



# MILE HIGH VIEW

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

Keep 'em Flying!

February, 2010



The improvements and upgrades continue. Recently, MHW members applied silver paint to the C-45 underside.

## January's Work Day

By Col Stan Peterson

The formula, which I've experienced while working with volunteer organizations, held true for our work day this month. The formula states that for any given work day you can expect roughly 10% of the membership to show, in our case that equates to 2.8 members. Actually, because we're forced to work around existing weather conditions this time of year, we are unable to program the work days with much advance notice. Therefore, I felt fortunate that when I put out the word with less than a 24 hr notice, Stan Hanson was able to show.

The agenda called for painting the remainder of the bottom of the C-45's fuselage, which we had finished prepping last month. I had been carrying around paint supplies and a compressor in the Hummer for the last couple of weeks, waiting for a day that would allow us to paint out of doors.

Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a perfect day for us, with a temperature that reached 60 degrees and calm winds. I had purchased a new high volume/low pressure paint gun that allowed gravity feed even while shooting overhead. We decided to shoot the plane where it was parked, which was well over 100' from the nearest electrical outlet. *continued next page*

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Meanwhile, while prepping, then priming the airplane, we ran out of primer. But it was about lunchtime and it looked as though we could use some more supplies and paint as well. Off to the paint shop and on to lunch, while Chip at Sherman Williams prepared our order. The day was shaping up even better than I had hoped, Stan H. not only popped for the supplies, but my lunch as well!

Back at the airport, Stan mixed the three-part formula while I strung extension cords to the compressor. Things were looking pretty good – the compressor was coming up to pressure and the paint was ready to pour in the gun. However, a few practice strokes on a cardboard box failed to yield any results. Turned out the gun's reservoir outlet was blocked, which we quickly resolved with my Leatherman's leather punch. While we fixed the spray-gun's problem, the compressor's motor slowed and we found that we needed to get the compressor closer to the electrical source. We resolved the compressor problem by shuttling it between the main hangar (source for electricity) and the airplane. This meant we could only spray while the tank pressure remained sufficient, then it was back to the hangar for more air.

Well, as my good friend and this month's (January) guest speaker has often said, "You have to expect a little adversity as you go through life!" Fortunately, we were able to overcome the adversities, and our challenges ultimately turned into rewards. The results we trust will impress you.

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**The updated Mile High Wing PX at the Erie, Colorado Airport in 2009**

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### **Wing Accounting**

Col. Mike Kalinowski  
MHW Finance Officer

Greetings!!

This is my first attempt at a monthly newsletter article for the Mile High Wing that specifically addresses the financial details of the wing. I tried to come up with a catchy title to instill a little humor in what could otherwise be a dry topic. I know it's not possible for each of us to attend the monthly meetings to hear this stuff in person so I hope this helps keep yall informed. I'll try to cover the same thing in this article that we cover in person in the meetings. *continued next page*

For the financial update, the wing currently has at its disposal a little over \$1000 in our aircraft account and \$700 in the general account. Our MCRP at HQ is currently funded at about \$7700. While this may look good, we unfortunately still owe HQ approximately \$5000 for 2009 fees and have already incurred an aircraft insurance bill for 2009-2010 of \$2900. This is not good. Furthermore a look at projected fees to HQ for calendar year 2010 show that we will incur bills of approximately \$8900. Considering this allows us to operate a PX and Vintage WWII aircraft, I don't think its an unreasonable amount. Others may disagree and since I've never actually owned an aircraft, I profess I may not know what I'm talking about.

The big question now is, How do we pay these bills? Well, as you know, we have a PX trailer and a donations jar that we take to different events around the front range. For those who haven't been to one of our events in the last few years, you won't recognize the PX setup. We acquired a new, modern trailer and have expanded our line of items for sale by almost ten-fold. This has allowed us to generate more sales at these events as demonstrated by the show at Rocky Mountain Metro last year when there was almost nothing left to pack up at the end of the second day. Our two-day take for that event was over \$6200 (gross income). We have also added an online PX by virtue of an eBay store. We sell these same diecast toys and shirts worldwide. I have shipped items to Hungary, Australia, England, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Russia, Belgium, Amsterdam, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and to US Military bases in the middle east. I have also shipped items to 42 of the 50 states. We have many repeat buyers and even subscribers to the store newsletter. Our profit margin isn't as great on the website but its better than nothing at all. Since the PX and aircraft are our main revenue generators, we need more support at these events.

Currently we are tentatively scheduled for the following events: Rocky Mountain Regional Fly In August 28 and 29 at Rocky Mountain Metro Airport, Steamboat Springs on Sept 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, NREE in Akron Colorado on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, Erie airport on May 15<sup>th</sup>, Platte Valley Airport May 16<sup>th</sup>. Warbirds over the Rockies RC event in Fort Collins on an as yet unknown date. We are potentially looking at the In Their Honor air show in Colorado Springs and possibly an event in Powell Wyoming and Wendover Field in Utah. These are a lot of events so we need workers desperately. Those of you who may be a little intimidated by this, relax. We have made many improvements to the operation of the PX that make it much simpler. All items are tagged with prices and shirts are tagged with bin locations. Come join us and have some fun. Once dates are finalized they will be posted on the wing website calendar.

It's important that we have strong showings at these events as the revenue generated at air shows can cover about half of the yearly costs of operating the wing. That being said, we need to find other ways to generate the remaining \$4500 dollars. Another source of revenue are the yearly dues. The dues for this organization have remained unchanged since its inception, at \$45. The economic realities of the wing are forcing us to raise the dues for 2011 to \$55. It's not a lot but it will help. Finally I would ask that each of you check with your employers to see if they have some kind of matching contribution to non-profit organizations. I found that my employer does and they will match up to \$5000 of my donations dollar for dollar. Please check to see if your company has some sort of program like this. As another option, if any of you know professional CPAs, let them know about our organization. They may have clients that need tax deductions. We would gladly take those donations and provide them a ride in the aircraft if the donation is sizeable.

If our bills are not met, I don't know what HQ will do. They could take back the plane or disband our wing. I don't think any of us want to see that happen. If we can't raise the money from other means, we can only look to the members.

Well this is enough news for one column. I hope you all found it interesting. All the follow-on columns won't be this long, I promise. Keep those checks coming.

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## Member Survey

Col Mark Weigand

MHW Maintenance Officer\Newsletter Editor

By reading this you will see that the Mile High Wing newsletter is back! Thanks to Col Bob Elsloo for his past work on our outstanding newsletter. If you have any articles or photos for upcoming newsletters, please email them to me at: [mark-edu@mindspring.com](mailto:mark-edu@mindspring.com)

In the coming months I hope this newsletter provides some incentive for getting more involved in the Mile High Wing! With our return to flight the future looks promising and our plans are always evolving. With this in mind I want to survey all of our members with the goal of increasing attendance at our monthly meetings. Specifically, what **activities** or **items on the agenda** would you like to see at the meetings? Please reply to my email address. Thanks, and we need your continued support to Keep 'em Flying! -=MW=-

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## Calendar of Events

☐ Sad Note: Condolences to Stan Hanson and family. He lost his father-in-law last Wednesday, Feb 3rd.

☐ **February 20, 2010**

**Wing Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Boulder Municipal Airport terminal building**

☐ **Visit our online PX store at:**

<http://stores.ebay.com/AviationCollectablesMHW>

☐ Newsletter articles wanted. Please send to [mark-edu@mindspring.com](mailto:mark-edu@mindspring.com) or mail to: Mile High Wing, CAF, P.O. Box 47196, Aurora, CO 80047-1596

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