



MILE HIGH VIEW

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

Keep 'em Flying!

June, 2010



Left: Col. Stan Peterson applies gray primer. Right: Col. Stan Hanson reflected in the new silver paint.

SILVER WINGS Col. Mark Weigand

After several days of rain, June 15th turned out to be an excellent work day at Boulder Municipal Airport with Colonels Peterson, Hanson, and Weigand attending. Some major progress on the C-45 restoration project included cleaning, priming and painting the lower left wing, outboard of the nacelle. The first part of this multi-step process was done on the previous work day to clean and lightly scuff the wing surface, and with special attention to detail, cleaning all rivets with a small brush. The underside of the fuselage has already been painted and the improvement is impressive.

With that accomplished we began by cleaning the bare aluminum with a fragrant and possibly flesh-eating mixture of Alodine (gloves recommended-ha ha). After washing this away and drying the wing with towels, the area was carefully masked off from under the wing. Using several different size step stools for seats made this a lot easier. *(continued next page)*

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Col. Peterson then sprayed some high-quality gray primer, and after 30-minutes of dry time the wing was ready for its silver paint using the compressor. Besides giving protection the silver paint closely matches the original aluminum and complements the authentic warbird colors of the C-45. The same approach has been used on other historic airplanes such as the B-17 "Aluminum Overcast". With good summer weather for work days ahead, when the right wing is painted the C-45 will continue to inspire crowds at our events for many years.

As with any project some minor glitches occurred but they were quickly overcome by a second trip to get more primer (hey I didn't get lost in Boulder either time), and some help from the airport manager to power-up an electrical outlet for the compressor. We also found out that not all water hoses are created equal and so at times we were able to wash part of the ramp as well as the airplane.

So with no significant glitches, good weather and such good results the day went very well and the left wing is looking great for the Boulder airport hangar dance and the event photos that will be taken of the C-45. Personally I always learn something new from our C-45 work days and encourage all members to participate in this worthy effort to Keep 'em Flying.

More Good News

Recently we received a \$5,000 grant (that's right, \$5,000) from Visa Corporation that has helped much with our expenses. Thanks goes to Col. Mike Kalinowski for working this out with Visa. This grant is available only every other year so of course we need and appreciate all ongoing donations. So don't forget to send in your special assessment donation this year!

June 15TH, 2010 WORK DAY PHOTOS



Col. Stan Hanson and Col. Mark Weigand wash and dry the left wing after cleaning it with Alodine.





Col. Weigand cleans rivets before priming.



Col. Peterson inspects the masked-off left wing

Calendar of Events

☐ Saturday June 19th. Boulder Airport Day fly-in at Boulder Municipal Airport

NOTE SPECIAL EVENT SATURDAY JUNE 19TH . Second Annual 1940's WWII Ball hangar dance with live 1940's-style big band and singers, vintage airplanes, re-enactors, food and drinks and much more. Boulder Municipal Airport. This is an outstanding event and spouses like it! Visit their website at: <http://1940swwiiball.org> for more information.

☐ Visit our online PX store at:
<http://stores.ebay.com/AviationCollectablesMHW>

☐ Newsletter articles wanted. Please send to mark-edu@mindspring.com or mail to: Mile High Wing, CAF, P.O. Box 471596, Aurora, CO 80047-1596



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