

HONORING AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION THROUGH FLIGHT, EXHIBITION AND REMEMBRANCE

Season Finale - AirSho 2012

By TBM PIC
 Col Rob Duncan

Since there was three weeks between our previous airshow at Grand Junction and the annual Midland CAF HQ event in October, it looked like we had PLENTY of time to get the generator overhauled and its oil seal replaced. The accessory overhaul shop said it would just take a couple of days to clean and install new brushes and bearing, plus a few days shipping. Murphy was obviously listening and our phone calls to the overhaul shop became frantic on Monday just prior to the upcoming airshow weekend and still nothing heard. It was an 11th hour completion and delivery by FedEx on Thursday, just as the Colorado and NM weather forecasts were becoming ominous for our scheduled Friday departure. Thursday would be much better if we could get it repaired in time. It looked like we were burning both ends of the proverbial candle.

Thankfully we have a brand new RMW member, Jim Benton, who is also an A&P mechanic. He arrived at noon on Thursday to assist me in reinstalling the overhauled generator. Cols. Jim Peterson, Floyd Suits, and Cadet Sam Bouchagour were also on hand to help



Lookin' Really good at AirSho 2012 - Be PROUD!

out. As the clock ticked on, there were swear words uttered, skinned knuckles, and new tools being ground down to fit into the need. By 10:30 pm, Jim Benton and I alone remained to finish the mechanical and electrical installation. We planned to run-up, test, and re-cowl the airplane early next morning.

These actions happened with just few problems. Jim and Sam were to be my only passengers. I installed my Garmin GPS and XM Weather station to assist dodging the many thunderstorms scattered across both Colorado and New Mexico. However within five minutes of our departure from Grand Junction into a lowering ceiling, I noted the GPS was not charging through the

cigarette lighter plug adapter. A quick inflight inspection found that the tip of the adapter had somehow become unscrewed. Not wanting to risk further flight into marginal conditions, I returned to the Grand Junction airport. We dug around and found the adapter tip and internal fuse, but the spring which held it was still missing. I adapted a spring from a ball point pen and we were off flying again.

I won't detail the circuitous route we took probing for a path eastward to Texas, but the final course initially took us westward through the Canyonlands and other national parks in eastern Utah. This made a spectacular view but a much longer flight. Most of the weather was gone by the time we hit Farmington NM so we

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Maintenance Section

Ed. Note

The Air Show season is over — the TBM and Cub are tucked away awaiting a winter of little use, maintenance postponed for the winter and lots of little projects awaiting completion.

Winter weather makes work around the RMWCAF in the Museum more comfortable than work in the hangar.

There’s always little chores to do and the Propwash will attempt to keep a somewhat up to date list posted each month.

You don’t have to be a mechanic, pilot, or airplane enthusiast to help us meet our goals.

You only need to do one little thing each month to assure our Wing continues to be one of the most successful in all of the Commemorative Air Force.

 RMWCAF Squawk Box		Things you and other members can do around the Museum, Hangar or your kitchen table to help our Wing be successful!
11/17/12		
Aircraft	Scheduled (or not) items necessary for the maintenance and operation of our aircraft.	
	Repair TBM interior wood step / platforms	
Contact	Polish / replace TBM Plexiglas	
Maintenance	Fashion Removable mount for TBM gunsight	
Air Show	Support efforts necessary to meet our Air Show Schedule	
	Fashion new tables for TBM PX	
Contact	Fashion a holder/rack for the stairway poles	
Col Bob	Replace chain on stairway poles	
Thompson	Fashion new flag pole for TBM display	
Museum	Projects necessary to Staff and help Maintain our Museum	
	The wing needs display cabinets, mannequins, & Wig Heads	
Contact	Col Dutton needs help cleaning the museum.	
Col Dorothy	We need to create a new museum brochure.	
Dutton	Doors need to be prepped and painted.	
Admin	Help our Administrative Staff by pitching in.	
	Obtain quotation for insulating hangar – spray foam or ??	
Contact	Need someone to sell the old tug with cab sitting outside.	
Col Bob		
Caskey		
Other	4-wheel parade trailer for torpedo	

FIFI Grounded

Editor's Note

CAF Flagship FIFI experienced a sever engine failure (due to possible prop run-away according to TBM PIC Col Matt McNamara) on its last flight at AirSho 2012. You may recall that FIFI was down for some time having all four engines replaced with

a hybrid radial to replace the original engines that were always creating maintenance problems. Imagine the frustration after having completed such a huge engine project to be bit by a propeller. Best laid plans.....

Work is underway to raise \$250,000 to repair the damaged engine and secure a spare engine. All CAF Cols know that CAF WWII air-

planes don't fly with just air – it takes hours and hours of volunteer time plus oodles and oodles of money to “Keep ‘Em Flying”.

The good souls at the B-29/B-24 face the challenge in spades compared to many other wings. It must be massively frustrating for them to search out donors and sponsors of the category required to support such complex ef-

fort to keep two huge four engine aircraft in operation.

You can help by visiting <http://www.keepfififlying.org/> and making your donation and then passing the website address on to those you know that might be willing to contribute to the only operational B-29 in the world and help “Keep ‘Em Flying”.



