



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

March 2024

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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Facility Rentals

Col Mark Richards
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

Col Dave Richardson apparently succumbs to a "hungry" CAF aircraft. The JRB-6 "Twin Beech" is operated by the Gulf Coast Wing.



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Welcome New Cols
- 3.... Safety Update
- 4 Facility Rentals
- 7 Education Officer
- 8 *Stearman* Update
- 10 Scenes From the Hangar
- 12 Hops & Props
- 20 On the Horizon

Welcome, New Cols ...

Two new Cols were sworn in at the March meeting. On the Left, Recruiting Officer Col Dave Serafin welcomes Brian Plati, and in the right photo welcomes Carl Abelein.



Photos by Col Tom Walsh



Left: Col Jane Simpson awards Col Willard Womack with the "Docent of the Year" award. Right: A newly cleared out area with the removal of several pine trees that had been struck by lightning. The area should be much safer for aircraft that are parked outside.

Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

safety@airbasegeorgia.org

770-309-5584 cell



FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Our annual, recurrent Fire Extinguisher Training with the Peachtree City Fire Department is scheduled for Saturday, 27 April at 1000h. We will start with a "classroom" review in the Meeting Room, followed by "hands on" training with practice extinguishers behind the Hangar. Training time will depend on the number of participants, but will likely be over by noon. This training is mandatory per CAF Policy for Marshallers and is recommended for everyone in the Rides Program, Maintenance, Crew Chiefs and all ABGA Members. Please arrive early and dress comfortably. **Please send an email to safety@airbasegeorgia.org to reserve your spot by 20 APR and/or if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.**

CPR-FIRST AID/ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

This year we swapped order with CPR-First Aid/Active Shooter recurrent training with Fire Extinguisher training to better support the Marshalling Training. The heavy activity at the Hangar with Meetings and Events, coupled with PTC FD's busy schedule, pushed fire extinguisher training to the end of April. We are working on dates for CPR-First Aid and Active Shooter in May – July and will advise in future Dispatch articles.

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS

April is Distracted Driving Month. Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. Cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — has become the most common distraction. Other risky actions include adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. By driving distracted, you're robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.

Drive Responsibly

In 2021, distracted driving killed 3,522 people. April, which is national Distracted Driving Awareness Month, is a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're on the road. Follow these safety tips for a safe ride:

- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location.
- Designate your passenger as your "designated texter" to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through apps while driving. Struggling not to text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

For more information please visit: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/april-distracted-driving-awareness-month>

SAFETY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

Every ABGA Member is part of the Safety Team! You are the Safety Officer's EYES and EARS. Please send any Safety related questions, comments, or suggestions to "safety@airbasegeorgia.org".

"Safety is a state of mind - Accidents are an absence of mind." →

Best Regards,

Steve Hoofnagle
CAF Airbase Georgia
Safety Officer
1200 Echo Court
Peachtree City, GA 30269
770-309-5584 cell



Facility Rentals

**Col Mark Richards,
Facility Rental Officer**



The growth of the rental events at Airbase Georgia continues to amaze me. We are fast becoming recognized as a unique and spacious venue for organizations and individual events.

March kicks off the 2024 event season with our first big events scheduled on Saturday March 23rd followed the next day with another big event on Sunday March 24th. Volunteers are always needed for each event to assist with set-up, parking, golf cart shuttles, event coordination and clean-up. Any amount of time you can volunteer is appreciated and is a big part of our event’s success.

Our first Open House of 2024 was held on March 16th celebrating Rosie the Riveter and featured Airbase Georgia’s very own “Rosie the Riveters” along with other period actors in period dress and uniform. Visitors were able to see firsthand our airbase, hear about our mission and see our people at work maintaining and restoring our historic aircraft. All visitors were given personal guided tours by our Docents who worked non-stop during the Open House. A total of 150 + guests came and the feedback from them was very positive.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our volunteers, period actors, Docents, and staff for making this first event in 2024 a success. We are in the initial planning stages for our next Open House on June 22nd to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day more to come.

Just in time for our first Open House, the Facility Rentals Team published a revised brochure to promote our unique rental venue and Airbase Georgia. A big thank you to Marybeth Britton for all her graphic design assistance to make this new brochure possible. Please take a few moments to review the new brochure which is included in the next two pages of this article.

Finally, one of the biggest events that we’ve had in a long time is happening on Saturday April 6th. Yes, Hops and Props is back, and I need volunteers to assist with all aspects of the event. Please email me, text me or call me if you can volunteer on Friday April 5th for set-up and or Saturday April 6th for the actual event.

