



MILE HIGH VIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE MILE HIGH WING,
COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF)

Keep 'Em Flying!

January 2008

Lunch With Bob Hoover

By Col Stan Peterson

On November 3, 2007 I took advantage of an invite by Marylyn Taylor to join the Colorado Aviation Historical Society for their annual luncheon. This year their guest speaker was the legendary pilot, patriot and American hero, Bob Hoover. Nick Carter of the channel Nine News team hosted the event.

I had seen Bob Hoover perform in his Shrike Commander at Oshkosh in 1969. His performance was nothing short of outstanding; his grand finale was a loop, a eight-point role followed by his "Tennessee Waltzing" landing which terminated with a bit of energy left after dipping the nose and taking a bow directly in front of the grandstands. The entire finale was performed with both engines cut and feathered! I have also seen him at the Reno Air Races where he has performed often and is always an honored guest. But during these past events I was always the spectator.

At the November luncheon I felt like a real guest. Bob can no longer stand for long periods because he had shattered both legs during a desperate bailout from an F-84. This forced him to sit on a stool and created a warm environment as he talked casually about his numerous adventures. As a test pilot he also "rode" an aircraft to the ground and in so doing encountered a fractured back. He told of how he would not let rescuers remove him from his cockpit, knowing that he had a broken back.

He told of how he was the number one test pilot on the X-1 and how Chuck Yeager later replaced him. According to some sources he was replaced because of injuries received in the crash of the F-84. But he said the real story was that his boss replaced him for an unauthorized "buzz job" at a friend's airstrip. He went on to say that he was quite concerned about who would replace him, because he had worked so hard to beat out many other pilots that

had been considered for the project. However, when he learned that Chuck would replace him as number one, and Bob was to cooperate fully with him, he knew that he was going to enjoy the assignment.

I guess one of the reasons I enjoyed the luncheon so much is that I was able to draw some parallels with Bob's adventures and my own. For instance, I've had broken legs, fractured back and been seriously injured in an airplane crash. But it wasn't until recently when I found out about Bob's "Hoover Nozzle" while doing some research in Wikipedia. You may remember a near disaster with the C-45 caused by mis-fueling at the Broomfield airport. Fortunately, we were able to dodge that bullet since we were doing the refueling ourselves. Unfortunately, Bob was not so lucky; according to Wikipedia, the nozzle was given his name following an accident in which he was seriously injured when both engines of the Shrike Commander failed during takeoff. Investigators found that the plane had been fuelled with jet fuel by mistake. The jet fueling nozzle was redesigned by Bob Hoover.

I'm no Bob Hoover, and although our skill levels are worlds apart, it gives me some comfort to know that a great aviator such as Hoover and I do share some common ground.

KEEP 'EM FLYING →



Famous Aviator Bob Hoover (Photo by Col Stan Peterson)

Calendar of Events

Reminder – Please mail your \$45 MHW 2008 Annual dues to the address below

January 19, 2008 – Wing Meeting;
10:00 am at Platte Valley Airport

February 16, 2008 – Wing Meeting;
10:00 am at Platte Valley Airport

Mile High Wing, CAF
P.O. Box 471596
Aurora, CO 80047-1596

Directions to Platte Valley Airport

Platte Valley Airport is 3 miles northwest of Hudson, Colorado:

- Take I-76 north to Hudson and exit west on Highway 52.
- At CR 41, turn right (north).
- At CR 18, turn left (west).

At the Platte Valley Airpark sign, turn left again.

Wing meetings are normally held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Printable color Mile High View can be found at:
<http://www.milehighcaf.org>

Newsletter articles needed; please send to:
rdelsloo@msn.com



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