



THE DISPATCH



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

September-October 2026

Educate, Inspire, Honor

Keep 'em flying

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ABG Election Information
- Stearman Ribbon Cutting & Citizen's Choice Awards
- Georgia WWII Heritage Trail
- Docent's Corner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Safety Report
- Recruiting Report
- Education Report
- On the Horizon

From the left Seat

Col Mark Richards

Stearman Ribbon Cutting

On Thursday, September 24, 2026, Airbase Georgia Members along with members from the Fayette Chamber, helped dedicate (with a Ribbon Cutting) our newest restored aircraft, the 1941 Boeing N2S Stearman. After six years, and over 37,000 man hours, this restoration is coming to completion with some final tweaks, adjustments and paperwork. This aircraft will soon join our rides and airshow programs, putting a check mark next to "bucket list" items for many riders and observers.

What's so amazing about this restoration is the diverse number of members who worked to restore it. Dedicated to the Rosie the Riveters of WWII, this aircraft, constructed with a lot of wood, fabric, and glue had many of our female



members learning, and then doing the restoration work on the wings and control surfaces, just like the WWII Rosies. The entire restoration team and their work are nothing short of phenomenal. Not to leave anyone out, but the painting on this aircraft is spectacular, and this was another part of the restoration that had to be learned. We are blessed with a membership of talented and motivated people who made this restoration possible.

Thank you one and all for your unwavering determination and talents to complete this restoration project.

(continued on page 2)

MEETING INFORMATION

October 3, November 3, & December 5, 2026

Staff Meeting 0930 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
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Finance Officer

Col Mike McElduff
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Maintenance Officer

Col Randy Hawkins
maintenance@airbasegeorgia.org

Operations Officer

Col John Currenti
operations@airbasegeorgia.org

Safety Officer

Col Dave Riesselmann
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Development Officer

Col Philip Beegle
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Education Officer

Col Bill Brown
education@airbasegeorgia.org

Recruiting Officer

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Col Steve Forsyth
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Marketing Officer

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Aircraft Rides Officer

Col Yvonne Haley
rides@airbasegeorgia.org

Air Show Scheduling

Col Heather Johnson
heather.johnson@airbasegeorgia.org

Facility Rentals

Col Jeff White
facilityrentals@airbasegeorgia.org

(continued from page 1)

Preparing for the next 25 years / Airbase Georgia Expansion

Every business is compelled to examine its business plan on a regular basis, it's a strategic process to ensure the plan remains realistic and is aligned with business reality. Its goals are to **validate, refine, and align** the current plan so it can effectively guide operations, attract funding, and adapt to change.

Bottom line: The goal is to make sure our business plan is realistic, actionable, and adaptable, serving as both a roadmap and a living guide for growth and resilience.

As part of our business plan, Airbase Georgia is focusing on an expansion plan that will create new opportunities to preserve military aviation history, educate future generations, inspire tomorrow's aviation workforce, and promote local tourism. The opportunity created by the hangar expansion is to increase and diversify revenue by expanding how we utilize the

aircraft and the other assets we already have.

Today, much of the revenue associated with our aircraft depends upon what happens when an aircraft leaves the hangar, such as air shows, rides and other flying activities. The hangar expansion potentially gives us the ability to create value while the aircraft are in the hangar as well. The same aircraft can fly at an air show, provide rides, serve as the centerpiece of an education or career-awareness program, attract museum visitors, demonstrate restoration and maintenance skills, engage an aerospace employer, provide a sponsorship opportunity and inspire a donor. Even an aircraft undergoing maintenance can continue to create value as an educational resource, visitor attraction or restoration story.

Our current business plan relies almost in its entirety on "Prop Turning Revenue", eighty percent of our revenue comes from our aircraft

(continued on page 3)



Public visiting days for Airbase Georgia have changed, effective Sept. 21, to improve convenience for guests. The new schedule is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. the first Sunday of each month. Docent tours begin at 10 a.m. Admission is free.

This new schedule will provide the same number of visitor days, plus the extra Sunday afternoon each month. This change will provide the same quality tours and make visits more convenient for weekend travelers. 🇺🇸

(continued from page 2)

operations. As we've experienced this year, eighty-year-old aircraft can have unforeseen mechanical issues that affect their ability to bring in revenue. These mechanical breakdowns have accounted for a loss of approximately 10% of our total revenue for 2026. The hangar expansion and the programs that it can bring helps to fulfill the realistic, actionable, and adaptable part of our business plan.

The hangar expansion itself could support three complimentary platforms to our aircraft: **Education & Career Awareness, Museum & Visitor Experience, and Aircraft Maintenance & Restoration** — with our historic aircraft serving as the common strategic assets connecting all three.

The proposed revised business plan that includes the hangar expansion **does not replace** the aircraft or its revenue. We are trying to surround the aircraft with additional sources of support, “non-Prop Turning Revenue” that makes Airbase Georgia more financially resilient and better able to preserve and operate the aircraft.

We are fortunate to have many local organizations and businesses committed and involved to help us achieve this type of diversification in our business plan.

