



# The Dispatch



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA

[www.airbasegeorgia.org](http://www.airbasegeorgia.org) [www.facebook.com/CAFAirbaseGeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/CAFAirbaseGeorgia)

July 2025

Educate, Inspire, Honor

Keep 'em flying

## Special points of interest:

- Honoring Cornelia Fort
- ACE Camp
- Sky Bound
- Volunteer opportunity: Atlanta Airshow

## Inside this issue:

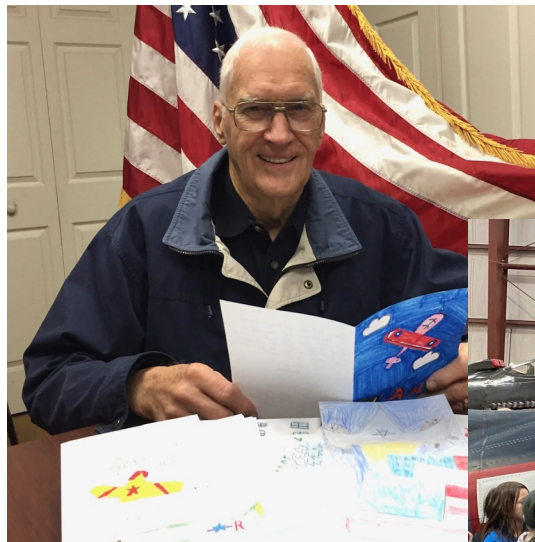
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## Gone West Announcement

### Willard Womack

We announce with deep sorrow CAF Colonel Willard Womack has Gone West. Willard was a longtime member of Airbase Georgia dedicated to the mission of the Commemorative Air Force.

Willard Womack  
Celebration of Life  
August 23rd, Noon-3pm  
Airbase Georgia



Photos courtesy of Col Charles Burcher

## Meeting Information

Saturday, August 2, 2025

Staff Meeting 0900 hrs.

Membership Meeting 1300 hrs.

## Movie Night in the Hangar Honors the life of U.S. Pilot Cornelia Fort Public Information Officer, Col Steve Forsyth

Cornelia Fort was not a famous WWII hero, but her heroic story was brought to life at our hangar transformed into a movie house on June 28 at CAF Airbase Georgia.

The public was invited to a special screening of the documentary, “Crosswinds – the Courageous Life of Cornelia Fort,” and it was an inspirational experience as researched and presented by Judy S. Miller and Redwood Educational Technologies.

Early in her flying career, Cornelia Fort was a flight instructor with a student in an Interstate L-6 Cadet over the skies near Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japanese fighters suddenly appeared around her. She immediately dropped down to her Hawaiian airfield, but not without being shot at by the fighters. She and her student were not injured, but they had no idea of the devastation taking place in the harbor.

Determined to serve her country, Fort joined the newly formed Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) in September 1942. She was the second woman accepted into the program. She began ferrying new aircraft to their delivery points throughout the United States. Often the pilots would fly in formation to a base, deliver the aircraft and find their way home to pick up a new delivery.

On one of these trips, a mid-air collision in Texas caused her to become the first female U.S. pilot killed in service to her country.

Her heroic story was told as part of a special public program organized by Col Mark Richards, with a big-screen video display, special audio equipment and a concession stand complete with sodas, popcorn and candy. Almost 200 people requested free tickets online, and about 100 attended during a stormy night. The documentary will be screened again at EAA AirVenture this month in Oshkosh, Wis., and later will be available via streaming.

“Her story, nearly lost to time, reminds us that courage means taking the first step forward – especially when you are among the first to do so,” said Col Chris Madrid, who coordinated the screening with Miller. “She became a pilot in the time when very few people were pilots and even fewer were female.”



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The movie night included a display of Airbase Georgia's PT-19, one of the aircraft Fort flew during her short career as a military pilot. Leslie Sargent, retired from the FAA, also attended and commented on Fort's final flight and the possible circumstances that caused the mid-air collision that took her life. Several Airbase Georgia members helped make the evening possible, setting up and taking down the event, as well as serving as docents or participating in WWII-era costumes. Kelly's Zeroes also prepared a WASP display complete with flight suits and many articles that were issued to the female pilots. ★



Photos courtesy of Col Charles Burcher

## Staff Officers

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## Safety Update

### Col Steve Hoofnagle, Safety Officer



### August is Travel Safety Awareness Month

We are in the middle of the “airshow season”, so our planes, pilots, crews, and Rides personnel are traveling extensively. Many of us are taking some time for a getaway or vacation. Please take some time to **plan ahead** with the travel safety tips below.

