

HONORING AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION THROUGH FLIGHT, EXHIBITION AND REMEMBRANCE

PROJECT PHOENIX

In Greek mythology, a **phoenix** or phenix (Ancient Greek φοινίξ phoinix) is a long-lived bird that is cyclically regenerated or reborn.

*By Col Rob Duncan
 Maintenance Officer*

Internally we have been referring to this effort as “Project Phoenix” for two reasons 1) its location, and 2) our bird will rise up again reborn! We are indeed thankful no flames were initially involved.

A week after the accident and nearly a month ago, Cols Jay Anderson, Willie Hooker, Dick Maddock, Robert Owen, and Floyd Suits made the ten hour drive from Grand Junction to the Glendale airport where our TBM sat. The propeller and engine were removed first with the help of Robert’s truck. Due to the sudden stoppage and time since overhaul, the engine was sent out for full over-

haul and is expected back in about a month. The old propeller was not repairable, and a new one has already been purchased. The TBM was loaded on a flatbed low-boy trailer and trucked across the Phoenix highway at midnight to avoid traffic congestion due to a 20 ft wide load. It was then hoisted up from that trailer the following morning, and tucked into the AZ CAF’s maintenance hangar, and next to a Grumman AF-2 Guardian, which was originally intended to replace the Avenger after WWII in an anti-submarine role. Jay found a new temporary home near the airport where he plans to stay “until the TBM flies home”. He began removing damaged parts. The rest of the crew returned

Send this link to your friends:
www.rmwcfa.org/accident
 This has a short video & accident description, plus explains how to make a donation.

to Grand Junction, although Willie Hooker remained a while longer.

On April 24, Cols Robert Owen and Willie Hooker flew with me back to the Airbase Arizona hangar to help Jay drill out rivets to remove as needed to reveal the remaining damaged airframe parts. Our four drills were heard throughout the weekend and hundreds of rivets were removed. When we left on Sunday, there was nothing left to remove for this phase. Certain skins were left for rigidity and is now ready for the new parts fabrication phase.

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NEW CAF HQ
IT'S OFFICIAL!
DALLAS EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
WILL BE THE NEW HQ FACILITY!
WATCH FOR MORE IN THE NEXT ISSUE



RMW AIR SHOW SCHEDULE - 2014

MONTH	DAYS	LOCATION	SHOW	TBM	CUB	STATUS
Mar	15, 16	Luke AFB, AZ	Open House w/T-Birds			COMPLETED
May	10	Holloman AFB, NM	2014 Open House			GROUNDING
	24, 25	Cannon AFB, NM	Open House w/T-Birds			GROUNDING
June	14	Boulder, CO	Airport Day & Dance			GROUNDING
	20, 21	Twin Falls, ID	Magic Valley Air Show			GROUNDING
	28, 29	Hill AFB, UT	Open House w/T-Birds			GROUNDING
July	26, 27	St. George, UT	Thunder over UT with Blue Angles			GROUNDING
Aug	16	Powell, WY	Airport Open House			GROUNDING
	22, 23	Front Range Airport	Rocky Mtn Air Show			GROUNDING
	28, 9/1	Steamboat Springs	Wild West Air Fest 2014			CUB ONLY
Sep	6	Eagle, CO	Wings & Wheels 2014			CUB ONLY
	20, 21	Mountain Home AFB	Open House w/T-Birds			GROUNDING
	27	Elko, NV	Sky Fare 2014			CANCELLED
Oct	4	Prescott, AZ	Open House (?)			GROUNDING
	10, 11, 12	Midland, TX	CAF Airsho 2014			GROUNDING
	25	Bullhead City, AZ	Open House (?)			GROUNDING

Our TBM is under surgery at the CAF Airbase Arizona at Falcon Field, Mesa, AZ.

It is obvious that we will not make any previously scheduled May air show appearances, so the schedule here reflects that by showing the Holloman AFB and Cannon AFB shows missed because of the TBM being grounded.

You'll notice that the Elko, NV show has been cancelled. Elko hopes to find the required support to bring the show back in the next year or two.

As work progresses on the TBM and the dynamics of the air show world continue we'll keep updating this schedule.

