



Briefing Time



Commemorative Air Force Mission: Honoring American Military Aviation Through Flying, Exhibition, and Remembrance



From the Wing Leader

Col Kevin Donovan

After too long a wait, we finally had our first air show appearance of the year at USAM's event at Lost Nation. The weather was very cooperative and there was a good crowd, with a lot of folks glad to see the show back after a one year hiatus. There were quite a few warbirds on hand to keep our SNJ company, including a P-51, Spitfire, Corsair, PBY, B-17, B-25, C-47 and C-123. We had no problem meeting our quota of 10 volunteers per day for the two day show, and our PX had good, if not brisk sales. The real highlight of the air show for the Cleveland Wing was our flight experience program – 15 rides sold for the event! Pilot Pete Treichler (with an assist from Dick Whelan on Saturday) was kept extremely busy and brought back one highly satisfied customer after another. In fact, things were so

busy on Saturday that the flights began immediately after the pilots' briefing and continued unabated until the close of the show except for pauses to refuel. All-in-all, it was a very successful weekend for the Wing thanks to the well-coordinated and diligent efforts of our members who volunteered. And, not coincidentally, we had a lot of fun in the process. Next up are the Cleveland National Air Show and the Kent State Aviation Heritage Fair, so keep on eye out for the sign up sheets and volunteer early and often for these events.

Please also sign up to assist at our Second Annual Golf Outing on August 9, 2010 at Elyria Country Club. Now is the time to pull out all the stops, so do all you can to get a foursome together of your friends and neighbors and beat the bushes for event sponsors. With no exaggeration, the abil-

ity of the Wing to continue to function is in the balance – if the Outing is a financial success, we will have survived to fight yet another day! If you need any proof that we can't continue to live day-to-day on the financial resources we can scrape together and that, instead, we need to build up a significant reserve to take care of the aircraft entrusted to our care, consider that the SNJ has been grounded twice in the past 30 days, albeit for relatively minor squawks (a faulty magnet to switch and a hinge on one of the gear doors). We must put ourselves in a position where we can afford not only to fix minor problems as they occur, but also be proactive in preventative maintenance and long term restoration.

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See From the Wing Leader

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GRACIOUS SUPPORTERS

Amherst American Legion Post #118

Clifford Bade

Elyria American Legion Post #12

Elyria Amvets Post # 32

Elyria VFW Post # 1079

Freelancer Custom Vinyl Graphics

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Lorain County American Legion Council

Louie Run Foundation

Mullen-Murray VFW Post # 451

North Olmsted VFW Post # 7647

Wellington American Legion Post # 8

Wellington VFW Post # 6941

The Wrench—July 2010

By Col Patrick Kelly

The Second Annual Cleveland Wing Golf Outing is set to tee off on Monday, August 9, 2010 at Elyria Country Club. We are excited to hold the event at this wonderful venue, and are continuing to register golfers and sponsors. Encourage your friends and colleagues to consider joining us for what is shaping up to be an exciting opportunity to support our organization, network with others, and enjoy the game of golf on one of Northern Ohio's most desirable courses. Registration and sponsor information can be found at

www.clevelandwing.org.

Over the past few weeks, several projects have been shaping up around the Cleveland Wing Hangar. Sincere thanks and appreciation go out to Ralph Kies and Rich Shear on two crucial repairs to our Ford GPW Jeep. After detecting a leak in the fuel tank, Rich Shear ordered a new fuel tank and began the installation, then discovered several other issues relating to the body and frame. Undaunted, Rich and Ralph, armed with welders, body

filler, and cans of camouflage paint, successfully rebuilt the underside frame members and body of the driver's side of the vehicle. Not only is the repair strong and correct, but it looks flawless! Following the repair, a replacement of the fuel filter ensured that the Jeep is ready for action.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Rich Shear and Ralph Kies for their initiative, drive, and goal-driven attitude when it comes to the maintenance of Cleveland Wing assets. With membership numbers decreasing, old friends passing on, and all of the financial concerns troubling the warbird and air show community, these two gentlemen remain undaunted in their desire to promote what the Commemorative Air Force is all about. I have always been able to count on Rich and Ralph to take the lead on maintenance activities and provide their depth of expertise. Rich and Ralph are two of the Cleveland Wing's Most Valuable Assets.