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"KEEP 'EM FLYING"

WING LEADER'S REPORT

By Col Collin Fay

A really beautiful fall will undoubtedly turn toward winter here soon, but for now, let's all enjoy the weather – we should be out flying! Airshow season has concluded, and now we are gearing up for winter maintenance. We are looking forward to involving all of our new members and getting them "indoctrinated" in to our maintenance program. For those that aren't that handy with a wrench, there are plenty of other tasks to help with to keep the Rocky Mountain Wing running smoothly. I welcome all new members and hope that you will contribute as much as you can, especially on Saturday mornings down at the hangar!



We are currently short an official Maintenance Officer, as Col. Bill Marvel has resigned from that position. Col. Marvel did an excellent job in his tenure at the Wing as Maintenance Officer, and I am sure everyone joins me in extending a hearty "thank you" to Bill for his tireless efforts. He not only kept the aircraft in top flying condition, but also managed all of the documentation to ensure all was in order. As the saying goes, the job is not fin-

ished until the paperwork is done! Thanks Bill!

The Wing staff has decided to operate without a Maintenance Officer for the time being. Perhaps one of the newer members will work in to that position over time. We certainly have several that show some potential in that regard; I am looking forward to working with them!

We have also recently lost our Finance Officer, Col. Don Coleman, who had to resign due to personal reasons. Don was only the Finance Officer for this year, but we certainly thank him for his contribution and wish him the best. It looks like we will be able to get a replacement Fi-

nance Officer up and running in the next few weeks.

For those of you who missed it, we did have an excellent training event for many of the new recruits (and some of the seasoned colonels) on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Thanks to Cols. Caskey, Thompson, and Godfrey for their classes on marshaling and firefighting. And thanks to everyone else who showed up to welcome the new members!

The next big event on the horizon is the "Survivor's Party," which will be held on Saturday, December 8th, beginning around noon. Please join us as we get together to usher in the holidays, while we tell stories and trade lies about our activities over the past year. Happy Holidays to everyone. I look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Get Ready! RMWCAF
2102 Survivor's Party

Mark your calendar!
Around Noon

December 8, 2012
CAF Museum

RSVP to

Col Bob Thompson or Col Bob Caskey

RMWCAF STAFF OFFICERS

Wing Leader	Collin Fay
Executive Officer	Bruce Verstraete
Finance Officer	Don Coleman
Adjutant	Jerry McDonough
Operations Officer	Rob (Dunc) Duncan
Maintenance Off.	William (Bill) Marvel
Museum & Mess Sergeant	Dorothy Dutton
Safety Officer	Bob Thompson
Judge Advocate	Gerald Feather
Public Information Officers	Denis Godfrey
PX Officer	Georgia Thompson
Newsletter Editor	Tom Howe
TBM Aircraft Coordinator	Bob Thompson
Cub Aircraft Coordinator	Charlie Huff
Facilities Manager	Bruce Verstraete
Recruiting Officer	Bob Caskey



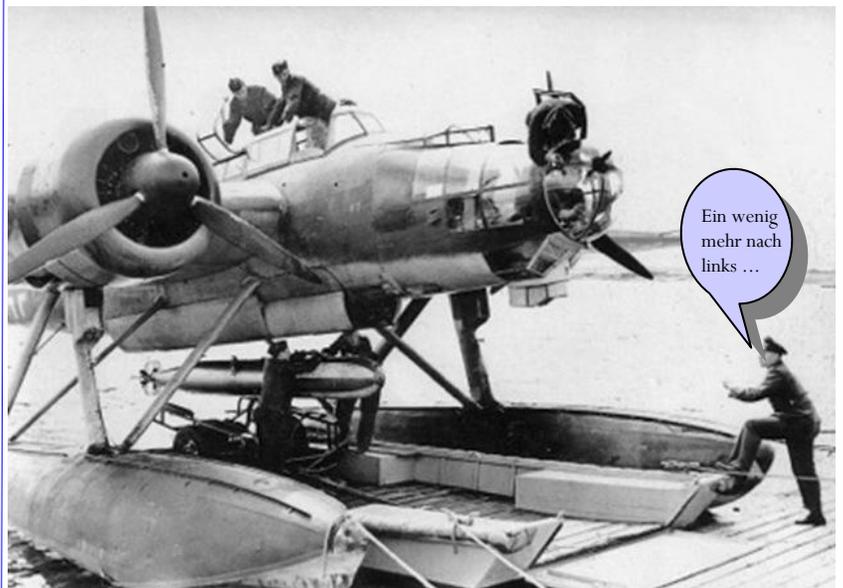
The "Keep 'Em Flying" slogan carried over from posters to post cards. These girls are obviously being "buzzed" by an aviator in a P-38. Do you suppose anything like that ever actually happened?? Aerodynamically speaking, a horrible rendition.

