



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

November 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

Airbase Georgia 2023 Staff Election Results:

Airbase Leader – Col Joel Perkins

Development Officer – Col Chris Madrid

Education Officer – Col Jim Dalton

Finance Officer – Col Peter Dalieri

Safety Officer – Col Steve Hoofnagle

The Election Committee (Cols Yvonne Haley, Mark Richards, Jim van den Heuvel) thanks all candidates who ran for office. Your willingness to serve is greatly appreciated by the entire membership.

This concludes the 2023 Airbase Georgia staff selection process.

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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



Celebrating the Joy of the Season: Welcome Airbase Georgia Members to Our Christmas Party!**

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us, and it's time to spread some festive cheer! We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all Airbase Georgia members to join us for our highly anticipated Christmas Party. Get ready to jingle and mingle as we celebrate the joy of the season in the company of great friends, fantastic food, refreshing drinks, and toe-tapping music courtesy of our talented DJ.

Date: December 2, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Venue: Airbase Georgia

Expect an evening brimming with laughter, camaraderie, and the opportunity to forge lasting memories with your fellow Airbase Georgia members. I think this party will even make Paulie smile.

Quench your thirst with a selection of beverages that cater to all preferences, wine to refreshing cocktails and non-alcoholic options. We have a unique beverage truck ready to serve up drinks, ensuring everyone has a delightful beverage in hand throughout the night.

Most importantly, this event is a celebration of friendship and camaraderie. It's a time to connect, unwind, and cherish the moments we share as a community.

We're excited to see you all at our Christmas Party. Get ready to embrace the holiday spirit, spread joy, and make this gathering a truly special and memorable one. Let's raise a toast to the season, to friendship, and to an evening filled with laughter and cheer!

Warm Regards,

Col Joel Perkins

Airbase Georgia Leader

Col Musick Receives Wright Brothers Award

Col Stan Musick of the Commemorative Air Force Airbase Georgia recently received the Wright Brothers' Master Award from the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), recognizing more than 50 years of piloting aircraft safely. The prestigious award was presented by Al Van Lengen from the FAA .



The Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award is widely considered the most prestigious award the FAA presents to pilots, specifically recognizing senior aviators who, as safety-minded professionals, have contributed more than 50 years to piloting aircraft. It is named after brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright, the designers, builders and pilots of the world's first powered airplane – the Wright Flyer that first flew at Kitty Hawk, NC., on Dec. 17, 1903.

Photo by Col Charles Burcher. ✈

Safety Update

By Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

safety@airbasegeorgia.org

770-309-5584 cell



HOT TOPIC

FREEZE WARNING/PRECAUTIONS

When closing up the facility this time of year, we need to be sure to leave the heat "ON" and set to 50F to prevent freeze up of the domestic water and automatic fire sprinkler systems. Even if it's warm in the afternoon, temperatures at night can drop below freezing.

Heat in the Shop is controlled by two Honeywell "classic" dial type thermostats (Right). If you turn the dial all the way counterclockwise (down) you'll hear a "click". In this position the heat is OFF and will not run. Turn it just a bit clockwise (up) to just under 50F and the thermostat will be in "freeze protection" mode.



Heat in the Hangar is controlled by a single Emerson thermostat (see left). If you turn it all the way to the left, you will also hear a "click" and the heat will be OFF and will not run. Turn it up just a bit to the right to 50F and it will be in "freeze protection" mode.

Heat in the Meeting Room is controlled by two electronic Honeywell thermostats (see right). Set them to "Heat" and 50F

Please contact the Safety Engineer if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.



UPCOMING

We will have Ladder Safety Training, First AID/CPR, and Active Shooter Training in Q1 and Q2 of 2024. Please watch the Airbase FB page and the Dispatch for details.

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.

KISS = Keep it Safe and Sound! →



Col Bill Whitehouse

William "Bill" Whitehouse 76, boarded his jet airliner on October 17, 2023 to his final destination but this time Jesus was the Captain and Bill the passenger. Bill passed away from Alzheimer's surrounded by his family and caregiver at

The Bradford Memory Care in Humble, TX.

Bill was born July 3, 1947 in Fort Wayne, IN. He moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL when he was 12 years old and after graduating from high school joined the United States Air Force to "see the world." However, he was based at Homestead AFB, just 50 miles from home. After leaving the Air Force he went to school and became an A&P mechanic, earned his pilot's license, and graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

In October 1985, Bill landed his "dream job" as a pilot flying for Piedmont Airlines. Being the most senior in his class, his classmates referred to him as the 'old man'. With a gregarious and congenial personality, it wasn't long before he became a pilot everyone wanted to fly with. Those lucky enough to get to fly with him will forever remember how his smile and laughter always filled the room and what a jokester he was. Being a proud member of the Piedmont Silver Eagles, his legacy lives on in the hearts of his extended Piedmont family who sends heartfelt condolences to all.