The 2010 North Olmsted Memorial Day Mission

By Col Mike Juhn

Several weeks ago Col. Don Brokate and I, Col. Mike Juhn, took the Jeep out for a ride to Wellington to give it some exercise and fill up the gas tank and to get it ready for our North Olmsted Memorial Day Mission. It was a beautiful day and we had a great time. (That Jeep is a real chick magnet!)

On the following Saturday, between bites on his donut, a slow drip was spotted by one of our members. Our maintenance team Super Heroes, Cols. Ralph Kies and Rich Shear, jumped into a phone booth, put on their uniforms and went right to work to save our bacon.

At first it looked like there was a leak around a patched area where the gas line was attached to the tank so the gas had to be siphoned out. Luckily, we had a couple of "jerry cans" available to store the excess gas. It was soon discovered that the tank itself had a leak. Out comes the tank! More problems! The bottom of the tank along with the well where the tank sets was rotted away. Welding the tank was not an option. Rich found a new tank on the Internet and got busy on the well while waiting for the new tank to arrive. Not only was the tank's well rotted, the wheel well behind the driver and a portion of the frame was rotted also.

Our heroes cut away all the bad metal and left a gaping hole where the gas tank and driver's seat was. These two guys performed a miracle fabricating a new tank well, patching the wheel well

and the frame and it now looks like it just came from the factory. From what I understand, they were up to the wee hours on Friday morning painting, reinstalling the tank, and splicing sections of fuel line in order to have it ready for Saturday's trip to North Olmsted for the Monday Memorial Day Parade.

It was ready!

Saturday morning came and we, Herb de la Porte, Don Brokate, and I formed a convoy for the trip to North Olmsted. We decided to stay off the main highway as much as possible to avoid the high-speed traffic. Herb, the trail blazer, driving his Russian military motorcycle with attached sidecar and machine gun valiantly took the lead, followed by me in the Jeep and Brokate, in his car, bringing up the rear, just in case. The first fifteen minutes or so of the trip was uneventful, that is, until the Jeep decided it was time for a break.

And break it did!

As we turned into a narrow side street in the outskirts of Elyria, the Jeep coughed a few times and died. Luckily we were in front of a church parking lot. We pushed her into the lot and popped the hood, why I don't know: We weren't mechanics and didn't have any tools, not even a Swiss Army Knife, but at least, we looked good. We put our heads together and came to a unanimous conclusion that the Jeep would not run because it had a fuel problem. It wasn't getting any! Herb called Phil Lewis, of the LCRA Condo Association, for help. Phil came with his trailer, along with a friend, and trucked our Jeep safely

back to the hangar and dropped her off to wait for our Super Heroes to come and fix her up.

Being the troopers we were, we could not allow our mission to be scrubbed because of a little adversity; so we hitched up our pants, hopped into our respective vehicles, and bravely headed into whatever fate had in store for us. Seeing that I no longer had wheels, Herb offered me the opportunity to ride shotgun (actually, machine gun) in the sidecar, which I gladly accepted.

What a ride!

I had no idea that Elyria, as small as it is, had so many side streets and back alleys and Herb hit every one of them. I was lost after the first block. We got more than a few stares from curious pedestrians and motorists. I guess they couldn't grasp the fact that an old dude like me was riding in a sidecar with a machine gun in my lap and daring anyone to mess with me.

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See Mission

Mission
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After Herb got us out of the maze that was Elyria, we eventually ended up at our destination, Brokate's house in North Olmsted. Brokate, always the perfect host, had some cool beverages for us to relax with while we waited for the VFW Parade representatives to appear and receive instructions from Herb on how to operate the motorcycle.

When Herb finished his "ground school", he hopped on his bicycle, which was in the back of Brokate's car, and in spite of Don's protests, rode it 20+ miles back to the airport. (Herb saw how Don drives and decided he'd have a better chance of making it with his bike.)

