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# THE COYOTE'S HOWL

Newsletter of the Coyote Squadron  
Commemorative Air Force  
Corsicana, Texas  
December 2022



**UNIT LEADER** - Coyotes, I know we have a lot to be thankful for this year, but we also have many things to mourn. We lost some dear friends of our squadron and some very dedicated members of the CAF and the Wings Over Dallas Airshow. We will not again see the Texas Raiders or the P-63 at our Airshow and our comrades have gone west. The five fatalities aboard the B-17 were Terry Barker, Kevin "K5" Michels, Dan Ragan, Leonard "Len" Root, and Curtis J. Rowe. Craig Hutain was identified as the sole pilot of the Bell P-63. Our prayers to their families, squadrons and communities. This will no doubt have some effect on us and we will have to wait to see what the NTSB ruling does in the future.

Until then I think it is important that we continue to fulfill our mission to Educate, Honor and Inspire. We have many things to be thankful for and this year I am very thankful for all of you.

We also lost two of our Colonels this year. Candis Wells and Norman Clark, their loss will have a significant impact on our unit and the pain of their loss is felt because of the work that they did for us. They were both very impactful members of our unit, and I am grateful for their service and that we were blessed to have them as long as we did although it was too short.

January's Meeting will be a Potluck and we will be handing out National Awards. Staff meeting at 930, General meeting to last from 1030-11 and then the potluck.

Colonel Alan P will have a sign up sheet for the potluck meal at the December meeting. It is my prayer that the Lord Bless each and every one of you and your families this Christmas Season and I look forward to seeing you all next year at the January meeting on the 14th. Semper Fidelis **Colonel Melvin L Hall III, Unit Leader**

**FINANCE OFFICER** – CAF HQ has changed the way they assess charges we pay to HQ starting next year. I won't go into detail but suffice it to say we will be paying substantially more than in the past. It has changed from certain "fixed" fees like ANNUAC to a fixed percentage assessed against our income minus certain costs like the Airshow© expenses. The reasons given for the change is there has not been an increase in assessments due to inflation for approximately 15 plus years, and this change will make it more equitable for all units as some were paying considerably less and some were paying considerably more. Our increase is yet another reason for finding more ways to raise income. Put your thinking caps on!

Additionally, pilots will now be charged an additional \$300 per year – this goes direct to HQ. What pilots pay varies between units, but Coyote pilots share the costs of maintenance and equipment, comprehensive insurance, the fuel used, and an hourly rate for time flown. **Colonel Frank DeArmond, Finance Officer**

**ADJUTANT** – Hi Everyone! The 2023 Coyote Staff Elections are in process! Last week, you received Election Ballots. Please fill out your ballot and place it in the mail. **IMPORTANT:** I need to receive the ballots by Friday! If I do not have them in my mailbox by Friday, I will not be able to bring them to Saturday's meeting. So, if you cannot get your ballot mailed by Wednesday, please bring it to Saturday's meeting. **THANK YOU!** I will see you at this week's Coyote meeting! **Colonel Alan Pavik, Adjutant**

**OPERATIONS OFFICER** – With Wings Over Dallas being held on Veterans Days we were unable to provide any flyovers for our local Veterans events. With the first day of Wings Over Dallas being rained out, I did attend the Kerens Veterans Memorial celebration which was moved indoors due to the weather. As usual, Mr. Danny Combs

provided a wonderful program with our Colonel Will Thompson as one of the speakers along with our new State Senator Bob Hall who has become our State Senator due to recent realignment of our district. He replaces Senator Brian Birdwell.

Colonel Warnie and I flew the T-34 to Dallas to participate in the Wings Over Dallas show over Veterans Day weekend. Warnie flew in the Trainer Parade on Saturday and he and I each flew one revenue flight. Our main reason was to conduct rides which was unfortunately cut short due to the tragic accident that occurred on Saturday. Our prayers are with the families who lost loved ones and to all of the Airsho family who lost great friends.

The Wisconsin Wing has been trying to get one of their pilots checked out to be an Instructor/Check Pilot for quite some time. Although their T-34A is in for extensive engine work, we finally found a time to conduct the training for Colonel John Reed. John has extensive experience in both the A and B models of the T-34, having flown them in military aero clubs during his USAF career. It was immediately clear that he was well suited to be designated as their resident Instructor/Check Pilot. Well done, John.

Our most recent aircraft sponsor is Colonel Matt Brzostowski who has decided to sponsor our PT-19. Matt flies many different CAF aircraft and is checked out on the Rio Grande Valley PT-26. As a rides qualified pilot, we welcome him on both the PT-19 and T-34.

Coyote Squadron hosted a memorial service for local pilot Bobby Coyle. Bobby passed away last month and his daughters wanted a memorial held where Bobby spent many hours of his life.

Airshows are completed for the year. We look forward to next year to help bring in some revenue.

### **Colonel Dan Summerall, Operations Officer**

**MAINTENANCE OFFICER** – The T-34 had left hand brake issues during the Corsicana Airsho. Master cylinders were removed and rebuilt, the shuttle valve was removed and rebuilt and finally the system was bled and brakes have been functioning properly.

The PT 19's left hand expander tube brake had developed a slow leak. Col. Summerall was able to locate "new old stock" expander tube brake assemblies. One will be installed and tested this coming week. Hope to see you soon.

