



The Eagle's Scream – Spring 2016 Newsletter

Official publication of the Commemorative Air Force Florida Unit based at Sidney H. Taylor Field in Deland, FL

Welcome New Members

Pierre (Pete)
Brenenstuhl
Tony Diez
Lewis Elliot
James Lyle
Hugh Washington
Eric Zipkin



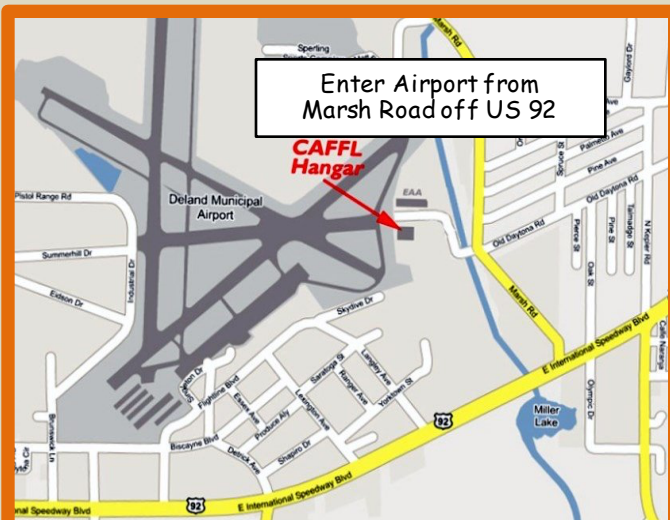
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Location and Contact Information



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Open Every Saturday and Wednesday 0900-1400 (For other times please call 206-708-9664)

Telephone: (386) 624-7055

Email: T34FLCAF@gmail

Web Page: caffl.org



CAF Col Woodie Sprouse

Wing Leader Comments

The Spring has been both busy and rewarding. I'll try to just cover the high spots and update the membership on the several ongoing projects that have been simmering since January.

The three major projects of course are: The proposed move to New Smyrna; the lease of the C-47 "Placid Lassie" and the donation of the turbine powered Bonanza from the Harry McCarthy Estate.

New Smyrna Update: The discussions with the New Smyrna Airport Manager were put on hold until a decision was made concerning the donation of the turbine powered Bonanza to the Wing. The Bonanza, part of the Harry McCarthy Estate, was to be sold to partially fund the new hangar, which in turn would be dedicated in Mr. McCarthy's memory. Until recently this was the only significant source of funding for a new hangar. However, recently, the Wing has since been offered an alternative funding source....a significant donation from CAF Col Butch Stevens. With this in mind the Wing is now renewing discussions with the New Smyrna Airport Manager concerning the land lease upon which a new hangar would be constructed.

Turbine Powered Bonanza Update: As I stated above, this donation has been discussed since last September. Just recently, the estate has indicated that the Wing will be contacted by the estate attorney and accountant who are handling this transaction.

"Placid Lassie" C-47 Lease Update: This program is ongoing and active. The owner, CAF Col James Lyle, has invested a significant amount of money to address the needs of the aircraft identified during its recent inspection. The inspection and required corrective actions were performed by Missionary Flights International (MFI) in Ft. Pierce where the C-47 is located. While a final lease agreement between the owner and the CAF HQ has not been concluded, we have been working closely with the owner's representative, CAF Col Eric Zipkin, and MFI. CAF Cols Pat Foley and John Grones monitored the day to day inspection progress which was finished just in time for the C-47 to participate in the CAF Dixie Wing's World War 2 Heritage Days celebration in Peachtree, GA. This event is reported on further in this newsletter. Until a lease is agreed to and the C-47 formally assigned by the CAF HQ to the Florida Wing, we have informally agreed to help the owner identify venues where his aircraft might be shown to the public and assist in providing qualified crewmembers. The aircraft is presently insured by the owner and the pilots are being checked out by Mr. Zipkin.

Wings of Dreams: CAF Col Bob Hillenbrand and I recently flew the T-34 to Keystone Airport northwest of DeLand to check out the Wing's of Dreams facility, another 501(c)(3) educational organization dedicated to showcasing aviation and America's space program. The facility is an impressive work in progress with significant NASA artifacts including an operable Space Shuttle Guidance and Navigation simulator. Of particular interest was their collection of "round engine" spare parts and engines. After this visit, I told Bob that I thought his idea for a Saturday road trip for interested members was a good idea.

