



AIRBASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA
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June 2024

Education through living history.

Keep 'em flying.

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Facility Rentals

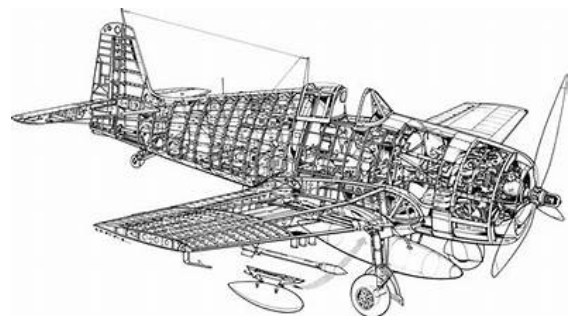
Col Mark Richards
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The Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals ACE Academy was hosted by Airbase Georgia on June 12. More inside.



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Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

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JULY IS FIREWORKS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

Fireworks Injuries & Deaths

2022 REPORT

#CelebrateSafely

Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- ★ Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips: [cpsc.gov/fireworks](https://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks)

Injuries & Deaths

10,200 people were treated in ERs for fireworks injuries in 2022.

11 Deaths from Fireworks in 2022

How & When Injuries Occurred

2022 Injuries by Firework Type

Firecrackers	1300
Sparklers	600

73% of injuries occurred in the weeks before & after the July 4th holiday

JULY 4

Most Injured Body Parts

38% of the injuries were burns

16% EYES	19% HEAD, FACE, & EARS	29% HANDS & FINGERS	12% TRUNK/OTHER
19% LEGS			

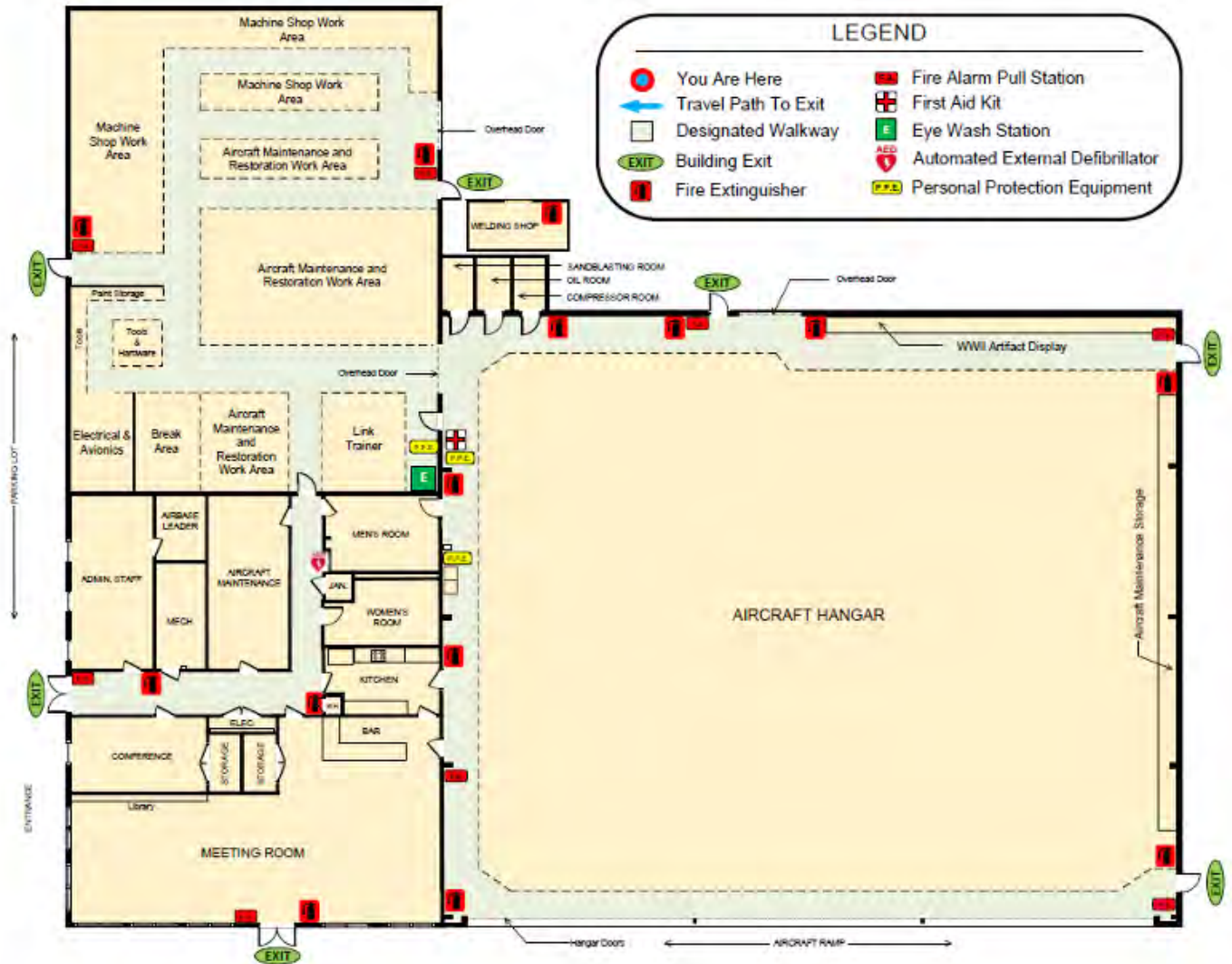
Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2022 Fireworks Annual Report

