

June 12, 2017

Dear Third Coast Member,

Good News!! We continue to increase attendance at our pancake breakfasts. We had 10 planes fly in and ran out of batter again after increasing our mix this month. We need to really thank Paul Lehnert, the airport manager, for all the work he does for this event. He keeps forgetting to turn in his expenses. Thank you, Paul, for pushing for this activity. Your help is certainly appreciated by the squadron and also by general aviation.

We have several new members this month. William Arvin, Kenneth and Pam Carel and Robin Stotz, all from Corpus Christi. We look forward to their participation in the Squadron. We talked to several others at the breakfast and they indicated an interest in becoming a member.

Col Fittings report:

Breckenridge Airshow-Breckenridge Texas_ This airshow was held on Friday May 26th thru Sunday May 28th. After a 10 year absence this airshow has come back. One of the biggest Warbird Airshows in the United States, this two day Airshow which was on Saturday & Sunday (Memorial Day Weekend 2017) was one for the history books. Flight Line Service Members who participated were Col Joseph Cradit, Col Pappy Padgett, Col Don Emmons, Col Mike Riggins, Col Cynthia Riggins and myself. We serviced 64 warbirds with engine and smoke oils. Warbirds in attendance were five F4U Corsairs, six P-51 Mustangs, a P-38 Lightning, a F7F Tigercat, two Seafurys, two P-40 Warhawks, two T-28 Trojans, a British Supermarine Spitfire, a F4F Wildcat, a TBM Avenger, three B-25 Mitchell Medium bombers, A-26 Invader, two C-47 Skytrains, a Beech 18, twenty AT6/SNJ's, a T-34 Mentor, a BT-13 Vultee Vibrator, PT-17 Stearman, several other trainers and eight Tora Tora Tora aircraft. The Airshow was a great success with 8,000 people in attendance each day. The Chamber of Commerce and Ezell Aviation promoted this Airshow. Their hospitality went above and beyond for all the pilots, ground support crews and volunteers that participated. I personally would like to thank them on behalf of the 3rd Coast Flight Line Service Crew. Next year's Airshow dates are May 26th & 27th, 2018.

Grand Texas Airshow-Cleburne Texas- this Airshow has been confirmed. This is a one day airshow with a practice day on Friday. We are contracted for this Airshow. The dates for this show will be Friday June 30th thru Sunday July 2nd. Again, we will need volunteers to work the Oil Trailer. Please keep that in mind and contact me if you wish to participate.

Thank you, Troy and volunteers, for doing such a great job and representing the Third Coast Squadron in high fashion. We need more volunteers on this job so if you are interested please contact Troy Fitting.

We have four nominations for our Hall of Fame ceremony scheduled for Saturday 23, September 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the museum. We had to change the date due to the air show in Midland being on our regular meeting day. The nominees are Lt. Col. Dick Cole, co-pilot of General Doolittle on the Tokyo raid; Maj. General Angela Salinas, U.S. Marine Corps (ret); Lt. Joe Sasserman USAAF and Andrew Adams from Ingleside. Ram Chavez will provide the music and we will serve coffee, cake and punch afterwards. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend to show our support to these veterans. I have asked Col. Cole to speak on his Tokyo flight. Remember, he is 100 years young. Bring your grandchildren so they can get a picture with these great Americans.

For the time being, the Staff voted to change the museum hours to Saturday only and by appointment the other days of the week. We hope to get some new exhibits started so we will be looking for some help.

The Stearman, Col Hintz picked out, was sold before Dallas HQ could get down to do a pre-buy, so Jeremy is currently searching for another one. HQ has offered us several other planes already in inventory so the staff will discuss this at our meeting on Saturday.

Thank you for helping with the Squadron and supporting our mission in the Coastal Bend. If you have any ideas or concerns feel free to contact any staff member. We all want this organization to flourish.

EXTRAS

The greatest achievement to the human spirit is to live up to one's opportunities, and make the most of one's resources. *Lue de Vauvenargues (1715-47)*

Do every day or two something for no other reason than you would rather not do it, so that when the hour of dire need draws nigh, it may find you not unnerved and untrained to stand the test. *William James (1842-1910)*

Mother: "Jimmy, when that naughty boy threw rocks at you, why didn't you come and tell me instead of throwing them back at him?"

Jimmy: "What good would that do, Mom? You can't even hit the side of a barn."