HELP NEEDED:

1. The Staff is in need of a volunteer to assume the responsibility for producing the Wing's Quarterly "Eagle Scream Newsletter". Our newsletter is uploaded to the Wing web site where it is viewed by hundreds of visitors. Additionally, it serves as a pulse point when the Wing submits its grant requests. For the past year I have been producing the newsletter and to be very honest...it's detracting from my attention to other projects such as those listed above. Please consider giving me and the newsletter a helping hand.

2. Our Forklift is in need of someone to check its brakes. When used last the brakes failed after moving the NAS DeLand Beacon. We utilize the forklift to move heavy items to and from the loft area.

3. The Jeep has been grounded by the Safety Officer. CAF Col Frank Sartoretti and I would like advice on its future.

2016 CAF Winter Staff Conference CAF Headquarters Dallas, Texas

This year the Annual CAF Winter Staff Conference was held for the first time in Dallas, TX at the CAF's new headquarters. Also, for the first time the Wing was able to attend with a total of four members. CAF Col Butch Stevens donated the services of his personal TBM Socata and flew CAF Cols Sprouse, Grones and Shay to the CAF Headquarters at the Executive Airport in Dallas.



With the additional Wing members attending we were able to take advantage of the many break-out sessions which provide specific and detailed information concerning the various CAF policies and guides that govern the day to day activities of the Florida Wing. These topics included Marketing, Finance, Flight Safety, Outreach to Veterans, Industrial Safety, Unit Leadership, Insurance, and Fundraising. Because each and every CAF Unit is required to attend the Winter Staff Conference an intangible benefit was the opportunity to meet and discuss common issues with other CAF units.

Naval Air Station DeLand's Rotating Beacon Restored And Returned to the Airport

After a year and half the Wing completed its restoration of the original Naval Air Station's rotating beacon.

The beacon was once located atop the existing tower still located in the field adjacent to the Airport Restaurant. For years it was stored outside behind the Airport Managers office. Almost three years ago, CAF Col "Billy" O'Brien suggested to the staff that it's restoration might be a suitable project for those Wing members who were not involved with the acquisition of the T-34.



CAF Col John Prestopino accepted the role as restoration project leader. Assisted by CAF Cols Don Hollinsworth, Ken Stewart, Bob Hillenbrand, Butch Stevens and Cadet Trent Smith and others, the project commenced in the summer of 2014. In late March the restored beacon was returned to Mr. John Eiff, DeLand's Airport Manager. Now safely stored in an airport restored WW2 munitions bunker, it awaits its final location in a future Airport Administration Building.

This Spring the Wing began, in earnest, a program of "Showing the Flag" at local airshows and fly-in's.

Thanks to the efforts of CAF Cols Joe Drach and Patricia Mickelson we the T-34 was displayed at Palatka, Leeward Air Ranch, Ocala, Dunnellion, Gainesville, Williston and Cross City.



"Tales of Traveling Tail" Meeting the Old and the Young



In addition to these venues and thanks to CAF Col John Grones and Curtis Boulware, in early April, took the T-34 to Sun-N-Fun where it was displayed in front of the CAF HQ tent along with the Dixie Wing's Red Nose P-51.

CAF Col's Sprouse and Prestopino spent three days in Titusville with the aircraft during the Tico Warbird Airshow in March.



Inspired and designed by Florida Wing
CAF Col Bill "Kaz" Kaczmarczyk



The Sprouse - Prestopino teamed up again to attended the New Smyrna Beach "Skyfest" in April where the T-34 was displayed for the three day event.

Our presence at "Skyfest" afforded us the opportunity to meet the folks of New Smyrna Beach, explain the mission of the Commemorative Air Force, and establish personal relationships with other NSB aviation enthusiasts...essential for a potential move to their airport!



This Tale is The Story of
our Mission ...
(to be continued!)