Continued

Safety Update (cont.)

HOW CAN YOU MEND A BROKEN HEART? While our focus at Airbase Georgia is on PREVENTION, we also have to prepare for emergencies that happen despite our best efforts at preventing them! **We have scheduled First Aid/CPR Training for Saturday, 13 JULY starting at 0900.** Class size is limited, so sign up fast (safety@airbasegeorgia.org). If you took the class last year, you don't have to do it again this year (certifications are good for 2 years).

RUNAWAY Thanks to Jim Van den Heuvel and Yvonne Haley for collaborating on the excellent Evacuation Signs that are now posted throughout the Airbase. Please take a moment to review and familiarize yourself with the safe exit routes.



ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING: We will be scheduling Active Shooter Training with the Peachtree City PD following the monthly meetings in SEP, OCT, or NOV (TBD). This will occur following the General Meeting that starts at 1300 (1PM) and is purely voluntary.

Please send any Safety related questions, comments, or suggestions to "safety@airbasegeorgia.org".

"Safety first because injuries last." →

Best Regards, Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

EDUCATION OFFICER

Col Jim "Here Comes the Judge" Dalton

SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING -
DONATIONS GIFTS LOANS AIRPLANES
AIRSHOWS MUSEUM*

*There is an interesting story at the end of your current education officer's byline, please try to struggle through the verbiage.

Our next regularly scheduled staff & membership meeting will be Saturday, July 13, 2024, I would very much like to see most of you sitting around complaining about the current state of affairs at the CAF Airbase Georgia, because your staff has not responded appropriately to some idea you had. Nothing would please me more!

Rides, Facilities Rentals, Docents are all going full bore at this point. Many petty little but very important jobs are being quietly handled by members of Col Hoofnagle's safety team. He, himself, "the Hooper" is cutting a wide swath across our safety concerns, even texting some of us late on Saturday night.

June 1, 2024 was a successful outing with the bombers at PDK.

June 6,7,8 & 9 many of the Airshow team members were in Reading, PA for a Warbirds' extravaganza!

July 4, 2024 Please, put out your American Flag.

July 13 2024 - Another one of those pesky staff & membership meetings. We plan to have Mrs. Lisa Wewers with us for a memorial for Col Michael "Mike" Wewers. Mike's ashes will be going to Oshkosh and Fond Du Lac on the T-34B for his final visits there.

July 17 thru 31 Most aircraft in our fleet to Oshkosh & Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

If you have ideas, which can enhance our outreach efforts, please send them to me in writing, don't tug me on the sleeve during a day at the hangar and whisper in my ear! PUT IT IN WRITING!!

