



The Eagle's Scream - Winter 2016 Newsletter

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

Welcome New Members

Jady Gomes da Silva
 Shawn Knickerbocker
 Terence Mahoney
 Frank Sartoretti
 Diane Stevens



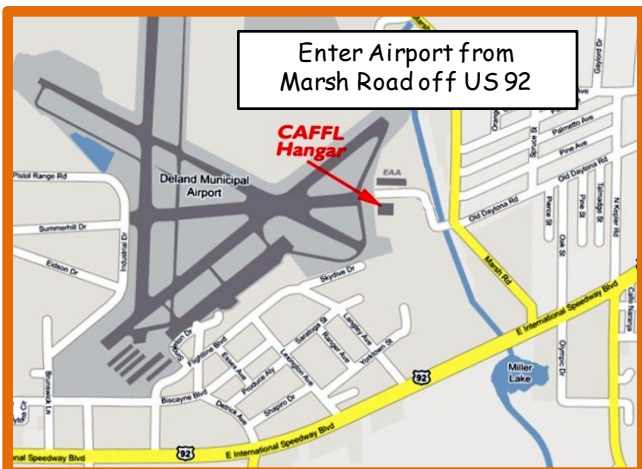
Upcoming Events

CAF HQ Winter Staff Conference Feb 26-28
 Dallas, Texas

Staff Officers

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Wing Leader	CAF Col Woodie Sprouse	woodie6@cfl.rr.com	(206) 708-9664
Executive Officer	CAF Col John Grones	jggrones@gmail.com	(386)299-2998
Adjutant	CAF Col Patricia Mickelson	pmickelson@centurylink.net	(352) 351-5087
Operations Officer	CAF Col Joel Lonky	jlonky@gmail.com	(407) 733-8276
Maintenance Officer	CAF Col Curtis Boulware	georgebakeraviation@gmail.com	(386) 837-4073
Finance Officer	CAF Col Jon Shay	jonshay2001@yahoo.com	(850) 375-3715
Safety Officer	CAF Col Lou Beyer	LouisLindaB@gmail.com	(386) 822 4359

Location and Contact Information



Physical Address: 1570 Old NDB Road, DeLand, FL 32724

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1944, DeLand, FL 32721

Bob Robbins Memorial Hangar and Museum Hours:
 Open Every Saturday and Wednesday 0900-1400
 (For other times please call 206-708-9664)

Telephone: (386) 377-4499

Email: T34FLCAF@gmail

Web Page: caffl.org

2015 Florida Wing Annual Meeting



The Wing held its 2015 Annual Meeting on January 9th. Due to scheduling issues, the meeting had to be postponed from December 19th to January. Next year, the Wing will hold the Annual Meeting in December in conjunction with a Christmas holiday celebration.

This year's agenda included the election of three new officers to the Wing Staff: CAF Col. John Grones replaced Art Patstone as Executive Officer; CAF Col. Curtis Boulware replaced John Makinson as Wing Maintenance Officer; CAF Col. Jon Shay who was appointed in July as Wing Finance Officer replacing Al Herum, was formally elected as Finance Officer.



As a special treat this year, we were fortunate to have the C-47 "Placid Lassie" owned by Mr. James Lyle visit the Wing. The aircraft's history goes back to D-Day where she towed gliders with the 74th Troop Carrier Squadron. In 2010 she was rescued from a vacant field at the Covington Municipal Airport, Georgia. In 2010, and restored by Mr. Clive Edwards of London. Following an extensive restoration, the C-47, originally named "Union Jack Dak", was flown to Oskosh for the 75th DC-3 Anniversary "Dak-Meet" in 2010 and then twice to the UK for D-Day commemorations.

The C-47 was flown from its current home in Fort Pierce to the meeting in DeLand by CAF Col's Nick Tramontano and Pat Foley. Following the meeting, short local rides were offered to Wing members.

CAF Col's. Sprouse and Stevens met Mr. James Lyle in late October while attending the CAF HQ Annual Meeting at the Lake Front Airport in New Orleans, LA. Since that meeting, we have been in discussions with the owner and the CAF HQ concerning options to lease "Placid Lassie" and operate her as part of the Florida Wing...more to come!

The lunch for the meeting was catered by the Culinary Department of University High School in Orange City, FL. These young men and women prepared and served the meal in a manner expected of a professional restaurant and all were pleased by their service.

As we were putting the final touches on the Newsletter we received notice of the tragic loss of one of our newest members - CAF Col. "Nick Tramantano. Many of you will remember him as the Captain of the C-47 "Placid Lassie" when he flew it to our annual meeting on Jan 9th. A close personal and professional friend of many of our members, he will be missed by one and all.

Capt. Nicholas "Nick" Tramontano 4/15/40 - 2/5/16



Photo courtesy of Capt. Ken Kahn

Capt. Nick Tramontano was born in Queens, NY. He was an airplane man his entire adult life. His airline career started at New York Airways before Seaboard, Flying Tigers, and FedEx. He was airline pilot for approximately thirty-three years. He continued to fly after retirement until his death in the crash of a WWII-era P-51D Mustang in which he was riding as a passenger.

Nick is survived by his wife, Sandy, of Brookfield CT; son, Nicholas Tramontano Jr., of Waterbury CT; daughters Theresa Miller (Richard) of Brookfield CT; Diana Tramontano of Paris, France; step-son Lee Adams (Heidi); grandchildren; Evan Nicholas Morales, Nora Adams, Mason Adams, Richie Miller and Nikki Miller; brother, Pat Tramontano (Arlene), of Tucson AZ; sister, and Maryann Jeffries, (Steve) of Phoenix, AZ.

