



AIR BASE GEORGIA *Dispatch*



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA
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February 2025

Education through living history.

Keep 'em

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Long-time Col Chris Schamel shows his plaque after being recognized as *Docent of the Year for 2024*. Congratulations Chris!



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From the Left Seat

Col Joel Perkins, Airbase Georgia Leader



Exciting Year Ahead for Airbase Georgia!

As we step into another incredible year, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the dedication, passion, and hard work that each of you brings to our mission. Airbase Georgia is strong because of its people—you, our volunteers, who give your time, skills, and energy to keep our aircraft flying and our history alive.

Our dedicated **maintenance team** has been doing **outstanding work**, ensuring our aircraft are in top shape and ready for a safe and successful season. Their unwavering commitment to safety and professional maintenance practices is truly commendable. A special shout-out to **Rodney and his team** for their tireless work on the new **P-51 engine**, which is now installed and nearing completion. Their expertise and dedication make all the difference!

In January, we kicked off the year with our **annual pilot training**, a fantastic four days filled with ground school, learning, camaraderie, and of course, plenty of fun. Events like these remind us of the

incredible spirit that makes Airbase Georgia so special.

None of this would be possible without the generosity and enthusiasm of our volunteers. **You are the heartbeat of this organization, and your passion keeps us soaring.** Thank you for everything you do—whether it's maintaining aircraft, flying, organizing events, educating the public, or simply lending a helping hand when needed.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our **March meeting and chili cook-off**—a perfect opportunity to connect, share stories, and enjoy some great food! Let's make this year one to remember.

With gratitude and excitement.

Joel Perkins.



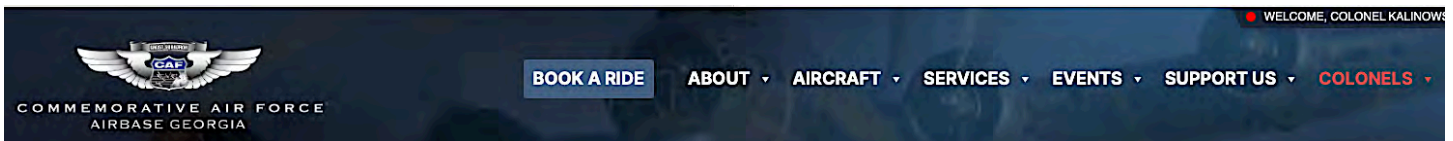
**COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE**

FINAL NOTICES FROM YOUR ADJUTANT

Col Matt Kenner

ANNUAL HOLD HARMLESS FORM / ANNUAL AIRBASE GEORGIA DUES

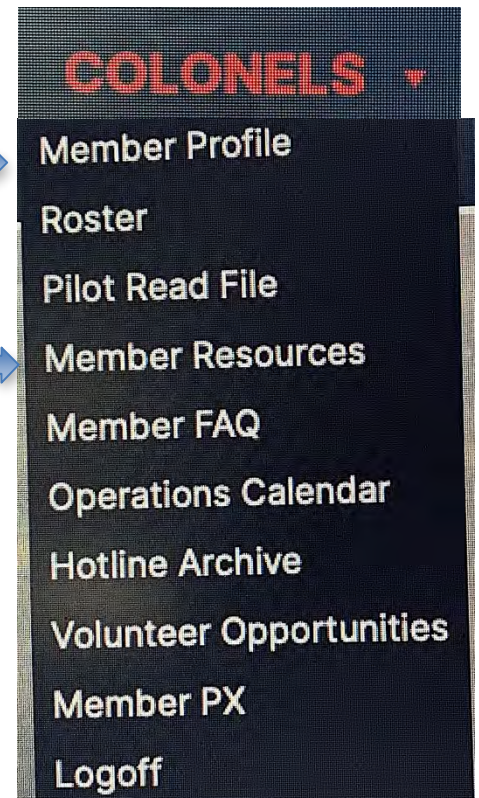
If you still have not done so, please remember to complete your required annual hold harmless form and check the status of your Airbase Georgia membership dues. You can accomplish both these tasks at www.airbasegeorgia.org by logging in and clicking on the "Colonels" menu. You will find a link to the hold harmless under "Member Resources." The status of your Airbase Georgia dues can be found under "Member Profile." If payment is due, you will find a payment link there. By the way, your general CAF membership with HQ can be checked by logging in at www.commemorativeairforce.org. See you at the hangar.



