



# MILE HIGH VIEW

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

*Keep 'Em Flying!*

*November 2005*

## Wing's AT-7 Flies High

*By Col Stan Peterson*

The new month started with our monthly meeting coinciding with the second appearance of the year for the Wing's "Cream Puff" AT-7, at Platte Valley Airport's open house on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Our airplane accomplished a first for a Mile High Wing aircraft: it actually generated more income than our PX. Several people paid for rides and were delightfully surprised to find out just how exciting and fun flying in a vintage WWII aircraft could be.

The FAA took advantage of the open house to present awards to outstanding aviators and mechanics; the most impressive award was presented to the oldest pilot still maintaining a current pilot's license, at 103 years old!

The highlight of the day for me was seeing Bill McKelvey arrive with his son to see the AT-7, which was the same type of aircraft that he had trained in as a navigator more than 63 years ago. He was gracious enough to sign the Monroe Army Air Force Navigator School "year book" which we had researched and acquired just a few days prior to his arrival. He also delighted my three grandsons by signing their WWII book of airplanes.

Platte Valley Airport owners have been very hospitable toward the Mile High Wing, and therefore when asked to help support their flying museum by giving airplane rides to five couples who are some of their strongest supporters, our staff naturally had no objection. The two flights were fun, and the donors had a great time enjoying drinks and on-board entertainment, including the latest newspapers, and *Harpers* and *New Yorker* magazines. The flights included a beautiful aerial tour of downtown Hudson!

Unusual as it may seem, the Mile High Wing also spent the better part of four days this month participating in the Holiday Food and Gift Festival. The spirit of the



**Bill McKelvey, right, who trained as an AAF navigator in an AT-7 in 1943, autographs the AAFNS historical book next to his name. Col Stan Peterson looks on.**

CAF was being kept alive by some of our Wing stalwarts: Stan and Gerry Hanson, Mike Kalinowski, Dan King, Beth and Scott Lawrence, Jeff McCown, Anne and yours truly Peterson. We sold a lot of the same merchandise that was sold at last year's festival, but this year, thanks to Dan's beautiful graphics and Mike's creative flyers and gift certificates, many airplane rides were sold.

The month continues with an invitation to attend Boulder Aviation Service's open house on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Boulder Airport, which again will coincide with our monthly meeting. Since these open house/fly-ins tend to conclude their activities fairly early, we'll plan our meetings after the conclusion of the day's events.

Now, with all this fun and goings on, it's time to consider the care and feeding of our Cream Puff. With this in mind we're scheduling a work (that's right – a four letter word) day this coming Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. at the Platte Valley Airport. We'll hope to get some cleaning, shining, and general maintenance accomplished—no special skills required. See you there! →

## Calendar of Events

**November 12, 2005** – Work day,  
9:00 a.m., *Platte Valley Airport.*

**November 19, 2005** – Boulder Aviation  
Service's Open House, *Boulder Airport,*  
with Wing meeting to follow.

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

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**The Wing's AT-7 thrills its paying passengers with a fly-by at Platte Valley Airport.**



**A close-up of the AT-7 "Cream Puff" in flight, captured by a photographer in a chase plane.**

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