1. Vehicle Maintenance – even if you’re flying, you’re getting to the plane in your vehicle. The hot weather is hard on vehicles, especially cooling systems and batteries. Be sure to plan ahead to get all of your deferred or upcoming preventative maintenance done. Check your tire pressures and critical fluids including oil, coolant, brake, power steering, etc. (this should be done monthly). Low tire pressure and hot pavement are a recipe for blow-outs.
2. Heads-Up - If you are traveling long distance, be sure to check on Travel Advisories (links below).
3. Over There - If you are going out of the country, be sure that your passport will not be expiring within 6 months. Make two photocopies of your passport identification page. This will facilitate replacement if your passport is lost or stolen. Leave one copy at home. Carry the other with you in a separate place from your passport.
4. Protect the Home Front - Arrange to stop your mail, newspapers, and other routine deliveries. Have a neighbor keep plants watered, pick up packages, and check the house from time-to-time. Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with a trusted friend or family member, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.
5. Spy vs. Spy - Be careful about sharing travel details online. Your Facebook friends aren’t the only ones looking at your profile.
6. Liberty Bibberty - Travel insurance can cover unexpected expenses from trip cancellations, medical emergencies, or lost luggage. Check with your health insurance to make sure you will be covered away from home, especially if traveling out of the country.

For more information check these websites:

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

[www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/about-our-new-products/Best-Practices-for-Traveler-Safety.html>

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### **Airbase Safety Programs**

This month we are heavily into the required annual inspections and testing by licensed contractors on our facility safety systems including the fire alarms, automatic fire sprinkler system, fire extinguishers, and back-flow preventers. Please watch for signage indicating testing is in progress as you may hear the alarms sounding.

We will be having Active Shooter Training in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. Details to follow in the Dispatch, ABGA FB page, and Hotline emails.

### **It's HOT!!! Yeah, but it's a "Dry Heat"!!!**

It goes without saying that the hot/humid weather continues in beautiful "North Viet-Georgia". Working in the Hangar, out on the ramp, or at offsite events exposes us to the hazards of heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and dehydration. There are warning posters in the Hangar, Shop, and restrooms to alert you to the signs of these hot weather hazards. The Hangar also has a thermometer with a hygrometer (measures the humidity) and can give guidance when it's time to take a short break or take a break for the rest of the day. Be sure to refer to these resources, stay hydrated, and KEEP AN EYE ON EACH OTHER!

### **"Plan ahead to put safety first."**

As always, please send any Safety related questions, comments, or suggestions to "[safety@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:safety@airbasegeorgia.org)".

Hoofer ★



Airbase Georgia can raise up to \$5,000 during the Atlanta Airshow Oct 11-12 if 20 members volunteer each day of the show. Interested members may register online at <https://air.show/pc-info/>

To ensure ABGA receives credit, under "relevant experience" note that you are a member of Airbase Georgia.

See page 11 for more information.

## Development Officer Col Chris Madrid



### Summer Soars: Airbase Georgia Heads to Oshkosh, Honors Heritage, and Builds for the Future

As summer reaches its peak, Airbase Georgia celebrates a season of momentum and milestones. From national visibility at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh to local documentary screenings, restoration progress, education outreach, and future-focused initiatives, our mission to educate, honor, and inspire is thriving.

### Headed to Oshkosh – Crosswinds Takes Flight

Airbase Georgia is proud to participate once again in **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh**, the world's largest aviation celebration. Our WWII-era aircraft will be on display and performing in daily showcases, sharing living history with thousands of aviation enthusiasts.

A special highlight this year is the **July 26 screening** of *Crosswinds: The Courageous Life of Cornelia Fort*. The documentary, produced in partnership with **Redwood Educational Technologies**, introduces audiences to Fort's trailblazing story as the first American woman to die on active military duty during WWII. Her legacy continues to inspire aviators and educators alike.