New RMWCAF Member



Please welcome **Steve Mathis** Col #39277 to the CAF and RMW. Steve is a practicing attorney in Montrose Co. and Commercial Pilot. He has flown several GA aircraft and is currently the owner of a Cessna P-210 and Waco UPF-7 open cockpit bi plane. Steve was recruited by RMW member Dick Manhart and both are also members of CAF Airbase Arizona. Welcome Steve and his wife Mary Kathryn.

CAREER DAY @ RMWCAF

On Wednesday March 19th the RMW hosted a "Career Day" for local high school students. This was primarily sponsored by the aviation school in Rangely CO. with presentations by the CAF, West Star Aviation and the

flight school at the college in Rangely. We possibly recruited four CAF Cadets. This was arranged by both Cols Dorothy Dutton and Jay Anderson with assistance from Cols Kay Johnson and Bob Thompson.



Project Phoenix (Continued)

Continued from Page 1

During this extended weekend, the AZ CAF professional airframe technicians, who also work at nearby Boeing, further evaluated the exposed damage and reaffirmed their mutual belief that all damage was “easily” repairable. “Easy” is a relative term, meaning most new parts would need to be hand-fabricated from raw aluminum, something they have experience with. Thankfully Duncan had already acquired the original Grumman fabrication drawings, and the official Grumman repair manual which can still be used for the necessary FAA approvals. This was good news as the preceding weeks had been unsuccessfully spent trying to locate a replacement left wing and other airframe parts. The raw materials will be acquired this week, and the fabrication will begin. Special fabrication presses and tools will be provided from the Boeing helicopter facility which is also located at the same airport. See the www.azcaf.org website for information about our friendly CAF Airbase.

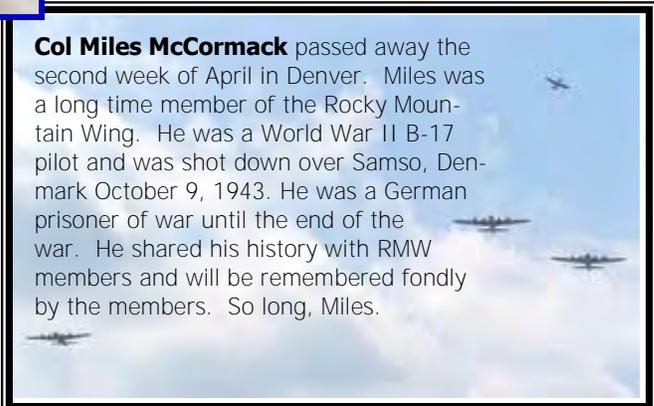
three Lockheed L-18 Lode-star variants, one was nearly restored as a PV-1 Ventura.

More trips are planned back to Phoenix as needs are determined. I will be using the RMW broadcast e-mails to request help at that time.



Some field trips were taken during lunch breaks to the now defunct Marsh Aviation boneyard where numerous Grumman S-2F Trackers and Albatross amphibians were parked and gathering a lot of Arizona dust and angry bee hives. Lots of interesting aviation junk in that salvage yard, plus another yard with

Col Miles McCormack passed away the second week of April in Denver. Miles was a long time member of the Rocky Mountain Wing. He was a World War II B-17 pilot and was shot down over Samso, Denmark October 9, 1943. He was a German prisoner of war until the end of the war. He shared his history with RMW members and will be remembered fondly by the members. So long, Miles.





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AIR FORCE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN WING**

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www.rmwcaf.org

“Keep 'em Flying”

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



“...possibly the most expensive TBM engine mount in history.”

Col Jay Anderson

NOT SOMETHING YOU SEE EVERYDAY.
Col Jay Anderson’s TBM parts acquisition and delivery service with a TBM engine mount ready for transit.

WING LEADER’S REPORT

*By Col Collin Fay
Wing Leader*

Repairs of the TBM are well underway at the Arizona Wing’s hangar in Mesa, Arizona. You’ve hopefully read my report on the staff trip to Arizona to see the situation for ourselves. We talked with our volunteers and those from the AZ Wing to determine how best to proceed to get the plane flying again. The news is not overly optimistic; we have an extensive repair job ahead of us. But we are lucky to have some great volunteers with the RMW that are sacrificing a lot to be in Arizona. And the resources of the Arizona Wing will prove invaluable as we move ahead with this project. Luckily, many of their members have a lot of experience with restoration and repairs on these type of aircraft. Already just the use



of the hangar at “AirBase Arizona” has gotten us off on the right foot.

