



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



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

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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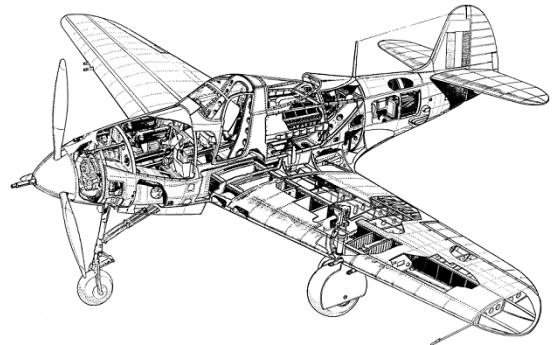
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Our own "Rosies," Robyn Rosenzweig, and Melina Galizza are with event organizers for the Girls In Aviation event at Covington Municipal Airport. More on page 15.

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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



Three weeks ago I attended a safety meeting hosted by Chick-fil-A in their hangar. This meeting included representatives from the flight schools, the RV Squadron, several corporate operators on the field, and of course Col Stan Musick and me representing Airbase Georgia. This was a very informative and productive meeting and we appreciate Chick-fil-A for hosting.

After the meeting, I started a conversation with one of the Chick-fil-A pilots who showed particular interest when Stan was speaking about our operations. I learned about his family, that he was the newest Chick-fil-A pilot, thirty-five years old with a baby on the way, and that he was restoring a Jeep from 1945. This conversation naturally led to an invitation to come to our hangar for a tour. He eagerly accepted and about twenty minutes later he walked into our hangar.

Here's what I am attempting to set the stage for. When this young man walked into the hangar he just paused in complete awe of the airplanes. He couldn't believe he could sit in a Corsair or touch a P51. His reaction reminded me that sometimes we are so close to these magnificent machines so often that we don't have the wow anymore. Can you remember the first time you walked into the hangar? Think about that. Next time you are in the hangar, take a moment and just look around and reflect on our mission and these incredible aircraft that we have to fulfill that mission. Every one of you has a role to play. We are all caretakers of the moment. We have been blessed with these aircraft to continue to tell the stories for those who can't. Remember them. Remember their contributions and sacrifices.

A special thanks to George Harrison who provided this young man with an incredible tour. Thank you, George.

Col Joel Perkins, Wing Leader
Airbase Georgia

PLANE CRAZY



Following WWII many British manufacturers tried to build on their successful products that helped win the war. One such attempt was that of the Supermarine company with their foray into automobile production. However, as with the ill-fated Tucker *Torpedo*, the 1947 *Merlin* never got off the ground.

ELECTION REMINDER

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 yhaley@gmail.com.

Thank you,

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

Safety Update

Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer



FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

We held annual, recurrent fire extinguisher training with the Peachtree City Fire Department on Saturday, 21 October. We had 25 members attend the training.

This training is mandatory (CAF Policy) for all aircraft marshallers and is recommended for all members, especially pilots, mechanics, restoration/shop crew and Rides personnel.



If you were not able to attend this session, we are exploring having a second session in the early Spring before airshow season starts. Sessions with the Fire Department will be each year in the Fall. Details will be announced at Monthly Meetings and in the Dispatch (SOP).

Photos by Cols Steve Hoofnagle and Charles Burcher.

Following the classroom session it was time for some practical training. After setting up a safe distance from the hangar, a fire is created and Col Wanda Roberts tries her hand at the proper execution of putting out the fire with a fire extinguisher.



Safety Update (cont)



A special thanks goes to the Peachtree City Fire Department and the three firefighters who conducted the training.

FIRE MARSHAL'S INSPECTION

We have satisfied all the findings from the Peachtree City Fire Marshal's Office inspection earlier this year. The final item was to remove all the improperly installed extension cords located throughout the facility. Please **DO NOT** hang any extension cords up "permanently". All extension cords must be unplugged and put away when not in use (both fire and trip hazards). We are providing reel type extension cords that allow up to 4 devices to be plugged-in AND conveniently reeled back up quickly. See the photo for the crate of "illegal" extension cords removed and the new reel type. **BIG THANKS** to Cols Gerhard Frenz, Stephan Kruit, and Dave Riesselmann for making the final push to remove the "illegal" extension cords.