Bill retired after 20 years of flying at USAir before starting the next chapter in his illustrious career. Bill had always been interested in finance and his nephew, Jim Smothers, worked at Edward Jones in TX. After talking to Jim, Bill decided that he was not ready to retire and became an Edward Jones Financial Advisor in Sharpsburg, GA in 2004. When Bill was ready to finally retire, Jim moved to GA and took over his office.

Bill lived in Peachtree City for 30 years. He had many, many friends due to his personality and big laugh. He never met a stranger. He spent his retirement days traveling the world and when he was home spent his mornings having coffee at McDonalds or in Senoia. He also volunteered at the Commemorative Air Force at Falcon Field in Peachtree City.

Most of all, Bill loved his family and was devoted to his wife, 2 sons and 4 granddaughters. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Jo-Ann, his son Will and his wife Jessica, his son Drew, granddaughters Amelie, Claire, Elise, Reagan and his sister Marcia Holthaus and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A special thank you goes to the friends that supported him through this long illness.

We will be having a "Celebration of Life" for Bill at Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. 101 N Peachtree Pkwy, Peachtree City, GA 30269. Saturday November 4, 2023 at 2 pm. He lived life to the fullest and I hope people will share those "memorable and unique" Bill Whitehouse stories. You may also view the service online live or anytime after [Celebration of the Life of William Thomas Whitehouse \(vimeo.com\)](https://www.vimeo.com/celebration-of-the-life-of-william-thomas-whitehouse)

When Bill started this journey with Alzheimer's, he felt so strongly about this disease that at his death his brain was donated to the University of Miami in hopes of finding a cure. That is the person he was, always thinking about others. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org

Because of Bill's passion for aviation's youth, you may choose to donate to the Captains Fund in his name.

www.piedmontsilvereaglescharitablefunds.org

C/O Captain Margaret Bruce
128 Culpeze
 Mooresville NC 28817



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson

This month we celebrated 80 years of service by our PT-19A, serial number 42-83511. It was accepted by the United States Army Air Corps on 16 November, 1943. As the aircraft continues into its 81st year we are transitioning from cosmetic restoration to mechanical readiness. Most painting is complete; at this writing only the red borders of the insignia remain to be completed. The major structural work remaining is to fit the canopy pieces and permanently mount the wings to the aircraft. As this structural work is winding down, we are starting the standard annual inspection required of all aircraft. This will shortly bring us to starting the engine for the first time in almost two years and testing systems for return to flight. Please review the anniversary video on social media and the recent press release for more photos and history details.



Left: Col Roy Handler attaches the elevator trim tab cable.

Below: Cols Chris Buzzeo, Mark Richards, and Mark Chabot attach the vertical fin.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



PT-19 Corner (cont.)



Cols John Miller, Forest Buchanan, Mark Richards, Larry Greer, Chris Buzzeo, Roy Handler and Mark Chabot attached the left wing. Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark



