



# THE DISPATCH



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

April 2026

Educate, Inspire, Honor

Keep 'em flying

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Special Visitor: Daughter of a Tuskegee Airman
- US250 1940's Hangar Dance

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## From the left Seat

Col Mark Richards

In my February Dispatch article I explained how Airbase Georgia had formed an Advisory Committee to explore future growth for our organization, both internally and externally. At that time, I shared with you a vision for Airbase Georgia to not only be a flying museum, but to become a destination for education, history, and tourism. I also discussed how Airbase Georgia can become a more recognized supporting member of the community and the state.

A group of talented individuals from Airbase Georgia and our community volunteers comprise the advisory committee. Over the last few months, a lot of progress has been made in defining how we can responsibly grow and how Airbase Georgia can impact the communities with its programs.



The recent success of our Fifth Grade WWII Social Studies Program helped us realize several things for consideration in our growth planning:

- More square footage is needed
- An additional aircraft simulator is needed
- A greater number of volunteers for staffing the program(s) are needed
- The request to develop new and additional programs for other grades and other schools is at our front door and waiting for us to respond

The education program(s) is just

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## MEETING INFORMATION

May 2, 2026

Staff Meeting 0930 hrs.

Membership 1300 hrs,

## Staff Officers

### Airbase Leader

Col Mark Richards  
mark.richards@airbasegeorgia.com

### Executive Officer

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### Adjutant

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### Finance Officer

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### Maintenance Officer

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### Operations Officer

Col John Currenti  
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### Safety Officer

Col Dave Riesselmann  
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### Development Officer

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### Education Officer

Col Chris Madrid  
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### Recruiting Officer

Col Dave Serafin  
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### Public Information Officer

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### Marketing Officer

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### Aircraft Rides Officer

Col Yvonne Haley  
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### Air Show Scheduling

Col Heather Johnson  
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### Facility Rentals

Col Bill Brown  
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

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one aspect of our potential growth that needs to be considered, we are truly at a crossroads as a volunteer organization. Our success as an organization is measured by the strength and involvement of the volunteers. They are the glue that keeps our organization together, that works to sustain our mission to educate, inspire and honor.

Each aspect of what we do as an organization requires the efforts of volunteers. Safety, pilots, mechanics, machinists, welders, rides team, restoration team, ground crew, educators, Docents, event planning and staffing, records keeping, finance, administrative duties, social media, museum curator assistant, inventory control, and facility maintenance. Is there any one item on this list that you would like to learn more about and possibly volunteer to do?

In order to grow, we need people in critical positions to ensure our success and protect our future. I know many of you are doing all that you can to volunteer, and your efforts are appreciated and do not go unnoticed. However, we need others who don't fly, who are not an A&P, but would like to help grow other aspects of our organization. We are not only a flying museum, but we are also a business with so much potential that we need more volunteer staff.

In this month's article, I thought I would start some volunteer recruitment by listing several roles that you might be interested in filling. Each role has a brief job description for you to review and consider:

- **Social Media Liaison**
  - Can you operate a computer?
  - Can you use a cell phone to take pictures and record video?
  - Do you have a creative side?
  - Can you dedicate a few hours each week to record Airbase Georgia activities and submit to our PIO and social media group?
  - Can you attend and record some of the ABG events?
- **Accounts Payable**
  - Can you use a computer?
  - Are you familiar with QuickBooks or are you willing to learn?
  - Can you volunteer 3/4 hours a week as part of the finance team?
- **Educator**
  - Do you have a teaching background or are you willing to learn?
  - Would you like to help develop future education programs?

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- Would you like to help coordinate educational events?
- Do you have a flexible schedule for daytime events as well as evening events?

If you would like to learn more about these and other opportunities at Airbase Georgia, please contact me in person or call or text me at: Cell# (517 )902-8750. You can also email me at: mark.richards@airbasegeorgia.org I would appreciate the opportunity to meet and talk with you about your volunteer interests as well as sharing our growth vision and how you can be a part of it.

