

HEBER DISPATCH

March 2019

2019 Season Preview

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COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE
UTAH WING

Museum Opens April 27



Happy New Year from the Utah Wing of the Commemorative Air Force! There have been quite a few major developments for the wing during the offseason. With spring approaching, it is time once again to dig out the hangar from the snowfall and spool up for another season of events and restoration projects. The Stearman is still requiring extensive rework, but should see completion later this year. The wing has elected new officers, giving it a more cohesive leadership structure with a complete cadre of officers. Also new this year is a stronger presence on social media, through which we will aim to educate and inform, and thereby fulfill part of our mission. The summer events are riding off the successes of last year and will feature two more dances, an ever increasingly popular car show, and the long-awaited return of the B-17 "Sentimental Journey" for another Bomber Week. Starting in May, the wing will once again provide the unique aerial view of Heber Valley with the sponsorship ride program in our T-6 Texans. Several air spaces familiar to the Utah Wing will host local air shows this year, including the Ely Air Races, now in its second year, and the Wendover Air Show. Also continuing its takeoff this year will be the WWII Pilot Training Camp at Wendover, which is also now in its second year. Considering the next lineup of events, the projects the wing is involved in, and the number of historical anniversaries this year, 2019 is set to become a particularly momentous year. The historical anniversaries in particular present an opportunity for the wing to fulfill its mission of preserving the past and educating the future.

Stearman Restoration Update

Our Stearman restoration, as it turns out, will require more extensive rework than anticipated. There have been recent findings of normal but unrepairable wear and tear of the airframe, among which include partially stripped engine mounts. The wing has located and purchased a new airframe in Maryland, and transportation is currently being coordinated to have the frame and several other components brought back to the Utah Wing's hangar. With a brand-new airframe, all components that were previously installed on the original will need to be disassembled again and reassembled onto the new frame. The complete restoration is still expected towards the end of this season. More updates will be provided as the new components arrive and restoration work commences.

Museum Opens—Rides Available

May 4



The museum will officially open between the last week of April and the first week of May, pursuant to our annual tradition. Starting on Saturday, May 4th, the museum will be open for tours, rentals, photo-ops, and much more. Our aircraft will also be available for sponsorship rides. For \$385, donors can experience the trainee pilot's experience in WWII, to be complemented with scenic views of the nearby mountains and the entirety of Heber Valley. We will also have one Stearman available, which offers its own unique open-cockpit experience for \$275. Both flight options are approximately 25 minutes in length. Many of our ride sponsorships are made on behalf of veterans of any past conflict, which we are particularly honored to take for a flight. Ride coordinator information can be found at the end of this newsletter.

While visiting the museum, patrons can see the ongoing progress of the Stearman restoration. Visiting hours will be Friday through Sunday, 10 AM-4 PM. During that time, any one of our well-versed docents can provide information on the aircraft and on any artifacts in the museum.

Bomber Week

The B-17 “*Sentimental Journey*” Returns

June 3rd-10th

This June is going to be a particularly momentous occasion. June 6th marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. The Utah Wing will be commemorating with the return of the Arizona Wing’s B-17 “*Sentimental Journey*”, which will fly in on June 3rd and will remain here for an entire week. Before the Allies were able to set foot on the continent, they first had to soften Hitler’s Fortress. The instrument of choice was the B-17 Flying Fortress, in which thousands of airmen would fly, and thousands would be lost. The presence of the B-17 here will commemorate the sacrifices before and during the D-Day campaign. Thursday, June 6th will feature a special tribute with several veterans, a USO band, and tours of the B-17. *Sentimental Journey* will also have flights available, which can be booked through the Arizona Wing (website included in wing information at the end of the newsletter). Sponsorship rides in our own aircraft will be available throughout the entire week as well.



7th Annual Hangar Dance

June 8th

We are now in the 7th year of our annual 1940s hangar dance, and people never grow tired of the vintage dress as they step back into the romanticism of the wartime era. In the celebration of the war today, one aspect that takes a back seat to key events of the war is the home front, to the effect on families left behind, and the cultural context. This dance will serve to represent leaving loved ones behind as young soldiers, sailors, and airmen received the call to duty. The show will feature a USO-themed broadcast with a few key historical figures, along with a few special performances. Patrons will be able to dance the night away to the wartime classics played by the Danny Newell Tribute Band. The dance will also likely feature re-enactors and

displays by the Utah Military History Group. Vintage dress is not required but as always is highly encouraged. We have requested too that military uniforms be kept to Allied uniforms only, to maintain proper historical context.



