



HONORING AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION THROUGH FLIGHT, EXHIBITION AND REMEMBRANCE

We Survived ... Again!

By Col Tom Howe
 Editor

The weather cooperated, the caterer was great, the decorations festive, and the attending Colonels all smiling. What a great way to start our 2017 Survivor's Party. 2017 was better than many of our past years and worth celebrating. We made the full year Show schedule, have both aircraft operational and the museum looking good!

Of course surviving means rewards for those that helped make another successful year.

Shown below are the 2017 RMWCAF reward recipients. Some might call them "winners" but in reality, none of them were working to "win" a reward but rather working to help make sure our Wing survived another year.

Every Colonel in this wing contributes to our success.

Recognition of a

limited few for contributing a little bit more is justified - especially after some of the untiring effort put forth by those listed here.

If you see them, tell them your recognize and appreciate their efforts. We are an all volunteer organization. Without members like these, we would not survive.

But survive we did and that makes reason for a party!

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What's Mine is Yours Award

Presented to: Col TOM DENNIS

For providing whatever equipment is needed at any time!

Peacock Awards

Presented to:

Col STEVE WOOD & Col LEONARD FELIX

For proudly showing off their beautiful birds at RMW Events!

Swiss Army Knife Award

Presented to: Col DICK JACKSON

multifunctional, he jumps in and helps with anything that needs to be done.

Reach Out Award

Presented to: Col DOROTHY DUTTON

For her long time Museum Curator and Recruiting services!

Silver Wrench Award.

Presented to: Col BYRON HUFFMAN

For his untiring work on the TBM and Ambulance!

Golden Wrench Award.

Presented to: Col DICK MADDOCK

For his can-do attitude & service as Maintenance Officer!

Official Communicator Award

Presented to: Col BECCA WALTERS

For taking on the challenge of RMW Adjutant!

Quick Start Awards.

Presented to: Col BILL LOSEY

For Volunteering to be Webmaster at his first meeting!

Presented to: Col KEITH SWINEHART

For Volunteering to be Recruiting Officer at his first meeting!

Airport Avenger Awards

Presented to: Col DAVE SHEPARD & Col BILL MARVEL

For their untiring efforts to open the gates!

I Think I Can Award

Presented to: Col ROBERT OWEN

For his innovative approach to getting things done!

Digital Abacus Award

Presented to: Col GABE TOTH

For bringing our accounting practices into the 21st Century!

Golden Plunger Award

Presented to: Cols BOB & GEORGIA THOMPSON

For cheerfully dealing with all manner of Crap for many years!

Super Communicator Award

Presented to: Col TOM HOWE

For his amazing work with the RMW Propwash Newsletter!



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RMW AIR SHOW SCHEDULE - 2018

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

2018 SHOW SCHEDULE COMING SOON!

WE'RE

Operations Officer
Col Thompson already has many 2018 Shows scheduled and Confirmed!
Will you be ready to sign up and have FUN During the 2018 SEASON?

BUSY! BUT, WE'RE NEVER BUSY ENOUGH!!

Survived ... Again!

(Continued from Page 1)

Without a doubt, the big event of the year has to be National Recognition of "309" as a NATIONAL HISTORIC STRUCTURE - now listed on the national records as one of only six aircraft with that distinction, one of only two currently flying and will probably be one of only three of the current six that will ever be flying again! There is a P-51 in Indiana that currently is operational and a DC-3 under restoration in Alaska that will probably join the flying ranks this summer.

But most importantly, our "309" the very first Commemorative Air Force aircraft to earn such national recognition. Wow! Be Proud!

We must thank our friends at History Colorado for their invaluable assistance in this effort - without them

it would have been a near unachievable goal!

Just image where our Wing was just over two years ago. Our flagship aircraft "309" was broken and repairs consuming money in amounts that were devastating. Our Yellowbird Cub was just finding it's wings again (so to speak) after many troubles kept it out of the skies as well. Our membership was stagnant at best, our treasury depleted and our revenue generation tools inactive. Surviving hasn't been easy.

And look where we are today. Yep, we're still broke but our membership is increasing, we've figured out new ways to generate income, and we're having fun again!

Yep - we are definitely survivors and we will continue to survive.

2018 will be a milestone year!



Col Tom Dennis accepts his "What's Mine is Yours Award". You earned that one, Tom.

Your editor may get along reasonably well with a keyboard but don't trust photography to him - ever! None of those he relies upon to provide quality photos came through with survivor's party pictures, so here we are with just a few from your editor's phone. Sad!