As I mentioned in last month's Dispatch article, this year is the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States of America, and the CAF and Airbase Georgia are planning to do their part to participate in the celebrations. We need help with some of the ABG events, can you volunteer to be part of the planning and or execution of the following:

- July 4<sup>th</sup> - Peachtree City Parade
  - Help design, build and display an Airbase Georgia Float
  - Contact Bob Grove or Mark Richards for more information
- October 17<sup>th</sup> - Airbase Georgia and Peachtree City Celebrate America 250 Swing Dance
  - Become a member of the Event Planning Team
  - Help plan and organize a 1940 themed Swing Dance
  - Contact Mark Richards for more information

These are two events being planned at Airbase Georgia to celebrate America 250 ...we need your help to make the events something special for our guests and the public to remember.

Would you like to help support "Women in Aviation"? Come out on Saturday May 9, 2026, from 0800 - 1100 and volunteer a few hours to help these ladies with a fund raiser.

- May 9<sup>th</sup> - Southern Skies Magnolia Pancake Breakfast Fly-In
  - 0800 - 1100 / Meeting Room & Ramp
  - Support Women in Aviation by assisting these ladies with their fundraiser
  - Assist with ramp shuttle service for fly-in aircraft
  - Keep the buffet line stocked
  - Share Airbase Georgia and its mission with the guests

Peachtree City and the surrounding area is the home to many Delta Pilot's and their families. They want to share a few hours of fun with their families here at Airbase Georgia on May 17, 2026, from 1500 - 1900 ..... Can you help and be part of the Airbase Georgia Event Team?

- May 17<sup>th</sup> - Delta Pilots Association Family Day / 1500 - 1900
  - Help with set-up on Saturday afternoon 5/16 from 1300 - 1600
  - Volunteer for the Event Team for Sunday 5/17 from 1400 - 1900
  - Help with golf cart shuttle service for the guests
  - Enjoy good food

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Contact me in person or call or text me at: Cell# (517 )902-8750. You can also email me at: [mark.richards@airbasegeorgia.org](mailto:mark.richards@airbasegeorgia.org) I will be glad to help you find a fit with one or more of our event teams.

Lastly, I want to thank all of our volunteers who came out to support this year's Peachtree City Hop's and Prop's. Our client was overwhelmed by our volunteers' customer service and willingness to do whatever was needed to support the event. I heard nothing but positive feedback, not only from our client, but from the attendees .... **JOB WELL DONE TEAM!!** 🇺🇸



**Scenes from Hops & Props**  
Photos courtesy of Col Mark Richards

## Recruiting Officer Report

Col Dave Serafin

Join me in welcoming four new members who were sworn in at the April meeting. 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of Col Marybeth Britton



Col Benjamin Parson



Col Bob Krueger



Col Keith Kise

Welcome to  
Airbase Georgia

## Safety Report

Col Dave Riesselmann

### Airbase Georgia Fire Response Plan

This month's training topic expands on our Fire Response Plan - built upon the guidance below, excerpted from the new CAF *Ground and Industrial Safety Guide*: (emphasis added)

- For small incipient stage fires, **first, call 911**, then attempt to control/extinguish the fire with portable fire extinguishers, if this can be done without injury. Please remember that **all unit personnel must have basic fire extinguisher training each year**. This training is specified in Annex A, Fire Protection.
- NOTE: If the fire cannot be extinguished **with the use of one fire extinguisher**, immediately evacuate the area and allow the professional firefighters to handle the fire. The time of acceleration of a fire is quite fast. It is based on factors that include the type of fuel, heat generated, and ventilation. A fire can spread exponentially while seeking a second extinguisher. Please remember that injury and death from fires occurs from inhalation of smoke and superheated gasses.

At the April meeting we conducted annual fire extinguisher training as directed. If a fire occurs the following steps comprise the official Airbase Georgia fire response plan:

1. **Ensure all personnel are safe from the immediate area of the fire**
2. **Call 911**
3. **Evacuate and Assemble**
4. **Accountability & First aid**
5. **Coordinate with professional response**

Notice that an attempt to fight the fire is not a priority in the response. In accordance with CAF guidance, the

call to 911 and evacuation is more important than an attempt to fight the fire. The Peachtree City Fire Department estimates their response to our facility is approximately four minutes and their arrival should not be delayed.

