



MILE HIGH VIEW

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

Keep 'Em Flying!

December 2005

First Open House at Boulder Aviation Services

By Col Stan Peterson

The beat goes on; you win some, lose some, and some get rained out but you gotta get dressed for them all. I had looked forward to the Boulder Open House with somewhat less than wild expectations. The possibility of a C-130 making the event had vanished, and many other interesting aircraft were forwarding their regrets. The five-day forecast wasn't looking all that good, and the reservations for rides in the AT-7 weren't looking all that good, either.

Col Mike Kalinowski positioned the PX trailer while Bob Elsloo and I flew the AT-7 to Boulder the afternoon before the open house. The next morning we woke to a rather mild day, but before our first flight, the temperature had dropped to a chilly 34 degrees and the winds had picked up to 20 mph from the north.

Our only passenger was a retired Blue Angel, Donald Dennis, who was doubling as my copilot. The Boulder Unicom got Don's attention when (unsolicited) they broadcast their current winds over the air. After assuring him that the winds were "no problem," I noticed that we had lost our primary digital engine instruments. Although the crosswind made the landing interesting - I'm sure all eyes were watching - it turned out to be a non-event. In fact, Don rated it a 9.5 out of a possible 10.

As we taxied in, I asked Don to check circuit breakers, thinking that since only the electrical engine instruments were inoperative, a circuit breaker must have popped. Sure enough, he located a popped breaker and proceeded to reset it, at which time the cockpit started to fill with smoke, causing the circuit breaker to trip again.

After shutdown, things improved as we headed for the main hangar and an FAA award ceremony plus a lunch, provided by Boulder Aviation Services, of hot dogs and burgers hot off the grill, complete with chips and all the fixin's. After lunch, Wing Leader Paul La Prad hosted the

Wing's monthly meetings; Staff and General meetings were combined due to the full schedule. I was pleased to see such a good turnout for the meetings, including Colonels Lynn Merrill and her father Bruce, at least a couple of guests, and a few folks that I hadn't seen in over a year.

One of the guests was Paul Canizaro, a pilot/mechanic who just happened to be a member of the Commemorative Air Force. Paul just recently moved back to Boulder and plans to remain in the area for a while. I thought it would be a good idea to invite Paul to take a look at our most recent electrical problem. Paul gladly agreed to help us and in a rather short (no pun intended) time had located a couple of wires that were causing the smoke and arcing, and repaired them.

Although no motion was made for a Christmas Party, our December meeting will coincide with a Holiday Party at the Platte Valley Airport. Their party will start at 1800 hrs, some time after our activities are expected to conclude. However, the Platte Valley Airpark and The Lafayette Foundation will be collecting toys (unwrapped) for the Hudson Fire Department's Christmas Project. I invite you to bring a toy to donate and we'll share some treats and good cheer as we take care of the monthly business and perhaps get some work done on the AT-7, depending on the weather.

continued on page 2



The Mile High Wing's AT-7 cruises over the open fields near Platte Valley Airport

Calendar of Events

Dec. 17, 2005 – Wing meeting:

10:00 a.m., *Platte Valley Airport*, in the "upper room" of the tower

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

Got stuff for the *Mile High View*?

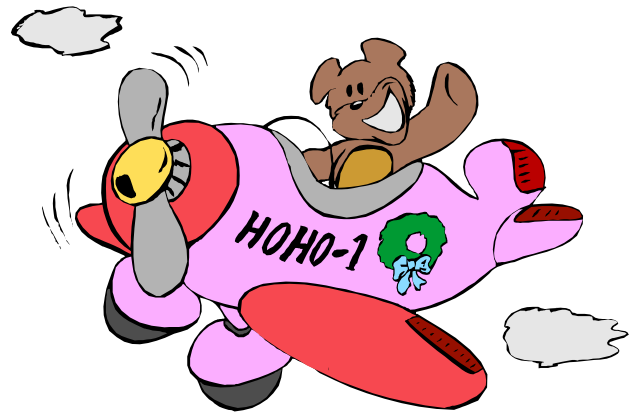
Articles, announcements, news items, photos, and airpower-related book or movie reviews are all welcome. Deadline is the 5th of the month (e.g., Jan. 5 for the January newsletter). Email your stuff to the editor, Col Lynn Merrill, at: lmerrill@qualcomm.com.

Boulder Open House, continued

So, contrary to what your economics professor might have told you, at the Boulder Open House we did enjoy a "free lunch." We were fortunate that the inverter circuit breaker popped only because of a short in the wires, not because the inverter or the electronic instruments had gone bad, which might have led to an expensive repair.

The weather held for us to get the airplanes (the AT-7 and my Cessna 190) and PX back into position, thanks to a considerable amount of help from Bob Elsloo and Mike Kalinowski.

Furthermore, even though there didn't seem to be much activity around the PX (except for a brief frenzy when the wind blew over the canopy) we did sell \$135 worth of merchandise. In sum, all things considered – the day turned out OK. →



Happy Holidays!



Mile High Wing, CAF

P.O. Box 471596

Aurora, CO 80047-1596