About a half an hour after Herb left, we hopped into Don's car and left for the hangar to check on the Jeep. We caught up with Herb at the intersection of Rt. 83 and Rt. 10 having a snow cone that he had bought from some kids who had a small stand in their front yard. And following Herb's example, we each had a snow cone.

When we got to the hangar, the Jeep was still waiting for us so we could push her out of the hot sun and into the hangar where she belongs. We struggled putting the top down and gently pushed her under the SNJ's wing to wait for our Super Heroes, Ralph Kies and Rich Shear to work their magic.

Continued Next Issue.

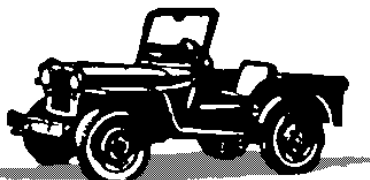


Photo of the month.



Col Earnie Hartman takes a foreign motorcycle for a spin. Anybody see his machine gun?

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From the Wing Leader

The Golf Outing and other "out-of-the-box" fundraising efforts yet to be conceived and implemented are keys to the Wing's survival.

The next couple of months provide us with a great opportunity to replenish our coffers, have some fun at Burke and Kent, and celebrate our successes at the Survivor Party hosted by Sid and Cheryl in the Fall. I hope to see you all out at the hangar and at these events.



Memphis Belle

B-17
Nose Art

Keep 'Em Flying!

Cleveland Wing Appearance Schedule - as of July 15

Date	Hours	Event	PX Involved	SNJ Involved	Status
Aug. 7	11:30 am	Brad Squires Memorial Fund Fly Over Dorlon Golf Course Columbia Station	No	Yes	OK
Aug. 9	Noon tee off	2nd Annual Golf Outing Elyria Country Club	N/A	FLY OVER	OK
Sep. 4 Sep. 5 Sep. 6	9 am To 5 pm	Cleveland National Air Show Burke Lakefront Airport	Yes	Yes No rides	OK
Sep 11?	7 am to 5 pm	Kent State Aviation Heritage Fair Kent State University Airport	Yes	Yes	?
Sep. 18	1 pm to 5 pm	Kids in Flight - Wings of Wonder Continental Airlines Maintenance Hangar Cleveland Hopkins Airport	No	Yes	OK



Come and celebrate this year's success with your fellow CAF Cleveland Wing Members and friends on October 23. Cocktails at 6 pm.. A buffet, with 3 entrees, salads, hors d'oeuvres, and deserts will be offered for \$15.00 per person. A cash bar will be available. Please make checks payable to the sponsor: Aeroden, Ltd.

The menu:

Hors d'oeuvres: Shrimp Cocktail,
Veggies and dip;
Cheese and cracker board.

2010 CAF Success Dinner

By Col Cheryl Ackerman

Salads: Montage of Seasonal Fruit
Tossed Garden Salad

Entrees: Marinated Chicken Vinaigrette,
Fresh Atlantic Salmon Filet
Top Sirloin of Beef

With: Baked Pasta Marinara,
Chef's choice of rice or potato
Rolls

Assorted Desserts

Coffee/ Tea



MEETING AND HANGAR EVENT CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
July 24	General Meeting Staff Meeting	Wing Hangar	9 am to 10:30 am
August 9	2nd Annual Golf Outing	Elyria Country Club	Tee off at Noon
August 28	General Meeting Staff Meeting	Wing Hangar	9 am to 10:30 am
September 18	Kids in Flight Wings of Wonder	Cleveland Hopkins Airport Continental Airlines Maintenance Hangar	TBA
September 25	General Meeting Staff Meeting	Wing Hangarf	9 am to 10:30 am
October 23	General Meeting Staff Meeting	Wing Hangar	9 am to 10:30 am
October 23	2010 CAF Success Dinner	100th Bomb Group Restaurant	6 pm to ?
November 13	Veterans Day Open House	Wing Hangar	10 am To 2 pm
November 20	General Meeting Elections	Wing Hangar	TBA



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First Class

Address Correction Requested