Safety Update (cont)

HOT TOPIC

Only trained, authorized personnel should climb on or into our aircraft and/or open doors, canopies, or panels.

If you remove or open any panels on the aircraft for display (e.g. gun bay on the Mustang or P-63), please DO NOT reinstall the panels. Carefully place them in a safe location (e.g. under the wing) and the pilot/crew chief will reinstall as part of their preflight. If a panel were incorrectly reinstalled, it could come loose during flight posing extreme danger.

This is by order of Airbase Georgia Staff.

UPCOMING

We will have Ladder Safety Training in the near future. Please watch the Airbase FB page and the Dispatch for details.



THERE IS 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 ... we'll provide any needed training.



*Help keep our floors
clean: A spill ... a slip...
a hospital trip. ...!!!*

Scenes From The Hangar



Col Steve Barnshaw does sheet metal repair on one of the wings of the P-47.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



Rides Update

Col Yvonne Haley - Rides Officer

The Atlanta Airshow was October 7-8 at our home airport of Falcon Field. This year was unique because we were able to sell and fly rides during the weekend. The Airshow announcer promoted Airbase Georgia during the airshow each day as our airplanes performed a Warbird parade. He also allowed Col Stan Musick to promote our mission while self-narrating his impressive Corsair routine. Between the SBD, LT-6, and T-34, Airbase Georgia flew 9 rides.



Photo by Col Heather Johnson.

Below: Cols Jim Arnold and Chris Buzzeo show off the Stearman project in Airbase Georgia's hangar during the Atlanta Airshow. Visitors were able to tour the hangar and machine shop with the restoration projects taking center stage. Photo by Col Mark Richards.



The docents and mechanics were an integral part of the show keeping the public engaged in our airplanes on the static ramp. Willard Womack, Jim Arnold, and John Miller worked a constant flow of eager spectators. Willard displayed the open ammo bay in the left wing of the P-51 as he talked about the airplane. The cockpit door and ammo panel were open on the P-63 as Jim and John assisted guests onto a step stool to allow a better look. There were many others that helped make this event a success and all of their work is appreciated. Photos by Kevin Hong and Col Heather Johnson.



Rides Update (cont.)

One special guest was Maddie Gott. She is a talented young artist who loves our Mustang! She drew this beautiful pastel picture of Red Nose and came by our tent looking for one of its pilots. Jeff Clark happened to be present and gave her a cockpit tour. She gave us her drawing during the Atlanta Airshow. (Photos by Cols Jeff Clark and Mark Richards)



Rides Update (cont.)



The Member Appreciation picnic is a time when members and their families can gather to spend time together. This year the SBD, T-34, and Col Joel Perkins' L-19 Bird Dog were able to give rides.

Photo by Col Cooper Perkins.

Col Frank Kalinowski (editor of the Airbase Georgia Dispatch) got a well-deserved ride in the SBD. Thank you, Frank, for all of your hard work each month with the Dispatch. Photos by Col Tom Walsh.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There was a good reason why there were no 75 year-old radio/gunners in WWII! My thanks to Col Wanda Roberts who did a magnificent job getting me into and out of the SBD, to Col Tom Walsh, and especially Col Jeff Clark for the great ride.)



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

The Randolph Silver paint on all surfaces is complete. If you visit us in the hangar you will see visible progress towards return to flight including horizontal stabilizer installation, canopy rails, and mounted propeller. We'll continue to post pictures to social media of the steps we are taking to restore the U.S. Army Air Corps insignia. The remainder of our time has been spent test fitting and reinstalling the many panels and fairings which makeup the exterior of the aircraft. There is no specific timeline for completion, but we are certainly in sight of our goal and there are no current obstacles to completion. Please visit us in the hangar to learn more details.



