



THE DISPATCH



AIRBASE GEORGIA, COMMEMORATIVE AIRFORCE, PEACHTREE CITY, GA
WWW.AIRBASEGEORGIA.ORG WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CAFAIRBASEGEORGIA

February 2026

Educate, Inspire, Honor

Keep 'em flying

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Super Museum Sunday Photos
- New Control Panel
- Chili Cook-off

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Safety Report
- Ground Operations Report
- Education Report
- Facility Rentals & Events
- On the horizon...

From the left Seat

Col Mark Richards

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through February, where did January go??

I thought I'd start this article with a little recap of what "You" and Airbase Georgia has accomplished in the first 45 days:

- Completed the 2026 Operations Ground School Training
- Started the heavy maintenance on all our aircraft
- Started assembling the Stearman
- Had a new electronic operating system installed for the hangar door
- Hosted three Meeting Room Events
- Convened the first two meetings of the ABG Advisory Committee to start planning our future growth



- Hosted our first "Super Museum Sunday" event with over 450 guests attending
- Hosted over 1,500 Fifth Grade Social Studies Students from Fayette County School in our new WWII Education Program

None of this is possible without "YOU" our volunteers. I want to sincerely thank each of you for the time you volunteer to make all of this possible.

I started writing this article for the February Dispatch right after attending the Super Museum Sunday at Airbase Georgia. There were over 400 guests who attended this event and the ABG Volunteer

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MEETING INFORMATION

March 7, 2026
 Staff Meeting 0930 hrs.
 Chili Cook-off 1130 hrs.
 Membership 1300 hrs.



Staff Officers

Airbase Leader

Col Mark Richards
mark.richards@airbasegeorgia.com

Executive Officer

Col Gerhard Frenz
xo@airbasegeorgia.org

Adjutant

Col Matt Kenner
adjutant@airbasegeorgia.org

Finance Officer

Col Mike McElduff
finance@airbasegeorgia.org

Maintenance Officer

Col Randy Hawkins
maintenance@airbasegeorgia.org

Operations Officer

Col John Currenti
operations@airbasegeorgia.org

Safety Officer

Col Dave Riesselmann
safety@airbasegeorgia.org

Development Officer

Col Philip Beegle
development @airbasegeorgia.org

Education Officer

Col Chris Madrid
chris.madrid@airbasegeorgia.org

Recruiting Officer

Col Dave Serafin
dserafin58@comcast.net

Public Information Officer

Col Steve Forsyth
sforsyth106@gmail.com

Marketing Officer

jmarketing@airbasegeorgia.org

Aircraft Rides Officer

Col Yvonne Haley
rides@airbasegeorgia.org

Air Show Scheduling

Col Heather Johnson
heather.johnson@airbasegeorgia.org

Facility Rentals

Col Bill Brwon
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

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Member turnout was incredible.

Airbase Georgia had volunteers working the event that I have not seen in quite awhile and I am so very thankful for their help & contributions. Saying thank you doesn't scratch the surface of my gratitude for each of you.

One of my visions and goals for Airbase Georgia is to responsibly grow our organization with new and expanded programs that focus on our education program(s), community involvement and tourism, as well as expansion for our aircraft restoration and maintenance operations. Developing new programs and enhancing current programs will be the catalyst that takes us to the next level and will help to sustain us for the next twenty years.

In order to accomplish this, we need to continue doing the things we do best, facility rentals, aircraft restoration, aircraft maintenance, along with our airshow and ride events.

To formulate the plan for responsible growth to include generating new avenues of revenue, we have established an Advisory Committee made up of Airbase Georgia members, local government and tourism representatives, educators, business leaders, and marketing experts. This is an all-volunteer group with the sole purpose of helping Airbase Georgia realize its full potential.

What is the purpose of the Advisory Committee:

- The Advisory Committee is responsible to provide strategic expert advice and external perspective that helps CAF Airbase Georgia's Leadership Team navigate risks and make informed decisions to realize and achieve its short-term & long-term goals. To expand networks that open doors to potential investors, donors, partners and other industry and state organizations.