Moonlight Swing

As I stated in my last Dispatch article, our upcoming October 17, 2026, Moonlight Swing event will celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, it will also serve as the public launch of Airbase Georgia's Capital Campaign to expand its hangar and education facilities. This expansion will create new opportunities to preserve military aviation history, educate future generations, inspire tomorrow's aviation workforce, create working partnerships within the aviation community, and promote local tourism. Moonlight Swing is more than a gala, every guest and every sponsor becomes part of the event's mission.

We are extremely grateful to Delta Air Lines, who has graciously committed to be our Title Sponsor. Delta's sponsorship reflects a partnership rooted in a shared commitment to aviation history. We are honored to have them supporting Airbase Georgia's mission of preserving history, expanding education, and inspiring future generations.

How do I get involved

Moonlight Swing is being designed as an immersive 1945 experience, and our cast of reenactors and volunteers will help bring that era back to life. We are looking for people interested in portraying military aircrew, aviation mechanics, military doctors, nurses, home-front civilians, Rosies, news reporters, and other period characters.

No acting or reenacting experience is required. Whether you have period correct attire and experience or simply want to participate and help create the atmosphere for the evening, there is a place for you.

Cast members will interact with guests and help create the feeling that they have stepped back into an elegant American hotel near a military airfield in late 1945 complete with a swing dance celebration. Cast members will have access to a dedicated hospitality tent with food and refreshments and, when their production responsibilities permit, are welcome to enjoy the music and join in the dancing.

Please note that dinner and table seating are reserved for sponsors, reserved-table guests, and individual ticket holders.

There are still a few cast / reenactor positions open that can be filled by Airbase Georgia members. If you would like to help, **bring 1945 to life at Airbase Georgia**, we would love to have you join the team. Please contact one of the following members:

- Chris Madrid, Marybeth Britton, Bill Brown, Jane Simpson, Mark Richards

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

To transform the airbase into this 1940's event, we will be starting the cleaning and set-up on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, and will continue through Friday, October 16, 2026. The Airbase will be closed to visitors during the week of the Moonlight Swing event with limited work in the hangar and shop.

If you would like to help and be part of the set-up and/or tear-down team, please contact Jeff White.

The Georgia Barnstorming Tour

The Georgia Barnstorming Tour is off and running with ride events completed at Toccoa, PDK and Augusta. Next up is the Pixel Mann Airshow in Gainesville, GA and a rides day in Athens, GA, both on October 24. The Air Dot Show Atlanta here at Falcon Field featuring the Blue Angels will be held October 31 through November 1, with rides being

offered in the Airbase Georgia aircraft on both days. The Georgia Barnstorming Tour will conclude with a two-day event again here at Falcon Field on November 21 and 22 during the 2nd annual GA Gun Show. These statewide events are great for any Airbase Georgia member to get involved as a Docent, as a member of the PX Team, or to learn more about becoming a member of the rides team.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please reach out to me or any member of the rides team. We will help you get in touch with the right people and get you signed up.

It Doesn't Happen Without You

None of what we do is possible without the help and support of our Airbase Georgia Members. Every act of volunteering is valued and appreciated. Our members are the glue that keep us together and keep us moving forward Thank you! 🇺🇸



Casino Night-Midwest Food Bank

Col Jeff White



Safety Report

Col Dave Riesselmann

CAF recently released a report of an incident involving a PT-19 whose engine had been in maintenance for an extended period. An experienced pilot was assigned to fly the aircraft after it had been reassembled and tested. This pilot aborted the takeoff when the engine didn't produce sufficient power, to the tune of only 100 RPM. The pilot could have attributed the discrepancy to a gauge error or environmental conditions and pressed on with the takeoff but correctly did not. When the aircraft returned to the hangar to investigate the problem two shop rags were found in the air intake ducting to the carburetor.

This incident is the fortunate result of proper decision making by the pilot, but I consider it a metaphor for anyone in the operation.

- No mission we fly is vital enough to ignore established parameters.
- Mechanical tolerances, aircraft performance, ride client prerequisites; these are only a few examples demonstrating that everyone in our operation has a responsibility for insuring safety.



This is "our" hydrant. The other belongs to the city."



In recent weeks required annual inspections have been conducted of Airbase Georgia's fire extinguisher inventory and sprinkler system. Additionally, the Peachtree City Fire Department dropped in for an inspection of our fire extinguishers and gave Airbase Georgia a flawless grade. These results are no surprise considering the efforts of Col Bill Brady inspecting our extinguishers every month.

Stand by for the introduction of Airbase Georgia's newly approved comprehensive Emergency Action Plan in a coming *Dispatch* article and membership meeting. 🇺🇸



CAF – Airbase Georgia – 2026 Unit Staff Election

Election Day – November 7, 2026

Cols Marybeth Britton, Philip Beegle, Steve Forsyth

Meet the Candidates: The Nominating Committee will present the slate of nominated candidates and request nominations from the floor during the October 3rd Membership Meeting. Candidates will address the membership to present their qualifications and plans for office.