*7th
Annual*



1940's Hangar Dance

75th Anniversary of D-Day

Ely Air Races

June 13th-15th



The founders of the Ely Air Races like to claim their fame by organizing the highest elevation air races in the world at 6,258 feet. Now in their second year, the concept was initially spearheaded by the Yelland Field

airport manager and came together from scratch with a cadre of volunteers and community members. The community is who the event aims to benefit, with many nonprofit organizations being beneficiaries of the proceeds. In addition to Formula One pylon racing, patrons can take hot air balloon rides, tour static aircraft displays, and visit local vendors. The Utah Wing will likely represent at the races again with our own static displays. The town of Ely is a small Nevada town nestled among the west's loneliest mountain ranges, but is rich in western history as a hub for stagecoaches, mining, and the railroad.

Planes and Horsepower

August 3rd



The ever more popular Planes and Horsepower will return on Saturday, August 3rd. The format will be much the same as years previous, where car show registrants can get a photo-op of their classic cars with our historic aircraft and one visiting spotlight aircraft. Entry fees for cars range from \$20-\$65, and all entries are entered into an opportunity drawing for a flight in our Stearman. Last year featured three winners, including the Best of Show winner, one random drawing from registrants, and one drawing from the patrons. Years prior displayed several classic vehicles, which we hope to have more of this year. Last year's show featured a Studebaker, a 1950 Jaguar Mark V (the Best of Show winner), an Aston Martin, several classic Mustangs, and many more. Registration has already opened, and already there are 16 confirmed registrations. Last year's show featured the P-51 "Mormon Mustang" as the headlining plane, which was once based here in Heber and was making its prodigal return for the show. This year's headlining aircraft is still in the works but will be announced soon. The show will open with a pancake breakfast and will feature presentations and classic 1940s-1950s music throughout the day.

As with the last two years, there will most likely be another promotional tour in the lead up to the car show. In 2017, our Camaro SS embarked on a cross country tour, exploring the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Huffman Prairie, Detroit, the Henry Ford Museum, Willow Run, and then embarked across the country to represent early land records in early automotive history. The promo in 2018 followed suit by returning to the Air Force Museum and Huffman Prairie, and then exploring the Wright Brother's original bicycle shop, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, and the Packard Automotive Plant, where many of the P-51's Rolls Royce-Merlin engines were manufactured. The promo for 2019 will feature a similar exploration, which will include sites in Dayton and Detroit once again, and will also feature some local history.



4th Annual Victory Hangar Dance

August 3rd



Following the car show as always will be the Victory Hangar Dance, now in its fourth year. It will be much the same as the June dance, except instead of a USO show, it will be a commemoration of victory in World War II, and will also celebrate the prosperity and culture that ensued in the 1950s. The Danny Newell Tribute Band will once again make an appearance, with hits ranging from Glenn Miller in the 1940s to Elvis Presley, Bill Haley, and more from the 1950s. Vintage dress will also range from the wartime uniforms and dresses to the 1950s greaser jackets and the poodle skirts. The dance will again feature a few special performances that will serve to bring the time back to life.

WWII Pilot Training Camp

September 22nd (tentative)

The pilot training camp was completed successfully for the first time last year with six trainees, and will follow suit this year with a very similar program. The camp will be coordinated with Historic Wendover Foundation and the Arizona Ground Crew. Registration information can be found on the Utah Wing's website. WWII Pilot Training Camp is an Immersive Living History Experience that allows the participants to get a glimpse into the life



of the WWII Aviation Cadets. Our “Cadets” fly every day during their 4 days at Wendover Army Air Field and sleep for 5 nights in the barracks. Meals are served three times a day in the Mess Hall and Ground Training is conducted in massive Enola Gay Hangar.

Wendover Air Show

September 28th



The Wendover Air Show will return once again at the Historic Wendover Airfield, the most complete WWII airbase left in the United States. Throughout the years, the organization has made phenomenal progress on several restoration projects around the historic airfield. The Enola Gay hangar has been restored, and more recently, completion of the officer’s club was accomplished. This air show is the avenue by which the group raises funds to accomplish those restorations. The Utah Wing will be representing in support of the Historic Wendover Airfield.

