



The Eagle's Scream

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



Annual inspection completed.

Wing Leader Report

**Col. Haywood
"Woodie" Sprouse**



In thinking about my message for the Winter Newsletter, I took a moment and looked back to last January and realized that the Wing has come a long way in such a short time. Being in-

involved with the day-to-day activities, one sometimes fails to recognize the overall progress and achievements the Wing has made in this past year. So, rather than comment only on the past three months, we've

January 15, 2015

Welcome all our new CAF and Florida Unit members

George Fonseca	Bruce Williams
Pamela Fonseca	John Shannon
Rick Grissom	Dale Nicholson
Wayne Williamson	Cosmo Wilson

Upcoming Events

CAF Florida, our next Florida Wing meetings:

- February 15, Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

CAF Florida will host a Boy Scout contingent on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Col. Herum to help out.

CAF Florida will host a T-34 pilot sponsor meeting on February 26, 2015 at Spruce Creek. Contact Col. Huntington for details.

Wing Officers

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Wing Leader	Col. Woodie Sprouse	woodie6@cfl.rr.com	(386) 624-7055
Executive Officer	Col. Art Patstone	Artpatstone@aol.com	(386)322-7611
Adjutant	Col. Patricia Mickelson	pmickelson@centurylink.net	(352) 351-5087
Operations Officer	Col. Tommy Huntington	TomRHuntington@gmail.com	(386) 566-0126
Maintenance Officer	Col. John Makinson	makinsonaviation@gmail.com	(386) 682-0426
Finance Officer	Col. Alan Herum	aldh1000@gmail.com	(305) 923-3810
Safety Officer	Col. Joel Lonky	jlonky@gmail.com	(407) 733-8276

decided to devote this issue to a look back at 2014. The past year was a very active year in all areas of the Wing organization. The realignment of Wing Officers has resulted in a re-energized, action-oriented organization committed to renewing its focus on education, engaging more with local communities, enhancing its communication abilities and developing a more sustainable revenue stream to support its operations. The following provides an overview of the Wing's 2014 activities in these areas.

State of the Wing 2014

In February 2014, Steve Brown, President of CAF Headquarters, visited the Wing to review its activities and plans for the future. The result of his visit was a complete restructuring of the Wing Staff. Colonel Woodie Sprouse was appointed Wing Leader and by July, a full complement of Wing officers had been appointed to fulfill the unexpired terms of the previous Staff Officers who had resigned. Five of the new Staff Officers were new to the CAF and the Wing. The learning curve for these members was steep. Nevertheless, their positive achievements are best recognized by the results chronicled herein.

In October, a Nominating Committee was appointed to nominate a slate of officers for positions whose current terms would end in December. The standard CAF election process was followed and the election was held at the December 6th Annual Membership Meeting. The current Wing Staff composition is listed on the first page of this newsletter.

In an effort to have Wing activities remain transparent, Wing Staff Meetings were open to all members and agenda and meeting minutes were distributed to all members via email. In addition, a Members/Questions/Comments section became a part of the agenda of all Wing Staff meetings.

A CAF HQ Financial Audit of the Wing was completed March 20, 2014 with only minor discrepancies noted, all of which were corrected on site.

Financial Planning 2014

Given the chronic poor financial situation of the Wing in early 2014, the Wing staff gave financial planning, expense reduction and the pursuit of revenue producing activities a high priority throughout 2014.

Volusia County 2014-2015 Community Grant

In April, thanks to persistence and hard work of Col's Patricia Mickelson and Joe Drach the Wing submitted an application for a Volusia County 2014-2015 Community Cultural Grant. The grant application focused on the Wing's overall educational mission, benefit and availability of the Wing's programs to Volusia County residents. The Florida Wing had received Cultural Grant funding in 2012-2013 but had not submitted an application for the 2013-2014 period. We were very pleased when notified in October that our application was successful and we would receive \$5,206. However, the process of defending our proposal and having it evaluated by the Cultural Council of Volusia County made it clear that we would need to strengthen our community outreach efforts if we hoped to be funded in future years.

Eliminating the Hangar Debt

A major item contributing to 2014 expenses and 2015 projected expenses was the Wing's \$18,800 Hangar mortgage loan held by the American Airpower Heritage Foundation of the CAF. After some discussions, CAF President Steve Brown offered to match dollar-for-dollar any and all donations toward the reduction of the loan balance; provided the donations were made by December 31, 2014. This generous offer was extended by the CAF in recognition of the Wing's assistance in locating and facilitating the donation of the three flyable T-34 aircraft to the CAF.

In early November, Col. Sprouse sent all Wing members a letter outlining the specifics of the offer. Wing members were asked for whatever donations they could afford towards the reduction of the Hangar debt; the goal was \$9,400, exactly one half of the outstanding balance. The response was, as Col. Sprouse stated; "eye watering."

By early December, \$9,400 had been donated to pay off the entire balance of the loan. A ceremonial "Burning of the Mortgage" was held at the December 6th Wing's Open House.

