



THE DISPATCH



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

May-June 2026

Educate, Inspire, Honor

Keep 'em flyin

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Member Engagement
- CPR Training at ABG
- Camp Soar Above
- Aviation Career Day
- Moonlight Swing

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- New Members Sworn In
- Safety Report
- Education Report
- On the Horizon

From the left Seat

Col Mark Richards

As Airbase Georgia continues planning for its next phase of growth, I wanted to share a brief update on several developments that have emerged from recent Advisory Committee discussions and the valuable guidance provided by this committee.

At the June 9th meeting, committee members participated in a productive discussion regarding the preparation required for a future capital campaign. The conversation helped identify several important components necessary to position Airbase Georgia for success, including campaign messaging, donor engagement strategies, community awareness, strategic partnerships, and the development



of supporting communications materials.

Most notably, a recent conversation between a committee member and regional development leaders revealed a potential \$200,000 matching-grant opportunity that may support future expansion initiatives. While exploratory in nature, this discovery highlights the value of the relationships, expertise, and community connections represented around the Advisory Committee table.

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MEETING INFORMATION

August 1, 2026

Staff Meeting 0930 hrs.

Membership 1300 hrs,

Staff Officers

Airbase Leader

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Executive Officer

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Safety Officer

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Education Officer

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Aircraft Rides Officer

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Facility Rentals

Col Bill Brown
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The committee's discussion was particularly timely as Airbase Georgia continues evaluating opportunities to expand its educational, community engagement, and operational capabilities. As these opportunities continue to develop, we are beginning to prepare the messaging, partnerships, and fundraising strategies necessary to support our next phase of growth.

Momentum continues to build.

On June 10th, members of the Airbase Georgia leadership team met with representatives from the Peachtree City Convention & Visitors Bureau to discuss strategic positioning and storytelling opportunities. Several promising ideas emerged from the discussion, including the potential development of a video highlighting Airbase Georgia's educational mission and community impact. Additional discussions focused on strengthening sponsorship communications and refining the organization's ability to communicate its long-term vision to community leaders and prospective supporters.

These conversations reinforce an important theme that continues to emerge: Airbase Georgia's story is larger than aircraft. It is a story about education, preservation,

workforce development, community engagement, and inspiring future generations through the lessons and legacy of the Greatest Generation.

That perspective has also influenced the evolution of Moonlight Swing.

Originally conceived as a fundraising event celebrating America's 250th Anniversary, Moonlight Swing is now being positioned as the public kickoff of Airbase Georgia's future capital campaign. The event will provide an opportunity to introduce community leaders, sponsors, and prospective supporters to the vision for Airbase Georgia's next chapter while celebrating the history and values that continue to inspire our mission.

The results of Airbase Georgia's feasibility study conducted last year demonstrated strong support for expanding our educational programming, initiatives in workforce-development, and community engagement activities. As planning continues, those priorities remain central to our long-term vision.

Looking Ahead

- Continued evaluation of future growth and expansion opportunities.

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- Development of major-donor and campaign messaging.
- Launch of Moonlight Swing sponsorship outreach and community engagement activities.
- Exploration of new storytelling and awareness initiatives highlighting Airbase Georgia's educational and community impact.
- Identification of opportunities for Advisory Committee members to serve as advocates, ambassadors, and connectors as planning progresses.

The expertise, relationships, and perspectives represented on this committee are helping Airbase Georgia think more strategically about how we expand our educational impact, strengthen our connection to the community, and position Airbase Georgia for long-term success. It is becoming increasingly clear that the Advisory Committee is already making a difference. Along with the continued support from CAF Headquarters, we are positioning Airbase Georgia's future and relevancy for the next twenty years. 🇺🇸



How many supervisors does it take to watch a Jacobs engine being hung on a Stearman?
We can never have enough "safety observers?"

(photo courtesy of Col Tom Walsh)



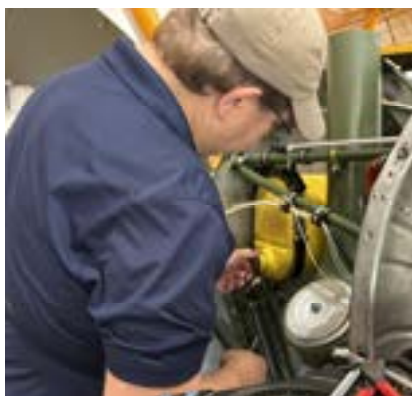
Cols Claire Reid, Lorraine Deloach and Jane Simpson give the ladies room a fresh look.

