



MILE HIGH VIEW

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

Keep 'Em Flying!

January 2005

Wing Changes

By Col Paul LaPrad

On the last day of 2004, it seems a good time to consider events of the past five years. Certainly those of us who have been in the Mile High Wing during this time have witnessed many changes.

My adventure with the Wing started around May or June of 1999 when KEZW advertised a dance at Centennial Airport put on by a group called the Confederate Air Force. It featured barbecue (that should be enough to draw out most red-blooded Americans), 40's music by a live band, and an airplane that I had heard of—Sentimental Journey.

Beth & I went and had a very enjoyable time. We met some interesting people including the Burkes, the Olivers, and Stan Hanson and his girlfriend, who was dressed as Rosie the riveter—she later became Mrs. H. Beth and I had our picture taken near SJ, and I picked up an application. In July, I joined the CAF, then the local Squadron.

In October 1999, a few of us went to Midland, Texas for the CAF AIRSHO and I saw the Lockheed Lodestar that our guys had been talking about. It was sitting on the outer perimeter along with a few other planes that looked much the worse for wear.

We had done some fundraising and looked forward to getting the plane to Denver. Near Thanksgiving of 1999, three of our guys flew Heavenly Cargo from Midland to Boulder and it was quite a thrill to be present for the landing, and to have the press there taking pictures of "our" plane. At the time, we didn't realize the plane was in such bad condition, but like one who has found a new love, we just forged ahead.

Over the next few years various people became active, and 6371C underwent a number of changes, starting, if I recall, with getting the cabin door lock fixed so it would work properly. Even though it was taken to a well known locksmith shop, I'm not sure it worked properly for too long. We had the three cockpit seats refurnished along

with carpet in the cabin, replaced the dozens of hoses in both engines, replaced the tires, some of the windows and a number of other changes.

For a couple of years at least, our Wing meetings were held in a Boulder Airport hangar that could be cold in the winter. Later we moved our meetings to Front Range Airport, then this past spring back to Boulder to do more work on the plane. After the meetings, we would have work parties, with work also being done at other times.

For six months, 6371C was on static display in Midland, then for several months the plane was based at Meadowlake Airport to aid our overall restorative efforts. The Wyoming Connection guys made a major contribution to our efforts as did various individuals over the years.

More recently we changed the exterior appearance (what a *labor* of love that was), and the plane, which at one time I thought was kind of ugly but I had come to like, looked *great*. Indeed it was a thrill to once again take Heavenly Cargo (now locally renamed Mile High Honey) to the 2004 AIRSHO, and to see it fly in the show.

We are starting a New Year, and are, once again, in the midst of changes and challenges. (When haven't we been?) First, we again need to acquire a flying machine; as most of you probably know, we have made some headway in terms of looking at some types and making some decisions on the primary type to pursue. Stan Peterson has put in a lot of effort in obtaining information for us to analyze.

Second, we must expand our membership. This is something we talked about last year and really need to concentrate on this year. Third, we need to be looking at a base of operations as well as possible avenues of funding.

Due to my local involvement and attending national CAF functions, I have come to experience the CAF somewhat like a family. And like a family, we haven't always had smooth sailing (flying), but we have moved ahead. It is of utmost importance to realize that while we may have some differences of opinion or methods of working, each of us is important to the overall group and to each other. Hopefully we can have fun while we KEEP 'EM FLYING. →

Calendar of Events

Jan. 15, 2005 – Wing meeting:
10:00 a.m., Front Range Airport, terminal
building, upstairs conference room.

Feb. 19, 2005 – Wing meeting:
10:00 a.m., Front Range Airport, terminal
building, upstairs conference room.

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

Wing Dues Are Due

Your annual Wing dues are due in January.
Please mail your \$45 to:

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

Or bring your payment to the next general
meeting of the Mile High Wing. For this
you will receive the monthly newsletter,
an ID card, and a whole lot of camaraderie.



Mile High Wing, CAF

P.O. Box 471596

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