Col Dick Jackson ready to receive the Swiss Army Knife award from Wing Leader Col Taylor. Silver Wrench Award winner Col (and Mrs.) Byron Huffman both seem to agree with Col Jackson's Award.



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AIR FORCE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN WING**

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“Keep 'em Flying”

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Oh, the drudgery of it all. Our OPs Officer Col Bob Thompson sacrifices his time and knowledge to attend ICAS every year in Las Vegas to begin the build of our show season. Col Bob is shown here having a terrible time with CAF HQ (&RMW) Col Bill Shepard at the ICAS party - Work, work. WORK!

WING LEADER'S REPORT

*By Col Kent Taylor
RMW Wing Leader*

What a year! The TBM is back and performing well - thanks to the maintenance team! We have 2 ½ new TBM Pilots – Thanks to Cols Barry Hancock and Chris Ryan from the Utah Wing, and Col Bill Shepard from HQ, who just needs a final check ride. Despite a slow start, we had a successful airshow season and great PX sales - thanks to everyone who hustled to make it happen! We tried several new events that more than covered reduced airshow revenue – thanks to the idea people and the faithful workers that made them successful. Our first big Hangar Dance was amazing, with a turnout of more than 200 dancers – thanks to a lot of preparation and a partnership with the local Swing



Dance club! Christmas Photos with Santa (in front of our TBM) drew a nice crowd this year, and brought us at least three new members – thanks to all the elves that participated!

The biggest milestones of the year were of course the listing of our TBM on the Colorado Register of Historic Properties in January, followed by its listing on the NATIONAL Register in November, thanks to more than two years of hard work by Dave Shepard, assisted by Tom Howe.

Bottom Line: an amazing

comeback after 2 ½ years of TBM repair and restoration. We haven't turned the financial corner yet, but we've got good momentum. We'll need to continue paying down the restoration debt, growing our membership, and finding new sources of recurring income to avoid mid-year cashflow problems. Most importantly, we'll have to find some serious grants or corporate sponsors to expand the Museum and build

a suitable new home for our National Treasure. Get ready to launch!

Be sure to contribute to the TBM or Cub via the 12 Planes of Christmas campaign at <https://supportcaf.org>, or add a contribution to the General Fund to your annual Rocky Mountain Wing Dues payment. Every dollar gets us closer to our ultimate goal!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year ☺.



Colonels Georgia and Bob Thompson holding the coveted Golden Plunger Award. Little did they know that managing all that crap for all that time could be so rewarding!!

Yeah, right!

The B-29 Story

Editors Note:

By Col Tom Howe

A few months ago Colonel Georgia Thompson handed me a small booklet, obviously worn and passed through several hands before grasped by mine. As I recall, Col Thompson said the booklet had been handed to her by a lady she met somewhere in Georgia's many travels. Georgia told me perhaps I could find something for the Propwash in the booklet.

That prompted me to do some homework - I try to be very careful when re-printing information published in other media.

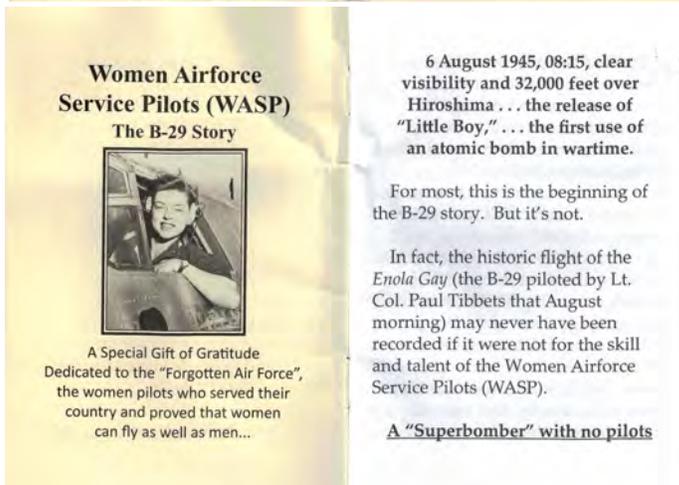
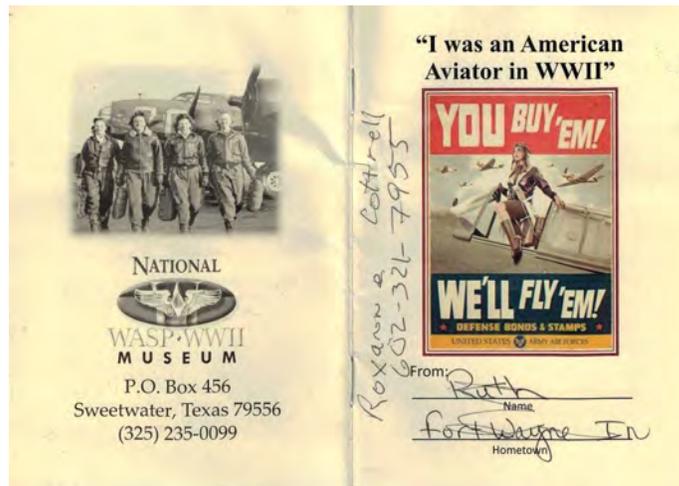
So, I contacted the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, Texas for permission to reprint all or part of the booklet.