The positions that are up for election this year are as follows:

XO (Executive Officer)

Adjutant

Operations Officer

Maintenance Officer

If you are interested in nominating someone to run for one of the open positions, contact Col Marybeth Britton, Nominating Committee Chairperson at committee@airbasegeorgia.org. If you have questions about the nomination process, contact Col Marybeth Britton. You should receive an email reply within 24 hours acknowledging your nomination. If you do not receive a confirmation email, call Marybeth at 404-939-2607. Please do not nominate someone unless you have discussed it with them first and they agree to run for the position.

Nominations Deadline: The deadline to nominate is October 3, 2026, at the membership meeting. Nominees MUST be present at the meeting and agree to the nomination. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of nominated candidates and request nominations from the floor during the October 3 Membership Meeting. Candidates will address the membership to present their qualifications and plans for office.

Summary of each position is below:

Executive Officer: The Executive Officer is the Assistant to the Unit Leader and will act in his/her place during his/her absence. This officer should have similar qualities to the leader:

- Background in military or business management
- Ability for good public appearance
- Adept at public speaking
- A positive demeanor
- A background in aviation (preferably)

Specific duties include:

- Current knowledge of CAF rules and regulations, meeting facilities, Unit socials and other duties as may be assigned by the Unit Leader.

Adjutant Officer: Will record and maintain the permanent minutes of all Unit Staff meetings. He/She will maintain suitable correspondence files concerning the business and activities of the Unit and assure that all required Unit reports are submitted to CAF Headquarters in a timely fashion. Further, he/she will assist the Unit in the timely preparation and dissemination of such correspondence of a general nature. In coordination with the Finance Officer, he/she will maintain the Unit personnel records. He/She will advise the Headquarters' Member Services Department of any changes of the Unit membership, and on a semi-annual (March and July) basis compare their roster (CAF UNIT MANUAL UNIT REGULATION SECTION 2 MARCH 2022-2-13).

Operations Officer: Minimum qualifications for Operations Officer, per CAF policy, include all those required for Unit Leader plus a general or military aviation background. If the Unit has one or more CAF assigned aircraft, it is recommended that he/she be

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

a CAF-rated pilot with a basic knowledge of CAF flight operations, including airshows and static displays, and the safety requirements and special considerations of each. He/She should also be well versed in the Aircraft Sponsorship Program.

Specific duties include:

- Authorizing all flights of Unit assigned aircraft
- Operation of ground equipment
- Verification of pilot and crew member currency in FAA and CAF ratings and status
- Serving as Chairman of the Unit Flight Evaluation Board
- Assignment of pilot and crew members for Unit aircraft missions

Maintenance Officer: should be an FAA licensed A&P or IA. He/She is responsible for proper care and maintenance of all aircraft assigned to the Unit and for ground equipment.

Specific duties include:

- Scheduling and directing restoration of all CAF aircraft assigned to the Unit
- Overseeing activities of Unit aircraft project officers
- Clearing all planned expenditures through the Unit Staff
- Ensuring that all aircraft are in airworthy condition prior to flight
- Maintaining proper records and logbooks
- Ordering parts and supplies
- Training aircraft crew chiefs and personnel that operate/use ground equipment.

He/She will submit a monthly maintenance and/or restoration report to CAF Headquarters. Communications with CAF Headquarters will be initiated through the office of CAF Chief Aviation Officer.

Absentee Ballots: If you cannot attend the November 7, 2026, election meeting you may request an Absentee Ballot in order to vote. This can be accomplished via email to Election Committee

Chairperson Yvonne Haley at yvhaley@gmail.com, or by letter addressed to her at 202 N Lakeshore Dr, Carrollton, GA 30117. An Absentee Ballot will be mailed to you along with candidate campaign statements and instructions for returning the ballots. Completed ballots must be postmarked no later than November 7, 2026.

Election Day - November 7, 2026: Paper ballots will be available to all members present and in good standing starting at Noon on Election Day. Your current CAF / Airbase Georgia membership status will be confirmed by the Election Committee prior to receiving your ballot. Ballots must be cast by 3:00 PM on Election Day.

Election Results: Election results will be announced via the Airbase Georgia Hotline during the week of November 16, 2026.

If you have questions about the election process, contact Col Yvonne Haley at (678) 313-6835 or yvhaley@gmail.com. 🇺🇸





Col Malcolm Lelliot addressed the gathered visitors, speaking about the dedication and hard work of all the volunteers who made the project possible. He also noted that Col Joe Broker had signed the luggage door before his passing and announced that a commemorative plaque would be placed there in honor of his dedication to the project.

(photos courtesy Col Charles Burcher)

After six years of painstaking restoration work by members, our 1941 Boeing N2S Stearman biplane is complete and was honored.

Our Stearman is especially significant because we decided to complete it in honor of all Rosie the Riveters of WWII. Several of our women members

actually worked on the restoration, learning to do much of the critical fabric work that covers the entire aircraft. We can't thank the entire team enough for the outstanding, dedicated work they have done to bring this aircraft to life."

(continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

We have some steps to complete before this airplane will be offering rides to the public, but we can promise the experience will be unforgettable.