TO RENEW AIRBASE GEORGIA DUES



TO COMPLETE HOLD HARMLESS FORM



Safety Update

By Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer

safety@airbasegeorgia.org

770-309-5584 cell

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March is Eye Health and Safety Month.

We do a lot of tasks in the Hangar and Shop that involve potential eye injury hazards. Under no circumstances should you be working in the shop with any of the power tools or equipment without proper safety eyewear!

This is especially important for any VISITORS that are being given a tour of the Shop or Hangar. If they are planning on stepping out of the “safety” lanes and examining our restoration work up close, please provide them a pair of Safety Glasses and invite them to keep them and use them at home.

In general, there are 7 classes of eye/face protective devices:

- Spectacles (glasses)
- Goggles
- Welding helmets
- Welding hand shields
- Hoods
- Face shields
- Respirator facepieces



For the majority of the tasks we do working on the aircraft and in the shop, safety glasses with side shields will protect against eye injuries from foreign object impacts. There are dispensers with new safety glasses located in both the Hangar and the Shop. You may take AND KEEP a pair for your own use. If you are just using a pair temporarily (e.g. for a guest), please deposit them in the “Used Safety Glasses” container if no longer needed.

We also have special safety glasses that can be worn over prescription eyewear. Just contact the Safety Officer if you would like a pair.

For close work with more hazardous processes, you may need safety goggles or face shields. We have those available in the Shop. Face shields are necessary when handling dangerous chemicals or fluids, to protect against splashes.

Welding work requires Welding Helmets to protect against sparks, splashes of molten metal, and the intense light generated by welding.

Cont.

Safety Update (cont.)

All welding should be done in the outdoor conex Welding Shop. Any welding or other Hot Work that must be conducted in the Hangar, Shop, or Admin building **MUST** be done following the precautions on the Hot Work Permits found in the Welding Shop. **Permission to weld or conduct other Hot Work outside the Welding Shop should be obtained by contacting the Safety Officer in advance as improper Hot Work is a leading cause of fires.**

To summarize, safety glasses, goggles, face shields and welding helmets cover the majority of situations we have at the Airbase, however, certain other procedures like painting will require Respirator facepieces. We have respirators available upon request.

We have an **Emergency Eye Wash Station and Emergency Shower** in the SE corner of the Shop near the Link Trainer. Please familiarize yourself with it. There are also some emergency eye wash agents in the First Aid Kit.

If you require any safety eyewear or other safety equipment that you cannot locate in the facility, please reach out to the Safety Officer and this will be provided.

More information on safety eye wear is available at this OSHA website: <https://www.osha.gov/eye-face-protection>

We will be arranging the Annual Fire Extinguisher Training with the Peachtree City FD in April/May as schedules, including Facility Rentals, permit. Please watch the website, FB page, and Dispatch for updates. A Hotline will also be sent out as a reminder as we get closer.

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

“Safety Glasses - All in favor say ‘EYE’.”



Protect your eyes.

Here's how:

- 1) Wear your safety glasses.**
- 2) Wear eyewear properly tinted for the particular job you are working at.**
- 3) Wear your safety glasses!**
- 4) Wear eye protection when working with power tools or chemicals.**
- 5) Keep your eye protection clean.**
- 6) Wear prescription lenses if you should.**
- 7) Get regular eye exams to prevent eye problems.**
- 8) Wear your safety glasses!**
- 9) Wear glasses that provide proper UV protection.**
- 10) Wear your safety glasses!**
- 11) Get regular eye exams to prevent eye problems.**
- 12) Get medical attention immediately if you have an accident.**
- 13) ...and most importantly, Wear your safety glasses!**

EDUCATION OFFICER

Col Jim “Here Comes the Judge” Dalton

This is the time of year when we are all looking to the completion of annual maintenance requirements on our aircraft and getting schooled up and spooled up for another airshow season.

During the first several weeks of January 2025 almost all of our pilots completed their annual ground school and the staff seemed please that, even with the icy, snowy weekend our instructors were able to complete all their sessions. Even as a member who is not a pilot, think about attending ground school next January, most of the pilots are very approachable, believe it or not.

Maintenance and restoration efforts are continuing on all our airplanes under the direction of Col. Randy Hawkins. It looks like the next ride will be in the T-34, which Col Mike McGowan as indicated will be out of annual by the first part of March.

Our rides officer Col Chop Chop Haley is planning some local (in the State of Georgia events), to which we hope both our docents and members can go. Please check schedules to find out where the rides events are taking place. After the March membership meeting things will start cooking.