(Photo courtesy Col Charles Burcher)

Stearman Project

Col Charles Burcher

The amazing Restoration Team is hard at work. The engine is on and the gas tank is in!



Member Engagement

Col Marybeth Britton

As mentioned at the May meeting, our social media public interaction has been down significantly compared to the same period last year. To increase the interaction, we would like to have members submit **videos and photos** to our social media team for usage.

We have made this easy for all now, thanks to help from Col Jeff Clark. When you login to our Airbase Georgia website, under the Colonels menu select **Member Resources** and in that list is a link to **Upload Content for Social Media**.

Jeff has made this super easy for everyone to do from their selected devices. While we welcome all photos and videos, it is the videos that tend to get more interaction on social media. Short clips are best. Remember that the general public does not get the experience we have each day at Airbase Georgia, so even if what you see is something you've seen one hundred times, the general public has not.

The instructions posted online direct you to send an email to our social media person after you have uploaded content and let him know who it is from and any description of what the video or photo is about. This is an optional step for those who wish to have credit for their submission. 🇺🇸

Social Media

Airbase Georgia welcomes members to share content for our social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram). Posts that highlight activity around the hangar, aircraft maintenance, engine starts, or our airplanes in flight help showcase our community and strengthen public engagement.

Video content is preferred, though photos are also encouraged.

Note that any content depicting aircraft operations or maintenance must be reviewed and approved by staff prior to posting.

To contribute, upload your content using the button below. After submitting, please email Kevin McNulty at kevin@netweareonline.com with details about your submission so we can properly feature your post.

UPLOAD CONTENT

Delta Flight Museum

Return to Normandy: June 1, 2026



Cols Robyn Rosenzweig and Vince Garland enjoying time with other reenactors and the WWII Veterans that were making the return trip to France for the D-Day remembrances. 🇺🇸



Recruiting Officer Report

Col Dave Serafin

+



Please join me in welcoming Cols Claire Reid and Lefty Schubert who were sworn in at the May Membership Meeting and Cindy Hawkins who was sworn in at the June Membership Meeting. 🇺🇸



ABG Crew at Fulton County Airport April 30th for the Hill Aviation 70th anniversary open house. Also pictured is a DC-3 owned by Coca Cola. The original company airplane.

(photos courtesy of Col Tom Walsh)



L-R pictured, Tom Walsh, Andy Cash, Ron Gause, Bill Brown Mark Richards, Jim Prendergast, Jim Dalton, and Robert Harris. Not pictured but attended Jane Simpson.

2025 Airbase Georgia Rides Events

Col Yvonne Haley

Volunteers and Promotion are needed for the 2026 scheduled ride events. Help us get the word out that Airbase Georgia is bringing Warbirds to local communities.

Please reach out to me with any questions and especially if you can volunteer to help make an event memorable for the public.

JUNE 27: Lebanon, TN KM54 9am—5pm
Joint ride event with CAF Music City Wing

SEPTEMBER 12: Augusta, GA KAGS 9am—5pm

SEPTEMBER 19-20: Atlanta, GA KPDK 9am—5pm
Good Neighbor Day Airshow

SEPTEMBER 26: Macon, GA KMCN 9am—5pm

OCTOBER 24: Gainesville, GA KGVF 9am—3pm
The Pixel Man Air Show

Docent, PX, Rides, and General Volunteers are needed for these events. Please contact Col Yvonne Haley if you can volunteer at 678-313-6835 or Rides@airbasegeorgia.org 



Eagle Scout Project: Successful



Col George Harrison chats with Brendan Childs. Brendan constructed a wind tunnel for his Eagle Scout Project.

(Photos courtesy Col Charles

Safety Report

Col Dave Riesselmann

Hot weather is upon us. Our busy airshow and rides activities will expose pilots and ground crew alike to the threats of dehydration and heat illness. The chart below coincides with those posted around the Airbase Georgia facility to alert you to your state of hydration.



Treatment for severe hydration may include administration of IV fluid, which requires professional help. Consider a trip to urgent care or call 911. The best prevention is to drink water before you feel thirsty. If you recognize you are becoming dehydrated,

quit what you are doing for a half hour or so, drink some water, and cool off.