Following the ribbon-cutting, the Chamber celebrated the winners of the Citizen's Choice

Awards*, recognizing outstanding businesses and organizations selected by the community across more than 40 categories. From local favorites to community staples, these awards shine a spotlight on the people and businesses that help make Fayette County a great place to live, work, and do business. 🇺🇸



(photo courtesy Col Charles Burcher)

*Airbase Georgia hosts Chamber Event Honoring Citizen's Choice Awards



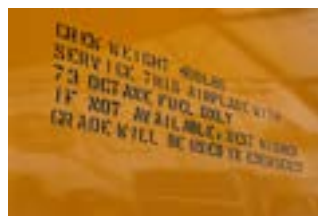
“We celebrated some of our best local businesses and people with The Citizen's Choice Awards,” said *The Citizen* Editor Ellie White-Stevens. “The Fayette Chamber has been an awesome partner in sponsoring these awards with us. We are all committed to making our community better, stronger and more vibrant.”

(photos courtesy of Col Mike Daly)

12 Planes of Christmas 2025: Stearman



William Barnes	John Gerring	Elizabeth McCloskey
Joseph Basilone	William Granger	Ninette McDonald
Peter Baxter	Bob Grove	Michael McGowan
Becky Beasley	Pat Gutierrez	Dave Miller
W.R. Beaver	Marjolijn Hameetman	William Miller
Rozella Beck	Randy Hawkins	Stan Musick
Ian Black	Richard Henton	Michael Oppeau
Ron Broadwell	Jim Heuvel	Norman Parker
Mike Brown	Emma Hibbs	John Postell, Jr
Michael Bugden	Ken Holston	Jeffrey Reuschle
Glenn Carroll	Steve Hoofnagle	Dirk Rochette
Jeff Clark	Heather Johnson	Robert Roseberry
Clothes Less Traveled	Francis Kalinowski	Martin Schadler
Barry Cohen	Matt Kenner	Christopher Schamel
Cheryl Colmery	James Kent	James Shepherd
Clint Cottrell	Adam Kerr	Jane Simpson
Rollie Dorsett	Charles King	James Stearns
Scott Elmore	Robert LeBras	Wes Stowers
Lee Eltzroth	Malcolm Lelliott	Harold Taylor
John Flynn	Elliot Levy	Judith Taylor
Bridget Forsyth	Jay Linden	Tom Thompson
Steven Forsyth	Laurie Linden	Robert Thornton
Lawrence Foster	Sebastian Lisi	Joanne Trefethen
Gerhard Frenz	Martha Lone	Susan Ward
Vince Garland	Chris Madrid	Phil Webb
Mike Gaynor	David Mason	Nelson Willis



(photos courtesy of Col Charles Burcher)

Around the Hangar

Col Charles Burcher



Cols Tom Thompson, Robert Karge and Rodney Higginbotham restoring the P-47 canopy. Col Gary Spencer also contributed with polishing.



Every job is important: Cols Bob Hensel and Mel Duhon wipe down the SBD upon return from an event.



Col Carl Abelein conducting a tour for a senior's group.

From Surplus to Scarcity: How the Warbird Preservation Movement Has Changed

Col Chris Madrid



IN ORIGINAL CRATES—BRAND NEW
ALLISON ENGINES
 1400 H.P. 12 CYLINDERS LIQUID COOLED
 Manufactured by Allison Division of General Motors

Complete with
 • CARBURETOR
 • MAGNETO
 • SPARK PLUGS
 EVERYTHING BRAND NEW
 Original Cost \$14,500

WAR SURPLUS
 Type V-1710-135

NOW—While they last \$350 FOB Buffalo, N. Y.

Allison Reduction Gear Assembly
 ... with extended drive shaft. Made by Allison Division of General Motors for above engine. Brand new in original export crates..... **\$50.00**

Aircraft DC Generator—Type P.2
 Made by Bendix Aviation Corp. 28.5 volts; 200 amps. Speed range 5000 to 10,000. Serial No. A-6945. Brand new in original crates..... **\$15.00**

Aircraft DC Generator—Type P.1
 Made by Delco Remy Division of G.M. 28.5 volts; 200 amps. Speed range 2500 to 4500. Brand new. Converts easily into welder..... **\$20.00**

WRITE, WIRE OR PHONE
HURWITZ BROS. INC.
 267 MARILLA ST. BUFFALO 20, N. Y.

Photo Caption: From surplus to scarcity. This 1947 *Popular Mechanics* advertisement offered brand-new, crated Allison V-1710 aircraft engines as war surplus for \$350. Allison produced roughly 70,000 V-1710s, powering aircraft including the P-38, P-39, P-40 and early P-51. The advertisement captures the enormous postwar surplus supply from which the early warbird movement emerged—a world very different from the specialized preservation ecosystem required to keep these aircraft flying today.

In 1947, a reader flipping through the pages of *Popular Mechanics* could come across an advertisement that seems almost unbelievable today.

Hurwitz Bros. of Buffalo, New York, was offering brand-new Allison V-1710 aircraft engines, still in their original crates, as war surplus.