Upcoming Events:

- March 2024
 - 3/22 Fri – Whitewater Baseball Event Set-Up – Hangar & Meeting Room
 - 3/23 Sat - Whitewater Baseball Hangar Event – Hanger & Meeting Room
 - 3/24 Sun – Littlefield Celebration of Life - Hanger & Meeting Room
 - 3/29 Fri – Northgate HS ROTC Military Ball – Meeting Room
 - 3/30 Sat – Konos Academy Tours

- April 2024
 - 4/05 Fri – Hops and Props Event Set-up – Hangar & Meeting Room
 - 4/06 Sat - Hops & Prop’s Hangar Event – Hanger & Meeting Room
 - 4/26 Fri - Fayette County Education Foundation-Hanger & Meeting Room

- May 2024
 - 5/11 Sat - Elliot Wedding Reception – Hanger & Meeting Room
 - 5/19 Sun – 3-Family Graduation Party – Meeting Room & Ramp
 - 5/25 Sat - Brooks / Hudon Wedding - Hanger & Meeting Room

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

Facility Rentals (cont.)



HANGAR SPACE

- Over 10,000 sq. ft. of open space with 38 ft. ceilings provides a blank canvas
- Accommodates 400+ guests, more if hangar doors are kept at 8 ft. level
- Meeting room, bar area, and kitchen included with rental of hangar
- Drive-up space for staging food trucks and service vehicles

for a club or organization event, or for a business meeting, we have the perfect site available for you.

1200 Echo Court
Peachtree City, GA 30269
678-364-1110
airbasegeorgia.org
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org



Facility Rentals (cont.)



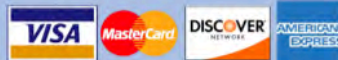
DEPOSIT FEES
 Meeting Room: \$100.00
 Hangar Space: \$500.00

ABOUT US

Airbase Georgia is one of the largest airbases in the Commemorative Air Force and we are a 100% volunteer, 501C3 organization. We are dedicated to the mission of honoring, educating, and inspiring others by preserving aviation history and by making these facilities and historic aircraft available to incorporate into your special event.

FACILITY FEATURES

- Full Kitchen and Bar Area
- Alcohol permitted (with additional requirements)
- Tables and seating available with rental
- Free high-speed Wi-Fi
- Upgraded safety devices including an AED
- Table linens available (additional fee)
- Additional parking and shuttle service available (additional fee)



MEETING SPACE

- 1,500 sq. ft. air-conditioned room with high-speed Wi-Fi and projector
- 270 sq. ft bar area
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Accommodations for up to 100 people



Please see our official rental agreement for all terms and conditions, including deposits, cancellations, prohibited items, parking allowances, pre-event facility access, and black-out dates.

*Additional restrictions and requirements for events with alcohol. Please inquire if interested.

*Please note aircraft available for appearance on a scheduled basis.

This brochure is for information purposes only. It is not an offer, contract, nor confirmation. Prices and terms subject to change without notice.

EDUCATION OFFICER

Col Jim “Here Comes the Judge” Dalton

As your Education Officer with three meetings down and only 21 more to the end of my term, I already have some people to thank. Col Jane Simpson has agreed to be my deputy and to be the Docent Coordinator and her help has already been invaluable. So, a big thank you to her. Col Dave Serafin has agreed to take over recruiting, so thanks. Cols Mark Richards, Mike Roberts, Dave Richardson & Chris Madrid worked hard to make sure our Rosie the Riveter tribute band had a good turnout. If I missed anybody, which I probably did come and see me for a personal thank you.

My rich brother (Not BJ) once told me “Ideas are cheap, but implementation is expensive!” I think we have all seen that at Airbase Georgia. Therefore, if you have an idea, write it down or put it in an email. Also, tell me how you think it could be implemented and at what cost.

DOCENTS: The members continue to perform at a very high level our Open House was between 150 and 200 visitors and they all seemed happy. Our next Open House will celebrate 80 years since D-Day the 6th of June 1944.

CADET/MENTOR: I hope to introduce one or two Cadets at the May meeting.

SPEAKER’S BUREAU: I have three volunteers, who have expressed an interest in speaking to outside organizations for us. If you live in a community with active clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis or others, they are always looking for interesting programs. You could help us by seeing if they need speakers.

ADOPT AN AIRPORT: Is my pet idea and I only know one person who has taken any action. Please think about the possibilities.

CREW CHIEFS: SINCE YOU MOSTLY REFUSED TO PLAY ALONG I PLAN TO TELL YOU WHO IS WHO.

Bell P-63A *King Cobra*: Jim Arnold

Corsair FG-1D: Robert Karge

North American *Mustang* “Red Nose” P-51:
Rodney Higginbotham

Douglas *Dauntless* SBD-5: Andy Cash

North American LT-6
Mosquito: Mike Chabot

Beechcraft T-34B *Mentor*:
This one I know for sure,
Mike McGowan

Fairchild PT-19A (Tuskegee Trainer): Tommy Thompson

Republic *Thunderbolt* P-47N: Maybe Randy Hawkins

Boeing N2S *Stearman*: I’m going with a threesome
Broker, Lambie & Lelliott

We have three more open houses planned for this year:

D-Day in JUNE, Veterans’ DAY November 11th (that’s a Monday) & Pearl Harbor Day (maybe)

The more members that show up for these dates to interact with visitor the more those working rides, memorabilia sales and T-shirt and Hat sales can concentrate on their objectives.

