



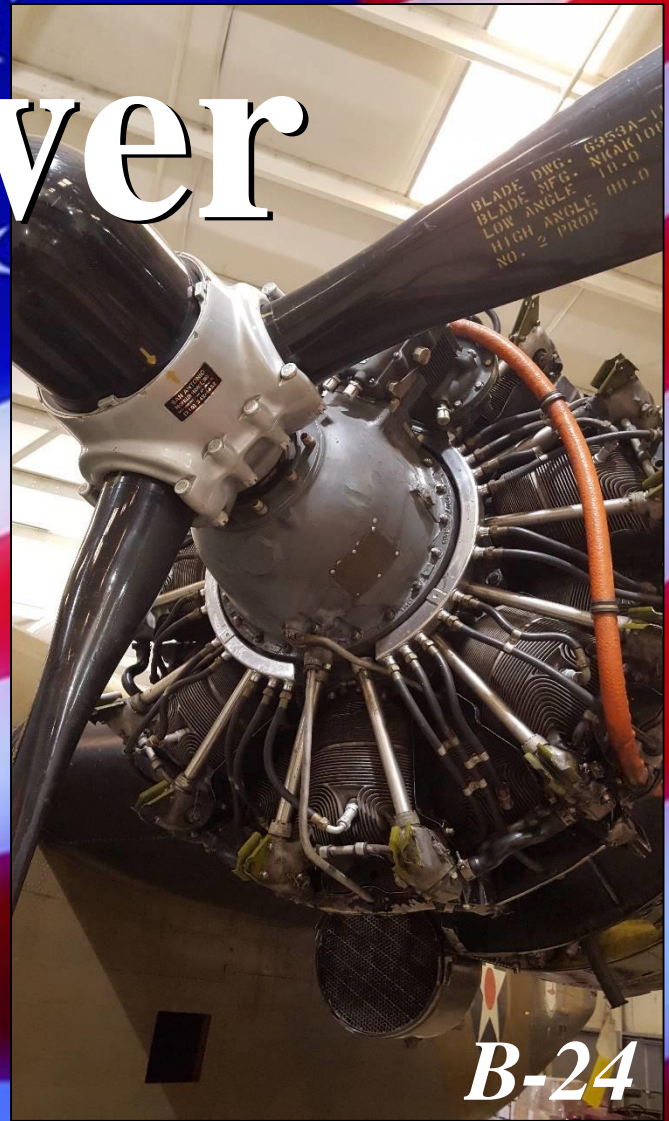
# THE FLYER

Commemorative Air Force  
B-29 / B-24 Squadron

## Power



*B-29*



*B-24*

Maintenance in progress  
January 2016



# COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

## *B-29/B-24 Squadron Officer & Staff Listing*

B-29 / B-24 Squadron Directory			
Position	Name	Phone	Email
<b>If you would like to get scheduled on a Tour Stop as a Crew Member... Contact the following:</b>			
B-29 Personnel Scheduling Officer	John Flynn	717-632-4497	<a href="mailto:inaflynn@embarqmail.com">inaflynn@embarqmail.com</a>
B-24 Personnel Scheduling Officer	Jim Neill	214-762-5891	<a href="mailto:jakat2@verizon.net">jakat2@verizon.net</a>
<b>If you are a New Member Looking to Get Plugged In or Want to Volunteer... Contact the following:</b>			
Volunteer & New Member Coordinator	Tim Colman	214-708-2279	<a href="mailto:tpcolman@gmail.com">tpcolman@gmail.com</a>
<b>Squadron Officers:</b>			
Squadron Commander	Neils Agather	817-946-9950	<a href="mailto:vnagather@agather.tx.com">vnagather@agather.tx.com</a>
Executive Officer	Tom Travis	214-763-0147	<a href="mailto:tomtravis@aol.com">tomtravis@aol.com</a>
Adjutant & Personnel Officer	Debbie King	469-688-1709	<a href="mailto:squadadjutant@gmail.com">squadadjutant@gmail.com</a>
Maintenance Officer	Don Obreiter	580-471-3048	<a href="mailto:obreiter@cableone.net">obreiter@cableone.net</a>
Safety Officer	John Flynn	717-632-4497	<a href="mailto:inaflynn@embarqmail.com">inaflynn@embarqmail.com</a>
Operations Officer	Archie Taylor	817-944-3226	<a href="mailto:taylor2014@tx.rr.com">taylor2014@tx.rr.com</a>
Assistant Ops Officer	Al Benzing	214-707-2726	<a href="mailto:albenzing@gmail.com">albenzing@gmail.com</a>
Public Information Officer	Kim Pardon	913-636-6250	<a href="mailto:pardonb29@gmail.com">pardonb29@gmail.com</a>
Deputy Public Information Officer	Chris Madrid	770-655-3315	<a href="mailto:cjmadrid@yahoo.com">cjmadrid@yahoo.com</a>
Finance Officer	Gerald Oliver	312-953-0357	<a href="mailto:gerald.oliver@yahoo.com">gerald.oliver@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Squadron Staff:</b>			
Squadron General Manager	Brad Pilgrim	843-991-3814	<a href="mailto:bpilgrim@cafhq.org">bpilgrim@cafhq.org</a>
Assistant Finance Officer & Bookkeeper	Cindy Kirby	972-596-4524	<a href="mailto:cindydkirby@yahoo.com">cindydkirby@yahoo.com</a>
Sr. Crew Chief	Rick Garvis	972-380-8800	<a href="mailto:rgarvis@cafhq.org">rgarvis@cafhq.org</a>
Crew Chief	Don Thurston	903-714-8037	<a href="mailto:don@donseye.info">don@donseye.info</a>