The advertised price was **\$350**.

The ad listed an original cost of \$14,500.

This wasn't an obscure aircraft component. The Allison V-1710 was one of America's major wartime aircraft engines. Versions powered the P-38 Lightning, P-39 Airacobra, P-40 Warhawk and early P-51 Mustangs. Allison produced roughly 70,000 V-1710s, and when World War II ended, engines that had been manufactured for a global war suddenly entered a peacetime surplus market. [Air Force Museum](#)

That old advertisement helps explain something about the world in which the modern warbird movement emerged.

When *Air Classics* first appeared in 1963, World War II had ended only 18 years earlier. As we explored in the last issue of *The Dispatch*, enthusiasts were beginning to recognize that airplanes many considered obsolete equipment represented something worth saving. The pages of *Air Classics* documented that emerging preservation culture.

But those enthusiasts also lived in a world still surrounded by the physical remnants of World War II.

Aircraft had been scrapped by the thousands, but

(continued on page 13)

(continued from page 12)

engines, instruments, components, tools, technical manuals and other equipment had entered the enormous military-surplus market created after the war. In the case of the Allison, complete surplus engines that originally cost thousands of dollars were available for only a few hundred. Some found second lives far removed from aviation, powering race cars and unlimited hydroplanes.

For someone trying to keep an old military airplane alive, surplus provided something today's restorers can only envy:

a supply chain.

Sixty years later, much of that world has disappeared.

Original components have been consumed, damaged, lost, collected or incorporated into other restorations. The people who originally built and maintained the aircraft have largely passed from the scene. And the surviving airplanes themselves are now more than 80 years old.

Yet many of them are still flying.

That has required the preservation movement to evolve.

Behind a flying warbird today is often a remarkably specialized network of restoration shops, engine specialists, machinists, fabricators and small companies possessing knowledge of machines that haven't been manufactured for generations. 🇺🇸



Warbird Pilot for a Day

Col Steve Forsyth

Moonlight Swing attendees Oct. 17 will have a unique opportunity to bid on a special silent auction package, "Warbird Pilot for a Day," which involves flying in three Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia aircraft. The aircraft will include a Boeing N2S Stearman biplane trainer, an LT-6 Mosquito trainer with aerobatics, and the Airbase's most popular aircraft, the P-51 Mustang. The day will simulate a typical training sequence for new WWII pilots.

The winning bidder will begin the day with the first of three ground school training sessions. After training, the Stearman will depart for the first ride of the day. The second ground school will cover the operations of the LT-6, with an aerobatic flight to follow. After a third ground school, the "Warbird Pilot for a Day" will climb into the P-51 for an unmatched experience in the historic aircraft type that protected Allied bombers over Germany in WWII. All three aircraft are part of Airbase Georgia's fleet of restored aircraft that offer rides at airshows and special events.

This unique day will close with the presentation of a leather pilot's jacket, certificate and photos to mark the occasion.

"This opportunity has never been offered before, and it is a perfect showcase for the capabilities of Airbase Georgia as we kick off a much-needed capital campaign to grow our hangar and classroom spaces," said Airbase Leader Mark Richards. "Our guests at Moonlight Swing will enjoy an unprecedented, immersive evening of 1940s music and atmosphere, highlighted by our aviation silent auction. We are especially appreciative of the support from our title sponsor, Delta Air Lines." 🇺🇸



Recruiting Officer Report

Col Dave Serafin

Join me in welcoming the four new members sworn in at the September membership meeting:

(l to r) Cols Josh Mac, Ben Easley Bridget Forsyth, and Randall Granier. 🇺🇸



Aviation Futures Day and RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit

Col Steve Forsyth

New education initiative will connect aviation history with career opportunities for students across the region

High school students interested in aviation and aerospace will have a unique opportunity to attend an Aviation Futures Day on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia. The program will connect the lessons and inspiration of aviation history with career opportunities in aviation and aerospace.

The Airbase also is hosting a week-long visit of the [Commemorative Air Force RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit](#), an immersive educational experience featuring the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), to supplement Aviation Futures Day.

The traveling exhibit will be at Airbase Georgia at Atlanta Regional Airport-Falcon Field from Nov. 9-13 for scheduled school groups to enjoy educational visits combining the RISE ABOVE experience with opportunities to explore the Airbase and its historic aircraft.

Aviation Futures Day will bring students and families together with aviation employers, colleges and universities, training organizations, and other aviation partners to explore pathways into aviation and aerospace careers. The RISE ABOVE exhibit will be available all day for participants.

“Aviation history has an extraordinary power to inspire young people, but we also want to help them see where that inspiration can take them,” said Airbase Leader Mark Richards. “Aviation Futures Day allows us to connect the stories represented by our historic aircraft and the RISE ABOVE experience with the education, training, and career opportunities available to students today.”

Financial support from several organizations and individuals made the RISE ABOVE visit possible. “We

are especially grateful to Evans Delivery for their generous sponsorship, and to our Airbase Georgia members who contributed to help bring this experience to Peachtree City,” Richards said.