Even if you can’t participate in the repair efforts underway in Arizona, there is still a lot of work to be done here. We are implementing additional fundraising efforts to ensure we have the financial resources to complete this project. And, several of the airshows where we were scheduled to display the TBM have indicated that we can still come and set up a PX and donation program to help raise money for the repair

efforts. We’ll need volunteers to staff those events. Any other ideas you have for potential fundraising opportunities are always welcomed.

Most of you know that I will be working this summer for the fire service in Alaska. I’ll be flying a CASA 212 dropping smokejumpers and paracargo in the Alaska outback. This is an opportunity I’ve been pursuing for some time, and am looking forward to some great flying

up there. Unfortunately, it comes at a crucial time for the RMW as we complete the repairs on the TBM and work to get it flying again. In my absence, Col Bob Thompson has agreed to be the Interim Wing Leader, so further communications will come from him. Please pitch in and give him your full support during this critical period for the Wing. I hope to see the TBM flying again when I get back in mid-September.

Again, thanks to all of you who help us “Keep ‘em flying.”

The CASA 212 Col Fay will be Piloting this summer in AK doing a para-drop

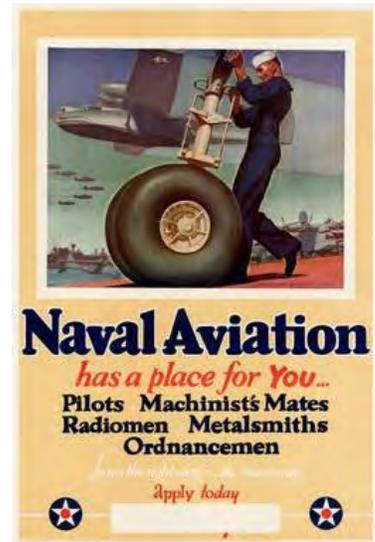


RMWCAF STAFF OFFICERS

Wing Leader	Collin Fay
Executive Officer	Bob Caskey
Finance Officer	Robert Toth
Adjutant	Jerry McDonough
Operations Officer	Kay Johnson
Maintenance Off.	Rob Duncan
Museum & Mess Sergeant	Dorothy Dutton
Safety Officer	Bob Thompson
Judge Advocate	Gerald Feather
Public Information Officer	Bruce DeRush
PX Officer	Georgia Thompson
Newsletter Editor	Tom Howe
TBM Aircraft Coordinator	Bob Thompson
Cub Aircraft Coordinator	Charlie Huff
Facilities Manager	Bruce Verstraete
Recruiting Officer	Sandi Caskey

This WWII Naval Recruitment poster designed by McClelland Barclay is undated but just might have inspired some young farm boy to join the Navy and work on TBM Avenger's.

Who knows - he might have even worked on our '309'.



OTHER WWII AIRCRAFT BOTH OURS AND THEIRS



The first of only two Danish SAI KZ.IV Air Ambulances built in (1944 / 1949) is still flying thanks to Danmarks Flymuseum.



FIFI IS COMING TO GRAND JUNCTION!

THE RMWCAF WILL HOST CAF'S FIFI THIS JULY HERE IN GRAND JUNCTION. WATCH FOR MORE INFO IN THE NEXT EDITION!

APRIL WING STAFF MEETING

By Col Kent Taylor

Fundraising got off to a great start, even before we started any formal fundraising activity!. The article in the Sentinel with a photo of the TBM laying on the ground at Glendale prompted \$2,600 worth of mail-in donations, and another \$200 came in through the RMW website. Alpine bank came through with another \$1,000 thanks to Robert Toth's persuasive skills.

Bruce DeRush and Rob Duncan are working up a fundraising and publicity campaign that will include press releases, recruiting/fundraising and PX sales at local events and markets, internet and possibly broadcast media advertising. Check out a preview of the

Commemorative Air Force TBM Avenger Spot contributed by my son Chris. Several members are working several different angles to generate some large-scale contributions – Contact Bruce if you'd like to get involved.