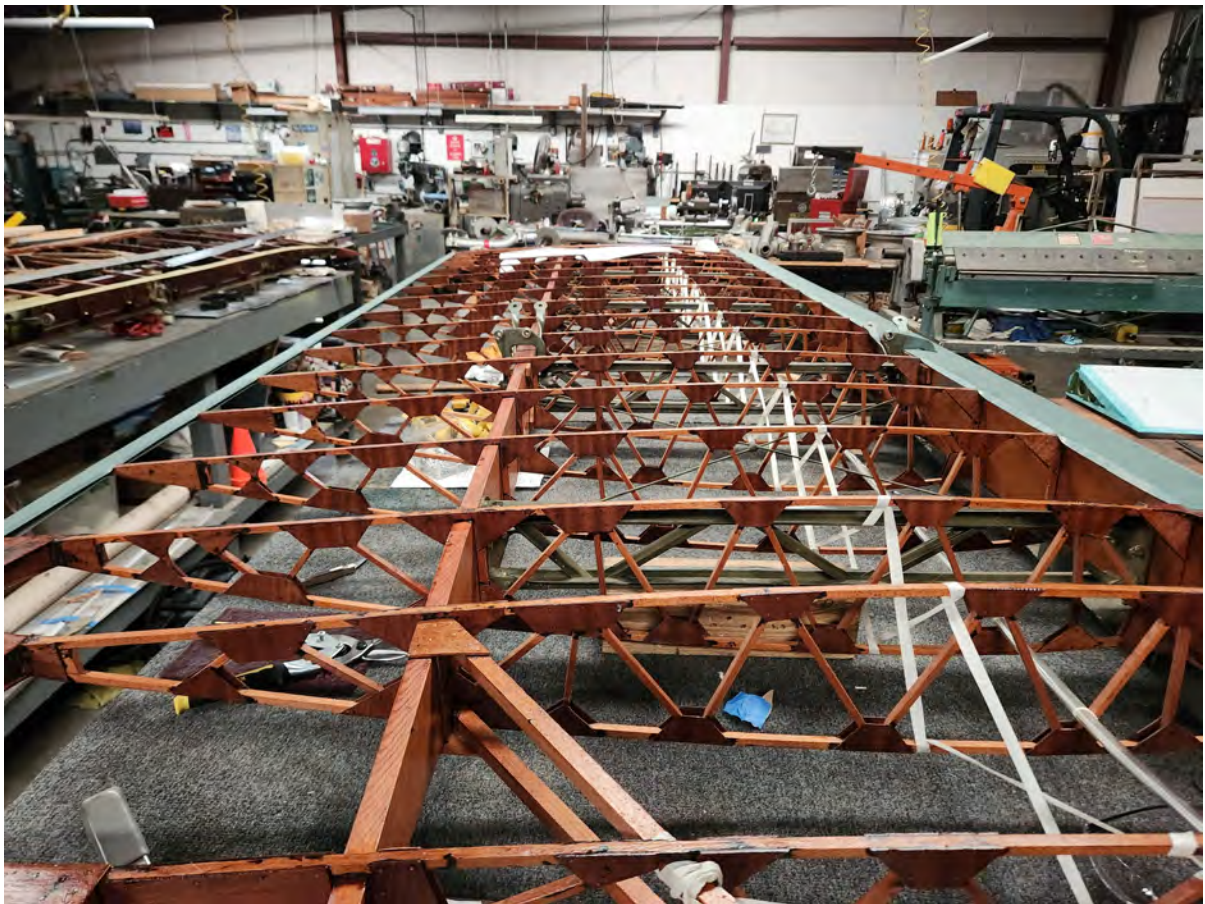
Just a quick Stearman update this month. We have ordered and received a set of tubes and tires (left).



The team has cleaned, primed, and painted the wheels in preparation to mount the tires. Work on the wings continues (below).

We are fortunate that CAF HQ has selected our Stearman once again to participate in Twelve Planes of Christmas. This year, we are seeking to raise \$10,000 for

avionics and instrumentation. As part of this campaign, a very generous Airbase Georgia colonel has offered a \$2,800 matching grant towards a cockpit instrument package. If you have been considering a donation to help us get our airplane airworthy, this is a fantastic opportunity to make your donation go even further. We really appreciate the continued support of all who have contributed to this project!



Facility Rentals

Col Dave Riesselmann

The facility rental season is winding down and only one hangar event remains, that being the anniversary celebration for Airbase Georgia's own Jim and Virginia Dalton on December 28th. Revenue from this season's activity currently stands at \$33,800, up approximately \$3,000 from last year.

Col Dave Riesselmann (L) has been Airbase Georgia's Facility Rental Officer for four years. He will be succeeded on January 1st by Col Mark Richards (R). Mark is originally from Jackson, Michigan, and was transferred with his job to Georgia in 2018. He is a retired operations and project manager at the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Mark is a private pilot and was inspired to fly by his late uncle who was a B-17 pilot in WWII, completing 35 missions over Germany. He has been an Airbase Georgia member since February of this year and embraces our mission of the CAF and Airbase Georgia to honor, educate and inspire. To find such an opportunity and purpose in retirement has filled a large gap since his retirement and he enjoys the comradery and experience at the base. Mark's goals as the new Facility Rental Officer are to maintain current rental levels and to build upon the rental activities at Airbase Georgia, generating more non-prop turning revenue to help support our operations.

As always, you may direct potential rental clients to facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org →



WELCOME, NEW COLS

We welcome two new Cols at the November meeting, Chuck King (L) and Zizhi Joesph Lu (R) with Col Jim Dalton. Photos by Col Michael Wewers.