On April 30th CAF Col Sprouse flew the T-34 to Falcon Field, GA the home of the CAF's Dixie Wing, joining C-47 Placid Lassie for annual WW2 Heritage Days celebration.

While the T-34 was on display, he was fortunate to be able to meet with the members of the Dixie Wing, exchange ideas and learn first hand how a large and successful CAF Unit operates. Their facility is large and well equipped to handle complex aircraft restorations. Their hangar is rented throughout the year for \$2,500 a night.

"Placid Lassie's" Début with the Dixie Wing



The rain had ended, she stood on the tarmac awaiting the arrival of the ground crew to prepare her for that mission which would spell the fate for hundreds of thousands of European's held hostage by Adolph Hitler's National Socialist German Workers Party of Germany..."Nazi's." Like a hundred other C-47's, the "Lassie" would carry the first of thousands American and British liberators to Europe..... The decision had been made.....D-Day was at hand!

In late October 2015, the Florida Wing received the "OK" from the CAF HQ to commence discussions with Mr. James Lyle concerning the possibility of leasing his C-47, "Placid Lassie," to the CAF and its ultimate assignment to the Florida Wing. At the time of this writing, lease discussions remain ongoing.

Thus began an ongoing dialogue between the Wing and the owner and his C-47 Operations Manager, Mr. Eric Zipkin; both of whom are now members of the CAF and our Wing. Shortly after these discussions commenced, Mr. Zipkin was approached by the CAF's Dixie Wing, seeking "Lassie's" appearance at their annual WW2 Heritage Days event in Peachtree, GA. The date of the event, April 30-May 1, 2016, afforded sufficient time for the necessary aircraft inspections and event planning to be completed. The Florida Wing offered to participate by providing additional C-47 rated pilots to assist in flying the "Lassie" to the event and monitoring the day-to-day aircraft inspection progress being conducted by Missionary Flights International, co-located with the C-47 in Ft Pierce, FL. On April 26th the first post inspection test flight was flown and after minor tweaks the "Lassie" was pronounced "Mission Ready!" Following aircraft checkouts by Eric Zipkin, "Placid Lassie" departed!

The "Lassie" Shows Her Stuff!

The "Lassie" arrived in Peachtree, GA on Thursday the 28th with a crew of CAF Col Eric Zipkin, CAF Col John Grones and Mr. Dick Osborne of Miami, FL. Over the next three days John Grones and Dick Osborne stood by the aircraft from 0900-1700 and provided non-stop public tours...rain or shine! It was estimated that well over 1,700 folks...young and old were able experience the "Lassie" as a flying example of World War 2 history. Mr. Dick Osborne is a retired airline Captain and an experienced C-47 rated pilot who also pilots the C-47, "Tico Bell," for the Valiant Air Command in Titusville.

A special treat was the visit of Jim "PeeWee" Martin, who as a Private, assigned to 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, parachuted into Normandy, behind Utah Beach at 0030,

on the morning of June 6th, 1944. A special Guest of the Dixie Wing, he paid a sentimental, night time visit to the "Lassie." Although not the C-47 that delivered him to France she brought back

memories of that night so long ago. For more information on Jim "PeeWee" Martin, check out the web page:

<http://www.pararesearchteam.com/101-506-G-Jim-Martin.html>



A Very Special Birthday Celebration with a Very Special Guest Speaker, CAF President Brown

Pictured below L to R: John Grones, CAF Pres. Steve Brown, Joe Drach, Charlie Boivin, Patricia Mickelson, Jon Shay, Woodie Sprouse



On May 7th CAF President Steve Brown and his wife Amy, joined the Wing in its celebration of CAF Col Joe Drach's 90th birthday. The event was highlighted by a "record breaking" T-34 flight (piloted by Joe) in which he was joined by his long time friend, 92 year old CAF Col Charlie Boivin. This flight commemorated the total of 182 years of age between our colonels. This must be a record for two CAF Colonels in a two place aircraft?



Joe is a retired USAF Lt/Col Command Pilot with more than seventeen thousand hours of flying time. In addition to 5 years as a KC135 Instructor Pilot, his type ratings include the B-17, B-25, and the DC-3, DC-6 and DC-7. After graduating with USAF Pilot Training Class 1949B, he started his flying career as a T-6 flight instructor at Randolph Field, Texas. He served in the US Navy during WWII and with the USAF in Korea and Vietnam. He has held his commercial license (SMELS) since 1949.