Dehydration could certainly contribute to the various heat illnesses

listed below. Most critical to consider are heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which require immediate intervention.



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It's a lot of information and the two conditions may share similar symptoms, except that heat stroke involves the equivalent of a fever (elevated body temperature) and absence of heavy sweating. IF YOU SUSPECT HEAT STROKE CALL 911.

Bottom line: Stay hydrated early - as you can see above, pouring water down someone's throat when they're suffering from either heat exhaustion or heat stroke is not the answer. Drink water BEFORE you get thirsty.

Don't tough it out if you're feeling poorly. Let your fellow colonels know you need a break to cool off.

Take advantage of shade wherever it is provided.

This is a perfect moment to emphasize a key overall theme for safe operations here at Airbase Georgia - Mutual Support. Encourage those around you to drink water early and often and remain alert for anyone who appears to be slowing down or not feeling 100%. 🇺🇸

ICE CREAM SOCIAL Fundraiser



Join us after the July meeting for Sundaes!
Proceeds will support our education efforts.

What better way to cool off!!



Warbird Tube: P-47 Thunderbolt Restoration Update

Col Chris Madrid

One of the most exciting projects underway at Airbase Georgia is the restoration of our rare Republic P-47N Thunderbolt. Featured in the April 24, 2026 episode of *Warbird Tube*, this update takes viewers behind the scenes of the ongoing work to return this iconic World War II fighter to flying condition.

Although the episode has already been viewed nearly 3,000 times, many Airbase Georgia members may not have had the opportunity to watch it. The video provides an excellent look at the progress being made by our restoration

volunteers and offers insight into the challenges and craftsmanship involved in bringing a historic warbird back to life.

The P-47 is just one of several Airbase Georgia aircraft featured on *Warbird Tube*. Members and supporters can also explore previous episodes highlighting the restoration and operation of our SBD Dauntless, PT-19 Cornell, P-51 Mustang, and Stearman projects.

We encourage you to watch the latest episode and share it with friends and family who are interested in preserving America's aviation heritage. 🇺🇸

Watch this episode: [Warbird Tube: P-47 Restoration Update](#)

P-63 Receives some TLC

Col Charles Burcher



Cols Forest Buchanan (left) & John Miller (right) clean & service the P-63 after its return from the Reading WWII Weekend.



Education Report

Col Chris Madrid

Keeping D-Day Alive Through Education

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we are exploring opportunities to expand our educational reach by introducing Georgia-focused World War II history programming for eighth-grade students. Georgia played a vital role in the war effort, from military training installations and aircraft production to prisoner-of-war camps and home-front mobilization. By helping students discover the stories that occurred in their own communities and across our state, we hope to create deeper connections between local history and national history.

This effort reflects an important lesson learned through our educational work: history becomes most meaningful when students can see how national events affected the places where they live today.

We are also exploring ways to strengthen the educational experience for every visitor who comes through our hangar doors. One area of focus is volunteer docent development. Airbase Georgia is evaluating interpretive training approaches used by the University of West Georgia's museum studies program to help our volunteers design and deliver more engaging tours and educational experiences. By equipping our volunteers with additional tools and techniques for storytelling, interpretation, and audience engagement, we can better connect visitors of all ages with the people, aircraft, and events that shaped the World War II generation.

At the same time, Airbase Georgia continues to connect history with the future.

The aviation pioneers, engineers, mechanics, and pilots who contributed to victory during World War II helped shape the aerospace industry that remains vital to Georgia's economy today. Through our growing Aviation Career Awareness initiative, we are helping students understand how the legacy of aviation innovation continues through

modern careers in aerospace, engineering, maintenance, logistics, manufacturing, and flight operations.



To support that mission, Airbase Georgia plans to host a Metro Atlanta Aviation Career Fair on November 14, 2026. The event will bring together aviation employers, educational institutions, military organizations, and industry partners to introduce high school juniors and seniors to career pathways throughout the aviation and aerospace sector.

We are also working with the Technical College System of Georgia to engage the state's network of College & Career Academies, including approximately fifteen academies that currently offer aviation-related pathways. By connecting students directly with industry professionals and educational opportunities, we hope to inspire the next generation of pilots, technicians, engineers, and aviation leaders.

