

HONORING AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION THROUGH FLIGHT, EXHIBITION AND REMEMBRANCE

TEAMWORK & TENACITY

*By Col Tom Howe
 Propwash Gazette Editor*

2014 certainly won't be remembered as the most successful, the busiest, the happiest, or certainly the easiest year our Wing and it's members have experienced. But the "keep 'em Flying" attitude of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) and certainly the Rocky Mountain Wing (RMW) was demonstrated locally in grand style during this year. The assertiveness, fortitude, and organizational /operational efforts put forth during the past months to establish a path to repair "309" after the unfortunate gear incident has demonstrated why this CAF Wing is truly unique.

Here we sit, more isolated than probably any other CAF wing or squadron yet for over 30 years this wing

has done what many other organizations envy - we have achieved lofty goals and maintained a successfully functional CAF wing even though we're geographically isolated and population challenged. Our long time continuously active members like Col Floyd Suits and Col Dorothy Dutton and others have been an inspiration to us more short term RMW Colonels.

Our newer members like Col Jay Anderson, Col Rich Conner, Col Robert Owen, Col Willie Hooker Col Dick Maddox, Col John Mumery Cols Bob and Sandi Caskey, Col Kay Johnson and others have demonstrated repeatedly their commitment to our organization, it's goals and challenges.

We are truly a team. Long time CAF members like

Cols Bob and Georgia Thompson, Col Rob Duncan and others have brought into the wing a fantastic mixture of CAF experience from outside our somewhat isolated spot in the middle of the high country desert.

When faced with a more than tough operational challenge like we're facing today, our all volunteer organization has shown its tenacity. Without hesitation we have charged ahead and will use the skills, experience, and Wing resources to again show that we too have "the right stuff!"

What an organization!

Just think how the CAF's Midland, Texas Headquarters (HQ) and Airbase Arizona has put forth so much effort to assist - HQ by initiating a nationwide fund raising effort and AirBase AZ providing priceless facility and personnel support.

Teamwork & Tenacity! Now it is time to enjoy a little rest from the challenge, meet and greet other Colonels and celebrate. See you December 6th. At the RMWCAF Museum!



Inside this issue:

2015 RMW AIR SHOW SCHEDULE	2
HOLIDAY DISH?	2
MAINTENANCE RPT	3
WING LEADERS RPT	4
PHOTO OF THE MONTH	4
STAFF OFFICERS	5
TALE OF TWO TBMS	6
SURVIVOR'S PARTY	7

SEE PAGE 7 FOR INFORMATION
ABOUT THE DECEMBER 6TH
SURVIVOR'S PARTY
RSVP: rvtglt@earthlink.net



RMW AIR SHOW SCHEDULE - 2015

MONTH	DAYS	LOCATION	SHOW	TBM	CUB	STATUS
Mar						
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
Oct						

Our Colonels BobThompson and Kent Taylor will soon be traveling to the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) in Las Vegas December 6th - 9th.

This is the annual meeting of Air Show promoters and Air Show performers where many of the bookings take place to set the following year Air Show schedules.

Again, the Rocky Mountain Wing CAF will be part of the CAF booth and display area of the Convention exhibit area and will hopefully result in making the contacts necessary to begin filling the table to the left for our 2015 show season.

There's always room for additional attendees to help. Contact Col Thompson.

Have a favorite Holiday Dish? Bring it to the Survivors' Party!

Our wing is very fortunate to have a group of Colonels that tirelessly (it seems) manage to provide Saturday lunch at Staff Meetings and rise even above their Colonel rank to arrange the eats and drinks for a number of gatherings at our

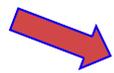
museum. Once again this undaunted small group has accepted the challenge to organize a complete feast for the 2014 Rocky Mountain Wing Survivors' Party.

Plan to pitch in (figuratively) and bring one of your fami-

ly's favorite holiday dishes to the party. Shown here is a category suggestion list provided by Col Sandi Caskey. You can either sign the list in

the museum kitchen or contact Col Sandi at sandicaskey@acsol.net.