Cols Roy Handler & Jim Prendergast (kneeling) mask off the tail wheel while Cols Gary Spencer, Forest Buchanan & Cadet Arthur Richez do a wipe down before final silver color coat is applied.

Roy Handler & Chris Buzzeo apply the final coat of silver.



Left: Col Gary Spencer installs anti chafing strips on the PT-19.



Right: Col Jim Prendergast attaches wing fairing on the PT-19.

PT-19 Corner (cont.)



Ann Haley with Col Tom Thompson attach trim tab on PT-19.

Below: Col Roy Handler paints the white on the National Insignia on the fuselage.



Left: Cols Mark Chabot, Roy Handler & Forest Buchanan check the stencil for the white portion of the National Insignia on the wing.

Right: Cols Chris Buzzeo & Roy Handler paint the white portion of the National Insignia on the wing.



Photos by Col Charles Burcher.

Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

Apologies that it has been a couple of months since an update on the Stearman. The team has been focused on many odds and ends inside of the fuselage, including wiring, plumbing the pitot/static instruments and fuel lines, and finalizing the seats. These have been ongoing activities for a while, but there have been so many little (but important!) things that I didn't want to bore you with the minutia.



After a lot of hard work, the inside of the fuselage is almost done. The seats are mounted (left) and the raise/lower mechanism is working great. The seatbelts and shoulder harnesses, including the inertia reels, are also installed. There is still a little more work to do on some sheet metal, the avionics box, and the oil temperature/pressure gauges, but the progress has been amazing.

Next, the team plans to mount the fuselage on the landing gear. We need to purchase a set of tubes and tires, but after we get those mounted on the wheels, we will be able to finally remove the fuselage from the rotisserie (below) and get it rolling.



Stearman Update (cont.)

In parallel, the team has started working on repairing the wood in the wings. So far, the wings have been in surprisingly good shape, but there are a few places that need some TLC. There is still one more wing to inspect, so hopefully that one will look as good as the others.



Above: Col Doug Maxwell replaces some of the wooden wing structure.

Once the wings are inspected and repaired as necessary, we plan to assemble the fuselage, center section, wings, and flight control surfaces in an uncovered state to pre-rig and make sure everything fits properly. After that, we will start covering and painting. It will take a lot to get to that point, but we're starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. And now that the PT-19 is nearly complete, we look forward to getting that team's help to move even faster.

If you would like to get involved in this project, please email me at jeff.clark@airbasegeorgia.org, or just visit the *Stearman* team in the shop any Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday.



Girls IN AVIATION DAY

A Women in Aviation International® Event

On Sunday, September 16th Airbase Georgia participated in the Girls In Aviation Day at Covington Municipal Airport, Covington GA.

The mission of this annual event is to introduce more women and girls to careers in aviation and aerospace. Since the first event in 2015, it has grown to thousands of participants around the world.



Airbase Georgia was well represented by three "Rosies," aka Cols Jane Simpson, Robyn Rosenzweig, and Melina Galizza.



Col / Rosie Melina Galizza with a future airline pilot? Who knows?



Attendees included members of the Civil Air Patrol.



In connection with the Girls in Aviation Day, local Girl Scouts visited the hangar. As always, Cols stepped up to guide tours through the hangar – from the left: Cols Edward Gibbons, Willard Womack, Joe Basilone, Chris Schamel, and Bill Marx. Col Vince Garland, also a docent, took the photos.



Trivia of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell



It's rather difficult to come in on a wing and a prayer if you don't have a wing.

An F4U Corsair flown back to base after a dogfight off southern Kyushu, Japan. June 1945.

In 1951, 21 year-old Neil Armstrong was forced to eject from his F9F Panther after having 6 feet of his right wing get clipped off by an enemy cable line.