A very special thanks goes out to Col's Matthews, Patstone, Telling, Crawford, Drach, Stevens, Mickelson, Baumann, Herum, Gomez, Chalifour, Diane and Richard Moore and so many others for making this monumental event possible.

Outside Donations

Throughout the latter half of year, the Col's Sprouse and Foley had been holding private discussions with a small group of potential non-member donors, seeking their support.

A common thread in these discussions was: "What level of internal support is there within Wing's membership to fund its day-to-day operations? Is the Wing viable?" In mid-December, the Wing was able to point to the successful hangar debt reduction campaign, the increase in membership and the confidence evidenced by the Volusia County Grant as positive replies to these questions. Between December 10th and the 31st, we received \$16,000 in one time donations.

Hangar Maintenance

Throughout 2014, Wing members continued to clean and reorganize the hangar, restoring its appearance and function as a professional operations facility. Projects included removal of unneeded equipment and tools, painting of the hangar floor, cleaning and reorganizing the attic storage area, arranging appropriate display of service flags and other aviation related exhibits.

The library/museum area was also treated to a cleanup and existing and new art work and artifacts were displayed for better presentation.

The Wing staff made the decision to retain the Jeep, get it in working order for parades and display in the hangar. The Jeep's title has been transferred from the CAF to The Florida Wing and it is being insured through the CAF HQ for operations in Florida. Once the insurance is finalized, the Jeep will be registered and licensed.

Visitors and ex-members alike have commented positively on the condition and obvious Wing pride exhibited by the hangar, office and the T-34. The all-volunteer efforts to clean up and better maintain the Wing facility have made a huge difference.

Membership

The Wing had 55 members at the beginning of 2014. Eleven of those members let their Wing membership lapse during the year and were dropped from our roster. Eighteen new Wing members were recruited to bring our membership total up to 62 at the end of 2014.

Wing Membership Drive

The Wing embarked on a project to contact CAF HQ Commemorative Air Force Members who

reside in Florida but are not currently members of our Wing. These CAF members were called to inform them of our Wing activities and put them on the mailing list for our newsletter. Many of the CAF members were not aware that the only CAF organization in the State of Florida is our Wing in DeLand. They were advised that we have recently converted to a "Flying" Wing, have a beautiful T-34 in great condition in our own hangar, and are looking for pilots and maintainers to help our Wing prosper. Thirty of these CAF members were personally invited to the December 6th Open House and three took advantage of our offer to take a ride in our T-34.

Memorial Brick/Donation Project Completed

When the Wing hangar was being planned in 1998, 18 individuals gave donations to support the construction of the building. At that time, the Wing made a pledge to the donors that their gift would be recognized with an engraved brick which would be placed in the hangar or some appropriate location to publicly acknowledge their contribution.

In early 2014, it was discovered that the pledge had never been honored. With the completion of the framed Honor Wall in the hangar, the Wing has now honored that pledge. The Wing Leader sent a letter and photos of the engraved brick and the hangar to each of the original donors.

Wing Membership Functions

FiFi Reception

In conjunction with the Wing hosting the first ever visit of the CAF's B-29 Superfortress "FiFi", Wing members were invited to a special presentation by a member of the B-29 crew and a wine and cheese reception for our members and "FiFi's" crew.

December Open House

After the Annual Membership Meeting on December 6, 2014, a catered luncheon was provided for Wing members followed by a Wing Open House. The afternoon program featured Wing Member Doug Matthews who had his F-86 on display and gave a presentation to the attendees. The History of Flight's B-25 "Barbie" and Col. Schloss' Stearman were also on display.

Wing Operations T-34

Our beautiful T-34, N88RM continues its excellent performance. In 2014 the aircraft flew more than 137 hours. It recently completed its annual inspection and subsequent maintenance at George Baker Aviation. There were no major discrepancies and the labor expense was donated by the Baker Aviation owner, Col. Curtis Boulware.

The Wing currently has fifteen T-34 sponsors, nine of which are designated Pilot in Command. Additionally, we have two new instructor pilots, Col's Lonky and Huntington; Col Huntington is also designated as a CAF T-34 Check pilot. In January, our T-34 will be used by Col's Lonky and Huntington to train two Dixie Wing pilots who will pick up their T-34B from George Baker Aviation. Their T-34 is the first of the three donated CAF T-34's to be assigned by the CAF HQ.

Communications and Marketing

The Wing has continued to stress information outreach through the quarterly newsletter, website, Facebook page and a Daytona Area Chamber of Commerce Membership.

Newsletter: The Wing has continued to publish quarterly editions of the Wing Newsletter, The Eagle's Scream, to inform members and potential members of Wing activities. Additionally, the newsletter will be included as a permanent feature in the re-design of the Wing website, thus ensuring greater exposure.

Website: After months of work, the re-designed Wing website will be up and running in January, 2015. There will be some sections which will still require tweaking but we have decided not to let "Perfect become the enemy of Good" and get the site up and running now.

Facebook: The Wing's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CAFFL is also up and running, including both public and private pages.