Short-term goals (6-12 months):

- Build credibility through education curriculum(s) for potential educational grant opportunities
 - Formally launch the first ABG education program with the Fayette County 5th grade social studies classes (started January 12, 2026).
- Update and recondition internal & external areas of Airbase Georgia that will improve the over-all appearance and generate a WOW factor for visitors, community events and tourism
- Showcase CAF Airbase Georgia through a

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“Community After Hours Event”

- Establish CAF Airbase Georgia as a recognized member of the community
- Co-sponsor and host a Celebrate America 250 event with Peachtree City in 2026
 - Tentative date, October 17, 2026
 - Theme, Swing Dance and Silent Auction
- Establish a realistic growth plan that translates into realistic expansion
 - Establish growth phases
 - Identify potential acquisitions
- Finalize the Phase 1 Expansion Plan by June 2026
- Begin Phase 1 Expansion Plan by December 2026
- Long-term goals (12-24 months):
 - Timely completion of the Phase 1 Expansion Plan
 - Finalize the next phase of the ABG Expansion Plan and begin Capital Campaign
 - Establish an expanded museum exhibit that includes interactive displays
 - Continue to build credibility within the education system in order to expand our curriculum and donor base
 - Continue to work with local and state organizations to expand tourism
 - Begin the next phase of the expansion plan

As is evident by the Short-Term and Long-Term goals, the goals are very aggressive and you might ask the question, why?

- A. Timing, we are riding the wave of our new education program that embraces our mission to educate, inspire and honor. With any movement, once the momentum is started, if you stop it, you may not get it going again or at least not to the same velocity.
- B. We have the right team in place to go after our goals
- C. We have local and state interest, and support for our mission
- D. We have collaboration and support from CAF HQ
- E. The availability of real estate will change rapidly
- F. The players may never be the same again
- G. We cannot continue to depend on our Airshow and Ride Teams to generate the majority of our financial existence

It's Time". A time to begin the transformation of Airbase Georgia into a destination for education, history, tourism, and as a recognized member of the community and state that helps support the local economy.

Would you like to be part of this transformation team? There are many opportunities to volunteer your time to help organize and participate in all of the events being planned to support our long-term & short-term goals.

Contact me in person, call or text me at (517) 902-8750 or email me at mark.richards@airbasegeorgia.org and I will be glad to help you find a fit with one of our teams.

Thank you again for all that you do to support Airbase Georgia!!!!!! ★

Around the Hangar

Col Charles Burcher, Photographer



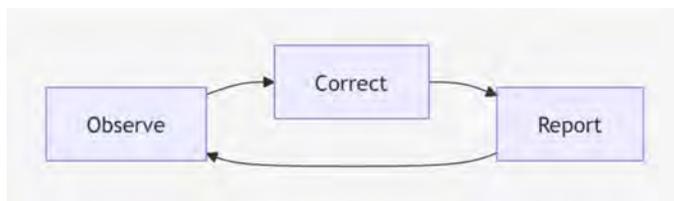


Safety Report

Col Dave Riesselmann

In the last issue I introduced the CAF's Safety Management System (SMS) and presented the Airbase Georgia safety model as shown below:

To review,



OBSERVE

- ✓ Keep your eyes open for possible hazards

CORRECT

- ✓
- ✓ Stop the operation if necessary
- ✓ Fix it, or
- ✓ Find someone else who can

REPORT

- ✓ Document
- ✓ Formulate a mitigation to prevent the hazard in the future
- ✓ Disseminate

Also discussed in the last issue was CAF's acceptance of immediate, face-to-face reporting of a hazard on the spot when it is identified. This sort of reporting is enabled by the close relationship the membership has with those in supervisory positions at Airbase Georgia. The final aspect of the SMS is formal, written reporting of hazards when necessary.

Two primary methods are available for written hazard reporting. The first is a CAF form which will be submitted here at Airbase Georgia and is meant to be elevated no higher than the Airbase Georgia staff. I will make copies of the form available in the facility

and they may be submitted to the Safety inbox located in the staff office.



If you feel it necessary, it is permissible to submit your report anonymously.

The Finance staff has agreed to allow such submissions to be collected in their safe instead of the Safety inbox. Make sure to mark it as a safety report so Finance can pass it along to me.

The second means for submitting a written hazard report can be found on the Operations homepage of the CAF website and is identified as the "Submit a Safety Tip" button as seen below in yellow:

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Use this method for hazards which should be addressed directly by CAF Headquarters. This report will not be seen by Airbase Georgia staff so you may consider giving them a heads-up as to your submission. Conversely, you will find that this report may also be submitted anonymously.

Regarding anonymous reporting, the CAF's goal is to identify hazards in order to make the operation safer, not to punish individuals who report - or who may

even have themselves blundered unintentionally into - an unsafe situation. Your report may require anonymity for other reasons but, either way, don't allow a hazard to the operation, to your fellow members, to our guests or clients, or to our priceless aircraft go unidentified.