OTHER WWII AIRCRAFT BOTH OURS AND THEIRS



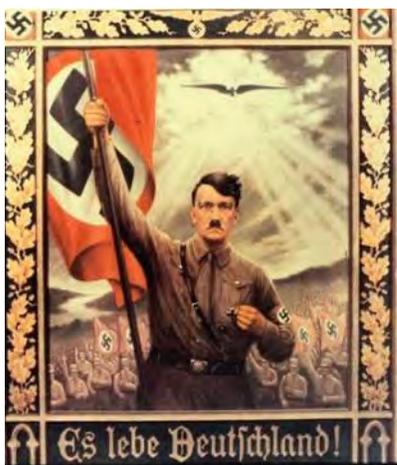
The pretty Estonian PON was first built in 1934. How many knew Estonia even built an airplane? I doubt the impact on WWII was significant.

OTHER TORPEDO BOMBERS—JU88



The Junkers 88 was one of the fastest aircraft in the German inventory of WWII. The later versions had a more streamlined nose (a version shown above) to try to increase the speed even more. I doubt if the floats helped in that category. The Ju-88 was fitted as a bomber, a fighter, a dive bomber, a reconnaissance aircraft, etc. There were 60 different versions of the Ju-88. The one shown here had to be one of the most complex configurations. I added the "A little more to the left..." caption.

No date for this poster.
The caption is "Long Live Germany"
Hmmm.



AirSho 2012 CAF on Review



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the adjoining table. Click [HERE](#) to see more photos on the Wing Website.

For those who have not been to this annual event, it is always a warbird showplace as described in www.airsho.org website. This show featured great aerobatic performances from Julie Clark, the Aeroshell T-6 team, Jan Colmer, and a jet powered school bus for the kids. The USAF showed off their A-10 Warthog too. But the heart and soul of this airshow is the re-enactment of all WWII aerial battles, using (mostly) the real airplanes. Tora, Tora begins with their pyrotechnically spectacular attack on Pearl Harbor. This is followed by “America Trains for War” with the trainers aloft, followed soon with the “Pacific Theater” where our TBM is one of featured flying Navy and Marine aircraft performing circuits over exploding pyrotechnics with a few Jap “Zeroes” thrown for additional realism. This year the CAF’s PBJ (Marine version of B-25), SB2C, and Corsair joined our TBM. The other major aerial battles and theaters are all represented, with the final act being B-29 FiFi overflying the simulated atomic bomb. Of course Sunday night has the traditional Survivors Party with live music and dancing. We left early.

Since our new member, Jim Benton, had not been to Midland before, and had been “baptized by fire” over the last four days, we took a leisurely morning tour of the amazing museum at HQ. We departed Midland soon after lunch with full TBM tanks. About half way home to Grand Junction, we decided to take a “rest stop” at the tiny Las Vegas NM airport. They were remodeling the terminal building, and several of the construction workers came out to see our TBM as we taxied up to park. Noting their interest, I sold an additional \$100 of t-shirts and caps to them – an unexpected reward for our unscheduled stop. Floyd Suits was at the GJT airport to meet and greet us, and help tuck away the TBM, which performed flawlessly. Thanks again to Bill Marvel’s magic wrenches.

Thus concludes another successful airshow season due the extraordinary efforts of our extraordinary volunteers, especially those that give up their time during the week to keep our TBM flyin’. To paraphrase: “Never was so much, owed to so few, by so many” – the other RMW members.



New Members Gathering - 11/17/12

By Col Tom Howe

Saturday, November 17th saw many of the RMWCAF new members gathering together with several of the Wing "regulars" at the CAF hanger and Museum at Grand Junction Airport.

The agenda included an aircraft marshaling class conducted by Col Bob Caskey and his stage mate "Vanna White" (aka, Col Bob Thompson). The class was preceded by a short video demonstrating the finer points of "rhythmic marshaling" expertly performed by some of our country's finest military F-15, F-16 and F-18 marshaling experts. Most CAF Col's sciatic nerves would be a bit strained to emulate those crew chief's moves on the ramp.

But, the class served the new members well and worked well as a refresher for many of the 'old timers.'

The classroom marshaling class was followed by a walk around of the TBM which had been moved out of the hangar for some engine cleaning as part of the normal Saturday workday chores. This allowed a couple of the TBM Pilots the opportunity to show the difficulty of seeing marshals that are out of position and to review some of the hand commands that are unique to the TBM (folding wings, Bombay

doors, split flaps, etc.)

Following the marshaling ramp session Col Denis Godfry did a review of fire extinguisher use - both while monitoring the TBM start and around the hangar. Col Godfry showed the several types of fire extinguishers available and the best use of each type.

Detailed pointers about where to (and where not to) apply extinguisher retardant was key. In most cases of a TBM fire during engine start, making sure retardant is applied in the service area behind the engine rather than onto the engine directly being one of the more important issues.

Hangar fire procedures were covered as well including which extinguishers to use, where to stand and how to apply the retardant. And like most all situations involving fire - some gambling smarts should be applied...knowing when to stay and knowing when to run!

Col Sandi Caskey commanded the serving of a great buffet lunch after all the ramp activities were completed.

We hope our new members that attended found their new association to be friendly, professional, maybe a little crazy when allowed, but most of all - Great Fun!!!