Daytona Chamber of Commerce Membership: The Wing has joined the Daytona Area Chamber of Commerce. The Wing's membership will provide the Wing with additional exposure to the greater Daytona, Flagler, Ormond, Deland and Deltona business community and activities.

Educational Outreach Programs

Wing Hosts the B-29 Bomber

"They said it couldn't be done"The CAF's B-29 Bomber was flown into the Deland Airport and exhibited for two days adjacent to the Florida Wing Hangar. Over the two days, more than 1,200 visitors were given tours of the *Superfortress*, which is the only B-29 (of the total 4,000 that were built during WWII) that is still flyable. Ten individuals signed up for a ride on the B-29 Bomber and 24 individuals signed up for rides on one of the three vintage escort aircraft: a PT-17 Trainer biplane; an AD5 *Skyraider* and a twin engine C-45 *Expediter*. Hundreds of visitors toured the Florida Wing Hangar to view the Wing's vintage T-34 Navy Trainer, the History Flight's *Stearman* and to visit the Hangar library and museum. Among the visitors were a large number of WWII veterans as well as many veterans of the Korean, Viet Nam and Gulf Wars.

Girl Scout Educational Outreach Program

Partnering with representatives of the Girl Scouts of Citrus District Council, Wing members developed an aviation education program to promote aviation to young women and to inspire them to consider an aviation-related career.

According to the FAA statistics, fewer than 7% of all pilots are women. Women have been and still are a minority in the aviation industry and the Wing's educational program is designed to provide a supportive environment for young girls to explore the world of aviation. Sixteen Girl Scouts registered for the program sessions held on September 13th and October 4th at the Wing CAF Hangar/ Museum/Library.

The sessions included presentations by Wing members on the history of women in aviation, careers in aviation, dynamics of flight, function of aircraft parts, the importance of weather in flying, effects of flight on the body and the basics of navigation and charts.

During the sessions, Scouts had the opportunity to sit in the cockpit of the Wing's Navy t-34, learn about the instrument panel in planes and participate in preflight inspections. After attending the two sessions, the Scouts received a Certificate of Program Completion and a Florida Wing CAF patch and pin.

The ten Wing members who supported the program development and presentation were Col's Woodie Sprouse, Joe Drach, Dianne Moore, Marcia Gomez, Diann Bauman, John Makinson, Joel Lonky, Tommy Huntington, Pat Mickelson and Al Herum. After some restructuring, Wing members plan to offer the program again in 2015.

The Wing has been designated as a Community Partner by the Girl Scouts of Citrus and will offer Field Trip tours of the Wing Hangar/Museum/Library for local troops.

Boy Scout Educational Outreach Program

The Florida Wing offered twenty eight area Boy Scouts the opportunity to complete all the requirements of the Aviation Merit Badge in a one-day program on November 1, 2014. Held at the Wing hangar the full-day program was organized by Al Herum, Wing member and certified Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor.

In addition to Herum, ten FL Wing members provided a series of sessions on the dynamics of flight, aircraft engines and propellers, aircraft instrumentation, airport runways and towers, careers in aviation, and aircraft preflight inspection. The thirteen Wing members who provided support for the Boy Scout Program were Col's Sprouse, Patstone, Mickelson, Herum, Gomez, Beyer, Boivin, Drach, Boulware, Hollingsworth, Shay, Makinson, and Moore.

The Wing's second Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge Day class, scheduled for February 7, 2015, is already full with 40 registrants. The popularity of the program is demonstrated by how quickly the class filled up; it only took 4 hours after opening registration to get a full class.

Wing to Host Red Tail Squadron

The Wing will host the Red Tail Squadron's traveling educational program on March 16-19, 2015. The exhibit highlights the courage and determination of the Tuskegee Airmen who overcame obstacles to train and fight as U.S. Army Air Corp pilots. The exhibit features the original film, *Rise Above*, on a 160-degree panoramic screen in a 30 seat, temperature controlled movie theater.

The *Rise Above* Exhibit is scheduled for March 16-19, 2015 at the DeLand Middle School and then it will move to the Wing Hangar where the exhibit will be joined by the Red Tail P-51C for display and rides. The exhibit will be funded through private donations.

Program for Women of Wings

The Spruce Creek Women of Wings (WOW) were invited to the Wing hangar on November 20th for a tour of the facilities, an overview of the Wing's programs, and a viewing of the documentary film: *We Served Too: The Story of Women Air Force Service Pilots of WWII*. Thirteen WOW members attended the program which included an afternoon tea in the hangar.

Kiwanis Club

On March 4, 2014, Wing Leader Woodie Sprouse gave a presentation on the Florida Wing's upcoming hosting of the visit of the CAF B-29 Bomber's visit to DeLand and other activities of the Florida Wing.

Naval Air Station Museum Armed Forces Day

The Wing participated in the Naval Air Station Museum's Armed Forces Day Activities on May 17th, 2014. The T-34 and the Jeep were positioned on the flight line for exhibition in front of the Naval Museum Annex and the small PX tent was set up for selling merchandise. Wing Leader, Woodie Sprouse also gave a program presentation at the Museum.