Aviation Futures Day will introduce students to aviation professionals, employers, educators, and training organizations that can help them better understand educational and career opportunities in aviation and aerospace.

“Aviation Futures Day also illustrates the demand for Airbase Georgia’s planned expansion of our Peachtree City facilities and educational capabilities,” Richards said. “The expansion will provide additional space to preserve and maintain historic aircraft, while creating new opportunities for education and community engagement.” 



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE AIRBASE GEORGIA

AVIATION FUTURES DAY

EXPLORE • LEARN • CONNECT

PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
CAF AIRBASE GEORGIA
(2700 Echo Court) Peachtree City, GA 30268

YESTERDAY INSPIRES TOMORROW

REAL HISTORY. REAL PEOPLE. BRIGHTER TOMORROWS.

A REGIONAL EDUCATION EVENT CONNECTING TODAY'S STUDENTS WITH TOMORROW'S OPPORTUNITIES

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
High school juniors and seniors who are beginning to make decisions about postsecondary education, technical training, and career pathways. Teachers and administrators who have an interest in aviation or aerospace are also welcome.

REGISTRATION OPENS OCT 1st
Advance registration is required. \$10 per student and includes admission for up to two accompanying parents or guardians. The registration fee includes the program costs.

PLEASE NOTE
This program is designed for high school students and their families. No activities will be provided for elementary or middle school students. Younger siblings are welcome but must remain under adult supervision throughout the event.

WHAT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES CAN EXPLORE

- Meet employers and learn about aviation and aerospace occupations.
- Explore college, technical training, flight training, and other pathways.
- Join Career Conversations with industry and education representatives.
- Connect classroom and CTE learning with real world opportunities.

A WEEK CONNECTING HISTORY AND OPPORTUNITY
The CAF RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit makes its final visit to Airbase Georgia November 9-13 for scheduled school groups in 9th grade and above. Following the Tuskegee Army and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) November 14 is reserved for high school students and their accompanying parents or guardians, connecting that inspiration with education and career pathways.

AVIATION. AEROSPACE. OPPORTUNITY.
PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

QUESTIONS OR INTEREST IN PARTNERING?
Chris Madril, RSTPA
Campaign Officer | Aviation Futures Day
chris.madril@hawaiiaviation.org | 714-405-2533

Fair Winds and Following Trails....

We were sorry to learn of the loss of two ABG members: Ed Smith and Jeb Harper. May they rest in peace, and may warm memories bring comfort to everyone who knew and shared the trail with them. 🕊



Girls in Aviation Day

Col Jane Simpson

Four CAF Airbase GA colonels (l to r in first picture- Cols Robyn Rosenzweig, Jane Simpson, Marybeth Britton and Carla Reid) represented ABG at Girls in Aviation Day sponsored by Women in Aviation, Wheels Down South Chapter. See link: <https://www.waiatlanta.com/giad> 🕊



Campaign Officer Report

Col Chris Madrid

Education, Expansion and the Future of Airbase Georgia

As Airbase Georgia moves into a busy fall, my role at the Airbase has changed—but my involvement in our education mission and the future of the organization continues.

Col Bill Brown is our new Education Officer. Bill brings a strong education background and commitment to Airbase Georgia. Bill will take the lead in coordinating our education activities. I look forward to supporting Bill as he builds on the work already underway and continues developing opportunities for the Airbase to share the history and legacy of the Greatest Generation.

I have been appointed **Campaign Officer**, with responsibility for helping Airbase Georgia continue exploring the proposed expansion of our hangar facilities. As part of that role, I will continue serving on the **Airbase Georgia Advisory Committee** and working with Airbase leadership as we evaluate what an expansion could make possible and how we might build the resources and community support needed to accomplish it.

Members will hear more about that vision at the **October 3 Member Meeting**.

Moonlight Swing will be held October 17. In addition to providing a memorable evening celebrating America's 250th anniversary through the music and atmosphere of the World War II era, the event will provide an opportunity to introduce our plans to expand the Airbase Georgia hangar. The proposed expansion is about more than additional space. It is about creating greater capacity to preserve and operate our historic aircraft, tell the stories of the men and women who served, educate future generations, and strengthen Airbase Georgia for the

future. Members are welcome to support the event by volunteering, purchasing tickets, sponsoring a table, or recommending the event to friends and family.



RISE ABOVE Comes to Airbase Georgia

November will also bring another important milestone for our education mission. For the **first time, the RISE ABOVE traveling educational exhibit will visit Airbase Georgia**, providing students with an immersive opportunity to experience important stories from World War II.

From **November 9–13**, the exhibit will be open to scheduled school groups, giving area students and educators another way to engage with history at the Airbase. The week will culminate on Saturday with Aviation Futures Day, creating an opportunity to connect the history and accomplishments of earlier generations with the possibilities available to young people in aviation and aerospace today.

Aviation Futures Day — Volunteers Needed

One of the clearest examples of what an expanded education mission can look like is **Aviation Futures Day**, which I am leading on **Saturday, November 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Airbase Georgia**.

