



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



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December 2023

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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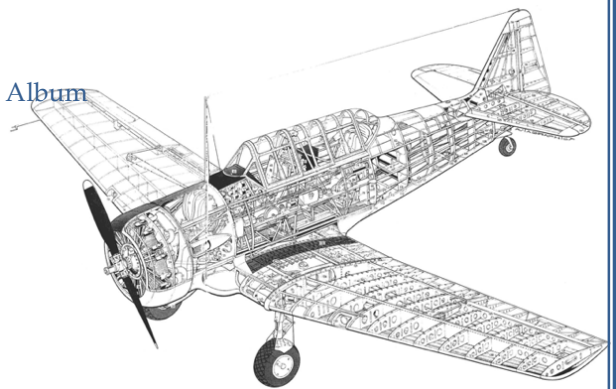
Facility Rentals

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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



Reflecting on a Remarkable Year and Embracing the Spirit of Christmas

Dear Members of Airbase Georgia,

As we approach the culmination of this year, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication and commitment. It's been an incredible journey, and our successes have been made possible by your generosity and tireless efforts towards our shared mission.

The collective perseverance and hard work displayed by the entire Airbase Georgia team have propelled us to finish this year on a strong note. As we prepare to bid farewell to this chapter, it's an opportune time for reflection on the milestones we've achieved, the challenges we've conquered, and the lessons we've learned.

Now, it's essential to embrace a well-deserved break, allowing ourselves the opportunity to recharge and rejuvenate for the promising year ahead. This season is not only about acknowledging our accomplishments but also about cherishing time spent with our loved ones—surrounding ourselves with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

During this special time, let's embody the spirit of forgiveness, mirroring the forgiveness we've received. Let's extend love and compassion, drawing inspiration from the immense love bestowed upon us. Moreover, let's solemnly reflect on the profound sacrifice made for us and the everlasting promise of life.

I wish each one of you a heartwarming and joyful Christmas filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments. May the blessings of this season surround you and your families, bringing peace, happiness, and renewed hope for the future.

Thank you once again for your incredible contributions to Airbase Georgia. Your dedication has been the cornerstone of our achievements, and I look forward to continuing our journey together in the coming year.

God bless you all abundantly, and Merry Christmas!

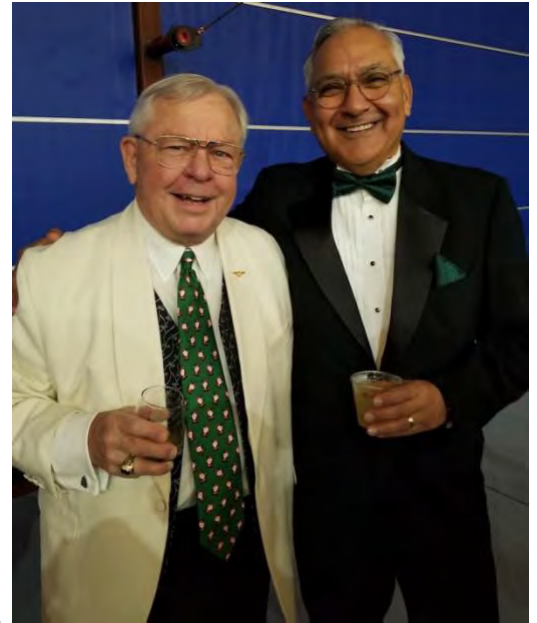
Warm Regards,

Col Joel Perkins

Airbase Georgia Leader

2023 Christmas Party Photo Album

Photos by Col
Vince Garland





Christmas Party (cont.)



Christmas Party (cont.)



Christmas Party (cont.)



Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

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HOT TOPIC

As discussed during the November General Meeting, Col Dave Richardson cautions about potential issues with having spray bottles and other “generic” containers that are not labeled.

He reminds us that when we transfer a bulk liquid to a smaller container for use, we must clearly / permanently label the container.

This will help ensure that the contents are known to help prevent:

1. Using the wrong product (e.g. think it's window cleaner and it's a hazardous solvent).
2. Ensuring that we don't mix one or more liquids that could be reactive and create a dangerous condition (e.g. poison gas, fire, etc.)
3. Knowing what 1st Aid is needed should the liquid accidentally be ingested, inhaled, splashed in eyes or on skin, etc.



Not only is labeling a great idea, it's also a “requirement” under safety regulations.

Please look through your workspace and ensure all containers are properly labeled.

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.

Hear to-day gone tomorrow - use your hearing protection!



Facility Rentals

Col Mark Richards

As 2023 winds down, and we prepare for 2024, I wanted to thank everyone involved in making our Airbase Georgia Events a success. Your assistance does not go unnoticed, and it is greatly appreciated.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to report that we have some great events booked for 2024. Hops and Props is coming back in April along with Wine and Warbirds in September. We are in the planning stages with other organizations for more events in 2024 to generate additional non-prop turning revenue for Airbase Georgia. More to come as these events develop.

The Facilities Rental Team is going after business instead of waiting for it to come to us, we're developing new strategies and partnering with local municipalities to sponsor events. We're also exploring opportunities within the education system to further our involvement. In the short time that we've initiated some of these strategies, new clients and potential new business are developing and we need a team of dedicated volunteers for our Facilities Rental Program.

If you are interested in joining our team, please meet with me and other team members following the January members' meeting. I look forward to seeing you January 6, 2024.