The "one fire extinguisher" rule can be useful in the decision to fight a fire, especially if you are alone. If you judge a single fire extinguisher would be effective in knocking down a fire after you call 911 then give it a try. If several colonels are available to simultaneously clear the immediate area and call 911, perhaps more than one extinguisher can be employed. Otherwise concentrate on evacuating the facility.

The normal assembly point for evacuation is the fire pit area on the north side of our facility. The paved areas must remain clear for the fire department's response. It is vitally important to determine that everyone present in the facility has been evacuated and is accounted for and injuries are addressed. In the case of a large or public event the grass area against the west fence will serve as the assembly point.

We will review fire alarm and sprinkler operation at the May meeting. 🇺🇸

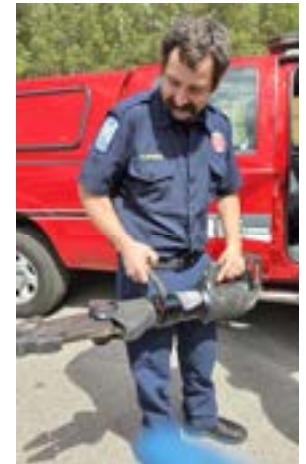
Colonel Dave Riesselmann  
safety@airbasegeorgia.org  
770-990-3643



# Fire Extinguisher Training Col Maribeth Britton



*Col Dave Mason demonstrates his skills*



*Col Malcolm Lelliott*



*Col Tony Berg*



*Col Gerhard Frenz demonstrates his skills*

## Development Report

### Col Philip Beegle

The development team continues to work on WWII Fighter Pilot in a Day. We had another successful meeting with the online sweepstakes company, TapKat, and CAF HQ. They have sent it to their legal, marketing, and fund-raising departments to make sure we stay legal. There is a lot more to nail down before we can begin the campaign, but we are on it!!!

The Thank You video for 12 Planes of Christmas has been sent out and we cannot thank our P-47 restoration team enough; without their hard work we would have never been able to raise over 100K. I know this is going to sound fast, but we are already in the works to plan this year's 12 Planes of Christmas. I would like to hear from members, which one of our aircraft do you think

we need to put into the campaign? Any aircraft can be submitted!

#### Expansion plans

Mark and the development committee met with the Atlanta Regional Airport leadership on possible expansion sites as well as a very productive meeting with an architect about possibly expanding our current museum. There are a lot of factors going into possible plans, for instance, can we expand our museum, is there enough green space to meet with Peachtree city zoning. Once we get an idea of what is possible and affordable, we will present it to the members for their feedback. After all, YOU are the reason we are able to Keep 'em flying. 🇺🇸



## Special Visitor

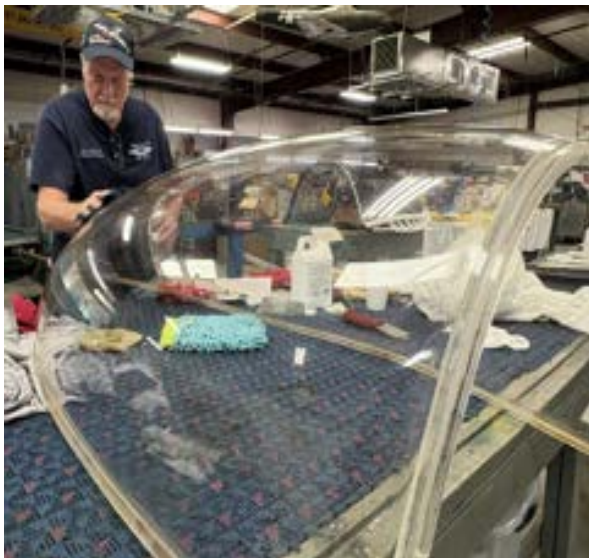
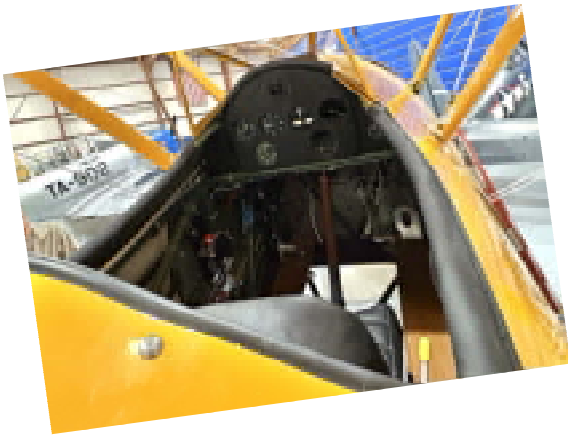
### Carla Reid