Two big announcements at this month's meeting – (1) The security gates are tentatively scheduled to be removed in June, and (2) our fearless leader Collin Fay landed his dream job flying smoke-jumpers in Alaska. He's leaving us on April 27th, and won't be back until mid-September. Bob Thompson will be stepping in as interim Wing Leader until Collin's return. Best wishes to Collin on his Alaskan adventure, and Good Luck to Bob Thompson during this difficult time.

Couldn't find a date for this Danish Poster that shouts "Never" to having the Soviets take over Denmark. Interesting—was it the Danish resistance or Nazis that published it?



Because of the serious nature of the staff decisions necessary to direct and fund the repair of our TBM, Col Kent Taylor's detailed minutes of the April 12th staff meeting can be found on Page 7.

GRAND JUNCTION SENTINEL HELPS RMWCAF

Editors Note: Thanks to Gary Harmon and the Grand Junction Sentinel the Wing's '309' made front page news with the following article published to help our fund raising efforts.

By GARY HARMON

Gary.Harmon@gjsentinel.com

The aircraft that has carried the Grand Junction chapter of the Commemorative Air Force for decades is now grounded in Arizona.

The volunteers who labor to keep the TBM-3 Avenger aloft are working to raise thousands of dollars to get the plane back into the air.

The Avenger, which has become a staple at air shows around the West, was built near the end of World War II and saw duty flying searches for submarines in the Atlantic. It also flew over London as part of the Canadian Air Force for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth and has been based in Grand Junction since 1985.

It had a full schedule of 17 summer air shows and members of the Rocky Mountain Wing of the Commemorative Air Force are hoping to salvage at least part of the schedule.

"We estimate it will cost about \$100,000 to get our bird back in the air," said Bob Caskey, one of several volunteers who labor to keep the Avenger airworthy in its base

hangar at Grand Junction Regional Airport. "We're hoping people will see the importance of their flying museums."

The left landing gear of the Avenger collapsed as the plane was taxiing after three days at an air show in Arizona earlier in March.

The collapse drove the nose prop into the ground, which in turn damaged the engine. The left wing also was damaged, according to a report by Bob Duncan, who was piloting the plane when the gear collapsed.

There were no injuries.

The Arizona wing of the Commemorative Air Force is housing the Avenger until the Rocky Mountain Wing can arrange for the next step, Caskey said.

The wing acquired the Avenger in 1985 and volunteers from Grand Junction and western Colorado worked on it for five years, getting it back into the air in 1990.

The Grumman-made Avenger was the torpedo bomber plane that was instrumental in the U.S. victory at the Battle of Midway in the Pacific in World War II and was the type of plane flown by a young George Herbert Walker Bush, who served

THE BOYS ARE BACK!
Rockies roll in opener, SPORTS

ALSO INSIDE
NEW RULES FOR MONOPOLY? FANS CAST THEIR VOTE BUSINESS

ALSO INSIDE
IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT CLEANING HOME&GARDEN

THE DAILY SENTINEL
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

Saturday April 5, 2014 75¢
Your Community News Since 1883

Six years after bust, lost jobs regained

Bird breaks its wing

Drilling project hangs on gas price

Barrett proposes 127 CarCowsells

Mishap expensive for 'flying museum'

(Caption for Bird breaks its wing: A damaged TBM-3 Avenger bomber, which is the primary historic airplane of the Rocky Mountain Wing of the Commemorative Air Force, sits on a runway at Lake Mead State Park in Sedona, Ariz. The plane sustained extensive damage while taxiing at an air show in St. Patrick's Day last month. Members of the Rocky Mountain Wing hope to raise enough money to have the plane repaired and get back into service.)

half a century later as the nation's 41st president. The Avenger is the main attraction for the Rocky Mountain Wing and is its main source of income.

At air shows, visitors can make "wing walks" across the breadth of the wing and look into the cockpit of the torpedo bomber, which was armed with four .50 caliber machine guns, two on the wings, one mounted in the rear of the cockpit and one in the belly of the plane.

The proceeds of the wing walks and sales of souvenirs provide for the fuel and parts needed to keep the Avenger in the air.

The Rocky Mountain Wing also maintains a World War II museum at the airport, but the Avenger is the key piece of the collection.