Crew Chief	Ben Powers	214-277-3150	<a href="mailto:f14_ad@yahoo.com">f14_ad@yahoo.com</a>
Facility Manager	Jim Neill	214-762-5891	<a href="mailto:jakat2@verizon.net">jakat2@verizon.net</a>
<b>B-24 Team:</b>			
B-24 Go Team Leader	Al Benzing	214-707-2726	<a href="mailto:albenzing@gmail.com">albenzing@gmail.com</a>
<b>Diamond Lil</b> Century Club Chairman	Toni Rabroker	972-740-4601	<a href="mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com">rabroker@hotmail.com</a>
B-24 Volunteer MX Coordinator	Steve Rabroker	469-387-6439	<a href="mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com">rabroker@hotmail.com</a>
B-24 Flight Ops Coordinator	Al Benzing	214-707-2726	<a href="mailto:albenzing@gmail.com">albenzing@gmail.com</a>
B-24 Aircraft Tours Coordinator	Jim Neill	214-762-5891	<a href="mailto:jakat2@verizon.net">jakat2@verizon.net</a>
Deputy Public Information Officer	Chris Madrid	770-655-3315	<a href="mailto:cjmadrid@yahoo.com">cjmadrid@yahoo.com</a>
<b>B-29 Team:</b>			
B-29 Flight Ops Coordinator	Archie Taylor	817-944-3226	<a href="mailto:taylor2014@tx.rr.com">taylor2014@tx.rr.com</a>
B-29 MX Coordinator	Rick Garvis	972-380-8800	<a href="mailto:rgarvis@cafhq.org">rgarvis@cafhq.org</a>
B-29 Flight Engineer Coordinator	Rick Garvis	972-380-8800	<a href="mailto:rgarvis@cafhq.org">rgarvis@cafhq.org</a>
<b>Stearman Team:</b>			
Stearman Flight Ops Coordinator	Archie Taylor	817-944-3226	<a href="mailto:doliver@cafhq.org">doliver@cafhq.org</a>
Stearman MX Coordinator	Bill Goeken	817-308-1916	<a href="mailto:wk.goeken@verizon.net">wk.goeken@verizon.net</a>
<b>Squadron Volunteer Leaders:</b>			
Docent Emeritus	Jack Bradshaw	214-987-1963	<a href="mailto:jackbshaw@sbcglobal.net">jackbshaw@sbcglobal.net</a>
The "Flyer" Newsletter Editor	Kon Kelley	214-995-5184	<a href="mailto:konartist@verizon.net">konartist@verizon.net</a>
Appearance Captain	Henry Borderlon	972-406-0644	<a href="mailto:pixie@sbcglobal.net">pixie@sbcglobal.net</a>
PX Co-Captain	Rocky Smith	214-565-8562	<a href="mailto:diverock@hotmail.com">diverock@hotmail.com</a>
PX Co-Captain	Alma Smith	214-284-9128	<a href="mailto:alma@b29b24px.org">alma@b29b24px.org</a>
Social Chairman	Open		
<b>Tours/Ride Desk/Marketing:</b>			
Tour Manager & Scheduling	Jon Oliver	312-925-6184	<a href="mailto:aphtwarbirds@gmail.com">aphtwarbirds@gmail.com</a>
Ride Desk Captain	Mary Mount	209-605-4313	<a href="mailto:mgmount@aol.com">mgmount@aol.com</a>
Tour Marketing Coordinator	Kim Pardon	913-636-6250	<a href="mailto:pardonb29@gmail.com">pardonb29@gmail.com</a>