Executive Director Ann Hobing responded with, "We are happy to share the story of WASP with so many around the country and appreciate the CAF promoting our Museum."

It just didn't seem right to copy just the text and put it

on virtual paper for the Propwash readers. This booklet means too much to those that contributed as WASPs.

So, over the next few issues you will see the booklet as you should, just as a WASP might hand it to you..



WWII QUIZ **ANSWERS ON PAGE 5**

Multiple Choice

Identify the last U.S. airfield to be captured by the Japanese

A. Laohokow, China, March 1945
 B. Ormoc Bay, Philippines, 1942 C. Kunming, China 1943

The AIR War

How many women served as pilots in the Soviet Air Force?

Thanks to author Timothy B. Bensford



MAINTENANCE REPORT

Maintenance Officer Col Dick Maddock oversees Santa at the December



10th visit Santa made to the Rocky Mountain Wing.

Col Maddock says Santa could use some beard maintenance work instruction from Col Tom Jackson shown here with Santa. More about Maintenance and Santa in the next issue.

2018 DUES ARE DUE

ONLY YOU CAN BUY ANOTHER YEAR OF FUN AND FULFILMENT IN THE RMW

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY...

MAKE SURE YOU SEND YOUR \$50 TO COL KAY JOHNSON

The WASP Museum does not sell this booklet but rather publishes it for their members to hand out as a fund raising tool. So, the next time you have an extra \$5.00 or more to give - Think of the WASPs. And watch for the rest of the B-29 Story!

RMWCAF STAFF OFFICERS

- Wing Leader Kent Taylor
- Executive Officer OPEN
- Finance Officer Robert Toth
- Adjutant Becca Walters
- Operations Officer Bob Thompson
- Maintenance Off. Dick Maddock
- Museum & Mess Sergeant Dorothy Dutton
- Safety Officer Robert Owen
- Judge Advocate Gerald Feather
- Marketing Officer Kathryn Bennett
- Public Information Officer OPEN
- PX Officers OPEN (Bob & Georgia temp.)
- Newsletter Editor Tom Howe
- TBM Aircraft Coordinator Bob Thompson
- Cub Aircraft Coordinator Charlie Huff
- Ambulance Coordinator Byron Huffman
- Facilities Manager Kay Johnson
- Recruiting Officer Keith Swinehart
- Grants Officer Dave Shepard



Photo by: Dave Bottinelli, SkyWest Airlines GJT station agent

Dave Bottinelli, SkyWest Airlines GJT station agent took this photo in the Laughlin / Bullhead Airport and passed it on to our TBM Chief Pilot, Col Matt McNamara.

What an honor. Hopefully Dave pointed out to the locals there what an important aircraft they have pictured in their waiting area

NEXT STAFF MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2018

11:00 AM

RMWCAF HANGAR

SUPPORT YOUR CAF WING.



Staff Meeting Bullets 12/9

Compiled monthly from RMW "Official Communicator Award" Winner Becca Walter's Adjutant Report

Ed. Note: The December Staff Meeting was held immediately prior to the 2017 Annual Survivor's Party and was therefore, short, sweet and concise.

- Col Bill Losey
- Col Lenard Felix
- Col Steve Wood
- Col Bob Thompson
- Col Georgia Thompson

Several Members were recognized for their many years of membership and service to the CAF.

Elections were completed:

Wing Leader Colonel Kent Taylor recognized the 14 new RMW members and personally commissioned those present at CAF Colonels.

- Col Bob Thompson - Operations
- Col Gabe Toth - Finance
- Col Dick Maddock - Maintenance
- Col Tom Howe - Education Development - Open Executive Officer - Open

Survivor Awards were presented to the following Colonels:

2018 Airshow start date looks like March 10th.

- Col David Shepard
- Col Bill Marvel
- Col Robert Owen
- Col Tom Dennis
- Col Tom Howe
- Col Becca Walters
- Col Byron Huffman
- Col Dick Jackson
- Col Gabe Toth
- Col Keith Swinehart

Col Bill Losey presented the new website format.

