

Colorado Aviation Historical Society



JOURNAL OF THE
COLORADO AVIATION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FALL 2008 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bea Khan Wilhite

The Colorado Aviation Historical Society is celebrating its 38th Annual Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame on November 1st, and on behalf of the Officers and the Board of Directors, together with our distinguished membership, we heartily congratulate the 2008 inductees. We are honored to report the selection of William Hamilton and Joseph Thibodeau, both having contributing significantly to Aviation in the State of Colorado. Please plan to join us as we celebrate their many outstanding accomplishments.

The Society has participated in some amazing and exciting projects this year. One is the very successful Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport Open House, held on July 7th, along with the JAA Fly-In and the Historical Society Patriots and Heroes Pavillion. The Society has been heavily involved with the planning and operation of this annual event. We were rewarded when more than 20,000 people surpassed our expectations and arrived to enjoy the day of warbirds and performing jets. We were hosts to families, the military and hundreds of aviation enthusiasts!

Some of the highlights of the day were: the acrobatic performance by Patty Wagstaff, the F-18 Superhornet and F-16 Viper, the B-25 Mitchell Bomber "Martha Jean," the B-17 "Sentimental Journey" and the Coast Guard C-130 Aerial Demo. Also entertaining the crowds were performances by

Red Storm Airshows MiG 17, the T-33, P-51, Sea Fury, the Blackhawk Helicopter and Air Force Academy Glider.

Kudos and congratulations to CAHS members: Wayne Hammack, Air Boss; Daril Cinquanta, JAA President; the amazing airport staff; announcers Dave Callender and Jim Gorman; and pilots Col. Jack Wilhite USAF Ret., Mark Johnson, Joe Thibodeau, and Dr. Mike Bertz.

There's more - great variety on ground activities: Col. Bill Bower, Doolittle Raider autographed copies of the Doolittle Raid, beneath the wing of the B-25; Col. Buck Newsum celebrated his 90th birthday by setting up a grand Tuskegee exhibit; and WASP's Lucile Wise, Betty Lotowitz and Kay Gunderson were happy to autograph CAHS historic hand-outs for hundreds of kids. Duke Sumonia, CAHS Director and Historian exhibited a fascinating Aviation Archeology Collection; also, B/G Steve Ritchie received a standing ovation after his speech, and surprise visitor Col. Mike Silva, just back from Iraq was roundly applauded by the crowd. We're grateful to the many volunteers and congratulations to Brandon Eaker, 17 years old and the youngest member of CAHS, whom we honored with a flight in the B-17!

May God Bless our troops and keep them safe. Wishing you all blue skies!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 25, 2008
10AM-2PM
BOARD MEETING
WINGS BOARD ROOM

FEBRUARY 17, 2009
10AM-2PM
BOARD MEETING
WINGS BOARD ROOM

JUNE 6, 2009
SAVE THE DATE!
RMMA OPEN HOUSE,
JAA FLY-IN

NOVEMBER 1, 2008
HALL OF FAME BANQUET
LAKEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

MARCH 28, 2009 10AM-2PM
BOARD AND GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WINGS LOWRY ROOM

AUGUST 1, 2009
HALL OF FAME
NOMINATIONS DUE

FLOWN WEST

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Robert Jackson, Col. Bill Smutz and Jean Tool

BRIGADIER GENERAL (USAF RET.) STEVE RITCHIE GUEST SPEAKER



We welcome Gen. Ritchie to the Colorado Aviation Historical Society podium of the Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony, recalling a similar ceremony in 1997 when he received the prestigious award and became a Hall of Fame

Laureate by his induction.

Gen. Ritchie is the only pilot ACE that the Air Force had during the Vietnam Conflict. He is the only American pilot in history to score five (5) MiG 21 victories - a record he set while flying eight hundred (800) combat hours in the F-4 Phantom.

Steve graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1964 with a B.S. in Engineering Science. While

there, he was also a starting halfback on the Falcon football team.

Gen. Ritchie is a command pilot and has flown the T-33, T-37, T-38, F-100, F-104, F-4C, D & E, F-15 and F-16. His decorations include the Air Force Cross, four Silver



Stars, ten Distinguished Flying Crosses and twenty five Air Medals. Steve was in the Colorado Air National Guard from 1976-1985. Today, Gen. Ritchie flies the Air Show Circuit, pilot of the F-104 Starfighter, one of a three ship Demonstration Team. He continues to captivate audiences as America's finest motivational speaker, bringing an inspiring message to both youth and adults.



Aviation Archeology Report to CAHS for August 2008

1. Jimmy Camp: Since the beginning of this year's field season (April to October 2008), AvAr's members have:
A. Traveled more than 9,870 miles (collectively)
B. Expanded approximately 359 field hours
C. Uncovered more than ninety recordable artifacts

By the close of this [2008] season, AvAr expects to have the northern section of the crash site, approximately 1/3 of the entire site, surveyed and cleared. AvAr is still on track for a 2011 completion date.