### Peachtree City Screening a Local Success

On **June 28**, Airbase Georgia hosted a successful public screening of *Crosswinds* in Peachtree City. We thank our generous sponsors for making the event possible:

- **Audio Visual Group International**
- **The Citizen Newspaper**
- **Peachtree City Convention and Visitors Bureau**
- **Fayette County Chamber of Commerce**
- **Atlanta Airport Chamber of Commerce**
- **Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field**

Despite a late afternoon thunderstorm, the screening brought together 100 veterans, students, and aviation fans, further strengthening our ties to the community and our shared mission of education through history.

### Restoration in Progress: P-47, Stearman & More

Restoration efforts remain a core part of our mission. The **P-47 Thunderbolt** continues to receive careful attention. Meanwhile, our **N2S Stearman** is approaching completion with significant progress on in assembly and painting (see page 12). Every update brings us closer to returning these icons to flight.

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## Open House, Fly-Ins & Trail Engagement

This summer has been full of energy. Our members supported community fly-ins, open houses, and public events that showcased our aircraft and mission. Looking ahead, we invite the public to attend our **next Open House on November 8**, offering students and families a unique opportunity to explore WWII aviation history up close.

As a **founding partner of the Georgia WWII Heritage Trail**, Airbase Georgia continues to welcome tourists and students from across the state. Our **dedicated docents** play a vital role in connecting visitors to the people, planes, and stories of World War II.

## Ongoing Education and Career Exploration

In addition to public events and tours, Airbase Georgia is expanding its role in workforce and education development:

- On **November 12**, we will **host the Fayette Chamber Nonprofit Fair**, welcoming community groups and organizations for networking and outreach.
- In **April 2026**, we are proud to **host the Aviation Career Fair** in partnership with the **Central Education Center**, helping students explore pathways into aviation and aerospace careers.
- Additional upcoming events include **Girls in Aviation Day** and a **General Business Aviation Static Display**, both designed to engage young people and families in aviation exploration.

## Planning Ahead: Feasibility Study Completed

This month we completed our **growth plan feasibility study interviews**, gaining valuable insights into our future. These conversations included representatives from:

- **Fayette County Chamber of Commerce**
- **Mayor's Office, City of Peachtree City**
- **Peachtree City Convention and Visitors Bureau**
- **Fayette County Schools**
- **Fayette County Development Authority**
- **Many other community leaders**

The feedback gathered will guide future plans to expand our facilities and improve community engagement. Thank you to all participants and volunteers who contributed to this effort. A report will be presented to the staff and members in October.

## Together, We Keep History Flying

As we look to the skies — from Oshkosh to Peachtree City — we are grateful to our **volunteers, docents, restoration team, and sponsors** who make this mission possible. Airbase Georgia is more than a museum. It's a living tribute to the courage, innovation, and service of the Greatest Generation — and a launchpad for the next. ★

## ACE Camp

### Col Steve Forsyth, Public Information Officer





## Thank you note from a visitor

Marybeth and Joel,

It was indeed a pleasure visiting Airbase Georgia last Saturday. Marybeth, you conducted an excellent tour of the place, explaining everything in the minutest details. I learnt a lot and also enjoyed every bit of it.

Joel, my interaction with you was again very encouraging. The way you took the time to answer my questions about flying and membership was very professional and forthcoming.

My sincere thanks to both of you. As I explained earlier, I am new to the country and in the process of settling in. For the time being, it may not be possible for me to visit often and perform physical duties as a volunteer until I get to grips with my situation. Thank you for understanding and accepting that I can contribute as a remote member.

I have joined as a member with the CAF Headquarters and am waiting for my membership number and stuff before I can officially join Airbase Georgia.

As I mentioned, I am a published author, and I continue to write. I am more than willing to help/write for the newsletter or assist in any way as a writer.

I have always loved warbirds and long to fly them one day. I have attached a few verses written in honor of the warbirds and their pilots. I hope you enjoy reading them.

Wishing you guys the very best at Oshkosh. I'll try my best to be there for the next monthly meeting on Aug 2nd.