You may also report a hazard or make a suggestion to me at safety@airbasegeorgia.org ★



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
SATURDAY 02-21-26
COME ONE – COME ALL
BRING YOUR RAKES, BRING YOUR BOOTS,
BRING YOUR GLOVES**

This coming Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, we will have an Airbase Georgia exterior clean-up day and some closet cleaning - your help is needed. We have a dumpster ordered and we will be filling it with tree limbs, wood, leaves, bushes and anything else that we deem necessary to clean-up that enhances the exterior of our airbase. Report to Col Tom Walsh in the Meeting Room at 0900 hrs.

Exterior clean-up not your thing - how about interior clean-up & organization? We need to clean up and organize the mechanical room and the Meeting Room closets, and your help is needed. Report to Col Mark Richards in the Meeting Room at 1000 hrs. ★

Super Museum Sunday

Col Charles Burcher, Photographer



Ground Operations Officer

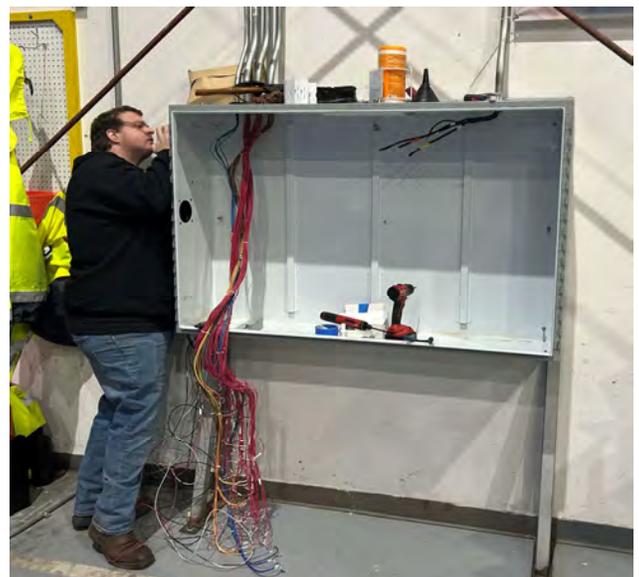
Col Tom Walsh

For those of you that were unable to attend the monthly meeting on February 7th, you missed the chance to look at our new control panel that we have on our hangar doors. The new panel that is shown here in the pictures shows the old panel, and the empty cabinet, that the panel goes into, as well as the new panel, which is much more modern than the old one. This new upgrade was provided to us by Mr. David Byrd, who owns Atlanta Control Technologies, located in Fayetteville Georgia, with the help of Mr. Mark Hagl with Mega Door located just a short drive down Dividend at Kelly Drive, in Peachtree City. This newer touch screen version has been close to a year in the works, and I can't thank Mr's Byrd, and Hagl, enough for their efforts in making this upgrade possible. The swap out was accomplished on a Monday (off day by design) and took a full 10 hours to accomplish. What the new panel accomplishes, (other than looking pretty cool) is twofold.

1. It now allows Mega Door to bring their own people to our facility to demonstrate how their door system operates, as well as being able to demonstrate how their door system touch screen panel works, in all its simplicity. The old control panel worked well, however...it's not what is currently supplied with a Mega Door system.

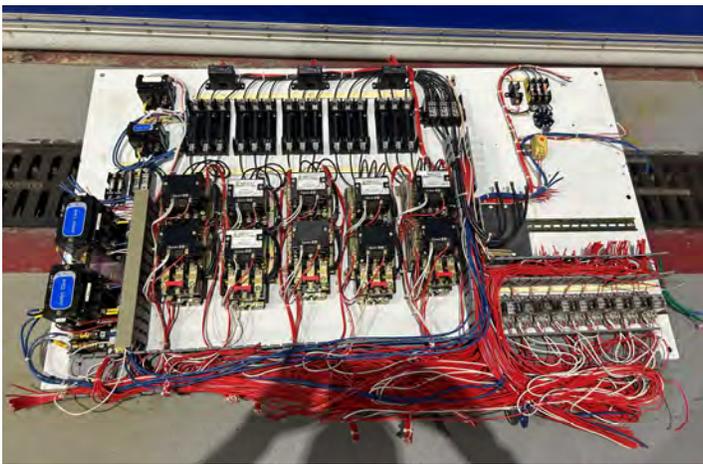
2. It gives Mega Door the ability to monitor cycles on the doors as well as the mullions, (the 2 dividers between the 3 doors) so as to be able to schedule routine maintenance based on how many cycles the doors and mullions go through. Formerly the maintenance was done on a guesstimate amounting to approximately once a year. The new system also

has a built-in modem so we can troubleshoot from anywhere in the world. If, for instance, one of the many motors used to accomplish the opening and closing functions begins to wear and starts drawing too many amps, the system will alert the proper people to make them aware of a potential problem, before it becomes a major incident. Again, thanks to David Byrd, and Mark Hagl for making this long talked about upgrade possible! ★



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The Judges are all lined up, now all we need is you!