STORY IN MORE THAN FIVE WORDS:

Calamity Jane and a gang of helpers were trying to salvage some artifacts we have stored in our dilapidated storage containers behind the hangar several Saturdays ago. She brought me two framed, signed and numbered prints (pictured below). My first thought was that they ought to be worth something if they are signed and numbered, so let's auction them off to our members (always thinking of you). A very astute Col Bill Marx said, "Wait a minute there is a note on the back." When he and I read the notes, we discovered these prints were "ON LOAN" to the then, dare I say it DIXIE WING.



I found a contact name I recognized and called Jack Van Ness, a longtime member here now living in Pensacola, Florida, the Cradle of Naval Aviation. It turned out Jack's son-in-law, Lt. Col. Hayward Hornsby, USAF (ret) owned these prints. He wanted to recover them so we made the arrangements and he picked them up from our hangar the 18th of May 2024. Parenthetically, he made a \$1,000.00 pledge to our ongoing pledge drive to complete a much need feasibility study.

Continued on next page

Education (cont.)

This incident initiated some teaching moments, the most important one being that in examining the ABG policy manual, there is an absence of any policies or procedures regarding the acceptance or disposal of donated artifacts, nor are there any procedures in place for artifacts "loaned" to the ABG.

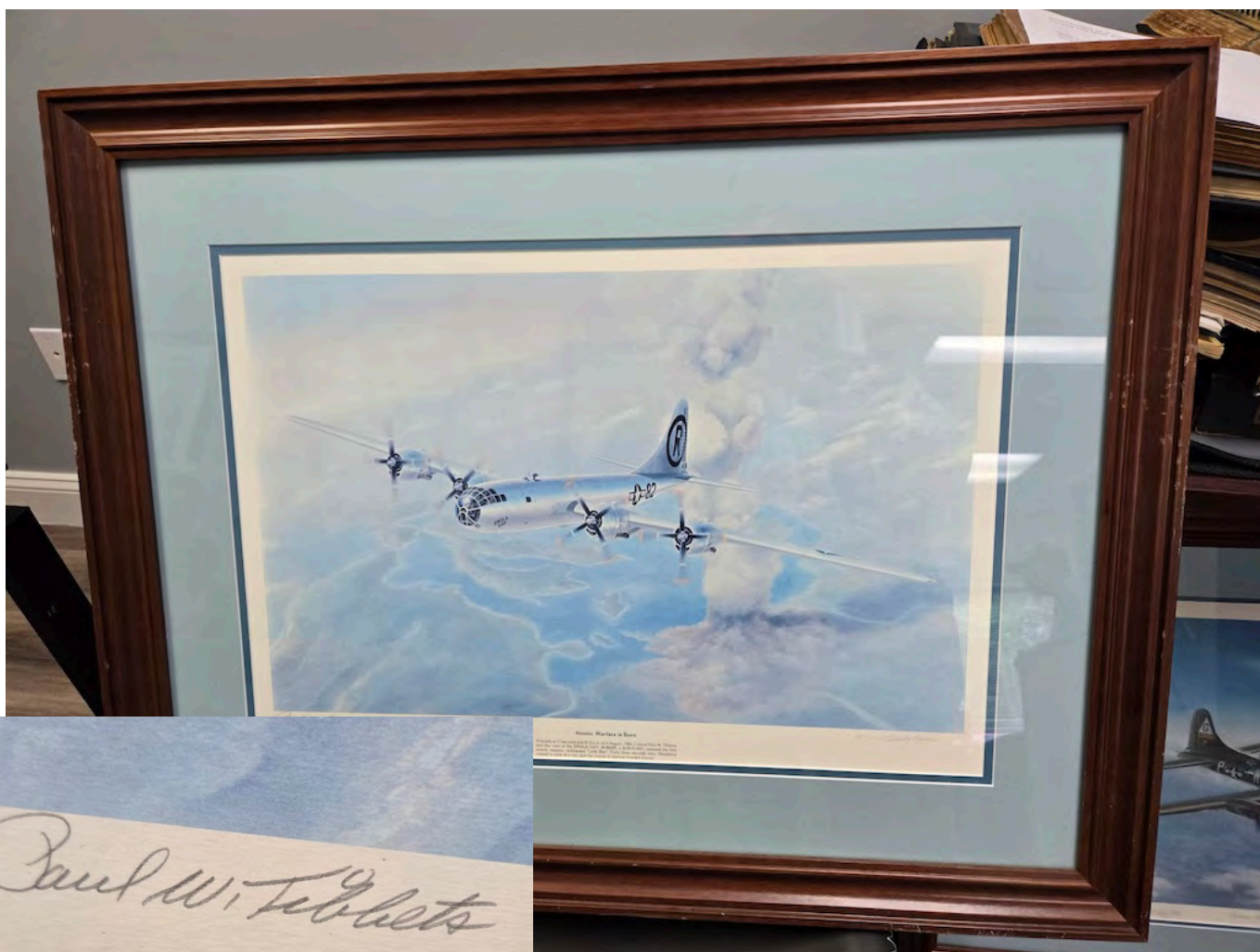
My personal belief is that 1) no artifacts* should be delivered to our location until they have been approved by an appropriate member of the staff; 2) in the future we at ABG take nothing on loan from anybody; and, 3) all donations are final and must be given with no strings attached ... what we do with those items after donation is strictly our business.