Charlie Boivin entered the Army Air Corps in 1944 and completed pilot training in 1945. Following the end of the war he remained in the Army as a T-6 flight instructor. After leaving the service he commenced a career as an airline captain with Mohawk, Allegany and US Air. Charlie has more than forty thousand hours of flying time.

The Party

Following the flight, the Birthday Boy and his wife Patricia, served up a roast pig luncheon prepared by Brian's BBQ of DeLand. The black feathers in the Pig's mouth represent this Air Force Pilot's most recent confirmed "kill" of a Florida buzzard... four more and he's an ACE!



CAF Col "Kaz" presented Joe with oil painting of a WW2 B-25 on a low altitude bombing mission. "Kaz" personally painted the gift in honor of Joe's service in the USAF!



Having been given advice on the finer points of aviation by Joe Drach, CAF President Steve Brown addressed the assembled membership on the State of the CAF.

The CAF's future is bright and thanks to the hard work of the 70 individual CAF Units across the nation, the image of the CAF is highly respected. The May 7, 2015 Arsenal of Democracy flyover in Washington, DC was in great part, the result of the CAF's efforts; over 2/3rds of the 38 aircraft belonged to CAF Units. This event, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the surrender of Nazi Germany and an end to the war in Europe, established the CAF as the premier War Bird entity in the United States.



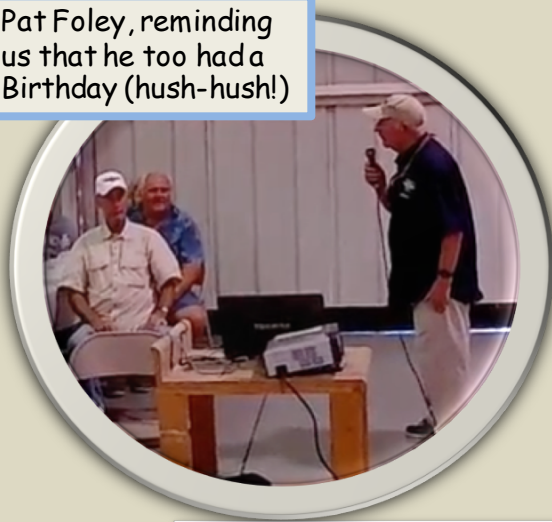
CAF President Brown went on to explain how the move of the CAF HQ from Midland, TX to Dallas has expanded the outreach opportunities for the CAF within the Dallas Metroplex and the nation. He outlined The Dallas Airbase vision and noted that while a very expensive project, individual CAF Units will not be required to contribute to its financing. President Brown thanked the Florida Wing for the invitation and the opportunity to share in the Celebration of Joe Drach's (and Pat Foley's stealth) birthday!

FOD Found on The Ramp

The "Girls" on parade



Pat Foley, reminding us that he too had a Birthday (hush-hush!)



Charlie, Strapped in...thumbs up.... Launch me Boss!



Four more & it's a Navy Cross...(it's a new Navy!)



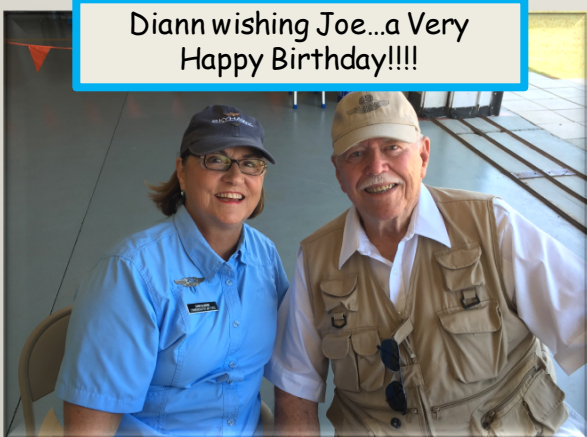
Checking out the artifacts at Wings of Dreams!