See you there!



IMPORTANT: CHANGE IN VOTING PROCEDURES

To vote in the upcoming Annual Unit Meeting election, there are two ways to cast your vote.

Vote during the Annual Unit Meeting on December 6th at the Rocky Mountain Wing survivor's party/meeting.

If you do not vote at the Annual Unit Meeting, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you after December 6th. The ballot will include any nominations from the floor. The ballot must be mailed back and postmarked by December 20th.

Detailed instructions for voting are included on the ballot.

All voting members must be members in good standing with CAFHeadquarters and the Rocky Mountain Wing. If you have questions, contact Georgia Thompson via e-mail at rvtgt@earthlink.net or by telephone at (970) 921-4088.

2014 SURVIVOR'S PARTY	
KITCHEN DUTY	
	X
APPETIZERS	
VEGETABLES	
SALADS	
ROLLS	
DESSERTS	
DRINKS	
MISCELLANEOUS	
OTHER	
DECORATING COMMITTEE (IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP)	



Project Phoenix - Maintenance Report

By Col Tom Howe

As we finish this calendar year work continues on TBM 309 at AirBase Arizona with most of the mechanical parts and pieces (little things like the engine and prop) ready to be installed when their turn arrives. It certainly has been longer than we had hoped but thanks to Col Jay Anderson and all the other volunteers both at AirBase AZ and from our Wing – we’re mov-

ing constantly forward. The structural and sheet metal repairs to the damaged wing continue. The airframe cannot be moved until the repaired wing is reconnected to the wing folding mechanism so that both wings can be folded at the same time. That means our aircraft is taking hangar space away from AirBase AZ – space that is normally used for winter remedial maintenance on their many aircraft. But in the same gracious manner that they extended the offer for us to use their facility and resources last spring, they have said they will continue to work around us until we can safely move our TBM. We owe them much

gratitude.

Thanks to the efforts of our Wing Maintenance Officer, Col Rob Duncan, your staff is corresponding with a possible benefactor in the Phoenix area that may become more involved with the repair. Rob is also investigating commercial repair possibilities that could insure the remaining work necessary to put “309” back in the air this coming spring is completed in time for the 2015 air show season. Decisions regarding the repair direction we pursue beginning next year will be high on the list of actions taken by the new staff.

As we close this calendar year and begin another, we can reflect back on how

many great members have stepped up to the challenge we’re facing and how far we’ve come towards achieving a goal created by an unfortunate incident. All our members should take great pride in our organization. The Rocky Mountain Wing has for decades shown through its 100 per cent volunteer membership that - we’re here to stay. We are willing to dedicate our personal time and resources, and able to face adversity when necessary. We are all proud to be members of the Commemorative Air Force and believe in the CAF mission – most aptly stated in three little words – “Keep ‘em Flying!”

AIRBASE AZ 2014 VETERANS’ DAY

In appreciation of the efforts put forth by Col Jay Anderson and the other AZ Colonels providing assistance with the “309” repairs, the RMWCAF purchased tickets to the 2014 Veterans’ Day

Banquet at AirBase AZ to show our appreciation for the efforts those Cols have put forth. Col Jay Anderson sent these photos. What a great class act by AirBase AZ.

Thanks guys for all your efforts and support.

You guys are the greatest!



Photo by Col J. Anderson



Photo by Col J. Anderson



**COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN WING**

Primary Business Address
PO Box 4125
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Propwash Gazette Editor
Col Tom Howe
Phone: 970-872-7373
Fax: 970-872-7474
e-mail: howet@tds.net

RMWCAF on the Web
www.rmwcaf.org

"Keep 'em Flying"

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Gator - Head of "309" Security at CAF AirBase Arizona does a quick check of the bombardier's station in B-17 "Sentimental Journey" while on duty. Everything checked out just fine...

WING LEADER'S REPORT

*By Col Collin Fay
Wing Leader*

'Tis the season of holidays, but rather than visions of St. Nicolas and sugar plums, many of us are thinking of Survivors' Parties and Wing elections.