### **Colonel Thomas Cozart, Maintenance Officer**

**SAFETY OFFICER** - As this is, most likely, my last submission as Safety Officer, I thought I would give a general discussion of safety preparations. One of my responsibilities as a manager with the Post Office was to conduct accident investigations. Here is a summary of what these investigations revealed.

The overwhelming majority of accidents can be attributed to three factors, lack of knowledge, lack of training (or experience) or lack of attention. When performing a task, especially the first time, there can be hazards you are not aware of. Before you attempt something you have not done before, you should research the steps in the process. That being said, knowledge of the procedure alone may not be enough. You may need some special training or you may need to practice. Do you remember the first time you changed a flat on your car? It probably took a long time and you were probably very nervous. Over time you became more confident and the time required became less. Now that you have the knowledge and the training or experience, it's time to talk about the execution of the task. If you get complacent, you can still have an accident. While in the Army, I was sent to Safety Officer training at Fort Knox Kentucky. As a pilot, we studied several aviation related accidents. Studies, done by the Army, showed that most aviation accidents occurred when the pilot was at or near 500 hours of flight time. It seems that pilots get to a point where they stop using their check list and start going by memory. Inevitably, they forget something and it leads to a problem. So, in summary, know your task, practice your task, and pay attention when performing the task.

In closing, it has been a pleasure serving as Safety Officer for the past few years. While it was a challenge coming up with a new topic every month, the research I did made me a safer person. I enjoyed sharing my personal experiences and hope you enjoyed the presentations. Although I am leaving this position, I am not giving up my efforts to keep everyone safe. **Colonel Tom Peters, Safety Officer**

**12 Planes of Christmas** is now live. Both our aircraft are listed and you can make your donations to help support our aircraft. Send the link to your email list and ask them for support.

Send the link to family members and ask them to support in your name. Best Christmas present ever!

The link to the T-34 is: [https://fnd.us/e24cR9?ref=sh\\_f9ie8b](https://fnd.us/e24cR9?ref=sh_f9ie8b)

The link to the PT-19 is: [https://fnd.us/724cQ9?ref=sh\\_f9ie8b](https://fnd.us/724cQ9?ref=sh_f9ie8b)

T-34



PT-19



**Liberty Jump Team and the Greatest Generation Aircraft** (Southern Cross) have partnered with the Corsicana-Navarro County Salvation Army for an “Operation Toy Drop” to collect toys for donation to the Salvation Army. Paratroopers from the Liberty Jump Team will jump from a vintage World War II C-47 (Southern Cross) with a toy to be donated to the Salvation Army. The event will be held at 10 AM on Dec. 10th after being postponed for weather on Dec 3. If you would like to donate a toy please bring a new, packaged unwrapped toy to our meeting on the 10th.

**FROM THE SOUPER CHEFS** - For the meal we are having Gumbo, Cole Slaw, Cornbread and a Christmas dessert salad. As our personal gift to the squadron Charlie and I are putting together what we call a grazing table of an assortment of candies, cheese balls, cake, Charlie trash, and whatever we can come up to make a good table.  
**Colonels Reva and Charlie Horton**

**PX OFFICER** - PX has several 2023 Calendars left. Get yours before Christmas These make great presents and they are only \$10.00 each!!!!

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER** - With December 7th this week I wanted to take a moment to commemorate the planes and pilots that took to the skies that fateful morning. One place that takes this on is the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum located on Ford Island by the USS Oklahoma Memorial, Battleship Missouri Memorial and the USS Arizona Memorial. This museum is housed in two World War II era hangars (Hangar 37 and 79) along with one iconic control and showcases dozens of aircraft, “stewarding America’s first aviation battlefield of WWII.” Guests will experience the retelling of that day and beyond, what life was like on the Hawaiian Islands during the 1940’s, many STEM exhibits and much more. There are over 50 aircraft, personal effects, accessories of the Soldiers, Marines and Airmen and support personnel. Included in the 50+ planes are a Flying Tigers P-40, Douglas SBD Dauntless and a B-17 Flying Fortress, many Vietnam and Korean War era helicopters, jets and some modern aircraft still in service. “From the first bombs that fell on Pearl Harbor to the rise of American air superiority that followed the victory of World War II, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum honors those who have defended our freedom so we might educate and inspire future generations. Stand on America’s World War II aviation battlefield, walk where the bombs fell. Hear the stories, legends and history of Pearl Harbor come to life” (excerpt from the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites’ website).  
<https://www.pearlharborhistoricsites.org/pearl-harbor/pearl-harbor-aviation-museum>  
 Here is a direct link to the museum: <https://www.pearlharboraviationmuseum.org/>



Col Warnie Meisetschleager taxiing back from the Trainer Parade at Wings Over Dallas



Col Warnie M flying during the Trainer Parade at Wings Over Dallas



Our flags were lowered to half staff in honor of Bobby Coyle



Col Warnie at Wings Over Dallas



Colonel John Reed after his successful T-34 check ride



Cols Warnie M and Dan Summerall pre-flight before flight at Wings Over Dallas



The memorial was well attended.



## COYOTE SQUADRON

2205 Arcady Lane  
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**DECEMBER 10, 2022**  
**MEETING IS THIS SATURDAY**  
**0930 STAFF**  
**1030 GENERAL MEETING**

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of  
Colonel John R. Ausley 1928 - 2017

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# PT Sez:

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