Rides Update

Col Yvonne Haley - Rides Officer

November 2nd through the 4th were busy days for the LT-6. It travelled from Falcon Field along with the P-63, P-51, SBD, and T-34 to the Delta Tech Ops Hangar at Hartsfield. They met up with the Corsair, which received a new paint job from Delta this year. Delta hosts a Veterans Day Celebration each year where Airbase Georgia is honored to bring all of the flying fleet in support.



On November 3rd, the LT-6 left Hartsfield and flew to Cullman, Alabama for their Veterans Day Celebration. The local VFW and Elks Lodge coordinate this event annually. This year, they requested Airbase Georgia's LT-6 and presold 10 rides for veterans and event staff. Ken Brown, event coordinator, had a wide array of aircraft at Cullman Regional Airport including a C-47, Kate, L-5 Sentinel, Navion, Huey, Chinook, and more. The Celebration which was well attended by thousands of people according to Ken Brown also included a Model A car show and reenactors.

Cols Rob Haley and Brad Postage completed a total of 12 rides. Thank you to Mark Chabot and the maintenance team for the LT-6's flawless operation. Some of our riders shared pictures and feedback which are included below.



Above: Col Yvonne Haley loading Candace Reppond before her ride with Col Rob Haley.



Warren and Rider Candace Reppond, Col Rob Haley, and Event Coordinator Ken Brown.

Rides Update (cont.)



Rider Candace Reppond and Col Rob Haley.

Below: R & L - In-flight photos by Candace during her ride.



Col Rob Haley landing the T-6 with Candace in the backseat.

"Words cannot express how much I enjoyed the ride in the T-6. There was an amazing sense of freedom and peace. For a veteran who deployed to Afghanistan from 2013 to 2014, it was very refreshing. It was also an awesome opportunity to have a small glimpse into the training and requirements for the pilots training for WWII. The pilot, Rob Haley, was very informative and showed me a completely different world from above. This experience was by far one of the best memories I will carry with me. Thank you very much for sharing a piece of my life with me." (from Candace Reppond)

Rides Update (cont.)



Col Rob Haley and Rider Terri Seanard

Right: "I absolutely had a fantastic time and it is something I will never forget." (from Terri Seanard)



Col Rob Haley and Rider Neville Franks.



Above: Rider and Event assistant Mike Schendel and Col Rob Haley. "I thoroughly enjoyed the ride in the T-6. Rob did a great job flying, and he also shared information about the plane that I enjoyed. Moreover, I would like to thank you and Brad, as well for making the whole experience so comfortable and enjoyable and memorable. Thanks again." (from Mike Schendel)



Left: Col Brad Postage briefing Rider and Event Assistant Mike Schendel.

Rides Update (cont.)



Col Rob Haley and Acro Rider David Betts

"I cannot say enough about how much I enjoyed the acrobatic flight Rob did for me! I have flown on several CAF aircraft, and the T-6 flight is now one of my favorites. Your red nose P-51 was my first CAF aircraft I flew on and was also an amazing flight, but T-6 acrobatic flight still has me grinning. There are other aircraft (like the SBD) that I would like to experience, but the T-6 acrobatic flight is on my list again. Thank you for your help arranging the T-6 flight." (from David Betts)



Alabama Senator Garlan Gudger took this picture of the front cockpit panel in the LT-6 while he was being introduced to the airplane prior to his ride in the backseat.



"Everyone was so professional and the flight was so nostalgic, it gave me a small glimpse into the life of the brave men and women during WW2 that fought for our freedom and country!" (from Alabama Senator Garlan Gudger)

Left: Col Rob Haley giving Sticher Smith a tour of the front cockpit before his ride.

Rides Update (cont.)



Col Brad Postage briefing Sticher Smith before his LT-6 ride.



Col Rob Haley and rider Sticher Smith (son of Brad Smith)

His father, Brad Smith, was given the ride and chose to pass it along to his son. Sticher dreams of being a pilot one day. Judging from his grin after the flight, Sticher found a little more inspiration to get involved with aviation. "That is all he has talked about since he went on the flight with Captain Haley." (from Brad Smith)



Col Rob Haley and Rider Ken Bean

Cols Yvonne Haley and Brad Postage having lunch at The Landing, a restaurant on the 2nd floor of the FBO. (photo by Rob Haley)

The Cullman Regional airport facilities and staff created a very welcoming and supportive aviation environment. Ken Brown and Mike Schendel, event coordinators, played a vital part in this supportive atmosphere and kept a close eye on safety.

Trivia of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell



The “Muroc Maru” was a life-sized replica of a Japanese Atago-class heavy cruiser, built at Muroc AAF (now Edwards AFB) in 1943 to serve as a training target. Constructed of wood and layered with chicken feathers over chicken wire and tar paper, it was designed to resemble an authentic warship.