HOPS & PROPS HANGAR CLOSED FOR EVENT 6 April 2024.

Our next regular member meeting will be Saturday, April 13, 2024, many of us will be working at Sun & Fun, but please turn out to see what’s new at your CAF unit.

In a team effort we hope to roll out a program of outreach to all members especially new members (if you would like to help contact me).

Regards,
Jim Dalton, Education Officer
CAF Airbase Georgia (KFFC)



Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

There has been more great progress on the *Stearman* this month. Now that the wings are attached, the team has been busy priming sheet metal parts and fitting them to the fuselage. In parallel, work has started on the firewall-forward components including the engine mount, cowling, and exhaust heat shield. We have also been sourcing a few components we are missing including the bracing wires for the empennage and an engine oil tank.

The team is making such great progress that we are actually asking them to slow down a bit. The next big step will be taking the plane apart again to begin covering the wings and fuselage. However, the plane looks so good put together, we want to keep it that way to serve as a backdrop for some high-profile hangar events over the next few weeks. After we show off the team's great work, we will break down the plane and start the fabric covering process. Enjoy the photo album.



Photos by Col Charles Burcher



Col Ann Haley



Cols Dave Riesselmann and Geoff Lelliott

Stearman Update (cont.)



Above: Cols Joe Broker, Tagg Taggart, Geoff Lelliott, and Dave Riesselmann.

Below Left: Cols Geoff Lelliott, Ann Haley, and Jim Pendergas. Right: Primed sheet metal.



Scenes From The Hangar

Cols Andy Cash, Mel Duhon, and Doug Maxwell work on the SBD's landing gear.

Photos: Col Charles Burcher.



Cols Joe Broker & Jim Pendergast return from a check ride in the P-19.

Col Tony Berq after his check ride.



Scenes From the Hangar (cont.)



Above left: Cols Keith Cox and Malcolm Lelliott. Right: Cols Randy Hawkins and Philip Beegle

Below Left: Cols Roy Handler and Mark Chabot work on the AT-6 Right: Joe Broker in the shop.
Photos: Col Gerhard Frenz.





HOPS & PROPS BEER FESTIVAL

Join us for Hops & Props!

Saturday, April 6, 2024

5:00 PM

**Airbase Georgia
1200 Echo Court
Peachtree City, GA 30269**

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Gather your friends and join us on April 6, 2024 at Airbase Georgia in Peachtree City for Hops & Props Beer Festival! Over one dozen Georgia breweries will bring their best brews for you to sample all under one roof - a hanger with WWII warbirds! The Duncan Brothers and Aaron Watkins and the Georgia Dirt Band will entertain all night and when hunger strikes, Curious Pig and Christo's Pizza food trucks will come to the rescue.

VIP tickets: VIP Admission with premium parking starts at 4 p.m. Ticket includes VIP swag bag and 10 beer sample tickets. 100 VIP tickets are available.

General Admission tickets: General Admission starts at 5 p.m. Includes 10 beers sample tickets.

Tickets/wristbands will be available for pick up prior to the event, until April 5th, 2024 at 5 p.m. Be sure to bring your driver's license when picking up tickets and to the event. Admission WILL NOT be allowed without proper I.D. Carpooling and/or traveling by golf cart is encouraged. Tickets may be purchased at: <https://www.freshtix.com/events/hops--props>



ON THE HORIZON

- April 6, 2024 Hops & Props
- April 13, 2024 Staff & Members Meetings
- April 27, 2024 Fire Extinguisher Training @ 1000 hrs
- May 4, 2024 Staff & Members Meetings
- May 11, 2024 2024 Good Neighbor Day – Dekalb Peachtree Airport

DEKALB PEACHTREE AIRPORT PROUDLY PRESENTS

2024 *Good Neighbor Day*
OPEN HOUSE &
AIRSHOW

Celebrating the
80TH ANNIVERSARY of D-DAY

SATURDAY
MAY 11
12-5PM

FOLLOW THE
WWII HERITAGE TRAIL
LEARN HOW GEORGIANS HELPED WIN THE WAR

AS AMERICA MOBILIZED FOR WAR, GEORGIANS ANSWERED THE CALL.

Overseas, they experienced the harsh realities of war. At home, they worked in factories and shipyards, trained servicemen, and supported those on the front lines.

Explore how Georgians rose to the challenge and did their part to defend freedom and democracy.

VISIT
georgiawwiitrail.org