**The Journey to the Black Hat begins...  
B-29 Ground School  
January 23-24, 2016**

### **In this Issue:**

- Spring 2016 AirPower History Tour
- Officer Reports
- *Diamond Lil B-24 Go Team Report*
- *Diamond Lil Century Club Update*
- Member News
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- Volunteer Spotlight: Tim Colman
- Editor's Corner
- Squadron Contact Information



**THE FLYER**  
SQUADRON NEWSLETTER

A big thank you to Squadron member Ross Martin for updates to the Flyer webpage interface and archive!

Take some time to peruse past issues and the history of the Squadron. More archived Flyers will be loaded in the future as new issues are posted.



Volunteer Spotlight: Tim Colman



# CAF **AirPower History Tour**

National Air Tour of Historic World War II Aircraft



## "FIFI"

**FEB 24-28**  
**MOBILE, AL**

**GOES  
SOUTHEAST**

**MAR 2-6**  
**SARASOTA, FL**

**MAR 16-20**  
**NAPLES, FL**

**MAR 7-9**  
**LEESBURG, FL**

**MAR 23-27**  
**LAKELAND, FL**

**MAR 11-13**  
**TITUSVILLE, FL**

**MAR 30-APR 3**  
**DAYTONA, FL**

**B-24 Ground School**  
April 23, 2016  
Dallas Executive



**B-29 Ground School**  
January 23-24, 2016  
Fort Worth

# Squadron Report

Happy New Year to everyone.

Plans are in place for a terrific year of operations in *FIFI* and *Diamond Lil*. It's going to be a great 2016. We start with B-29 Ground School next week. If you are thinking of coming out on the road, please plan to attend. You will learn where we are going, what we are doing and especially learn of any changes in our operations. It will be time well spent.

For those of you who are flight crew members, there will be CAF required instruction and testing. This is also a good time to get together with friends and to make new ones. It will be a fun event, so even if you're not planning to tour, come and socialize. The 2016 tour starts on 22 February, barely a month after Ground School. Sunny, warm Florida. It's the place to be. Sign up to be a part of this. Later in the year we have a bunch of great stops planned including Oshkosh again, where *FIFI* is always the star.

I am looking forward to seeing you at B-29 Ground School.

Neils Agather  
Squadron Leader



Photo by Scott Slocum



# Executive Officer Report

2015 was a very good year for our Squadron and with your help this year will be even better.

Hope to see you at B-29 Ground School.

Tom Travis  
Executive Officer



*Photo by Scott Slocum*

# Flight Operations Report

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and start to the New Year. Once again last year's tour was an outstanding professional team effort by all involved. The spring tour starts February 23 – April 4. This month we are getting the B-29, Stearman and T-6 ready to head to Florida. It should be fun in the Sunshine State as several other aircraft like the T-34, C-45 and B-17 will join the fun.

## **B-29 Ground School**

This year's B-29 ground school will be January 23-24. There have been many improvements in the manuals and checklist just like in the past years and that should make this training the best ever. So please make sure you RSVP online. I promise you will enjoy it. This year we are putting more emphasis on how we operate with updated checklists in the challenge and response environment.

## **B-24 Ground School**

This year's B-24 ground school will be April 23. We are ramping up the volunteer effort to finish the restoration. Check Al Benzing's article for details.

Archie Taylor  
Flight Operations  
Officer





# Maintenance Report

*Photo Collage by Rick Garvis, Crew Chief*



*Repainting gear doors*



*New left blister almost ready for install!!!*



*#3 ready for cowlings*



*There will be no excuse keeping them clean now LOL*



*Kyle hooking up the cowlings on #3*





*Pulling ailerons for inspection*



*Work continues on Lil's annual inspection*



*Steve working on FE panel*



*The girls are looking forward to coming out into the daylight and FLY!*



# Training & Safety Report

Let's all make sure we continue to keep safety first and foremost in all that we do in this New Year. There will be many "safety challenges" as we wrap up the winter maintenance and prepare to get out on the 2016 Air Power History Tour to Florida.

During our B-29 Ground School over the January 23 – 24 weekend, we will be exposed to many potential hazards, especially in the "hands-on" portion of the training, as we perform the tasks necessary to qualify and requalify as aircrew members.