As always you must know we will be in Reading, PA in early June and we have a significant presence at Fond du Lac Airport near Oshkosh in the last full week of July.

On the very local scene, Col Madrid gave a presentation to the Rotary Club of Peachtree City, which was very well received. If you live in a town or neighborhood that has a local civic

organization, they are always looking for good programs. We can equip you or provide someone to give a very good presentation on behalf of CAF Airbase Georgia.



Our Docent Corps is available Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at our visitors' center between 10AM and 3PM to provide informative tours of our hangar, our aircraft and our extensive maintenance shop. If you have interest in becoming a docent please contact Col Jane Simpson or me.

Next week some of our members will be interacting with over 1,000 (One Thousand) Fayette County 8th graders regarding possible career pathways. The CVBA (Convention and Visitors Bureau) have invited us to participate with them in this effort. This is a great opportunity for ABG to introduce our flying museum to the next generation.

If you would like help from me or the docents on any aspect of wings activities, please get in touch with me by email (LawDalton@aol.com). If you would like to bring an item to the attention of the staff, I will be happy to pass items to the entire staffs' attention.

Respectfully submitted:
James J. Dalton, II
Your Current Education Officer



→ Facility Rentals And Events

Col Mark Richards, Facility Rental Officer

As I mentioned in last month's report, the Facility Rental's Team is going to be busy in 2025. We are currently booked at \$47,600.00, and there are several quotes out to prospective 2025 rental clients. Our goal is to exceed last year's rental income of non-prop turning revenue to support Airbase Georgia and its mission.

We get the hangar back from maintenance just in time for our first hangar event of 2025 on March 15th. The Steve Roundy Awards Banquet is a special event honoring Steve with the Wright Brothers Award. Steve's wife and daughters have organized this special event and are very excited to have it at Airbase Georgia. They are asking for some of our Docents to be present at their event to give their guests a VIP Tour of our planes and facility.

This isn't the only hangar event in March, there are four more hangar events before March ends and the Facility Rental Team can use your help for these events on March 22, March 23, March 28 and March 29. Any time that you can donate for set-up or tear down, as an event staff member, or to help on the parking team is greatly appreciated.

Please call, text or email me to let me know the event(s) you would like to volunteer your assistance.

The Peachtree City Hops & Props is fast approaching and is scheduled on April 26th. This event is another great way to showcase Airbase Georgia, and we will need a big Events and Docent Team. Crowds are expected to be 350 + for this event WOW!!



Planning for the May 10, 2025 Open House has started, and we have a great group of people in our core group. We meet each Saturday at 10:30 to review our progress, brainstorm new ideas and for mutual support. If you'd like to volunteer to be part of the planning team, please email, text or call me, or come by and attend the next planning meeting.

As spring fast approaches and we begin to get ready for rental, open house and airshow season, our grounds at the airbase could use some TLC. We will be scheduling a day in early March for a volunteer clean-up day stay tuned for more details.

Our Welcome & Docent Center continues to evolve with new artifacts, a new film presentation and of course, with our Docents and their unique ways of telling the story of our aircraft and airbase. This is a great place for any new or current member to get started as a volunteer, even if you only have a few hours each week. This is a perfect opportunity for you to meet our members, learn about our airbase and the aircraft, along with making our visitors' experience special.

A complete listing of all facility rentals and events is on the last page.



P-51 "Red Nose"



20 Minutes = \$ 1,995
30 Minutes = \$ 2,995
40 Minutes = \$ 3,995

SBD Dauntless "Lady in Blue"



20 Minutes = \$ 1,195
30 Minutes = \$ 1,695
40 Minutes = \$ 2,195

LT-6D "Mosquito"



20 Minutes = \$ 395
30 Minutes = \$ 595
Aerobatic = \$ 895 (20-30 minutes)

T-34B "Mentor"



20 Minutes = \$ 295
30 Minutes = \$ 395

PT-19A "Cornell"



20 Minutes = \$ 295
30 Minutes = \$ 395

Scenes From the Hangar

Photos by Col Charles Burcher

The hangar and workshop have been a beehive of activity this month. Here are just a few of the photos of that activity. →

LT-6

Col Roy Handler does maintenance on brakes.



Col Mark Chabot installs new plexiglass & rubber seals on rear canopy.



Scenes From the Hangar cont.