Aviation Futures Day will connect high school students and their families directly with aviation and aerospace employers, colleges, universities, technical and flight-training programs, and industry professionals. The program is designed primarily for juniors and seniors, although freshmen and sophomores interested in careers in aviation and aerospace are also welcome.

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17)

Students will have an opportunity to meet employers, explore college, technical and flight-training pathways, participate in Career Conversations, and connect what they are learning in the classroom with real-world opportunities in aviation and aerospace.

Participating employers will do more than staff information tables. We are asking them to talk with students about the occupations within their organizations, the skills and workforce needs they see ahead, and the education and training pathways that can lead to those careers. Employer representatives will also participate in four Career Conversations exploring topics ranging from keeping aviation moving and managing the national airspace to building the future of aviation and aerospace and finding a pathway into the industry.

Our goal is to make Aviation Futures Day an annual Airbase Georgia program and another way we can connect aviation's history with its future.

We will need Airbase Georgia volunteers to make the day successful. Members can help welcome and direct

students and families, support participating employers and education partners, assist with event logistics, and help us create the kind of experience that will encourage students to see aviation and aerospace as possibilities for their own futures.

The transition to a new Education Officer, Moonlight Swing, the first RISE ABOVE visit to Airbase Georgia, Aviation Futures Day, and the exploration of a hangar expansion may appear to be separate activities. In reality, they are connected by the same mission.

We preserve historic aircraft so they can continue to fly. We preserve the stories of the Greatest Generation so they can continue to be told. And through education programs such as RISE ABOVE and Aviation Futures Day, we can use that history to inspire the generation that will shape aviation's future.

There is a great deal of work ahead—and plenty of opportunities for Airbase Georgia members to be part of it. 🇺🇸



PDK Good Neighbor Day 2026

(photo courtesy Col Mark Richards)



Looks like our Clothes Less Traveled friend, Mike, enjoyed the ribbon cutting ceremony.

(photo courtesy Col Cindy Madrid)

Docent Corner

Currently, we have only ten active docents, and they do an outstanding job welcoming and assisting the many visitors who come through our facility. As attendance continues to grow, so does the need for additional volunteers to help share the workload and ensure every guest has a meaningful experience.

Training is available for anyone interested in becoming a docent. Whether you have extensive knowledge of our history or simply a willingness to learn and serve, we encourage you to join our team. With more volunteers, we can continue providing the high-quality experience our visitors have come to expect while preserving and sharing the stories that make this place so special.

If you are interested in becoming a docent or would like to learn more, please see any **Red Shirt Docent** for

additional information. We'd be happy to answer your questions and help you get started. 🇺🇸

July Visitors – 169

August Visitors - 248



Bell P-63A Kingcobra – Miss Betty

- Less than 4,000 built with over 2,000 going to Russia.
- A 37mm cannon firing through spinner.
- Two 50 caliber machine guns, one in a pod under each wing.



Col. Jen Hocking stopped by with a small group of her colleagues to visit the museum and getting an up-close look at our warbirds.

(photos courtesy of Col Charles Burcher)





Georgia World War II Heritage Trail Continues to Grow

The Georgia World War II Heritage Trail continues to expand its statewide network of museums and historic sites dedicated to preserving and sharing Georgia's World War II story.

This fall, **Fort Oglethorpe and Roosevelt's Little White House will become full partners in the Trail**, adding two historically significant destinations to the growing statewide network. Both sites are currently Trail affiliates and will transition to full partner status during fall 2026, increasing the number of partners to 14.

The additions further strengthen the Trail's ability to tell the many different stories of Georgia's contributions to World War II. Fort Oglethorpe played an important role during the war, including serving as a major training center for the Women's Army Corps. Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs provides a direct connection to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the wartime presidency that shaped America's role in the conflict.

Trail Partners Coming to Peachtree City

Airbase Georgia will also have an opportunity to showcase our organization to fellow museums and historic sites from across Georgia when **Peachtree City hosts the Georgia World War II Heritage Trail Summit, January 25–26, 2027.**

On Monday, January 25, Airbase Georgia will welcome **representatives from the Trail's approximately 20 partners and affiliates for a meet-and-greet at our hangar at Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field.** The gathering will open the annual Summit before Trail representatives meet the following day in Peachtree City.

The event provides an excellent opportunity to introduce Trail partners to Airbase Georgia, our aircraft, our education and preservation programs, and the volunteers who make our mission possible.

Among the institutions represented within the Trail are some of Georgia's leading military history museums, including the **National Infantry Museum, National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, and Museum of Aviation.** Bringing representatives from these and other institutions to our hangar provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships and demonstrate the role Airbase Georgia plays in preserving and interpreting World War II history.

Airbase Georgia is a founding partner of the Georgia World War II Heritage Trail. As the Trail grows, so does the opportunity for its partners to work together to ensure that the aircraft, artifacts, places, and—most importantly—the stories of Georgia's World War II generation are preserved and shared with generations to come.