Carla Reid visited Airbase Georgia to view our Fairchild PT-19A. The PT-19A was one of the planes her father trained in when he served with the Tuskegee Airman. 🇺🇸



Photos courtesy Col Charles Burcher

## Around the Hangar Col Charles Burcher



*Cols Geoff Lelliott & Kristin Kopp*

*Col Gary Spencer polishes the plexiglass canopy*

## Education Officer Report

Col Chris Madrid

### April 2026 Education Report: Building Momentum Through Aviation and Civic Engagement

April marked a meaningful step forward in Commemorative Air Force Airbase Georgia's education and community engagement efforts, highlighted by two milestone events that reinforce the organization's commitment to inspiring the next generation.

On April 15, Airbase Georgia hosted its first-ever Aviation Career Day—a proof-of-concept initiative designed to connect students directly with aviation professionals. Requested by Central Education Center, the event brought together 25 students and five employers representing a cross-section of aviation careers, from piloting and maintenance to engineering and operations. While intentionally small in scale, the program delivered high-impact engagement, allowing students to ask questions, explore pathways, and gain exposure to real-world opportunities in aviation.

The success of this pilot event has already informed future planning. Building on the strong response from both students and industry participants, Airbase Georgia will expand the concept into a metro-wide Aviation Career Day scheduled for November 14. This larger event is expected to significantly broaden participation and deepen business and education partnerships across the regional aviation ecosystem.

In addition to workforce-focused programming, Airbase Georgia continues to invest in civic education. On April 21, the organization proudly sponsored the Fayette County Civics Bee, an initiative that encourages middle school students to engage with civic knowledge and responsibilities. The event was

attended by Airbase Leader Mark Richards and Public Information Officer Steve Forsyth, reinforcing organizational

leadership's visible commitment to education and community engagement. Supporting events like the Civics Bee reflects Airbase Georgia's belief that strong communities are built not only through technical and career readiness, but also through informed and active citizenship.

These April milestones build on the momentum of the recently completed World War II Living History Program, which engaged Fayette County 5th grade students in immersive, curriculum-aligned experiences. That program demonstrated the unique ability of Airbase Georgia to bring history to life—connecting classroom learning with tangible artifacts, aircraft, and personal stories from the WWII era.

As these programs continue to grow, member involvement remains essential. Members who are interested in supporting student programming in the coming year are encouraged to connect with Bill Brown to explore opportunities for engagement. Whether assisting with educational events, mentoring students, or helping expand outreach, volunteer support will play a key role in scaling these initiatives.

In addition, members are invited to join the docent team for weekly tours. Docents serve as ambassadors of Airbase Georgia's mission, sharing the history and significance of its aircraft and programs with visitors of all ages. It is a meaningful way to contribute while helping preserve and promote aviation heritage.