A Dixie Wing Date at WW2 Heritage Days



Union Shop

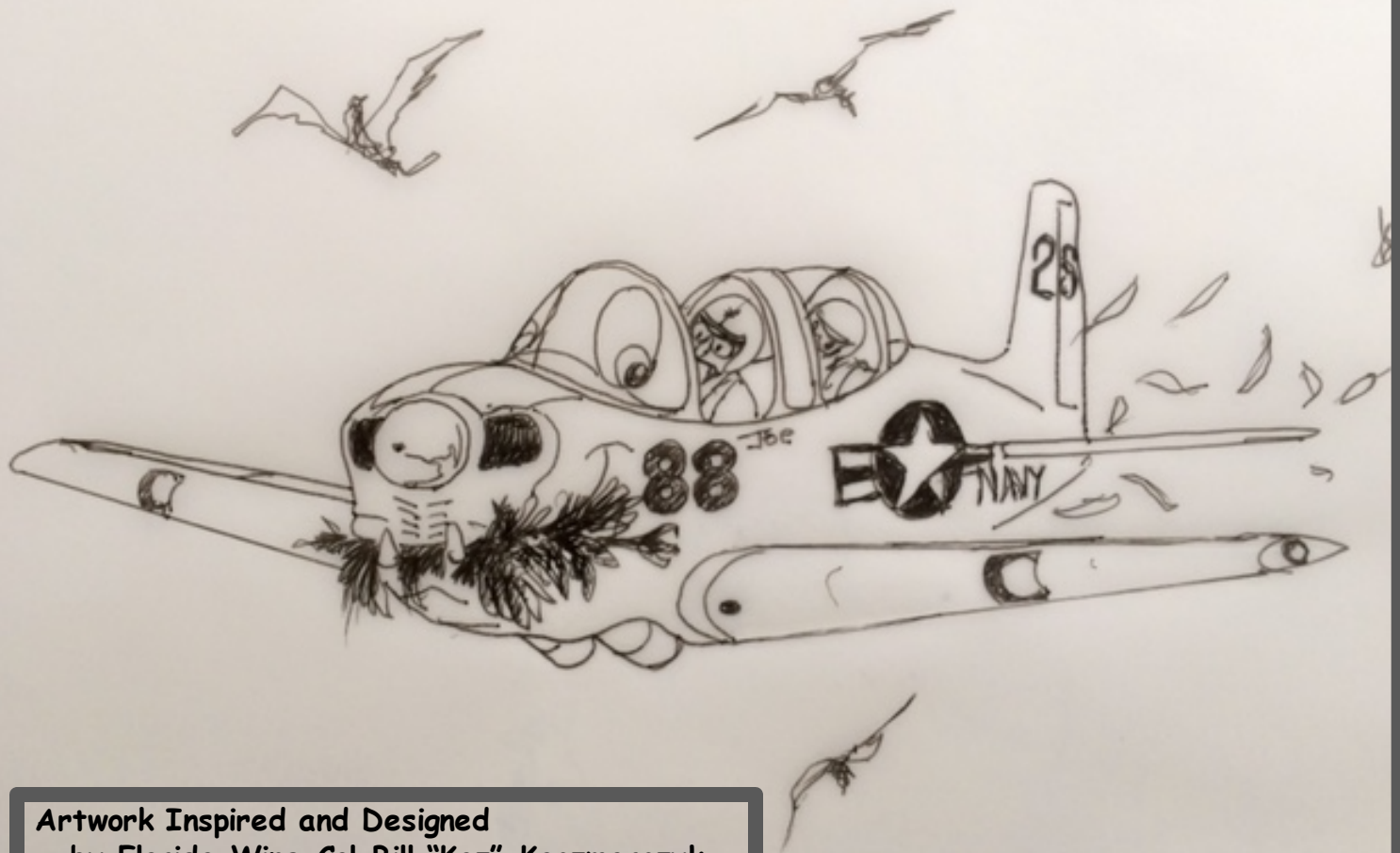
Diann wishing Joe...a Very Happy Birthday!!!!



Food!!! Who said Food?

The Battle of the Buzzard

The Saga Continues.....



Artwork Inspired and Designed
by Florida Wing Col Bill "Kaz" Kaczmarczyk