2. Stormy Peaks B-17: Following through on our [2006] promise to officially survey the 1943 Stormy Peaks B-17 crash site for the United States Forrest Service (USFS), AvAr dispatched a six-member team to Pingree Park on June 27th to complete its investigation. Three AvAr team members, along with representatives from the

USFS and USAF, were accompanied by a last minute guest sponsored by Matt Hensarling.

Collectively traveling more than 1,040 miles and expending better than 60 hours in the process, this AvAr team not only mapped the entire seventy- five year old crash site, but also verified the fact that the number four (right wing, outboard) engine was not developing power when this crash occurred.

The final report should be completed and delivered to the USFS by the end of September.

3. Robert Jackson Collection: Since receiving this collection late in 2007, the archiving process has been slow but steady. Approximately 45% of the book collection has been inventoried and stored at Brian Richardson's home. Duke Sumonia has catalogued some 20% of the photograph collection.

WILLIAM A. "BILL" HAMILTON - HALL OF FAME

Bill arrived in Colorado from his home state of Oklahoma in 1989 and became a full-time resident, settling in Granby in 1992. He was then the Regional Representative of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and was serving as liaison between AOPA and Colorado Pilots Assn. (CPA). His work was in promoting general aviation and aviation safety in the State of Colorado. In 1988, Bill worked with Rep. Lewis Entz and other members of the Colorado Assembly to establish the Colorado Division of Aeronautics, the Colorado Aeronautical Board, and the Colorado Aviation Trust Fund.

Bill is recognized for the rescue of the Granby and Kremmling Airports from closure, and was responsible for the improvements at Meadow Lake Airport in Colorado, Springs. He helped redesign airspace around Denver International Airport, to benefit Van Aire and Aurora Airparks, allowing them to remain



active, following the opening of DIA.

Bill is best known for his work with Gov. Bill Owens to create what became known as the 12 AWOS-111 Project, a chain of twelve automated weather observation systems, installed along the Continental Divide, on the twelve mountain passes most often used by small aircraft, thereby greatly increasing safety for pilots.

William Hamilton, LTC. USA (Ret.) had a distinguished twenty (20) year military career, serving with the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam and Cambodia. He holds Master Parachutist Wings and a Jumpmaster qualification and he trained USAF pilots in parachuting techniques. Among other awards, he holds the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart. Bill has been a member of Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and Colorado Aviation Historical Society and is on the University of Oklahoma ROTC Wall of Fame.

JOE THIBODEAU - HALL OF FAME

Joe Thibodeau, as a civil servant, attorney and pilot, has significantly impacted aviation in the State of Colorado. Brig. Gen. Robert F. Titus, USAF (Ret.) said: "As a Colorado aviator, as an historian, a community contributor and as a selfless citizen ever ready to share his time and his beautiful warbirds for a variety of Air Fairs, Shows and Fly-bys, Mr. Thibodeau is eminently suited for induction into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame, in that he has established a remarkable reputation. He exemplifies the dedication and spirit of an unparalleled patriot willing to give of his time and energies to foster a continued appreciation of the heritage of military aviation." The many tributes echo these endorsements of Joe, representing all the best as an aviator with principles, spirituality and integrity.

At an early age, Joe fell in love with airplanes, with a passion for flying growing beyond ordinary dreams. Today, his beautifully restored P-51D and the Hawker FB11 Sea Fury are a great source of pride while



providing him with opportunities to reach out with these historic aircraft as a benefit to the community. A few of the groups are: Sungate Kids, Young Eagles (EAA), Boy Scouts of America, and donation of charity rides for numerous causes and events, including the homeless shelters of Denver and veterans groups. Joe is Chairman of Aircraft Acquisition Committee '05-'08, for a fund-raiser for pediatric cancer research, Morgan Adams Concours d'Elegance and is actively supporting many charities and organizations. Joe also is part of many aviation groups and supports their activities.

On March 4, 2008, he was appointed to the Colorado Aeronautical Board, a seven member body responsible for the development of aviation in Colorado. This was confirmed by the Senate on May 5, 2008. Since 1996, Joe has successfully competed in the National Championship Air Races in Reno, Nevada with the following results: 1st Place Silver Class, 2002; 1st Place Bronze Class, 2004; 1st Place Silver Class, 2007.

Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport Open House, AA Fly-In, and the CAHS Patriots and Heroes Pavillion July 7, 2008

Photos: Dave Kempa
Melissa Berg



Col. Bill Bower, Doolittle Raider, beneath
the wing of the B-25 Martha Jean



Bea Khan Wilhite
& Col. Bill Bower



B-25 Martha Jean



Paul Rosin sings
National Anthem
& Jim Gorman
the Announcer



Swearing-in Ceremony

On behalf of the CAHS

*"Thank you, Jefferson County
Commissioners Jim Congrove,
Kathy Hartman, Kevin McCoskey
and the RMMA staff, for your
generous support of this free
community event.*

*Bea Khan Wilite, CAHS President,
RMMA Open-House Committee."*

CELEBRATE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

FOR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT, WE THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH

Di Freeze
Paul Rosin
Jim Congrove,
Commissioner
Col. Bill Bower
Brandon Eaker
Karin Marshall
Dave Ebershoff
Ed Sabota
Carol and Reed Sundine
David McCord
Phil Ecklund
Duke Sumonia

Michael McRhodes
Randall Eaker
Justin Eaker
Doug Cyphers
Dave Kempa
Michelle Berg
Daniel Ling
Carriann Eubank
Peter Paul Luce
Dave Callender
Marilyn Taylor
Drew Chithea
Bob Robertson

Chuck Holmes
B/G Steve Ritchie
Jim Gorman
Daril Cinquanta
Col. Buck Newsum
Lucile Wise
Kay Gunderson
Betty Lotowitz
Col. Mike Silva
Ron and Skip Newberg
Doug Hammack
Carissa Lane
Col. Ron Clark



Kenny Maempa,
RMMA Airport Mgr.