Additionally, everyone coming to ground school needs to remember to bring copies of their updated manuals and be prepared for a very busy weekend of training. As I am writing this, (January 13<sup>th</sup>) we already have 101 squadron members signed up for B-29 ground school; 30 pilots, 62 scanners, 4 flight engineers and 5 in the "other" category. I'm certain there will be a few more signing up over the next few days.

Remember; IF THE JOB IS DONE RIGHT, IT IS SAFE!

John Flynn  
Safety Officer





# Deputy PIO Report

*“On the Horizon”*

2015 ended with a flurry of activity surrounding *Diamond Lil*. Press releases, the DLCC newsletter, a first ever CAF-wide online giving campaign, photo shoots, new youtube videos, Christmas Cards to *Diamond Lil Century Club* (DLCC) donors and planning meetings have set the stage for an exciting 2016. Thanks to the “12 Planes of Christmas” online fundraising campaign, plus Toni Rabroker’s year-end *Diamond Lil Century Club* appeal, the Squadron has already raised nearly \$20,000 towards a 2016 fundraising goal of \$100,000. More importantly, the DLCC and B-24 Go Team members gained invaluable experience over the last few months in working together.



As the world’s oldest operational four-engine bomber, *Diamond Lil* is certainly a historic aircraft, but she is much more than a production statistic, footnote in a history book or photo on a website. *Diamond Lil* represents the effort and contribution of an entire nation in winning the most destructive war in history. Men and women across America built, maintained and flew the aircraft in combat around the globe. As World War II fades from memory into history, *Diamond Lil* can remind us of the better Angels of our nature.

I have been a member of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) since 2000. I renew my membership each year because I believe the CAF is a steward of American history. We must be innovative and steadfast in our efforts to connect the public with the legacy of *Diamond Lil*, but creativity and passion are not enough to ensure the ongoing operation of a large, complex aircraft that requires specialized skills to maintain and safely fly. Vision, leadership, strategy, planning, focus, due diligence, mutual respect, teamwork - and a little patience – are always essential in accomplishing meaningful goals and objectives.

Prospects for 2016 are promising, but to ensure that *Diamond Lil* is flying for future generations, she must become financially self-sufficient. To that end, the DLCC and B-24 Go Team are already looking to the future and laying the foundation to generate \$150,000 annually, beginning in 2017. DLCC Chairwoman Toni Rabroker will be sharing info about goals and plans during the upcoming B-29 Ground School. Whether through time, talent or treasure, please consider about how you can contribute to *Diamond Lil*’s ongoing mission.

Chris Madrid  
Deputy PIO



# DIAMOND LIL

## B-24 Go Team Report

In last month's report, I said work to remove old sealant from the fuel tanks has been completed. Well, most of it anyway. This is turning out to be a more difficult process than expected and some remaining sealant will need to be scraped out with special plastic tools, to avoid damaging the tank/wing. Once complete, the wing spar inspection can begin. The process will then continue with bidding for resealing and pressure testing.

On Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, there was a B-24 Maintenance meeting to kick-off a plan for weekly work sessions. Every Thursday Ed Beck, our A & P Volunteer, will work together with other volunteers under Crew Chief Rick's direction. Steve Rabroker is also planning to ask for volunteers for Saturday work sessions. This past week, there were several hard working volunteers, removing exhaust stacks, cowl flaps and getting ready for engine inspections.

The Maintenance Team that we build through this restoration process will most likely be the core team who perform the Winter Maintenance next Nov – Feb. Our plan is to fly *Lil* at events in September and October, ending with New Orleans in early November 2016 – then immediately begin Winter Maintenance. Of course this will be 6 months earlier than required, but it is important to 'reset' our Mx schedule so *Lil* can be ready for an entire tour season beginning in February 2017.

Our challenge will be to have enough members join a volunteer maintenance team who can complete *Lil's* annual inspection in the Nov – Feb timeframe.

*Lil* has an outstanding Marketing Team who showed their passion during the 12 Planes fundraiser. There is much more to come.

Deputy PIO Chris Madrid is working hard on a long term plan and goals to keep *Diamond Lil* financially viable. David O'Conner is handling several projects related to Direct Marketing with our Marketing Team Leader Toni Rabroker to create ways to get the story of *Diamond Lil* to the public and ask for their support. They plan for *Lil* to have a media presence during the APHT in Florida. It is essential that we widen the base of support, knowing we cannot ask just CAF members.

Thank you! To the volunteers who make the time and effort to help.