Without a clear policy and set of procedures regarding the handling of ABG's collection of artifacts – anything goes. We will be working on the development and approval of some basic policies to bring order to the handling of our artifacts in the future.

*artifacts are considered to be items which are typically displayed in a museum type setting and exclude donated machinery, equipment, airplane parts, tools (unless historically of value) ... those should be approved by our Maintenance Officer, Col Randy Hawkins.

Warmest Regards,

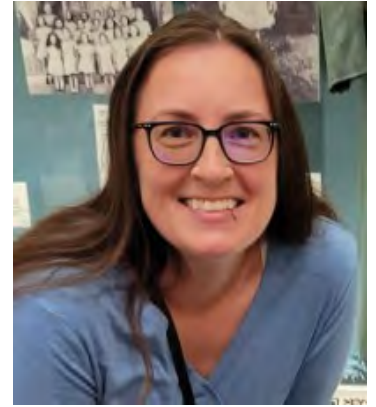
Jim Dalton, CAF Airbase Georgia
Education officer →



Member Engagement

Col Marybeth Britton

Volunteer Coordinator



**** CALL FOR DOCENTS! ****

As many of you may know, our education and docents program has taken to the sky and reached new heights over the past two years. This has created a high demand for Airbase Georgia in the way of tours and events. Our docents host 150 – 200 guests each month, including both small and large school groups, as well as walk-in guests. They also appear at many of our on-site and off-site events to protect our aircraft from people who find themselves eager to climb on them, while also providing a wealth of knowledge and history for each plane.

With the mission of education, and as a supplement to many of the missing programs in schools these days, our community is finding value in our organization. We currently host guests for tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at our hangar. We need more individuals to become docents and offer some relief for our current ones. Our current team does an amazing job, but the demand is high!

Do you want to learn more about our airplanes and museum? Think you would be interested in sharing our history and knowledge of our museum artifacts and aircraft? Please join the docents team! You don't have to know anything specific, just have an interest and some time. Our docents team has a printed tour guide available for you to review, and you can also tag along with our current docents until you're ready to dive in. Interested in helping at events to share a little bit of history about the airplanes we have? You don't have to know a lot about them to do that. We need docents at all our events to assist.

If you find yourself with time unfilled and think this would be a fun program to be involved in, please reach out to our education officer and docents team to find out more, or email me at:

volunteers@airbasegeorgia.org.

****UPCOMING EVENT OPPORTUNITIES ****

We have several events already on our calendar coming up, and we are asking for all members to reach out and serve. I can promise the reward is worth the effort. These events are a lot of fun and very fulfilling as you see how impactful our organization is in the community.

August 17, Saturday & August 24, Saturday – Private Events

These are private events which we will host at our facility. Setup and breakdown roles are available as well as serving during the events. If you are available to serve at these events, please reach out to our facility rentals team to find a role and time slot, or email me at volunteers@airbasegeorgia.org.