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Together, these efforts reflect a clear and growing commitment: to educate, to inspire, and to connect. April's activities represent not just individual successes, but the foundation of a sustained education strategy that positions Airbase Georgia as a leading force in aviation education and community engagement across the region. 🇺🇸



## Facility Rentals & Events Report

Col Bill Brown



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
04-29	J. Dalton Event	1700 – 2000	Meeting Room
05-01	Lee Promotion Ceremony	1200 – 1400	Hangar/Meeting Room
05-03	Starr's Mill Families Graduation Party	0100 – 1600	Hangar/Meeting Room
05-09	Southern Skies Magnolia Pancake Fly-In	0800 – 1100	Meeting Room
05-12	ABG Advisory Committee Meeting	1730 – 1930	Meeting Room
05-17	Delta Pilots Association Family Day	1500 – 1900	Hangar/Meeting Room
05-30	Gwen's Graduation Party	1500 – 1900	Meeting Room



## US250 1940s Hangar Dance – October 17, 2026

Col Chris Madrid

Airbase Georgia is preparing to host a truly unforgettable evening as part of the nationwide US250 celebration—a 1940s-themed Hangar Dance set for October 17, 2026. This signature event will transform the hangar into a living tribute to the World War II era, blending music, history, and community in a way that honors the past while inspiring the future.

Guests can look forward to an immersive experience featuring the sights and sounds of the 1940s—set against the iconic backdrop of historic aircraft and the stories they carry. The evening will be designed not just as an event, but as a shared moment of remembrance, celebration, and connection across generations.

To bring this vision to life, volunteers are invited to play a key role in shaping the experience. Opportunities will include supporting event design and operations, assisting with ticket sales and sponsorship outreach, and helping curate a compelling silent auction. This is a chance to contribute to something meaningful while helping create a premier community event.

Additional details—including how to get involved—will be shared at the May membership meeting. For now, mark your calendar and be part of what promises to become a signature tradition for Airbase Georgia and the broader community. 🇺🇸





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

## On the horizon....

2026 Date(s)	Event	Plane(s)	Location
May 2	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
May 9	CAF Airbase AZ & Birmingham Escadrille Joint Rides Day	LT-6, PT-19	Shelby County Airport, Calera, AL
May 9	Harris County Airport Open House	T-34	Pine Mountain, GA
May 11-18	ABG Rides Day	P-51, SBD, LT-6	Birmingham, AL
May 11-18	CAF Airbase AZ "Flying Legends of Victory Tour"	B-17, B-25	PDK, Atlanta, GA
May 14-17	ABG Rides Day	ALL - Rides & Static	PDK, Atlanta, GA
May 23	ABG Rides Day	P-51, SBD, LT-6, PT-19, T-34	Ben Epps Airport, Athens, GA
June 3-7	Mid-Atlantic Air Museum WWII Weekend	P-51, SBD, LT-6, P-63, Corsair?	Reading Regional Airport, Reading, PA
June 13	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
June 26-27	CAF Music City Wing Ride Day	P51 (possibly P-63 or Corsair)	Lebanon Municipal Airport, Lebanon, TN
July 11	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
July 19-26	EAA AirVenture	P-51, SBD, LT-6, PT-19, T-34	Whitman Field & Fond 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 12	ABG Rides Day	P-51, SBD, LT-6, PT-19, T-34	Agusta Regional Airport Augusta, GA
September 19-20	Good Neighbor Day	P-51, SBD, LT-6, PT-19, T-34	PDK, Atlanta, GA
September 26	ABG Rides Day	P-51, SBD, LT-6, PT-19, T-34	Middle GA Regional Airport, Macon, GA
October 3	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
October 1	ABG Formation Clinic	LT-6, T-34, P-51, P-63, SBD, PT-19, P-17, Corsair	P'tree City, GA
October 14-18	TVR Formation Clinic	LT-6, T-34	
October 17	US250 1940's Hangar Dance	---	P'tree City, GA
October 24	Pixel Man Airshow	LT-6, T-34, PT-19	Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport, Gainesville, GA
October 24-November 6	TPS	P-51	Elgin, AFB
October 31-November 1	Atlanta Airshow	TBD	P'tree City, GA
November 7	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
November 14	Aviation Futures Day-Women in Aviation	---	P'tree City, GA
November 20-22	GA Gun Shows, LLLP	---	P'tree City, GA
November 21	ABG Rides Day	All	P'tree City, GA
December 5	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
December 13	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](mailto:marsha.daly@airbasegeorgia.org)