Upcoming Events:

January 2024	No events planned at this time
February 2024	2/18, Meeting Room – McGowan Card Game
March 2024	3/23, Hanger & Meeting Room – Whitewater Baseball Event
April 2024	4/06, Hanger, Meeting Room & Ramp – Hops & Props

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



PT-19 Corner

Col Tom Thompson



On December 14th we restarted the PT-19 engine for the first time in almost two years. Col George Harrison completed all of the run modes required by our checklist and reported that the engine operated with no issues. Taking advantage of the that day's weather, we drained all remaining fuel from the aircraft. Aircraft weight and balance calculations are the next step, so the fuel tanks will remain empty to accurately measure and calculate these specifications.

Following several test fittings the team has attached and secured the wings for the last time. This includes reconnecting the ailerons to the cockpit controls. The same rigging has been completed for the other control surfaces. As we assemble and close up these areas we have maintained oversight from an Inspection Authorized mechanic, Col Bob Heath, who is insuring our safe return to flight. We expect that day to come very soon.



The wings are reinstalled following the final painting.

The red border paint around the U.S. insignia is applied by Col Roy Handler.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher.



PT-19 Corner (cont.)



Col. Mark Chabot carefully removes the national insignia stencil.

Col. Roy Handler and Col Tom Thompson perform the annual inspection on the tailwheel.



PT-19 Corner (cont.)



Col. George Harrison prepares for an engine test.

The PT-19's Ranger engine is restarted for the first time in almost two years



Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

I am very happy to report that, as of this writing, our 12 Planes of Christmas fundraiser for the *Stearman* project has qualified for the \$2,800 matching gift provided by a generous Airbase Georgia colonel and is on track to exceed our \$10,000 goal for instruments and avionics. Thank you to all of our members who have donated!



The project's excellent progress continues. The tires and tubes we purchased last month (left) have been mounted on the wheels and will soon be installed on the landing gear.

(Right) Col Jane Simpson rib stitches *Stearman* aileron fabric.

Photos by Col Charles Burcher

Below: Cols Geoff Lelliott and Mike Lamble work on the fuselage.



Stearman Update (cont.)

Above: Cols Malcolm Lelliott and Joe Broker check out a wing. Below: Wings ready for inspection.



In case you missed it the CAF's official magazine *The DISPATCH*, # 4 of the *Twelve Planes of Christmas* is our very own N2S Stearman "Rosie". As of this publication more than 90% of the goal of \$10,000 has been raised, so your contribution can very well put us over the top.

See additional details on the next page, or go to:

www.12PlanesofChristmas.org

Photos by Col Charles Burcher



Plane 4

N2S

Rosie Stearman

UNIT

Airbase Georgia

LOCATION

Peachtree City, GA

FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$12,000

EXPECTED PROJECT

COMPLETION

December 2025

History

The N2S, often called a Stearman, is a biplane that played a crucial role in military aviation training during and after World War II. The N2S series was produced specifically for the U.S. Navy, which used the aircraft as a primary trainer. The N2S holds a significant place in the history of military aviation training and continues to be celebrated as an essential piece of aviation heritage.

Project

Airbase Georgia volunteers are working on restoring a Stearman dedicated to "Rosie the Riveter," the cultural icon representing women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II. In 2019, Airbase Georgia acquired the aircraft and immediately set to work on the restoration project. The project team includes female members committed to honoring "Rosie the Riveter." This year, the team hopes to raise funds during the 12 Planes of Christmas campaign to purchase a radio and avionics for the aircraft.

Progress

Over the last three years, Airbase Georgia volunteers have completed a detailed inventory of all parts, restored the fuselage, landing gear, and top-wing center section, repaired and covered the flight control surfaces, rebuilt seats, and nearly completed internal assembly of fuselage components including electrical wiring and plumbing for instruments in both cockpits. Recently, the team has started repairing wooden structures within the wings and will soon begin initial assembly to pre-rig all airframe components before covering them.

Vision

The project is a wheels-up restoration that will tell the story of Rosie the Riveter and the Arsenal of Democracy. By providing updates on the restoration project and conducting ongoing outreach, the goal is to inspire young women to pursue careers in aviation and recruit more females to join the CAF. Outreach and updates are accomplished through collaboration with local K-12 public schools, youth group tours, flight schools, aviation employers, and social media.



This project excites me because, aside from Stearman's important role in pilot training, the beauty of the open-cockpit biplane design will be a big draw for the public. The Stearman will be an excellent tool for Airbase Georgia to tell the stories of the pilots that trained in these aircraft.

– Malcolm Lelliott

Scan QR Code to Learn More.



Top and bottom photos courtesy of ODF Airbase Georgia. Historic Photo by U.S. Navy in NARA Collection

Trivia of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell



B-17 "HANG THE EXPENSE II" back in England after taking flak hit at Frankfurt, Germany 24 Jan 44, literally blew Roy Urich, the tail gunner out of the aircraft.

Big Frank Valesh and his crew assumed Roy had been killed. They were happily surprised to receive a letter from the POW camp informing them he was not injured. At 100th reunions decades later other members of the 351st say they saw Roy flying through the formation sitting on the TG's bicycle seat still holding the handles of his twin Brownings. (100th Photo Archives) <https://planehistoria.com/the-nine-o-nine/> ✈



ON THE HORIZON

January 6, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings
February 3, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings
March 2, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings
April 6, 2024	Staff & Members Meetings

MORE --Trivia of Aviation

By Col Casey Roszell

Little known fact: Many fighter pilots wore G-suits during WWII. They were made for P-51 *Mustang* and P-47 *Thunderbolt* pilots. These suits were called G-3 and G-3A.

From World War Aviation.