District 51 Schools wants to have an Aviation Day.

2018 40's Dance May 19 unless Airshow conflict.

WWII QUIZ

(SEE PAGE 5)

ANSWERS

Multiple Choice

Laohokow, China, near the end of March 1945 The U.S. 14th Air Force destroyed anything of value before withdrawing.

The AIR War

More than 5,000, of whom Lieutenant Lilya Litvak with seven "kills" and Lieutenant Katya Budanova with six "kills" were the top two fighter aces.



“TB” & “JAY” SAVE CHRISTMAS!

By RMW Colonel Ernie Stech



Ed. Note: RMW Colonel Ernie Stech again has characters TB and Jay putting their talents to use with the Colonels of the Rocky Mountain Wing. In the spirit of Christmas...

In November it is cold in the hangar at night. When the maintenance crew is there during the day, they turn up the heat. But the cold does not bother TB and Jay. It makes their oil get thick, but that doesn't matter because they don't start their engines. For TB it also makes his hydraulic fluid more like maple syrup, but that is no big deal because he has no need to operate his flaps or landing gear.

One morning in late November, the maintenance crew and some of the Rocky Mountain Wing staff get together in the hangar. There is a problem. They have heard that there is a small town in Wyoming that is totally covered in many feet of snow. There is no way for any of the package delivery people to get presents or Christmas cards to the town. The mayor of the town asks for help.

“I have an idea,” the Wing leader says. “I think we could use TB and Jay to get presents and other stuff up to the town. It would be just like the airlift the United States did in Germany after World War II when the Russians would not allow any trains or trucks to come to Berlin. We could have our own airlift!”

“I like the idea,” the Operations Officer says. “We can call it Operation Santa!”

Others chime in - they agree to start planning the airlift.

All the Christmas packages

are at a local warehouse, so the crews go over there and box them up. There is one big strong cardboard box for each family in the town. Five pickup trucks get all the boxes to the hangar.

The Christmas and gift cards are at the local post office. The Postal Service agrees to let Jay deliver the cards. They have to know that when it is done so they will phone the Postmistress to check on it.

“We could fill TB's bomb bay with the presents and drop them near the town,” suggests one staff member.

“But we can't just drop the presents. They would get damaged.”

A brief pause. “What if we put the presents in strong cardboard boxes and filled the boxes with Styrofoam or some other impact-absorbing material?”

There are some eager nods. Within an hour people are driving around getting boxes and materials.

Meanwhile, the operations folks are planning the mission. “Here's what I think,” says the Operations Officer. “We send Jay up there first with the cards. He and his pilot can do some recon. When they get back, they can brief TB and his pilot.”

“How about the crew?”

“Well, we will have to have two people go up in Jay. One

to pilot and the other to throw the bags of cards out the side of the plane.”

“I'll be glad to be the second person,” says one of the women. “I can dress in really warm clothes because I know it is going to be cold up there in Jay with his open sides.”

“Okay, back to TB,” says the Operations Officer. “We can load up to two thousand pounds of boxes. So, we'll have to weigh the boxes before we stow them. I don't think we could possibly have more than two thousand pounds, but you never know.”

“It will take some great flying with TB to drop the boxes as gently as possible.”

“I know how to do it,” says the pilot. “I've got it figured out already.”

While those staff members were discussing the plans, other people are going out in their trucks and SUVs and picking up the presents and cards. Two

folks go to a local moving and storage company and buy a large number of strong boxes, small and medium.

The Wing Leader gets on the telephone and calls the mayor of the small town. They discuss the plan. The mayor says he would have a team go out and build up a pile of light, fluffy snow. That way the boxes will have a softer landing. Finally, they decide that Operation Santa will happen in two days.

It takes a couple of days to put all the gifts into boxes. The staff writes the names of the people who are supposed to get the gifts on the outside of the boxes. One whole wall of the hangar has boxes stacked alongside. Meanwhile, other people go to the Post Office to get the Christmas and gift cards. Those are put into big plastic bags.

Then the bags are put inside of other bags to make sure

(Continued on Page 7)

An iconic photo - children in Berlin waving at a C-47 during the Berlin Airlift 1948 - 1949.



(Continued from Page 6)

they will not rip or come apart by being dropped in the snow.

Jay wakes up early two days later. The hangar is quite cold. Soon people show up and turn up the thermostat. Warm air blows into the hangar. The four big plastic bags are on the floor right next to Jay. Soon two people come over and put the bags in Jay behind the back seat. He is ready to go.