"Without the TBM, we're not much," Caskey said. "We're part of the community and we need some help."

Donations for the repairs can be made to the CAF Rocky Mountain Wing, P.O. Box 4125, Grand Junction 81501; by credit card at rmwcaf.org by pushing on the donation button, or at Alpine Bank to the account for the repair and restoration of the Grumman TBM Avenger.

DETAILED MINUTES—APRIL 12 RMWCAF STAFF MEETING - COL KENT TAYLOR

RMW Staff Meeting, 12 April 2014

Staff Attendees: Collin Fay, Kay Johnson, Bob Caskey, Bob Thompson, Robert Toth, Rob Duncan, Floyd Suits

Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes / Taylor

Minutes were approved as amended by Collin.

TBM Repairs – Estimate of resources required / Fay, Duncan

Collin briefly described the incident and the damage identified to date. Rob Duncan provided details and shared pictures with the attendees. In addition to the Structural damage to the left wing and flap, there is additional structural damage to the nose, engine mount, and fuselage. There is also some more or less cosmetic/sheet metal damage to the bomb bay doors and we may need a new oil cooler. Decisions have been made, and action has been taken to

Move the TBM from Glendale to CAF Airbase Arizona in Mesa (\$6,000)

Purchase a “new” prop (\$18,000S)

Send the engine to Anderson Airmotive for inspection and overhaul (\$52,000).

Depending on the nature of the structural damage, and availability of repair parts, the staff will have additional make/buy decisions to deal with. Insurance will cover up to \$42,000 of the restoration expense, the rest will come from RMW reserves

and contributions.

Special thanks to Robert Owen, who donated his time and truck/crane to remove the prop and engine. Thanks also to Rob Duncan for his contribution of \$10,000 for two restoration sponsorships in honor of his two deceased uncles. And very special thanks to Jay Anderson, who has temporarily moved to Mesa to be our on-site liaison and go-to guy for the duration of the project, and to Willie Hooker who is “commuting” to Mesa to help out wherever and whenever he can.

Rob provided details and pictures of the damaged areas and outlined the likely repair priorities:

Concentrate on the nose area first. Have it ready by the time the Engine inspection/overhaul and prop AD are completed.

Determine what to do with the wing damage (replace/fabricate/repair damaged parts, or replace the whole wing).

Do cosmetic sheet metal work

Concurrent with the above activity, locate and evaluate potential sources of repair parts (John Lane, John Muzzola, other warbird restorers)

We are fortunate that the incident occurred where it did – CAF Airbase Arizona has provided space in their hangar, access to their tools and shop equipment, and several of their highly qualified restoration experts have volunteered to help with the restoration. Collin has talked

briefly with the AZ Wing Leader, and Collin, Bob Thompson, Bill Marvel, Robert Toth, and Kent Taylor of the RMW will meet with Jay Anderson and Willie Hooker (currently working on the TBM in Mesa) and Airbase Arizona staff on Monday 14 April to finalize a mutually beneficial cooperative arrangement.

Bob Thompson noted that the current RMW policy that requires staff approval for expenditures in excess of \$250 could cause significant delays to the restoration activity, and moved that the limit be raised temporarily to \$1,000 for purchases related to the restoration, and up to \$1,500 per month for Jay’s living expenses for long term stays in Mesa. Robert Toth Seconded **Vote: unanimous ly approved.** The staff also agreed to expedite approval for purchases greater than \$1,000 by email or phone vote, with 4 yes votes constituting approval.

Officers’ reports:

2014 Show Schedule / Bob Thompson: We haven’t officially canceled many of the airshows – hoping to at least be able to participate with PX sales, contributions, and recruiting activity, and Cub rides at some of the nearby events.

Finance / Toth: Wrote checks for \$37,000 for TBM repair activity, received \$2,600 in mail-in donations following the article in the Sentinel, plus \$200 through the website, plus \$1,000 from Alpine Bank. Robert suggested that we place the TBM in Static Display (vs Flying) status to possibly reduce insurance costs. Kay Johnson will take action with HQ. Robert also put the Credit

Card machine in “inactive” status to reduce monthly payments, and reported that he Converted the Cub insurance to the new Comprehensive policy and paid the bill, so the Cub is covered for this year’s activity. Lastly, Robert will take action to check status of the Insurance claim.