Please consider making a pot of chili.

Not a cook, we also need toppings and desserts.

No kitchen talents at all, come enjoy a bowl or two of chili.

The judging will begin at 1130 hrs.

Please let us know what you will bring:

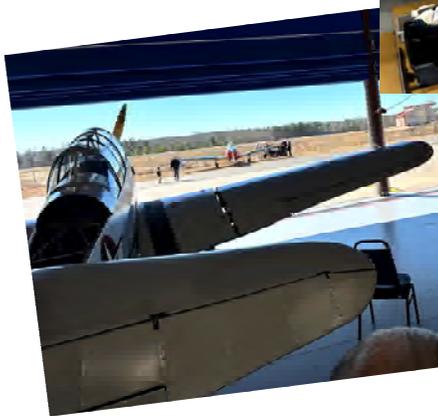
Marsha.daly@airbasegeorgia.org



770-710-7655

Super Museum Sunday

Col Gerhard Frenz



Education Officer Report

Col Chris Madrid

Commemorative Air Force Airbase Georgia

February marked a defining month in the execution of Airbase Georgia's 2026 Education Program. What is underway is not a collection of isolated activities, but a coordinated proof-of-concept year designed to demonstrate that Airbase Georgia is a credible, public-serving museum and education institution grounded in living aviation history.

The 2026 Airbase Georgia Education Program is intentionally structured around four integrated pillars:

- Living History Through Aircraft & Flight
- Public History & Community Engagement
- K-12 World War II History Education
- Aviation Career Awareness & Inspiration

Each pillar reinforces the others. Aircraft remain the foundation. Education is the delivery system. Community engagement is the bridge to long-term relevance.

WWII History Immersion: Delivering Curriculum at Scale

From January 12 through February 13, Airbase Georgia hosted approximately 1,500 fifth grade students from Fayette County Schools as part of the countywide WWII History Immersion program.

This was not simply a field trip series. It was the formal Proof of Concept designed to test:

- Curriculum alignment with Georgia Standards of Excellence
- Volunteer docent staffing ratios
- Facility flow and safety protocols

- Instructional quality and student engagement
- Ecosystem coordination between aircraft operations and education delivery



Congratulations to Bill Brown for leading a disciplined and successful implementation. Early teacher feedback affirms strong alignment with state standards and high student engagement.

When combined with in-classroom presentations and a private school program delivered in February, Airbase Georgia has now reached more than 2,000 students in 2026 alone.

This level of structured delivery positions Airbase Georgia not just as a historic aircraft collection, but as a functioning educational institution capable of serving school systems at scale.

Super Museum Sunday: Public History at Community Scale

On February 8, Airbase Georgia participated in its first-ever Super Museum Sunday as part of the Georgia History Festival. More than 450 visitors attended, supported by over 25 volunteers.



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This event demonstrated our ability to operate as a public-facing museum within Georgia's broader heritage ecosystem. Many visitors were first-time guests, and for families with school-age children, the Link Trainer, aircraft interpretation, and artifact storytelling provided an immersive experience that traditional classroom instruction cannot replicate.

The 2025 Feasibility Study emphasized the importance of strengthening visibility and perceived effectiveness beyond the aviation community

Georgia Journeys Exhibit: Museum-Level Partnership in Action

Beginning February 16, Airbase Georgia began hosting Georgia Journeys, a traveling exhibit from Kennesaw State University's Museum of History and Holocaust Education. This multimedia exhibition presents the stories of WWII veterans, homefront workers, Holocaust survivors, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's connection to Georgia. By hosting this exhibit, Airbase Georgia demonstrates its commitment to public history interpretation beyond aircraft restoration alone.

The exhibit positions Airbase Georgia within Georgia's professional museum and higher education community. It affirms that our mission to educate, inspire, and honor includes stewarding complex and sometimes difficult historical narratives in partnership with credentialed institutions.

This initiative strengthens our Public History & Community Engagement pillar while reinforcing that Airbase Georgia is an active participant in Georgia's statewide WWII heritage community.