Lucile Wise, WASP
Col. Bill Bower



Lucile Wise, WASP
Col. Bill Bower



Lucile Wise, WASP



THE CEREMONY AND THOSE HONORED

Mary Gunderson, WASP,
Betty Lotowitz, WASP
Lucile Wise, WASP, & Bill Bower



Kay Gunderson, WASP, being introduced
by CAHS President, Bea Khan Wilhite



Bill Bower, Bea Khan Wilhite



Tuskegee Airmen President
Ron Clark



Lucile Wise & Betty Lotowitz, WASPs
"Aviation Connecting with Kids"
Patriots & Heroes Pavillion



Col. Buck Newsum,
Patriots & Heroes Pavillion



90th Birthday Cake,
Congratulations Col. Newsum

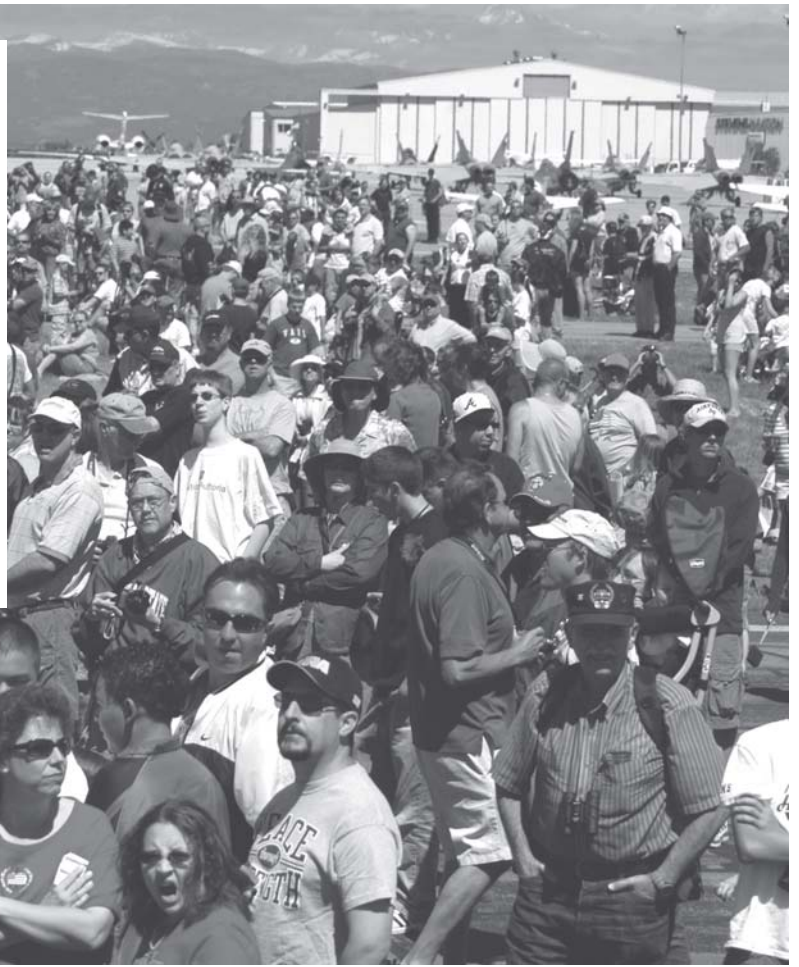


Carol and Reed Sundine Reed, Volunteers

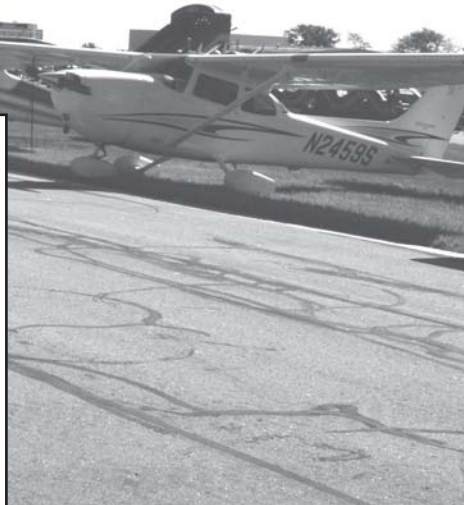




Wayne Hammack, Air Show Boss
& Mary Hammack



Red Storm Air Shows, Mig-17,
Col. Jack Wilhite, Pilot



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