Jay's pilot shows up dressed in very warm fleecelined pants and jacket. He has a helmet with fleece on the inside and big gloves as well. The lady who will ride in the front seat is already in the hangar. She is wearing a couple of pairs of pants and two jackets – her outerwear is a Santa Suit. She also brings along a big soft blanket. Fleece-lined boots and mittens complete her outfit. She gets into Jay first, and then the pilot climbs in.

A staff member pulls on Jay's propeller to start the engine. Nothing happens! The engine is cold, and the oil inside is thick and stiff. Someone brings a big electric heater with a fan and points it at Jay's engine. In a few minutes they try to start Jay again, and this time it works.

The little yellow airplane and crew taxi out to the runway. There are no other airplanes around ready to take off or land. Jay is cleared to go. He jumps into the air quickly because the cold air is dense. He turns and heads toward the small town. After a few miles, Jay looks down and sees nothing but snow.

Jay approaches the small town. He sees that there are about fifty houses, most of them along what must be the main street. There are a few side streets. All the streets are filled with snow. Cars and

trucks are parked, and the snow is up to their windows. No wonder there was no delivery of packages and cars!

Jay's pilot flies right down the main street. In just a few minutes there are at least a hundred people looking up in the sky. Jay turns and flies back through town. All the people wave. They are smiling.

Then Jay's pilot flies farther away and begins to make the engine run slower. Jay drops in altitude. And keeps dropping! He is getting a little concerned. They head back toward the people in the town. By now Jay feels like he is only a few feet above the snow! He can't see the snow. Actually, he is more like thirty feet over the white stuff. They approach the crowd of people. The lady in the back seat leans out of Jay with a big black plastic bag and drops it just ahead of the town folks. She is dressed like Mrs. Santa Claus with a red coat and a lot of white hair! There are cheers from the crowd.

Jay swoops up and away. The people on the ground think that is all they are getting. They are wrong! The pilot swings Jay back along the main street, and Mrs. Claus drops another bag. More cheering. Another quick climb and turn, back around, and yet another bag. The people on the ground can't believe it! One more. The town's postmistress stands there waving. She has to make sure the United States Postal Service mail gets delivered to the right people.

Jay waggles his wings and climbs up. His pilot takes them back along the road for the last time. All the people wave and cheer and smile. Some are crying.

Jay feels good about what they have just done. He is proud of himself, the pilot,

The Berlin Airlift "Operation Vittles" moved over 2.3 million tons of cargo into Berlin prior to the Soviets lifting the Blockade. Wow!!



and Mrs. Claus. Now it's TB's turn. When Jay gets back to the hangar his pilot talks to some people there including TB's pilot. They want to make sure that everything is okay in the small town.

Back at the hangar Jay's pilot talks to the staff members and TB's pilot. They are happy the cards got delivered. TB's pilot makes some notes and is ready to go.

It takes TB a few minutes to get warmed up after his engine is started. Once he is ready his pilot taxis out to the runway. Clearance is given to take off. TB lunges forward and gets off the ground quickly in the dense cold air. On to the small town.

TB is a little heavy with those two thousand pounds of packages in his bomb bay, but that does not bother him. The air is fresh, and the sky is clear. Within half an hour he looks down and sees the small town. There are a few people looking up at him. As soon as they see TB, they rush indoors to tell others and soon there is a crowd. They have prepared a place for the packages to land by piling up and then raking the snow to make it soft. And they have spray painted a big blue cross. That's what TB and his pilot will use as a target.

The pilot flies by the snow pile and blue cross and circles back to make sure he knows where it is. He prepares for the package drop. This means flying a few miles away and turning back. He reduces the power on TB's engine, lowers the flaps and landing gear.

That slows TB down. It also makes him start to descend. When he is about a thousand feet over the ground, the pilot adds some power, and TB stays at the same altitude but is going slow. It feels weird to him.

The pilot reduces power even more, and they descend. TB is afraid they are going to end up in a snowdrift, and he will have to spend the winter there. Plus his propeller will be bent and his landing gear may be damaged. But they keep flying.

When they get close to the snow pile, the pilot drops a little lower and then points TB's nose up in the air. TB is barely flying forward! As they reach the blue cross, the pilot opens the bomb bay doors and packages drop out. They fall a few hundred feet and sink into the snow. TB roars away, landing gear and flaps raised. He breathes a sigh of relief. One more turn and run over the crowd who are now pulling boxes from the snow and waving at TB at the same time. A waggle of his wings and TB is on his way home!

The flight back is easy. TB feels satisfied. Although he still thinks it was kind of dangerous to fly so slow and low!

Back in the hangar, TB and Jay congratulate each other on a successful mission. Later, in the spring, they get a letter from the people in the town thanking them for saving Christmas.