Kind regards,  
Khalid Mehmood ★



### Sky Bound

On a sparkling day with dazzling sunlight  
How I longed to taste the love of flight  
Reaching the hangar, I parked on the slope  
And uncovered the beast, untying the rope  
My face lit up at the sight of the beaut  
It glinted back, in a silent salute  
As I kicked the tire and lit the fire  
With a gentle roar, that soon got higher  
Into life it sprang, drowning all sound  
It longed, I knew, to be sky bound  
As I let go the throttle, into the air it leapt

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Like a tiger unleashed, that just couldn't be kept  
With green grass below and the skies above, blue  
We were in a place we both loved, I knew  
    Fondling it with love and care  
    Curving lines, we drew in the air  
    Diving, climbing, looping, and rolling  
Buffeting, stalling, spinning, and recovering  
    Locked together in a tight embrace  
We soared along from place to place  
    Together we sailed, enjoying the day  
With just no inkling of what ahead lay  
    A sudden surge and an RPM drop  
My heart skips a beat, misses a throb  
    Reducing noise, washing speed  
    Scares the hell out of me, indeed  
    Acrid-smelling, thick black smoke  
Pulling the nose to stretch the glide  
    To make it there, my best I tried  
    Between the trees, I find a gap  
    Aligning myself, I lower the flap  
Banking, yanking, I barely make it there  
    Just when I am about to flare  
With a touchdown soft, we kiss the ground  
She grinds to a stop without much sound  
Unbuckle, slide, and I gently dismount  
    Thanking God for a life newly found  
    Realizing that my time is not yet up  
Awash with relief, my face lights up  
With a smile this big across my face  
I kiss my bird as we both touch base  
Calms my nerves, a soothing thought  
We won the battle, we together fought  
    For sure, we'll have another round  
Soon, the two of us would again be sky bound

Guru



# Wings For A Cause

Support Your Organization by Volunteering at the Air Show



## How does my group earn \$ by volunteering at the Air Show?

Make a difference and raise funds for your organization. By dedicating your time, you will not only be a part of an incredible event, but also help secure a generous donation for your organization.

Volunteers will assist with various event tasks such as ticketing, guest services, parking, set-up, operations, and more, all while enjoying the most exciting and patriotic aerial display of the year!

*Want to volunteer at Falcon Field on October 11-12?  
Email [volunteers@air.show](mailto:volunteers@air.show) for details.*

### VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

- Parking
- Hospitality
- Merchandise
- Event Site Set-up/Operations
- Concessions
- Sanitation



### OPTIONS

#### TWO DAY VOLUNTEERING

10 ppl per day: \$1,250

20 ppl per day: \$2,500

#### ONE DAY VOLUNTEERING

10 people: \$625

20 people: \$1,250

*Donation is contingent on volunteers arriving on time and departing following the event. Groups larger than 20 ppl will receive larger donation in line with above pricing.*





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Peachtree City, GA 30269  
Phone: 678--364-1110  
<https://airbasegeorgia.org/>

## On the horizon....

2025 Date(s)	Event	Planes	City	State
August 2	ABGA Member Meeting	—	P'tree City	GA
August 8	Kelly Motor Coach Tours	—	P'tree City	GA
August 16-17	Fagen Fighters Navy Celebration	SBD-5	Granit Falls	NM
September 6	ABGA Member Meeting	—	P'tree City	GA
September 27	Senoia Car Show	—	Senoia	GA
October 4	ABGA Member Meeting	—	P'tree City	GA
October 4	Wine , Whiskey & Warbirds	—	P'tree City	GA
October 10	USS Ware Reunion	SBD-5,LT-6	Athens	TN
October 11-12	Atlanta Airshow	TBA	P'tree City	GA
November 1	ABGA Member Meeting	—	P'tree City	GA
November 8	ABGA Fall Open House	TBA	P'tree City	GA
December 6	ABGA Christmas Party	—	P'tree City	GA
January 3, 2026	ABGA Member Meeting	—	P'tree City	GA



Col Roy Handler sprays the first coats of yellow on several Stearman parts.



Photos courtesy of Col Charles Burcher



Articles and photos for publication in the Dispatch are welcomed and encouraged. Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month. For questions and submissions, email [marsha.daly@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:marsha.daly@airbasegeorgia.org)