P-51 "Red Nose"

Col Rodney Higginbotham (on the forklift), gets the Merlin as close as possible as Cols Tom Langford, Bill Freyman, and Dennis McCoy guide the Merlin into position.



A perfect fit!

Col Dennis Beach uses a torque wrench to fasten exhaust stacks to newly overhauled Rolls Royce engine.



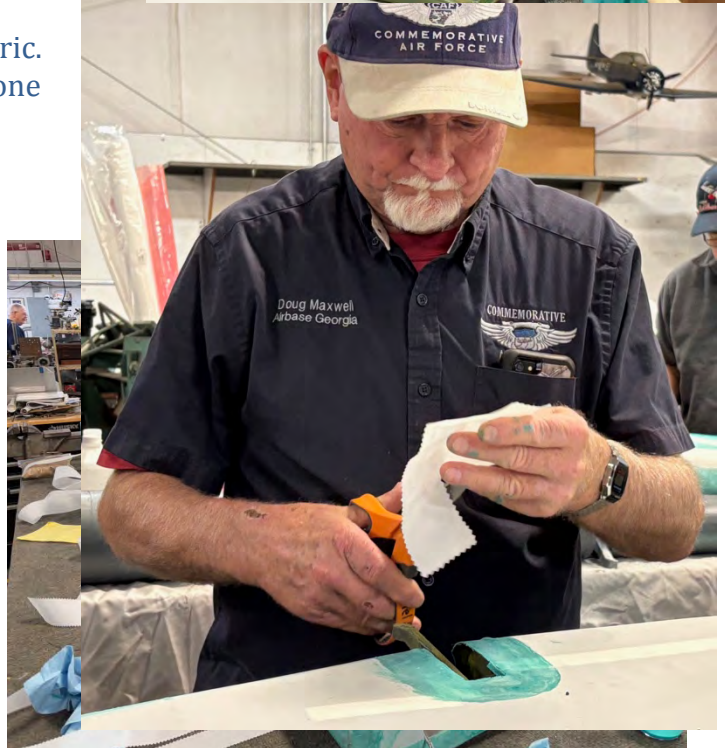
Scenes From the Hangar cont.

SBD "Dauntless"

Right: Col Forest Buchanan removes old fabric & preps for painting. Below: Chris Buzzeo painting prepped frames.



Above: Col Mike Lamble begins the application of fabric. A perfect fit! Left: Col Doug Maxwell carefully trims one of the small pieces of fabric to use around openings. Below. Cols Geoff Lelliott continues the fabric application.



Scenes From the Hangar cont.

Right: Cols Forest Buchanan & Gary Spencer use irons to tighten the fabric.



Left: Col Doug Maxwell does some rib stitching on the aileron for the SBD.

Below: Cols Doug Maxwell, Gary Spencer, Mike Lamble, and Forest Buchanan





ON THE HORIZON

March 1, 2025

Staff & Members Meetings

April 5, 2025

Staff & Members Meetings

Special Guest: Steve Schaffer, Aerospace Director, Georgia Department of Economic Development, will provide an overview of the aerospace industry in Georgia.

April 25-26, 2025

PTC CVB Hops & Props

May 10, 2025

Airbase Georgia Spring Open House

Upcoming ride events for 2025:

March 22 Wings and Things in Douglas, GA

April 1-6 Sun 'n Fun in Lakeland, FL

May 10 ABG Open House in Peachtree City, GA

May 24-25 Atlanta Warbird Rides Weekend at Dekalb-Peachtree Airport, Chamblee, GA

June 5-8 Mid-Atlantic Air Museum WWII Weekend in Reading, PA

July 22-27 EAA AirVenture at Fond du Lac, WI

August 16-17 Fagen Fighters WWII Museum 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy & Marines in Granite Falls, MN

September 20-21 Warbird Rides Weekend at Athens/Greensboro, GA

Each event can be found on the Airbase Georgia website under "EVENTS" where more information is provided along with links to book airplane rides.

UPCOMING FACILITY RENTAL EVENTS FOR 2025:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Time / Location</u>
March 12	FCEF Planning Meeting	8a – 11a / Meeting Room
March 15	Steve Roundy Awards Banquet	5p – 9p / Hangar
March 22	Northgate Baseball Hangar Event	5p – 11p / Hangar
March 23	Young Life Banquet	4p – 9p / Hangar
March 28	FCEF – Fayette Fling	6p – 10p / Hangar
March 29	Whitewater Baseball Hangar Event	5p – 11p / Hangar