September 21, Saturday – Wine & Warbirds and Senoia Car Show

Two events on the same day! We will be hosting Wine & Warbirds at our hangar, with setup the day prior. Our aircraft and docents will appear at the Senoia Car Show to sell rides and tell the history of our planes. If you can serve at either event or help with setup and/or breakdown, please reach out to volunteers@airbasegeorgia.org to get involved.

October 31, Thursday – November 1, Friday – Delta TechOps Veterans' Day Event

This will be an off-site event with opportunities to serve. More details forthcoming, but please mark your calendar if you would like to be involved.



WE WANT YOU!

Member Engagement (cont.)

November 11, Monday – Airbase Georgia Veterans' Day Open House

This will be another all-hands-on-deck event, planned for Veterans' Day this year. More details will be forthcoming, but please sign up to be on the planning team, which will be starting soon. We host 200-400 guests at our open house events, which means a lot goes into planning the event as well as working the event.

Please reach out to facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org ; or volunteers@airbasegeorgia.org to sign up.

**** ARE YOU FULFILLED? ****

Everyone joined for a reason, and we want you to be fulfilled in your membership with us. We currently have restoration projects which can use extra hands, we have data entry roles needing assistance, and we have private events which need volunteers, plus many more roles available. If you are ready to get involved (no matter the level of commitment), please reach out to me and I will help you find a way to serve. You can email me at volunteers@airbasegeorgia.org to introduce yourself and let me know how I can help you find your best role. ➔

An Inspiring Tale Col Ronald Gause

As it happened, several weeks ago I came to KPDK (Former Naval Air Station, Atlanta) as a Docent for Airbase Georgia of the CAF, where I am a very long term and long time member. I used to fly the Liberty Belle for the CAF and wanted to see the bombers and interact with some of our adoring public.

I was standing near the B-17 when a young lady came up and said, "didn't you fly Liberty Belle a long time ago?" Of course, I responded 'yes' and she told me as a very young girl she had come to an airshow and had met me then. Marc, her dad, and she, Hanna, had planned to just take a quick look at the airplanes and leave, but as good fortune would have it at the end of the day Marc and Hanna decided she should ride in the T-34B (a/k/a mellow yellow).

It just so happened that Col Jim Dalton was the only rides' pilot available and Hanna took the last ride of the day before the yellow bird left for home.

This however brings to mind a couple of things we as members of the Airbase Georgia should always remember, many of the young people who come to see us and our airplanes are very impressionable. We bear a grave responsibility to educate and inspire them. The future of our nation may someday depend on someone we inspired at an airshow, a rides' event or an open house. It was great to see the joint effort of Airbase Arizona & Airbase Georgia (more of those efforts should be encouraged)!

I have seen and myself been inspired by the way many of our members interact with young people. ➔

Stearman Update

Col Jeff Clark

The *Stearman* team has started to break down the parts that were assembled for the test rigging. Now the covering process has started. The top right wing has been covered and rib stitching is in progress. The covering for the top left wing has just started. After the top wings are covered, the team will move on to the bottom wings and then the fuselage. With the tremendous support members have contributed to the project, I anticipate continued impressive progress over the next few months. At this rate, we probably need to start thinking about developing a *Stearman* ground school program for our 2025 pilot spring training.



Left: prepping top wing for cover (Cols Malcolm Lelliott, Tagg Taggart, Geoff Lelliott, David Serafin, Thomas Pfingsten, Roy Handler, Mark Chabot, Mike Lamble. Below: covered top wing. →



Facility Rentals

And Events

**Col Mark Richards,
Facility Rental Officer**



June & July are proving to be slower months from the facility rental side with only one big hangar event on June 22 and only several meeting room events. Part of the reason to slow down in June and July is the heavy maintenance schedules needed to get the planes ready for Oshkosh in July after returning from the Reading, PA airshow.

The second of three Airbase Georgia Open Houses is scheduled on June 22, and this will be a great opportunity to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and to showcase our airbase, its mission and its people. Airbase Georgia members will be featuring a WW2 B17 Bomber Crew reenactment that we hope will be educational for our guest and that it is something that can be used for other events. A lot of hard work by many of our members and other volunteers has gone into planning this event and making it possible.