Operations / Johnson, Fay: CAF policy mandates a Flight Evaluation Board investigation of any accident that causes serious damage to a CAF aircraft. The board consisting of Collin Fay, Kay Johnson, Bob Thompson, and Matt McNamara completed their investigation after interviewing Rob Duncan on 12 April. The accident was found to be the result of pilot error, and the Board suspended Rob’s flight status until further notice. Their report and recommendation will go to HQ for further review.

Collin had talked to Barry Hancock, and was pleased to report that Barry was still on board, and continuing to work toward his certification as a TBM pilot.

PX / Georgia Thompson – Approximately \$8,000 in PX inventory is available for fundraising activities.

Committee Reports

Hangar Heating / Insulating / Bob Caskey: Insulation work is finished, gas and electrical connections still need to be completed. Insulation may cause the hangar to be too hot during the summer – we might need to consider an exhaust fan or evaporative cooler for hot summer work days.

(Continued on Page 8)

DETAILED MINUTES—APRIL 12 RMWCAF STAFF MEETING - (CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 7)

Unfinished business

Airport Fence / Gate / Access Update – Fay: Things are looking up! The Airport Board met with the TSA, and agreed with plan to remove the gate. And after stopping construction of the Tippetts Memorial Building, the Board will have sufficient funds to pay for removal of the gate. Current estimate is that the job will be done sometime in June.

Dave Shepard reported on the status of the GJT Lease issue – it is likely that the Airport Board will push back the May 23 deadline for leaseholders to accept or reject the current lease agreement. The Board is open to a re-examination of the agreement language, specifically to ascertain what the FAA actually requires (as opposed to Tippetts’ interpretation of the requirements).

Rides program local marketing – Duncan / DeRush: ON HOLD pending TBM repairs.

Aircraft repair fundraising / DeRush: Bruce, with Rob Duncan’s assistance, has been looking at fundraising alternatives, including

- Advertising on the RMW website (eg, a copy of the Sentinel Article)
- Booth at the Grand Junction Farmers Market (possibly donated space)
- Press Release
- Internet marketing (Indigogo.com, crowd-sourcing sites)
- You Tube, broadcast media.
- Local philanthropists

(Kochs, Cocker, Hedrix ...). Dave Shepard volunteered to talk to Hendrix in Gateway.

There was quite a bit of discussion about donation levels and and perks – ie, at some level of giving, the donor gets a hat, T-shirt, plaque, etc. Bruce will come back with recommendations. Rich Connor volunteered to take care of packing/shipping the donor perks.

Training ON HOLD pending TBM repairs.

CAF Standard Flight Suits ON HOLD pending TBM repairs.

Aircraft Insurance Considerations / Johnson

TBM – “static” versus “flying” status: Kay will work with HQ to move TBM to static status – may reduce insurance cost.

Cub – comprehensive insurance coverage: Done, better coverage, lower cost.**Paid Advertising (Facebook, and others?):** ON HOLD pending TBM repairs.

New business

Personal expense reimbursement policy: For RMW members working on the TBM in Mesa, the Wing will reimburse reasonable fuel and lodging costs with appropriate documentation (receipts). Meal expenses up to \$25/day may be approved on a case-by-case basis, approval must be granted in advance.

Rides Program Moratorium: Bob Caskey made a motion to suspend the rides program pending further risk/reward consideration – until such decision is made, staff

pre-approval is required before selling rides at any airshow or other event. Collin seconded the motion. **Vote: Carried with one opposed (Rob Duncan)**

Appointment of Interim Wing Leader: Collin Fay let us know that he would be away from 27 April through at least 15 September, flying smoke jumpers in Alaska. CAF policy requires that local Wing Staff member absences of 90 days or more must be filled on an interim basis, or until the end of the absent staff-

er’s term. **Bob Caskey made a motion to appoint an interim Wing Staff Leader. Robert Toth seconded, and the motion passed with one abstention (Collin Fay).** Nominations for the interim position were sought, and accepted for Bob Thompson, Rob Duncan, and Bruce Verstraet. After two rounds of voting, Bob Thompson emerged as the lucky stuckee, and will fill the Wing Leader position until Collin returns in September.

Adjournment - at 12:15 local time.