This year has provided some different challenges for the RMW – we haven't just flown to airshows and sold PX to fund our activities. In March the TBM suffered its landing-gear accident and all of our recent efforts have been focused toward getting the plane repaired so we can again display her as part of the CAF's American Airpower Heritage Flying Museum. Many of our members have donated significant time and effort toward this goal, but we are still a long ways away and we all still need to chip in,



working together, to get ol' 309 flying again.

On December 6th we will hold our Survivors' Party, once again giving us the opportunity to get together for holiday fellowship and a review of the past year's activities. Since we didn't do much in the way of air shows this year, I know the focus will be on the repair efforts underway at Airbase Arizona. We will also be holding elections for several key leadership positions, so I hope you can attend to help elect the RMW's future leadership

team. Several candidates have been proposed by the Nominating Committee, but this year we also expect to have one or more nominations from the floor. Those who attend the Survivors' Party can participate in the nominating process. Following nominations, the members that are present will cast ballots. In order to ensure full membership representation, those unable to attend will receive absentee ballots in the mail shortly thereafter.

The RMW is at one of the

most critical stages in its history and the leaders we elect in December will be integral to the continued success of the Wing. I believe everyone agrees that our highest priority is to get the TBM flying again, and we have done a good job raising the funds to support that effort. The key now will be development, implementation, and coordination of the repair efforts. Many members have worked tirelessly this year toward that end, and we need to maintain a leadership team that can

Continued on Page 6

GONE WEST!
Dr. James Dunn recently passed on October 13th. He was 90. Dr. Dunn was an WWII U.S.Army veteran serving from August 11, 1943 to August 14, 1946. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star. James was an early member of the RMW, Col. 7136, and was proud owner of a Cessna T210 that he used extensively in treating Navajo Indian patients in New Mexico. This Cessna is now owned by Bob Thompson who flew over the services at the Veterans Cemetery Park on October 17th. RIP.

RMWCAF STAFF OFFICERS

Wing Leader (acting)	Bob Thompson
Wing Leader	Collin Fay
Executive Officer	Bob Caskey
Finance Officer	Robert Toth
Adjutant	Kent Taylor
Operations Officer	Kay Johnson
Maintenance Off.	Rob Duncan
Museum & Mess Sergeant	Dorothy Dutton
Safety Officer	Michael O'Connell
Judge Advocate	Gerald Feather
Public Information Officer	Bruce DeRush
PX Officer	Georgia Thompson
Newsletter Editor	Tom Howe
TBM Aircraft Coordinator	Bob Thompson
Cub Aircraft Coordinator	Charlie Huff
Facilities Manager	Bruce Verstraete
Recruiting Officer	Sandi Caskey

**OTHER WWII AIRCRAFT
BOTH OURS AND THEIRS**

The Canadian Fleet 50 design began in 1936 and the first flight was in 1938. The design included several innovative construction techniques. Because it was underpowered only five were built.

This Third Reich poster about the new party laborers "...in body and soul" is often construed (today) to be racist against the blacks - even though the poster never says anything of that kind. Go figure.



What young Canadian farm kid, lumber jack or city dweller **wouldn't look at** this poster and see sensational thrills and satisfaction of service by joining **Canada's New Army?**

This is target marketing at its very, very best with great composition, subject matter and adventure appeal!

**How Many Cols...?**

How many Cols does it take to move six display cabinets?

How many? On Saturday November 1st an experiment was conducted to determine one total.

Shortly before 10:00 AM a number of Cols gathered at the Clubb's variety store in Delta. Attending were Cols Thompson (the instigator), Col Taylor (the side kick), Col Howe (the absent minded local support), Col Suits (the non-pilot advisor), Col Caskey (the high ranking director), Col Verstraete (the candidate observer) & Col Johnson (the designated disagreeor.) That would be a count of at least seven for the experiment. A total of seven Colonels and only six cabinets – that comprises a supposedly reasonable scientific experimental balance of resources and substances.