Volunteers, please contact Steve Rabroker at 469-387-6439 and [rabroker@hotmail.com](mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com)

Al Benzing  
B-24 Go Team Leader  
214-707-2726  
[albenzing@gmail.com](mailto:albenzing@gmail.com)



# An update from Toni Rabroker *Diamond Lil Century Club Chairperson*

Welcome to 2016! We're already half way through January and we find ourselves coming up on the one year anniversary of the *Diamond Lil Century Club*! It's hard to believe that a whole year has passed, but things are rolling for *Diamond Lil* and we couldn't have done it without your support!

In our first year, over 200 people have joined the *Diamond Lil Century Club*. We met and surpassed our first year's goal of \$50,000 and we have now been challenged to double that amount this year. \$100,000 may seem like a large number, but as you know, it is very costly to maintain and restore this almost 75 year old aircraft. There is still much work to be done to get her back flying – and that is what she was meant to do – FLY!

Our marketing team has been working hard to explore new avenues of fundraising, and this year we will be trying some new ideas. We hope to expand our social media presence and also some new ideas to take on tour. If you are attending B-29 Ground School – you'll learn more about where we are, and how you can help us.

If you haven't already renewed your membership, please consider doing so NOW by going to [www.diamondlil.org](http://www.diamondlil.org), or you will have the opportunity to do so at B-29 Ground School. I know the maintenance guys are working hard and we are excited to get *Lil* back on tour later this year!

Toni Rabroker  
*Diamond Lil Century Club Chairman*

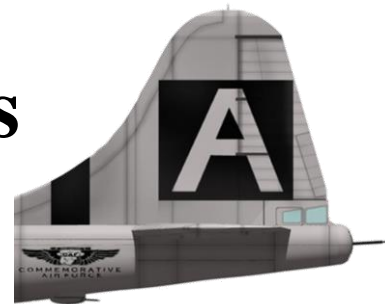






# Member News

## January, 2016



Make a Date with



**B-29 Ground School**  
**Neils' Hangar**  
**Meacham Airport**  
**Fort Worth, TX**  
**Cost to attend - \$29**

**2016 B-29 Ground School Registration**  
**January 23-24, 2016**  
**Saturday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Please join us for B-29 ground school January 23 - 24. Learn about the Air Power History Tour and opportunities to join us as a crew member. Cost for participation is \$29 per person. Click on the link to register online. Looking forward to seeing you there! [warbirdflightschool.org](http://warbirdflightschool.org)

Email questions about ground school to Kim Pardon at [pardon29@gmail.com](mailto:pardon29@gmail.com)

You must be a CAF Colonel and B-29/B24 Squadron member to participate. You may pay your 2016 squadron dues (\$75) online at the link below. [Pay your dues online](#). Email questions about membership to Debbie King at [squadadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:squadadjutant@gmail.com)

Updated manuals will be available on the squadron website starting January 1. Download them at [www.cafb29b24.org](http://www.cafb29b24.org). Click on the Members Only tab. Password = superfortress

### Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Fossil Creek, 4635 Gemini Place, Fort Worth 817-624-0002. Elizabeth Morrison, Director of Sales, ext # 1101  
Our preferred rate is \$89 plus tax, double occupancy. Breakfast not included. Call 817-624-0002 for reservations. Ask for the CAF rate. Normal rates at this hotel are \$139 to \$199.

Ground school attendees can use this link to book their room at HI Fossil Creek:

Rate Name: B TWENTY NINE SQUADRON

Corporate ID: 786817262

Booking Link: [Special Rate for B-29 Ground School](#)

Quality Inn, 4681 Gemini Place, Fort Worth, (Just off Meacham Boulevard on the West side of I-35W).

CAF rate is \$62.10 for this year's ground school. Full hot breakfast. The phone number is 817-740-1099.

Super 8 Hotel, 4665 Gemini Place Fort Worth

CAF rate is \$59.00. It's best to call the manager, "Ankar" and talk to him directly. His phone number is 817-222-3230. No hot breakfast, except for a waffle machine.

### Membership Info

If you have any membership questions, please feel free to contact me at [squadadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:squadadjutant@gmail.com)

Dues (due Jan 1) and new member apps can be mailed to:

Debbie King  
13562 Braemar Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75234  
B29/B24 Squadron Adjutant  
469-688-1709



Debbie Travis King

For a Squadron uniform shirt or ¼ zip sweatshirt, contact [alma@B29B24px.org](mailto:alma@B29B24px.org) with the subject "B-29 Ground School. Go check out the Px!