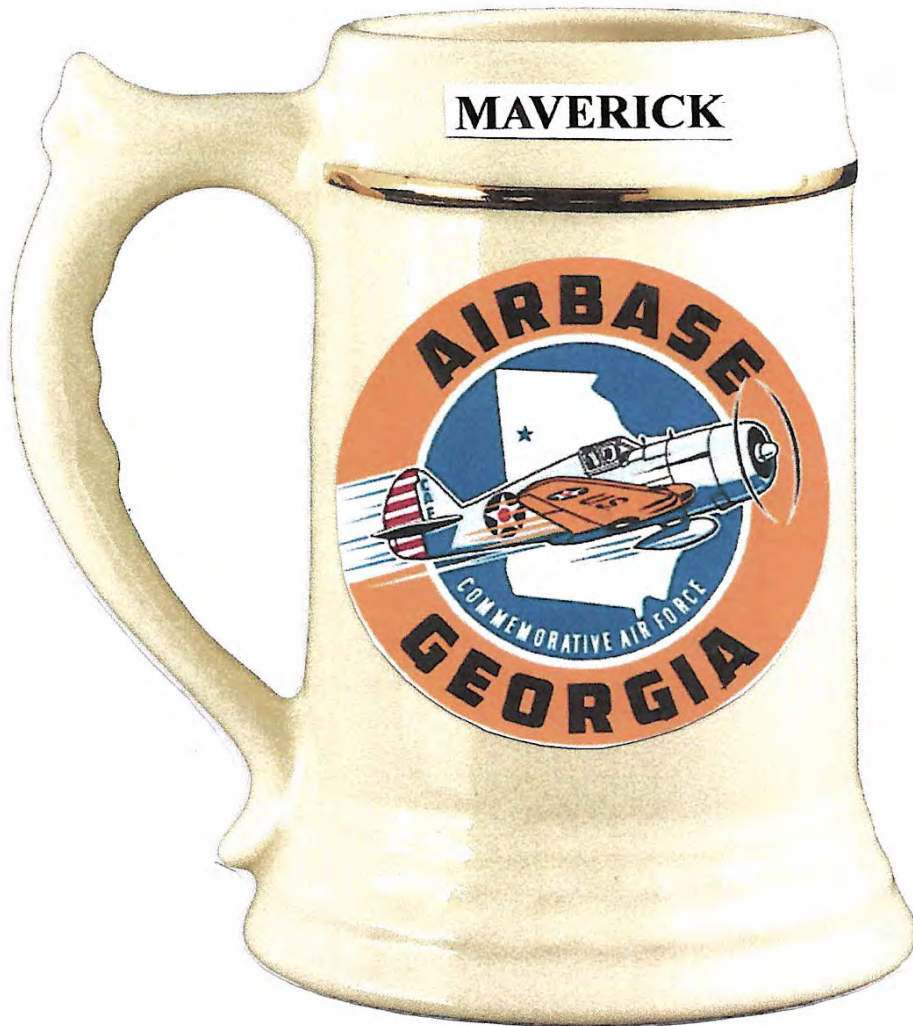
While bomber crews practiced skip bombing techniques against it, the desert’s mirage sometimes made the ship appear as though it was sailing on water. <https://navalhistoria.com/muroc-maru/>

1947: Clem Gibson’s war surplus-lative “Autoplane.” Gibson purchased a damaged, wingless P-51D and used his expertise, along with some old car pieces and a hot Ford V8 Flathead to convert it into this hot rod contraption.

From PlaneHistoria.



**LAST CALL! THE DEADLINE FOR MUG
ORDERS IS DECEMBER 1, 2023
AIRBASE GEORGIA BEER MUGS**



CONTACT TONY BERG

404-245-3323

IMAGES AT AJMUGS.COM

Iceberg7@bellsouth.net



ON THE HORIZON

December 2, 2023

Airbase Georgia Christmas Party

December 28

Dalton 60th anniversary: All Airbase Georgia Members & Spouses Welcome
6PM to 11PM

January 6, 2024

Staff & Members Meetings

**ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**December 2, 2023
5:00pm-10:00pm**

CAF Airbase Georgia
1200 Echo Court
Atlanta Regional Airport-Falcon Field
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Catered Dinner, Adult Beverages and Music
\$50 Per Person

Cocktails at 5:00pm
Dinner at 6:30pm
Music at 7:00pm

Holiday or Business Casual
Tickets available online
airbasegeorgia.org