The cabinets were (are) constructed of mostly fragile materials like plate glass and thin metal framing with additions including lights and the necessary power adapters to illuminate same. This added to

both the handling challenge and repositioning procedures implemented in the experiment. The study included the challenge of dismantling the cabinets in such a manner that they might actually be re-mantled (?) at some distant time and place.

There was no lack of advice or numerous recommended procedural steps to be taken in every facet of the operation. A complete lack of leadership was evident as every small step was repeatedly verbally criticized by those watching and weakly justified by those doing. But as the experiment worked it's way along the cabinets were amazingly dismantled, loaded, secured and eventually (with minor in-route cargo securing modifications) transported from Delta and surrounding areas all the way to storage in the RMWCAF hangar.

When the time comes that a few of the cabinets have to be "re-mantled" the experiment can be evaluated as to its success level. Until then a great job well done – with a total of seven Cols operating in perfect CAF Colonel harmony!

Whew!!

PROJECT PHOENIX



The Project Phoenix fund raising activities continue with donations continuing to accumulate.

Thanks to all those that contributed both with financial support and donated time.



Wing Leader's Report (continued)

(Continued from Page 4)

guide us toward realizing that goal.

While there are many, I recently came across the following definition of a good leader:

"You measure a leader not in terms of the skills he possesses, but in terms of the skills he develops in others; not in terms of those he helps, but in terms of those he helps help themselves; not in terms of decisions he makes but how he frees others to make decisions; not in terms of the power he has over others but in terms of the power he releases in others; not in terms of what he has accomplished, but what they have accomplished – that is the measure of a leader."

I believe this definition covers the attributes of truly effective leaders. I hope all of us in the RMW can work together to elect as our leaders those indi-

viduals who most closely fit this definition, and I encourage those who are elected to espouse this meaning of leadership. The Wing staff and other active volunteers will be crucial to meeting our goal of getting the TBM back to flying status as quickly as possible. Please consider this as you make your nominations and cast your ballots.

Most of you know that I will not be continuing in a leadership role with the Wing due to a career opportunity that has taken me away from Grand Junction. I've enjoyed my time with the CAF, and the RMW in particular. I plan to remain as involved as I can remotely, both locally and nationally. I appreciate all of the assistance from everyone during my tenure and urge everyone to support the new leadership team as we make this transition. Thanks to everyone for your help to

"keep 'em flying!"

A Tale of Two TBMs

Submitted by
Col Rob Duncan

I asked Brad Deckert, upper TBM pilot, why he did not have his bomb bay open like Charlie Cartledge does in lower TBM. Brad says Charlie's airplane is about 15 knots faster than Brad's. Ohio-based Charlie's TBM won best Warbird at Oshkosh last year, and featured in Warbird Digest. Illinois-based Brad's TBM is hanging seven five inch rockets, two 250 lb bombs, the ASR

radar pod on right wing, and ALL of the originally equipped antenna. A bit of a drag. Note both have polished firewalls, the edges are seen just aft of the cowl flaps. I like that look. However both of the aircraft are a bit glossy for my taste.

We have purchased several items from these two guys, including the new propeller. They bought the five truckloads of TBM parts from Forest Protection Ltd.





BMW SURVIVORS PARTY

What: Celebration 2014

Where: CAF, RMW Hangar & Museum

When: Saturday, 6 December 2014

12:00 noon: Social Hour

1:00 pm: Lunch, catered by Cowboy & The Rose

2:00 pm: Staff Elections

2:15 pm: Awards & Comment

3:00 pm: Adjourn

Cost: \$15.00 pp at the door

**AWARDS, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE PINS, GOOD FOOD
MEET NEW MEMBERS, 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW,
STAFF ELECTIONS**

RSVP: Bob & Georgia Thompson 970-921-4088

rvtgt@earthlink.net

**SEE KITCHEN HELP SIGN-
UP NOTICE ON PAGE 2**

Or sign-up sheet at the hangar.

Colonels – Family – Friends

P.O. Box 4125, Grand Junction, CO 81502