Career Awareness Phase Launch: From History to Workforce Inspiration

With the WWII immersion phase complete, we are now advancing the Aviation Career Awareness & Inspiration pillar.

February 25–27 – Fayette Works!

Airbase Georgia will represent aviation and aerospace pathways within the regional workforce ecosystem, connecting students to modern aviation careers while grounding those conversations in WWII aviation heritage.

April 15 – Aviation Career Day (Central Education Center Request)

At the request of Central Education Center, Airbase Georgia will host a focused Aviation Career Day serving CEC aviation pathway students. This proof-of-concept event will convene industry representatives to engage students in aviation maintenance, piloting, engineering, aerospace technology, and STEM pathways.

This event directly supports the feasibility study's emphasis on education and youth engagement as the strongest path to broader community confidence

Aviation Futures Day – November 14 Capstone

The 2026 Education Program will culminate on November 14 with Aviation Futures Day, a metro-wide event open to students in grades 8–12.

Employer participation goal: 12–15 aerospace and aviation employers

Event priorities, in order:

1. Inspire interest in aviation and aerospace careers
2. Convene industry partners
3. Align with regional workforce priorities
4. Introduce students to Airbase Georgia aircraft and workshop operations

Aviation Futures Day will serve as the capstone demonstration of Airbase Georgia's ability to

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integrate living history, museum interpretation, and workforce awareness into a single, coordinated educational ecosystem.

Member Call to Action: Help Build the Education Team

The progress described above is only sustainable with expanded member engagement.

Docents Needed

We are actively recruiting docents who can serve during regular education hours:

- Tuesdays
- Thursdays
- Saturdays
- Special events as scheduled

Docents are central to delivering museum-quality interpretation and transforming the hangar into a living classroom.

Fayette Works! Volunteers Needed (Feb 25–27)

Members are needed to represent Airbase Georgia and connect students to aviation and aerospace career pathways and Airbase Georgia's mission of preserving WWII history.

Desktop Flight Simulator Volunteers

Members who can assist with Desktop Flight Simulators may register here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nZQn2zGcpEK4hvHvjABSL5xoRszL9ahMpOORIIIMBNm9UMFc1RDdNTTJITk5WVEJSWldLSjA0QkIMVC4u>

Museum Artifact Interpretation Volunteers

Members who can show students and visitors various

museum artifacts may register here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nZQn2zGcpEK4hvHvjABSL5xoRszL9ahMpOORIIIMBNm9UMkhDVVhCTFJINzRISjBERk9GVE84RUVJUC4u>

If you are unsure how to plug in, reach out directly and we will help align your availability and interests with program needs.

Strategic Progress: Demonstrating Institutional Credibility

February's results are measurable:

- 1,500+ students served through structured WWII immersion
- 2,000+ students reached year-to-date
- 450+ community visitors during Super Museum Sunday
- A university-level traveling exhibit hosted on-site
- Career awareness phase formally launched

The 2025 Feasibility Study made clear that education and youth engagement are central to building long-term institutional credibility. Airbase Georgia is demonstrating that we are not simply a collection of aircraft, nor solely an airshow organization. It is a living history museum, an educational partner to school systems, and an emerging workforce awareness hub.

Momentum is building. With your participation and support, we will sustain it responsibly and deliberately. ★

Facility Rentals and Events

Col Bill Brown

I'm sure you've noticed our facility and volunteers have been very busy with students, teachers and parents from the Fayette County 5th Grade Social Studies Classes. On Friday, February 13, we completed our WWII education classes hosting approximately 1,500 students at our facility.

This could not have been done without the support of our volunteers working to make the experience special for all who attended. I want to sincerely thank all of those who came out each to volunteer their time to make these classes successful. The feedback from students, parents and school administrators has been nothing short of phenomenal.

I want to draw your attention to the upcoming Georgia Journeys, a traveling exhibit from Kennesaw State University that provides historic World War II insights from 12 individuals, which will be on display beginning Monday, February 16 in our Meeting Room. Georgia Journeys follows the lives of WWII veterans, homefront workers, and Holocaust survivors who came to call Georgia their home. Stories include Jane Tucker's journey to work as a Rosie the Riveter in the Savannah shipyards, Guy Gunter's service as a glider pilot on D-Day, Dr. Hillard Pouncy's experiences as a Tuskegee Airman, and Norbert Friedman's survival of 11 concentration camps. A special event for the public to come and view these displays is being planned.