Although more than eight decades have passed since D-Day, its lessons remain relevant today. The values demonstrated by the men and women of World War II—service, perseverance, teamwork, innovation, and leadership—continue to influence the challenges and opportunities facing our nation.

At Airbase Georgia, preserving those stories is about more than remembering the past. It is about helping young people understand how history shaped the world they inherit and encouraging them to become the leaders who will shape its future.

That is how we keep D-Day alive—not only through remembrance, but through education. 🇺🇸



Please consider joining the Docent Team! No experience needed, just a love of sharing information on our amazing fleet. Training will be provided. See any of the Red Shirt Docents for more information.



Col George Harrison sharing his knowledge of the P-51 Mustang with his young audience.



(Photos courtesy of Col Charles Burcher)

Tidbits you will learn:

SBD Dauntless

- It sank more shipping than any other bomber.
- At the Battle of Midway three Japanese carriers were disabled within 15 minutes. The Japanese lost all their planes and two thirds of their crews from those three carriers.
- Open, the dive brakes hold the dive speed to 250 mph.
- It shot down more Japanese planes than were shot down by Japanese planes.



Saturday, July 18th, 1300-1600

Open to any Airbase Georgia colonel

Anyone who trained two years ago is due for refresher training.

Notify me at safety@airbasegeorgia.org to attend.

Camp Soar Above

Col Chris Madrid

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, CAF Airbase Georgia hosted "Camp Soar Above" which is an annual FCAP (Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel) youth Christian ministry event held here connecting Christian youth to aviation.

Flight Instructors from the University of Auburn and Wings of Grace Ministries were in attendance to answer the group's questions and conducted Discovery Flights with their aircraft. Airbase Georgia hosted the event providing ramp safety and marshalling services along with group hangar tours and the history of the CAF, its aircraft and mission. 🇺🇸



Airbase Georgia Featured in Peachtree City Magazine

Col Chris Madrid

Airbase Georgia was recently highlighted in *Peachtree City Magazine*, showcasing how our organization is evolving from a warbird preservation group into a center for aviation history, education, and living history experiences.

The article highlights our fleet of historic aircraft, dedicated volunteer corps, restoration programs, and growing educational outreach efforts that connect new generations with the stories of World War II aviation. It also emphasizes Airbase Georgia's role as a unique heritage tourism destination, welcoming visitors from across Georgia and beyond to experience history through aircraft, exhibits, tours, and living history programs.

As Airbase Georgia looks toward the future, the article reflects the organization's expanding mission to preserve history, inspire future aviation and aerospace professionals, and serve the community through education and public engagement.

Read the full article in *Peachtree City Magazine* to learn how Airbase Georgia continues to honor the legacy of the Greatest Generation while inspiring the next generation of leaders, innovators, and aviators. 🇺🇸

Link: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/mlxds/Peachtree-City-Magazine-Spr-Sum-2026/#p=16>.



us HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA us



We are launching an exciting, new documentary series in conjunction with [Visit Peachtree City](#) and [CAF Airbase Georgia](#) called [Hidden in Plain Sight](#).

This year, in commemoration of America's 250th, the series highlights the heroes that live in our own communities, some of whom carry the scars of war, all of whom served us so that we can enjoy freedom.

[Episode 1](#) is about [Maj. Gen. George B. Harrison](#), and his experiences flying the F-4 Phantom in Vietnam, helping design the F-16 cockpit configurations, and serving his community today through flight and living history through the Commemorative Air Force Museum.

If you want updates on future episodes, sign up for our emails [here](#).

If you know anyone who serves or has served our country in the armed forces, please consider sharing this series with them, and thanking them for their service.

Happy 250th America.

Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's 2026 WWII Weekend

Col Tom Walsh



Cols John Currenti in the Mustang,
and Mark Todd in the P-63



Around the Shop

Col Charles Burcher



Canopies, Canopies! Col Gary Spenser polishes
the P-47 canopy, while Col Mike McGowan
polishes a spare T-34 canopy.

Airbase Georgia hosts Airbase Arizona Visit Col Gerhard Frenz



Airbase Georgia Hosts Aviation Career Day for Students

Col Steve Forsyth, Public Information Officer

PEACHTREE CITY, GA. (May 4, 2026) – The first Aviation Career Day hosted by Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia provided an overview of various aviation careers for 27 students from the Coweta County Education Center. Airbase Georgia invited five organizations to present information to the students: the Federal Aviation Administration, Koch Aviation, Academy of Aviation, U.S. Aviation Academy and Middle Georgia State University.

