

SPIRIT OF TULSA SQUADRON, CAF

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THANK YOU, JIM GENTRY

We owe **Col. Jim Gentry** a special thank you for writing such a nice article for **The Oklahoma Aviator** newspaper. If you have not seen the April 2004 edition, our own **Spirit of Tulsa Squadron** is featured on the front page. The color picture, taken in front of **'Diamond Lil'**, appeared with the article. The lengthy article gives a short history of our unit, and the headlines tell of our 2003 Distinguished Unit Citation. Thanks again to **Jim**, for this great bit of positive publicity!

PX and Airshow News

Col. Bill Kennedy is currently working hard to have our PX ready for the up coming air show season. The **Oklahoma Airshow**, Davis Field, Muskogee, OK will be held on April 17th and 18th. Headliners will be

the **USAF Thunderbirds**, as well as the local **EAA Warbirds Group**, from our own Jones/Riverside Airport. **Col. Kennedy** will need volunteers to set up our tents, and to work the show, both days. He will have all of the details and sign-up sheets at the April 13th Squadron meeting.

Our second airshow, of the season, will be the **18th Annual Biplane Expo**, Frank Phillips Field, Bartlesville, OK. This show will be held on June 4th and 5th. This gathering has the largest variety of biplanes in the world. They are really fun to see. We will also need volunteers for this event. Besides selling PX merchandize, we will use the time to talk about CAF, to prospective new members; promote **CELEBRATE FREEDOM 2004**; take lots of pictures; and to have a great time! So join the fun and volunteer!

Squadron Dues

Col. Alan Meeks would like to remind every one to please pay your Squadron dues. He is also, with a little arm

twisting, willing to take donations for the Squadron. Remember, all dues and donations are tax deductible! Why give it all to Uncle Sam, when you can lower, next years taxes by donating to the CAF?

'PT-19' Update

Col. Halfpap repaired the back cockpit cowling rim while Col. Dagg has painted them and is lacing leather edge rolls around the pilots and co-pilots enclosures. The radio consol has been installed and the radio and transponder is in place along with the VOR head. Col. Heick has installed the top rail strips to which the fabric will be attached and has also completed and installed the baggage deck that goes underneath the turtle deck. Col Jim Dille got a good workout finishing up the paint stripping on the flaps and other sheet metal parts. We are about ready to begin the installation of the hydraulic, fuel and oil pressure lines. Once that job has been completed we can then

finish up the electrical system wiring. With the plumbing and electrical work done, the only thing left to complete on the fuselage will be to run new trim tab control cables, fabricate a few canvas boot covers for some of the controls and we will be basically ready for fabric covering. It is really exciting to see an aircraft coming to life!

'Diamond Lil' Update

'Diamond Lil' is currently without some engines, and her nose is full of sandbags. With work on her oil tanks and associated sheet metal work continuing, Lil is not expected to be back in the air until the middle of May. The sand bags have been needed in order to put enough weight in the front end in order to move her out of the hangar temporarily at least to make room for the engineering day activities at Tulsa Tech.. She should be back inside by Thursday at the latest.

Refreshments

If you can help with refreshments, for any

meeting, please contact, **Col. Karen Dagg**, 224-6293. We will have a sign-up sheet at the April 13th meeting. Would you like to have another dinner meeting?

Scrapbooks

Please print extra copies of some of your best pictures for **Col. Linda Herron**. Please don't give her your only copy, it might accidentally get **cropped!** That is cut or trimmed, for those of you who are not up on current scrap booking lingo!

B-17 'Aluminum Overcast'

The B-17 'Aluminum Overcast' is making a stopover at Jones/Riverside Airport.. She is quite a lovely warbird. Owned by the EAA, she is going out on tour. **CAF Cols. Jim Gentry** and **Shad Morris** are on her crew rosters for this summer.

HOPE FOR A NEW AND PERMANENT HOME

Many of you are not yet aware of our hopes to

build our own hangar. Yet over the past few months many of us have come to the belated realization that if our squadron is going to not only grow but even to stay alive, we are going to need to have our own place. We do not know how long our stay at Tulsa Tech will last and we need to have other options. Property at Jones Riverside Airport is almost gone. In fact only two lots remain unassigned. When those are gone there will be nowhere convenient to go. Going to Tulsa International is almost out of the question as the only places available will be in the industrial part of the field and security will be incredibly tight. Going to Sand Springs is also considered a no go as the distance is so far that we feel that we would lose the vast majority of our membership. Therefore with all of these factors in mind, we have entered into negotiations with the Tulsa Airport Authority in an attempt to secure one of the two remaining plots of land, and do so at a price that will not strangle us. In order that this land lease not place an undue

burden on the squadrons meager finances, we the squadron leadership, have decided that if we could get at least 20 of our members to pledge \$30 per month, we would be able to secure the lease until such time as we could raise the money to erect a hangar. We are also looking for either donations of money and even equipment to build the hangar as well. We do have a tentative offer of the donation of a hangar if we can come up with the nearly \$40,000 that it would take to put down a slab and pay for the erection cost. If you would like to join us in making a pledge of \$20 or preferably \$30 per month for the land lease, or have any ideas about raising the money for the construction cost please contact either **Col. Dagg** or **Col. Meeks**. We need your help desperately, time is running out.

HANGAR DANCE

Remember that our next hangar dance is scheduled for Saturday the 13th of November, 2004. Advanced tickets this year will be \$15 with those at the door going for \$20. We are

going to really push selling tables again this year as that has turned out to be a real winner. Reserved tables will start at \$150. Be sure to tell all of your friends about acquiring a table. By the way, one of our special guests this year will be Truman Smith, author of the book, **THE WRONG STUFF** or *The Adventures and Mis-Adventures of an 8h Air Force Aviator*. Truman lives in Ponca City and was an early member of the CAF. He is a great guy and you will love talking to him.

MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 13th at Tulsa Technology. The time will be 6:30 for the social period and the meeting will start a 7 PM. The program for this meeting will be a film on the origins of the CAF. Confederate Air Force that is.