<http://www.b29b24px.org/>



Find us on 





# B-29

## Ground School

### Schedule

#### January 23-24, 2016



**Friday – January 22, 2016**

**Ft Worth Meacham – VFM – Ready Room**

505 NW 38th St Hangar 33 S, Fort Worth, TX 76106

2:00pm to 4:00pm      Tour Leader's Meeting (current and potential Tour Leaders ONLY)

**Ft Worth Meacham - Neils' Hanger – 5:00pm to 8:00pm**

Across the airport from the VFM Hangar. Drive east or west on W Long Avenue and then north on Lincoln to the first hangar on your right. The address is: 3500 Lincoln Avenue Fort Worth, TX

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm      Friday evening Squadron social at Neils' hangar.

## **2016 B-29 Superfortress *FIFI* Ground School**

***Schedule of Events:***

**Saturday – January 23, 2016**

**Session #1 – Ft Worth Meacham - Neils' Hanger – 8:00am to 9:15am**

Across the airport from the VFM Hangar. Drive east or west on W Long Avenue and then north on Lincoln to the first hangar on your right. The address is: 3500 Lincoln Avenue Fort Worth, TX

**All Participants**

7:30 am - 8:00 am	Donuts & Coffee/Slideshow (Kon Kelley's slides)	
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Welcome, Introductions, Schedule	Neils Agather
8:15 am – 8:30 am	Update on Vision for NAB	Adam Smith
8:30 am – 8:45 am	Plans for the Future	Gerald Oliver
8:45 am – 8:55 am	B-29 Tour Schedule 2016	Jon Oliver
8:55 am – 9:00 am	Expectations for G/S	Brad Pilgrim
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Aircraft Update	Rick Garvis
9:15 am – 9:45 am	Break	

**Session #2 – Ft Worth Meacham - Neils' Hanger – 9:45 to 11:00am**

**All Participants**

9:45 am – 10:00 am	Anatomy of a Tour Stop & SMS	John Flynn
	How to Volunteer	
10:00 am – 10:10 am	Media, Ride Flights	Kim, Mary
	Intro Chris Madrid	
10:10 am – 10:20 am	Passion and Professionalism	Archie Taylor
10:20 am – 10:45 am	CRM/TEM – Checklists/Briefings	Al Benzing/Archie
10:45 am – 10:55 am	Aircraft Emergencies/Exit	Brad Pilgrim
10:55 am – 11:00 am	Diamond Lil Century Club	Toni Rabroker
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Lunch (Catered)	



### Session #3 – Breakout Workshops

**Pilots – Neils’ Hangar**

**Flight Engineers – Neils’ Hangar**

**Scanners – Vintage Flying Museum**

#### Pilots & FEs:

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	B-29 Systems Training & Test	Various Instructors
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	<i>Break</i>	
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Flight Engineer Training Session Logbook, Deferred Mx Guide	Don Obreiter
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	<i>Break</i>	
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Emergencies and Open Discussion	Bill Goeken/David Oliver
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	<i>Break</i>	

### Session #4 – Neils’ Hangar

**Flight Evaluation Board - Closed Door Meeting**

4:45 pm – 5:45 pm	Pilot Candidate Selection and Criteria	Archie/David/Bill (FEB Members Only)
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### Cooper’s BBQ

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm                      Saturday evening Squadron social (Members pay)

Cooper’s BBQ

301 Stockyards Blvd

Fort Worth, TX 76164

(817) 626-6464



Cooper’s is 2 miles south of Meacham on Business 287/Main St. just before Billy Bob’s and the Stockyards area. Members are on their own for dinner, but it’s a nice location for catching up with your Squadron friends.

### **Sunday – January 24, 2016**

**7:30 am – 9:00 am                      Pilots & FE’s – Breakfast at Esperanza’s**

Esperanza’s 2122 North Main Street Fort Worth, TX 76164

### Session #5 – Breakout Workshop

**Pilots – Neils’ Hangar**

**Engineers – VFM Hangar**

**Scanners – VFM Hangar**

#### Pilots:

9:00 am – 9:30 am	New CAF Flight Regulation Training	David Oliver
9:30 am – 9:45 am	6802M/91.147 Ride Program Training	David Oliver
9:45 am – 10:00 am	6802 Mike & CFAR Written Tests	David Oliver
10:00 am	Dismissal - <i>except for</i> PT-13, T-6, T-34 & C-45 Pilots	
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	PT-13 & T-6 Ground Training & Test	David/Mark
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Dismissal, except T-34 & C-45 Pilots (Lunch – Pizza at Hangar)	
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	T-34 Ground Training & Test	Curt/Al/David
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	<i>Break</i>	
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	C-45 Ground Training & Test	Jon Oliver/Matt Younkin
4:00 pm	Dismissal	