To learn more about the Trail visit <https://www.georgiawwiitrail.org/> 

Submitted by Col Chris Madird



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 PER TICKET

\$1,500 — TABLE OF 8 —

Aviation Art Highlights Moonlight Swing Silent Auction

Col Steve Forsyth

Unique aviation artwork will be up for auction at the Moonlight Swing fundraising event Oct.17, benefiting Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airbase Georgia and its capital campaign to expand education and aircraft restoration facilities. The evening also will be a patriotic celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

A large collection of notable aviation artwork was donated to Airbase Georgia with the provision that it could be used to generate financial support. Several unique pieces have been selected for the Moonlight Swing silent auction, based on the artist or the signatures they bear. One print is signed by Pappy Boyington, the famous Corsair pilot and Medal of Honor recipient. The aviation art is in addition to the previously announced "Warbird Pilot for a Day" experience open only to guests at Moonlight Swing.

"This is a new opportunity for the public, and it highlights the aviation environment at Airbase Georgia as we kick off a much-needed capital campaign to grow our hangar and classroom spaces,"

said Airbase Leader Mark Richards. "Our guests at Moonlight Swing will enjoy an unprecedented, immersive evening of 1940s music and atmosphere, highlighted by our aviation silent auction."

"Guests will enter a transformed Airbase Georgia facility that will take them back to a 1945-era hotel end-of-war celebration," Richards said. "The CAF is committed to preserving the memories of the Greatest Generation, at home and abroad, and we are doing this with Moonlight Swing and our historic, restored aircraft. Delta Air Lines, our title sponsor, is adding to the event with the stories of their Heritage Flights, which return veterans to Normandy, France."

Dancers and Airbase volunteers will serve as reenactors, further creating the sense of history. Refreshment centers will include a hotel bar, a Pacific theater Tiki bar, and an Officers' Club. Memorable music by the Peachtree Jazz Edition will set the mood for the entire event. Tickets and tables are available at airbasegeorgia.org. 🇺🇸



Cols Col Mark Richards, Gerhard Frenz, Bill Brown, Jeff White and Cathy Richards did a wonderful job in revitalizing the meeting room bar.

(photos courtesy Cols Charles Burcher and Jeff White)



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

KEEP 'EM FLYING!

On the horizon....

10/01 - 10/05	All Day	KCTJ	TRARON FORMATION CLINIC - Carrollton, GA
10/2/2026	1700 - 2100	Hangar	Clothes Less Traveled
10/3/2026	0930 & 1300	Meeting	Monthly Staff & Member Meeting
10/4/2026	0930 & 1300	Meeting	Hilley Birthday Party
10/8/2026	0900 - 1200	TOUR	Forest Park HS AFJ-ROTC
10/09 - 10/10	All Day	KM54	Lebanon, TN - STOL Competition & Ride Days
10/10/2026	1600 - 2200	Hangar	Christian Wilson Wedding & Reception
10/13/2026	1730 - 1930	Meeting	ABG Advisory Committee Meeting
10/13/2026	1200 - 1500	Meeting	Mercer Fisher 100th B-Day Luncheon
10/14 - 10/18	All Day		TVR Formation Clinic LT-6, T-34
10/17/2026	1700 - 2200	Hangar	Moonlight Swing Hangar Dance & Auction
10/20/2026	1100 - 1430	Meeting	Daedalian luncheon
10/24/2026	TBD	Hangar	Nilay Erocak Wedding & Reception
10/24/2026	All Day	KGVL	Pixel Mann Airshow - Gainesville, GA
10/24/2026	All Day	Athens	Athens, GA Rides Day
10/29 - 11/01	All Day	Hangar	Airshow HQ & Daily Briefing Room
11/2/2026	0900 - 1300	Meeting	Flint Rising Leadership Forum
11/6/2026	1800 - 2300	Hangar	Denim & Diamonds (Shepherds of the Meek)
11/7/2026	All Day	Americus	Americus Celebrate America 250 (T-34)
11/7/2026	0930 & 1300	Meeting	Monthly Staff & Member Meeting (Staff Election Day)
11/8/2026	TBD	Meeting	Phil's 104th Birthday Celebration
11/10/2026	1730 - 1930	Meeting	ABG Advisory Committee Meeting
11/14/2026	0900 - 1600	Hangar	Aviation Futures Day
11/20 - 11/22	0900 - 1800	Hangar	GA Gun Shows LLLP
11/21 - 11/22	All Day	KFFC	ABG Rides Event - Falcon Field
12/4/2026	1000 - 1130	TOUR	Foundry Academy
12/5/2026	0930 & 1300	Meeting	Monthly Staff & Member Meeting
12/6/2026	1700 - 2100	Meeting	Fayette Flyers Christmas Party
12/8/2026	1730 - 1930	Meeting	ABG Advisory Committee Meeting
12/11/2026	1000 - 1400	Hangar	Peachtree City Christmas Luncheon
12/11/2026	1800 - 2300	Hangar	PTC PD Christmas Party
12/12/2026	1700 - 2200	Hangar	Airbase Georgia Members Christmas Party
12/17/2026	1000 - 1200	TOUR	Hampton Middle School



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