There are no events scheduled in July and we pick back up again in August.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Time</u>
July-24	No Events Scheduled in July	
8-24	Christina & Logans Wedding Reception	5p – 11p

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please text or call me.

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

Rides Update

Col Yvonne Haley - Rides Officer

Airbase Georgia's rides airplanes have been busy for the month of June. The LT-6 and T-34 joined Airbase Arizona's B-17 "Sentimental Journey" and B-25 "Maid in the Shade" during their Flying Legends of Victory

Tour at the Peachtree Dekalb Airport. There was a large turn out by the public to see the bombers and AZCAF set record numbers. The two units successfully collaborated to create a memorable experience for all that visited. The LT-6 and T-34 completed 33 rides. Airbase Georgia is very appreciative to Airbase Arizona for being included in their Atlanta Tour stop. We look forward to working with their members in the future.



Photo by Nick Karnezos)

Col Mo Aguiari provided tours of the old control tower and a pizza supper for our teams. Below is a view of Airbase Georgia and Airbase Arizona's ramps from the tower. Mo was very

instrumental in the success of the event for both CAF units by providing logistical coordination with the airport and FBOs. Atlantic and Aero Center FBOs were very gracious by allowing the CAF airplanes to use part of their ramps for the week.

Pictured are Cols Doug Maxwell, Mark Richards, Rob Haley, Ann Haley, Yvonne Haley, Wanda Roberts, John Currenti, and Mo Aguiari.



Rides Update (cont.)



From the old control tower. Photo by Col Yvonne Haley.

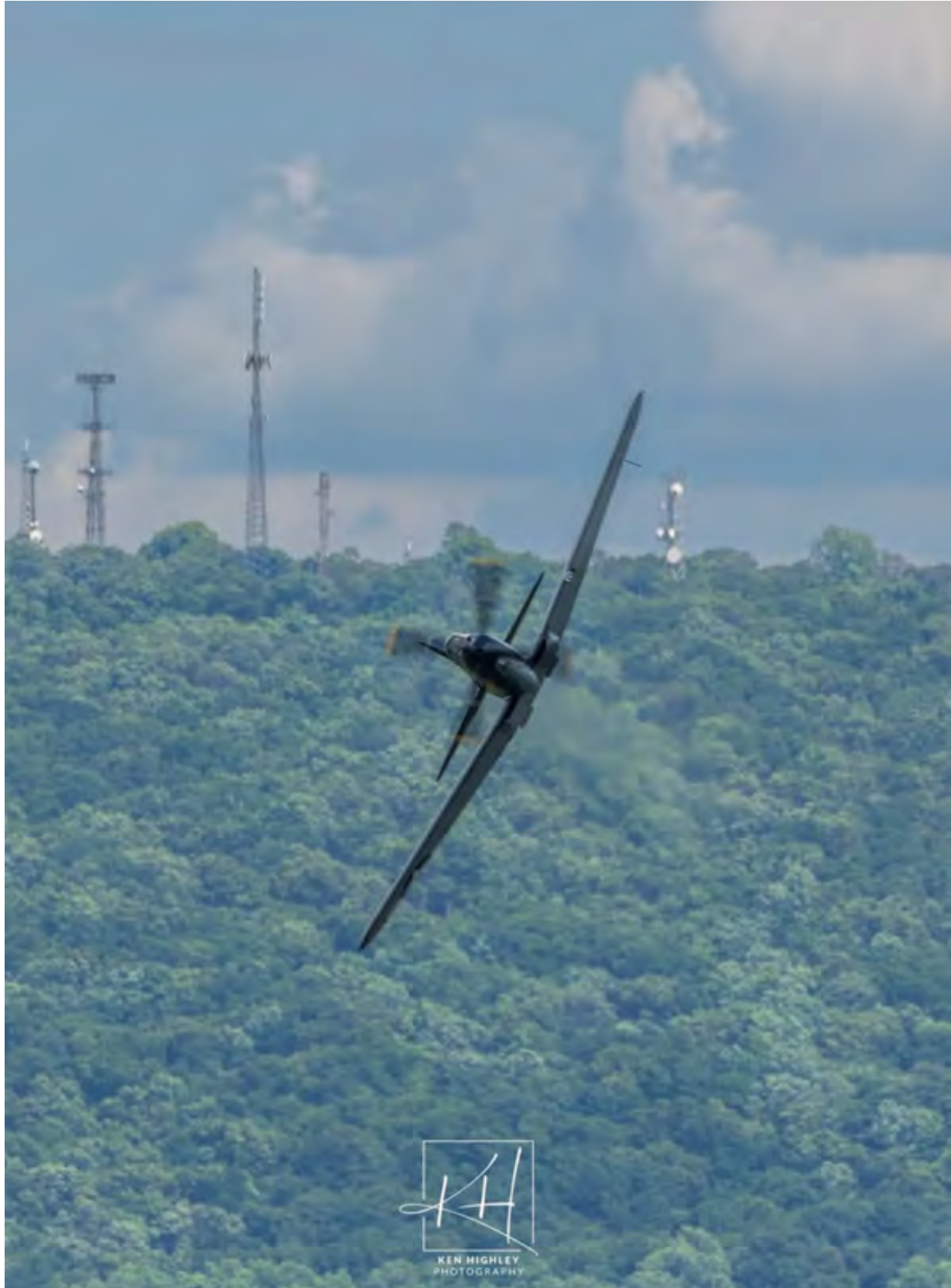
The Corsair, P-63, P-51, SBD, and LT-6 travelled to Reading, PA to participate in the Mid Atlantic Air Museum's 33rd annual WWII Weekend. This event is a full emersion into the 1940s with reenactors dressed in "Home Front" and military attire. Civilian and military vehicles along with airplanes from WWII amazed the crowd. Airbase Georgia's P-51, SBD, and LT-6 completed 86 rides fulfilling bucket list dreams and providing ride experiences to connect with family members.