#### Scanners:

8:00 am – 12:00 pm                      Scanner Training at VFM

#### Flight Engineers

9:00 am – 12:00 pm                      Flight Engineer Training at VFM





## Volunteer Spotlight

### Tim Colman

*By Konley Kelley*



Tim Colman remembers the day he was in Kon Kelley's office at Richland College and first met *FIFI*. Tim was teaching classes for Richland College Corporate Services. He stopped by to see Kon and, during the course of conversation, Kon said "check this out." He motioned for Tim to look at his computer screen and there, in 96 dpi full-color beauty, was the world's only flying B-29 Superfortress. Tim had to know more about this and, within a few months, he was a member of our Squadron.



*USS Trutta*

Tim was born on September 24, 1957 in St. Petersburg, FL. His father, Mel, was a navigator on the attack submarine USS Trutta. When Tim was born, his father was at sea. When Tim's father's sub docked in Key West, Tim's mother, Robin, drove to the base and came aboard the sub. Baby Tim was handed down by sailors through the ship to his father's station where he was placed on the navigator's table and inspected for the first time by his Dad.

Tim's mom was a homemaker and cared for their four children including Tim (oldest), brothers Chris and Steve and sister, Tracy.

After leaving the Navy, Tim's dad became a police officer. His family lived on an island near St. Petersburg and their home bordered McDill AFB. He vividly remembers being frightened by numerous sonic booms during the peak of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the "duck and cover" drills when he was in the first grade. In high school, he was on the rowing team and was a weightlifter.

Tim attended the University of Central Florida. By this time, his father was the sheriff of Orange County, Florida. Watching his father engaged in the political process as an elected official led to an interest in political science. By graduation, the business world was beckoning him and he graduated with a Business Administration degree in 1980.

Tim worked at Disney World on his summer breaks from college. He started out in retail and other various jobs and eventually earned the honor of being a park character. Tim was "Tigger" at Disney World. Tigger had a downside. Other characters had fingers and a thumb. Tigger had a "paw" which really hurt his penmanship when signing kids' autograph books.



*Could this be Tim with Pooh?*

Tim's first job out of college was at Kennedy Space Center as a computer operator. It was the beginning of the space shuttle program so there was a lot of activity at the center. He was paid to capture the telemetry of rockets and orbiting spacecraft. He remembers being ushered out of the room for "smoke breaks" when the Air Force was tracking something top secret.



*Richland College*

Working at NASA was a contract job. His company, Harris Data Communications, offered him a pay increase if he'd relocate to Dallas. Tim accepted the offer but found his duties in Dallas boring in comparison to the work at NASA. He left this job and became a database programmer at Richland College. This led to an opportunity to teach. Tim covered evening continuing education classes for the department. He discovered something along the way, he really liked teaching.

In 1985, Tim took a job at Arthur Young (later Ernst and Young) as an IT consultant. His biggest client was TXU and he kept an office at the energy company. A few years later, he took on a new client, Zales. The company location was near DFW. The non-descript building was built on a hill. The structure extended five levels underground holding the world's largest jewelry depository.

He later went to work for IBM and continued to work on contracts for Zales and TXU. In 2001, the contract with Zales ended. He was offered a job in Buffalo, NY. Tim and his family liked Dallas and he decided to look for other work. In 2002, he started working as a healthcare IT manager. Tim also worked nights back doing something he loved, teaching. He returned to community colleges to teach night classes. This also brought in more income so his wife could stay home with the kids.

In 2012, the healthcare job wrapped but Tim was in a good place. His three kids were off at college or in the military. He was on his own and decided to pursue teaching full-time. One of Tim's clients was Richland College where he met Kon and taught MS Office and programming classes for a variety of companies and municipalities. Tim also began training as a sport pilot. When the opportunity to join the CAF came along, it tied in nicely with his growing interest in aviation.



*Tim at the CAF WWII Air Expo at DEA.*

At a monthly Squadron meeting, Tim asked about volunteer opportunities. Seeing his enthusiasm, Squadron leadership asked him to help build a volunteer database and act as a volunteer coordinator. Tim began attending Squadron events and helping with various projects along with volunteer engagement. He attended B-29 and B-24 Ground School. In April 2015, he did a tour with *Lil* in Florida and the south. His younger brother, Steve, joined the Squadron and joined him on tour. Steve was retired Army and became good friends with fellow veterans on the touring crew.