We will kick off the hangar rentals with our first event on March 19, 2026, hosting a Scouting America Fundraising Dinner. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile event that supports scouting in our communities. March will continue to be busy with



the annual White Water Baseball Event which is always a favorite for our volunteers especially if you like steak. We will finish March with the 2nd annual Young Life Banquet before heading into April which will feature the 3rd Annual Hop's & Prop's and the FCEF Fayette Fling events.

Thank you to all those who were part of our Events Team throughout 2025, and I hope you are excited about our upcoming 2026 events, because all of this is not possible without you! ★

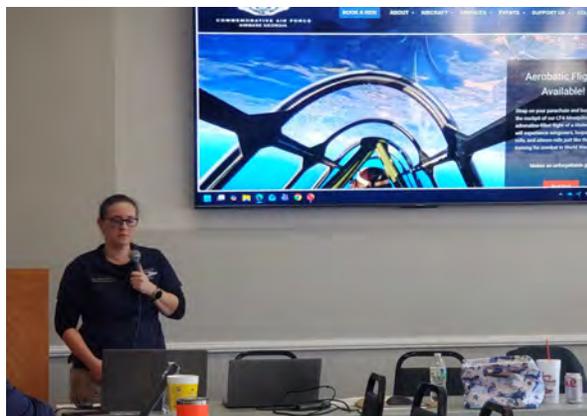
See the next page for your opportunity to volunteer for some great events!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
02-18	AOA Leadership Conference	0800 – 1800	Meeting Room
02-23	Trinity Christian School WWII Program	0900 – 1300	Airbase
02-27/3-1	Troop 75 O/Night camp out	All Day/Night	Airbase
03-10	ABG Advisory Committee Meeting	1730 – 1930	Meeting Room
03-14	ABG Rides Team Training	0900 – 1200	Meeting Room
03-19	Scouting America Fundraiser Dinner	1600 – 2100	Hangar
03-21	Whitewater Baseball Fundraiser	1730 – 2330	Hangar
03-22	Young Life Banquet	1600 – 2100	Hangar
03-28	Lanier Corvette Club	1000 – 1230	Tour
04-11	Brett Slagle Celebration of Life	0900 – 1700	Meeting Room
04-14	PTC Municipal Summit	0800 – 1400	Meeting Room
04-14	ABG Advisory Committee Meeting	1730 – 1930	Meeting Room
04-15	CEC Aviation Career Day	0900 – 1400	Hangar
04-18	PTC 3 rd Annual Hop's & Prop's	1600 – 2100	Hangar
04-24	FCEF 3 rd Annual Fayette Fling	1800 – 2200	Hangar
04-29	JD Conference	1700 – 2000	Meeting Room



Col Meribeth Britton does her best to teach a room full of “old dogs” new membership tricks.



1200 Echo Ct.
 Peachtree City, GA 30269
 Phone: 678-364-1110
<https://airbasegeorgia.org/>

On the horizon....

2026 Date(s)	Event	Plane(s)	Location
February 21	ABG Exterior Clean Up	---	P'tree City, GA
March 7	ABG Staff & Membership meetings CHILI COOKOFF	---	P'tree City, GA
March 13-16	GA Gun Shows, LLP – TO BE RESCHEDULED	---	P'tree City, GA
April 4	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
May 2	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
May 16-17	Flying Legends of Victory Airbase Arizona & Airbase Georgia	B-25, B-17 All ABG planes	PDK, Atlanta, GA
June 1-2	Fire Inspections	---	P'tree City, GA
June 5-7	Mid Atlantic Air Museum WWII Reenactment	TBA	Reading, PA
June 6	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
July 4	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
July 19-26	EAA AirVenture	P-51, SBD, LT-6, P-63, Corsair?	Fon Du Lac & Oshkosh, WI
August 1	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
September 5	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
September 19-20	PDK Good Neighbor Day Day & Night Airshow	P-51, SBD, LT-6, PT- 19, T-34	Atlanta, GA
October 3	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
October 31- November 1	Atlanta Airshow	TBA	P'tree City, GA
November 7	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
November 12-15	TRARON Formation Clinic	All	Tentative
November 14	Girls in Aviation Day	TBA	P'tree City, GA
November 20-22	GA Gun Shows, LLP	---	P'tree City, GA
December 5	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
December 12	ABG Christmas Party	---	P'tree City, GA

KEEP 'EM FLYING!



Articles and photos for publication in the Dispatch are welcomed and encouraged. Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month. For questions and submissions, email marsha.daly@airbasegeorgia.org