Nick and Sandy are seen here at the Fantasy of Flight Museum in Polk City FL during the 2016 reunion in March 2013. He always had a smile when he was with his wife and airplanes.



Wing Leader Report CAF Colonel H.G. "Woodie" Sprouse

2015 Wrap-Up

This year has been a significant turnaround point in the history of the Florida Wing and the credit for that belongs to you...the membership. Just shy of four years ago, on April 18, 2012, the Wing made the difficult decision to suspend it's TBM-3E "Avenger" restoration project and switch the unit's focus from a Restoration Wing to a Flying Wing.

During the Annual meeting earlier this month, I summarized the Wing's 2015 accomplishments and briefly commented on the challenges ahead. For those who were not able to attend, I'd briefly like to revisit those points.



Community Education Outreach

- Red Tail "Rise Above" Southwestern Middle School.
 - More than 900 Middle School students, teachers and visitors experienced the "Rise Above" exhibit.
- Boy Scout Camporee - Aviation Merit Badge Weekend.
 - 22 Boy Scout Troops were hosted by the Wing for their Annual Fall Camporee- 221 Scouts and Adult leaders participated - 165 Scouts received their Aviation Merit Badge training certifications.
- Girl Scout Introduction to Aviation.
 - Over 55 Girl Scout Brownies, Daisy Scouts and accompanying adults attended the Wing's third Girl Scout Introduction to Aviation Event.
- Diamond L'll one of 2 flying B-24's
 - The Wing hosted the B-24 for five days at our hangar- the aircraft was open for public tours well over 300 individuals, old and young took advantage of this unique opportunity to connect with the past.
- Veterans Day Parade
 - The Wing participated in the 2015 Veterans Day celebration with it's restored 1952 military
 - Jeep transporting two World War Two veterans and honoring all who have served in America's Armed Forces.
- Community Organizations.
 - Formal presentations before the DeLand / Orange City Chambers of Commerce and the largest Rotary Club in DeLand.

T-34A Operations

- Over 200 flight hours flown.
- Significant aircraft upgrades
 - Corrosion mitigation and area touchup painting
 - Added US Navy Squadron markings
 - Replaced cockpit seat belts and harnesses
 - Installed JPI Engine Management System
 - Installed GAMI Fuel Injectors.
- Aircraft displayed at local fly-in's

Hangar Projects

- Jeep evaluation and restoration
 - Commenced an material assessment of the Jeep with an eye toward it's future restoration or possible trade.
- Exterior hangar cleaning
 - The entire front of the hangar and all exterior signage were pressure washed
- New flag pole
 - A new lighted and taller Flag pole was donated and installed for the 4th of July.
- NAS DeLand beacon project
 - The beacon has been prepared for painting, reassembly and presentation to the NAS DeLand museum.

Not too shabby....Thank each and everyone for making 2015 a success!

2015 Wing Finance Report

The Wing ended the year in excellent financial condition. The yearend checking account balance was \$44,069.79. As a point of comparison, prior year end balances for 2013 and 2014 were \$6,700 and \$15,000 respectively. However, the 2015 balance was the direct result of several significant private donations and the continued support from individual members whose donations supported the T-34 operations as well as the general operating accounts. The Wing Staff reviewed and approved the 2016 budget. A copy of the 2015 year end report and the 2016 Budget is available by request from the Finance Officer.

It should be noted that the 2016 budget does not include any figures or projections for the lease of a C-47, a move to New Smyrna Airport or the building of a new hangar. These projects are still too uncertain to assign financial estimates at this time.

Last summer, the Staff decided to engage a local accounting firm to assist in reconciling our monthly accounts and filing the required Florida Sales Tax reports. They also reviewed our QuickBooks Online files and corrected those areas that needed updating. Having fulfilled this purpose, the Wing has again resumed it's own

internal financial monitoring and reporting. For your information, the Finance Officer, CAF Col. Jon Shay, makes detailed monthly Staff reports covering the monthly bank account statement, its reconciliation with our internal Quickbooks account, deposit and expense reports and monthly Florida Sales Tax reports/payments. Copies of these reports are maintained in the Wing hangar office and are open to review by the members.

An Aviation Scholarship Fund has been established thanks to the generous \$5,000 donation of CAF Col's Butch and Diane Stevens. These funds will be held specifically for the pilot training of a yet to be selected youth. The Wing owes a great debt of thanks to Butch and Diane for their contribution. The specifics of the selection and monitoring of the program are still to be determined.

If the Wing is to continue to grow...fund raising must take a higher priority and become more professional.

Wing Relocation to New Smyrna Beach

In our last newsletter the subject of a possible relocation from DeLand to New Smyrna Beach (NSB) was discussed at length. Since that time CAF Col. "Woodie" Sprouse addressed the NSB airport Advisory Board and outlined the Wing's mission and history. He stressed that further funding decisions must be resolved prior to making a formal presentation with a request for a favorable recommendation to the Airport Manager and other city officials. Those discussions were delayed over the holidays.

Planning for the DeLand Airport "Light Sport Village" continues to move forward and the interest in the potential sale of our existing facility remains high. The first phase of the project which will involve a new road access plan for our hangar area will begin this year.