“As part of our education mission, Airbase Georgia organized a full day in which the students broke into groups and rotated to stations provided by each of the aviation organizations,” said Airbase Leader Mark Richards. “The students also enjoyed a tour of the Airbase hangar and maintenance shops to further illustrate aviation roles.”

Student comments after the event reflected how much they appreciated learning about career opportunities and seeing WWII vintage aircraft.

An even larger event is planned for Nov. 14, when Airbase Georgia has scheduled a metro-area Aviation Career Day to draw students from the Atlanta area as well as Fayette and Coweta counties.

“This year is especially significant as we have dedicated the season to America’s 250th birthday,” Richards said. “We also use our historic aircraft throughout the year to inspire careers in aviation, since young airshow attendees can experience firsthand the breadth of the aviation industry represented by our unique planes.”



Aviation Career Day students enjoy a close-up look at the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia WWII aircraft, including this PT-19 Trainer, along with hearing about aviation careers from five organizations. (photo courtesy of CAF Airbase Georgia)

About the CAF Airbase Georgia CAF Airbase Georgia, based at Atlanta Regional Airport -Falcon Field in Peachtree City, Ga., was founded in 1987. The Airbase is one of the largest units of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF). The group maintains and flies seven vintage military aircraft including a P-51 Mustang, an FG-1D Corsair, an SBD Dauntless, an LT-6 Mosquito, a P-63A Kingcobra, a PT-19 Cornell and a T-34 Mentor. Under restoration are an N2S Stearman and P-47 Thunderbolt. The Airbase, composed of more than 300 volunteer members, is a founding partner of the Georgia WWII Heritage Trail launched in 2021. The Airbase is part of the CAF, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that relies on contributions of time and funds to conduct its mission. 🇺🇸





The P-51 Returns Home

P-51 Crew Chief Col Rodney Higginbotham (left) consults with Operations Officer Col John Currenti (right) during the Annual Inspection

(Photo courtesy Col Charles Burcher)



Pancake Day by the Southern Magnolias air racing team.

(Photos courtesy of Col Steve Forsyth)

Col Mark Richards and Britta Bynum representing Women in Aviation Wheels Down South chapter.



MOONLIGHT SWING
— AN EVENING OF —
BIG BAND DANCING & LIVE MUSIC

Celebrating America 250

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2026 | 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Featuring Peachtree Jazz Edition
PURCHASE TICKETS AT AIRBASEGEORGIA.ORG

CAF AIRBASE GEORGIA
1200 ECHO CT, PEACHTREE CITY, GA 30269

CATERED DINNER INCLUDED **\$150** **\$1,500**
PER TICKET — TABLE OF 8 —

AIRBASE GEORGIA
VISIT Peachtree CITY



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

KEEP 'EM FLYING!



On the horizon....

2026 Date(s)	Event	Plane(s)	Location
June 26-28	CAF Music City Wing Rides Day	P51 (possibly P-63 or Corsair)	Lebanon Municipal Airport, Lebanon, TN
July 3-5	Duck Creek Air Show	P-51	South Grand Lake, Ketchum, OK
July 4	Flay a Veteran	CAF Planes across the country	CAF Units
July 11	ABG Staff & Membership meetings ICE CREAM SOCIAL	---	P'tree City, GA
July 18	CPR Training	---	P'tree City, GA
July 19-26	EAA AirVenture	P-51, SBD, LT-6, P-63, T-34	Whitman Field & Fond du Lac, Oshkosh WI
August 1	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
August 21	MCAS Cherry Point	SBD	Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point
August 29	Birmingham Joint Rides Day	SBD, LT-6, PT-19, T-34	Shelby County Airport, Calera AL
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 1-4	ABG Formation Clinic	LT-6, T-34, P-51, P-63, SBD, PT-19, P-17, Corsair	P'tree City, GA
October 3	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	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	Metro Atlanta Aviation Career Day	---	P'tree City, GA
November 20-22	GA Gun Shows, LLLP	---	P'tree City, GA
December 5	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA
December 12	ABG Christmas party	---	P'tree City, GA
January 2, 2027	ABG Staff & Membership meetings	---	P'tree City, GA

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