SBD Pilot Robert Harris and rider Bryan Kendall just landed. Can't you see the fun on their faces!! (Photo by Gary Daniels.)

Rides Update (cont.)

Col Mark Todd expertly demonstrated the performance of the P-63. (Photo by Ken Highley.)



Rides Update (cont.)



(Photo by Col Yvonne Haley.)

Thank you to an amazing team for working tirelessly so Airbase Georgia could provide a successful event for the public.



Pictured are (left table) Cols Wes Stowers, Heather Johnson, Andy Cash, Robert Karge, Fred and friend, Cindy Frenz, Dennis Beach, Jeff Clark, Robert Harris, Mark Todd, (right table) Joel and Cooper Perkins, John Currenti, Wanda Roberts, Tom Walsh, (back table) Ann Haley, Rob and Yvonne Haley, Mark Richards, and Brad Postage. (Photo by Col Gerhard Frenz.) →

ACE ACADEMY

The 2024 Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals ACE Academy was hosted by Airbase Georgia on June 12. Many of the photos were provided by OBAP.

A big thank you to the docent team: Cols Jane Simpson, Willard Womack, Chris Schamel, Vince Garland, Carl Abelein, George Harrison, and Joe Basilone who provided tours to the students and representatives of the FAA.





NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM *Columbus*

Hear the story of the *Greatest Generation's* fight against the forces of fascism.



WWII HOME FRONT MUSEUM *St. Simons*

Build a Liberty Ship to transport supplies overseas.



WWII FLIGHT TRAINING MUSEUM *Douglas*

Explore the most intact WWII contract pilot training base in Georgia and possibly the entire country.

Visit our website for more information and links to each trail member's website

georgiawwiitrail.org



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.

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GEORGIA WORLD WAR II Heritage Trail



**GREAT FOR
FAMILIES**

**BE INSPIRED
BY THE PAST!**

**INTERACTIVE
EXPERIENCES**



ON THE HORIZON

July 13, 2024

Staff & Members Meetings

August 1, 2024

Staff & Members Meetings

October 31 – November 1 Delta TechOps Veterans' Day Event

More appreciation from our riders:

Over the weekend a young rider named Graham sent me this nice memento from Sun & Fun this past April. I was thrilled to get it. Col Jim Dalton.

