 6 Clothes Less Travelled banquet

November 11 G5 Gives Back gala

November 18 Zgoda wedding

December 28 Dalton anniversary

Airshows and Events:

OCTOBER:

Airshow/Event: Atlanta Airshow

Location: Peachtree City, GA

Airport: KFFC

Aircraft Attending: Corsair, P-63, LT-6, T-34, PT-19, Kate

Rides Aircraft: NA

Dates (Open to the Public): October 7 - 8

Website: <https://airshowatlanta.com/>

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/airdotshow>

ON THE HORIZON (cont.)

NOVEMBER:**Airshow/Event: Delta Air Lines Veterans Day****Location:** Atlanta, GA**Airport:** ATL**Aircraft Attending:** Corsair, SBD, P-63, T-34, PT-19**Rides Aircraft:** NA**Dates (Open to the Public):** November 2 - 3 (I don't know that this is open to the public though - please confirm with Heather)**Website:** [NA](#)**Facebook:** [NA](#)**Instagram:** [NA](#)**Airshow/Event: Cullman Veterans Day****Location:** Cullman, AL**Airport:** KCMD**Aircraft Attending:** Kate, LT-6**Rides Aircraft:** LT-6**Dates (Open to the Public):** November 4**Website:** <https://www.cullmanveteransday.com/>**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069655159201>**Instagram:** [NA](#)