One of Tim's favorite memories was flying a ride aboard a T-34 in Deland. Due to costs, he couldn't continue his sport pilot certificate so it was a pleasure to have some stick time as well as his flight time aboard *Lil* during the tour. Tim also toured with *FIFI* that summer. Being an instructor working for multiple clients and a flexible schedule has afforded him the time to tour with the Squadron for which he considers himself fortunate.

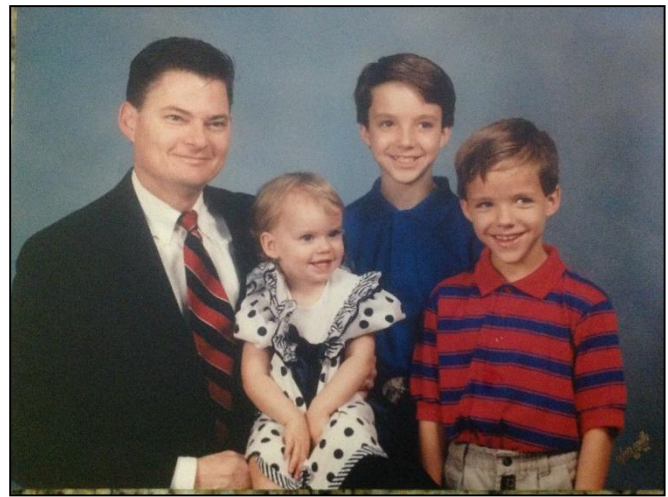
Tim relishes his time spent with veterans. There have been many wonderful conversations but one memorable story sticks out (and will be featured in *The Flyer* soon). Tim met a B-24 pilot who engaged two German FW-200 Condors near Gibraltar. These four engine bombers carried on a dogfight that resulted in all three aircraft being shot down. One of the Condors crashed near the B-24. Both surviving air crews were picked up by a British Corvette.



*Tim volunteering at Warbirds on Parade in Lancaster, TX*



Tim is very proud of his three children, Paul, Mason and Michelle. Paul is an IT Manager in Denton, Michelle is a nurse in Abilene and Mason, after a tour as a combat Marine, is a real estate agent. Tim has two grandkids, Tristan (4 years old) and Lily (2 years old).



*Tim and his  
kids in 1993*



*Mason's family*



*Michelle's family*



*Paul's family*

As far as the CAF goes, Tim is excited about future opportunities with the Squadron. He also wants to be a part of the new CAF National Airbase project in South Dallas. If you are a new Squadron member and looking for volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Tim. He wants to get to know you and get you plugged in. If you have a project or task that can lead to volunteer opportunities, let him know so he can offer support when and where you need it. Together we'll "keep'em flying."



*Tim and the Bucket on tour, Summer 2015*

**Tim Colman**  
**B-29/B-24 Squadron**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**  
**214-708-2279**  
[tpcolman@gmail.com](mailto:tpcolman@gmail.com)





# Editor's Corner

**1:1 and  
1:48 P-51C  
Mustang  
"Red Tail"**

The CAF Red Tail Squadron P-51C Mustang is currently at CAF HQ at Dallas Executive Airport keeping escort for *Diamond Lil*.

Several years ago, I made a scale model of the 1:48 P-51C Mustang from the Accurate Miniatures kit. The markings are very similar to the airworthy P-51C in the hangar with *Lil*. The model's decals are for Lt. Lee Archer, a Tuskegee ace and veteran of 169 combat missions. With Photoshop, I was able to blend a pair of 1:72 Liberators with Archer's P-51C as well as engaged in a dogfight with a BF-109.



## THE FLYER WANTS YOU!

You are welcome to contribute a story, photographs and artwork for this decades-old newsletter. If you are a veteran, please tell us your story. Squadron members continually meet veterans at the hangar, on tour and in everyday life – let us know their stories. We're also looking for contributors for "This Month in History" and news spotlighting our aircraft and members.

Thank you and  
**"Keep 'Em Flying!"**

Konley Kelley  
THE FLYER editor  
[konartist@verizon.net](mailto:konartist@verizon.net)







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## B-29 / B-24 Squadron

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 763577  
Dallas, TX 75376  
United States of America

### Street Address:

5661 Mariner Drive  
Suite 2924  
Dallas Executive Airport  
Dallas, TX 75237

[www.cafb29b24.org](http://www.cafb29b24.org)

[www.AirPowerTour.org](http://www.AirPowerTour.org)

972-387-2924 (Hangar)

432-413-4100 (Ride Desk)