Armstrong flew back into friendly territory and ejected over Pohang Airfield, where he landed in a rice patty. Ironically, he was picked up by a Marine with a familiar face, Goodell Warren, his roommate from flight school.



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

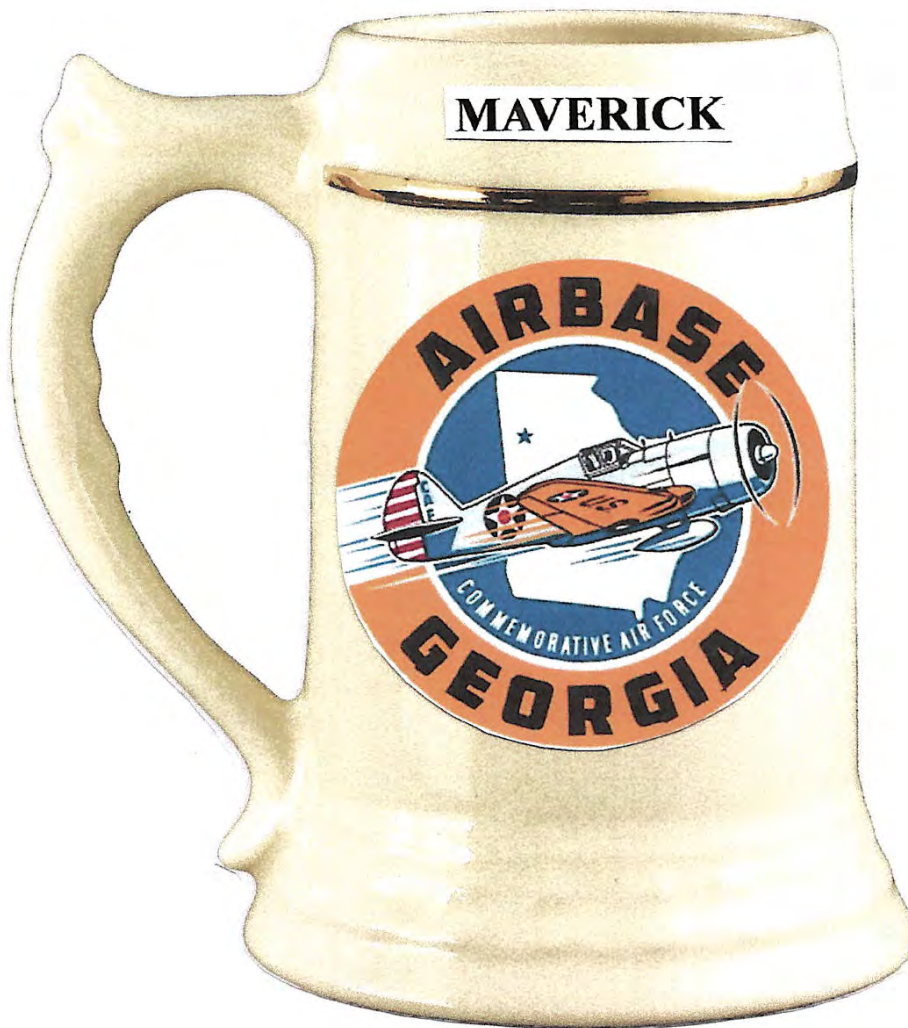
- * Celebration Begins Thurs - 3 PM
- * Ceremony & Cake at 5PM
- * Ceremony & Cake at 11PM

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

November 4, 2023	Staff & Members Meetings; Election of Staff Officers
November 9 – 12, 2023	TRARON Formation Clinic
December 2, 2023	Airbase Georgia Christmas Party – More information to come
January 6, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings

Facilities Rental Events for 2023:

October 6	Clothes Less Travelled banquet
November 11	G5 Gives Back gala
November 18	Zgoda wedding
December 28	Dalton 60th anniversary: All Airbase Georgia Members & Spouses Welcome 6PM to 11PM Thursday, the 28th of December 2023."