Important Anniversaries in 2019

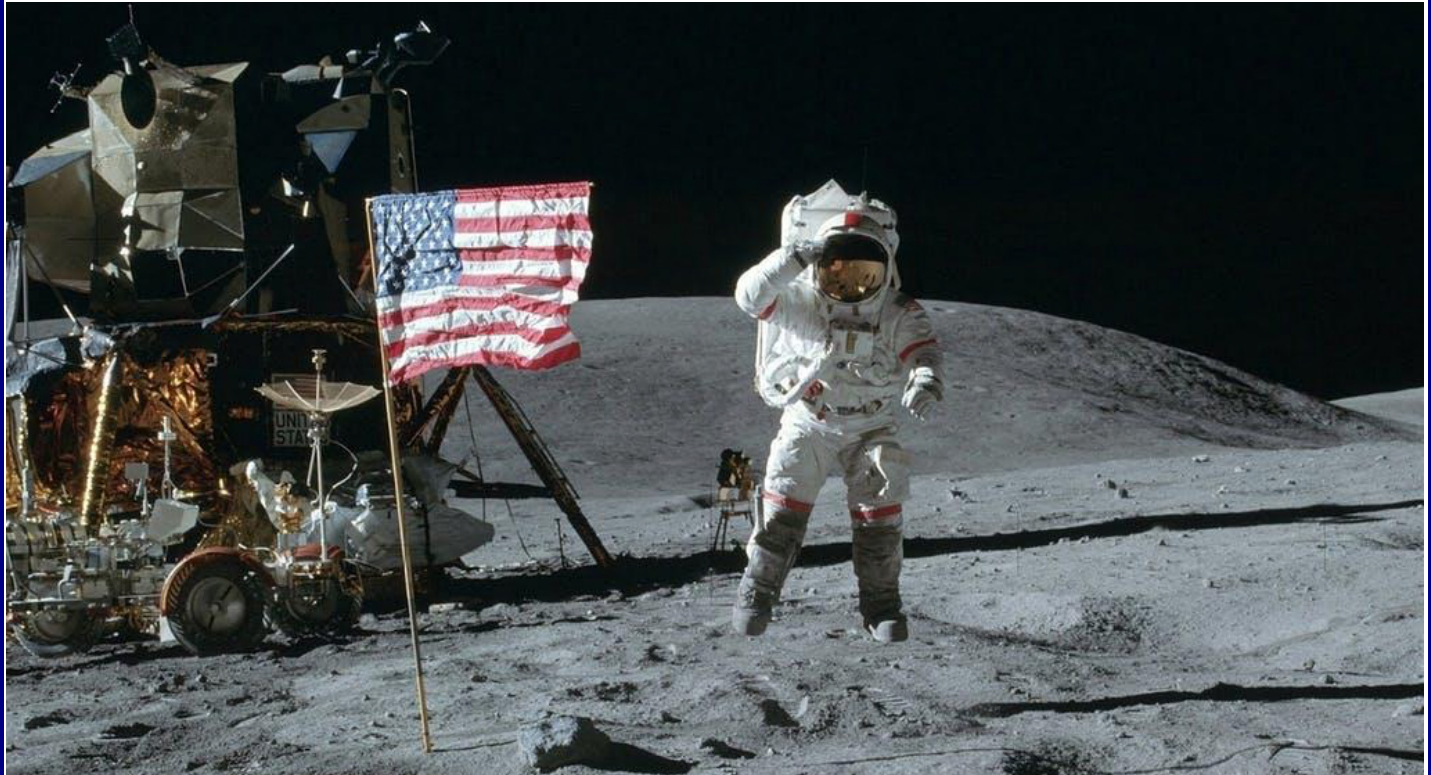
75th Anniversary of D-Day

June 6th

For the western Allies it is perhaps the most iconic moment of the war. June 6th, 1944 meant the end for Adolf Hitler, as the back door to his Fortress was now opened up and the Allies were now closing in from two sides. 2019 marks the 75th anniversary of this occasion, where 156,000 Allied troops would land on the Normandy beaches as part of an amphibious force of over 2 million. It was the largest amphibious invasion force up to that point (surpassed by Okinawa just a year later). There will be several special events and commemorations across the US and in Normandy itself. The Commemorative Air Force will be performing a C-47 formation flyover of Normandy, to include the recently restored “*That’s All Brother*”, which actually participated in the invasion seventy-five years ago. The anniversary can be celebrated locally with our own Bomber Week, in which you can talk to veterans who were there. Tickets to any special events in Normandy itself have been sold out for some time now. It is highly encouraged to speak with veterans of this campaign while the opportunity is still here. Many have passed, and the remainder are passing at an increasing rate.

50th Anniversary of the First Moon Landing

July 20th



Against the backdrop of the Cold War was born a race for superiority in space. The launch of Sputnik by the Soviets in 1957 terrified the US, as superior capabilities in space had grave implications in a nuclear arms race. With John Glenn's first orbital flight in 1962 the US was catching the Soviets, and later that year Kennedy's iconic "we choose to go to the Moon" speech made the race one of national prestige. The race to the Moon was a nationwide effort, but the poster boys who would make the leaps were pioneering aviators. Many were drawn from the Air Force and Navy, and most of them served as test pilots. On July 20th, 1969, just 66 years after the Wright Brothers' first flight, humankind would set foot on the Moon. That 66-year span meant that someone who was told as a child that manned flight would never happen, would later in their life witness a man landing on the Moon. In just 66 years, 852 feet turned into 238,900 miles, due to the ingenuity and courage of several aviation pioneers.

Later in the year, expect a special newsletter where we visit several sights important to the space race, including Johnson Space Center, Kennedy Space Center, Edwards AFB, and several others. There will also be discussions with a few participants who actually set foot on the Moon. There are several ways to commemorate this anniversary. You can meet several of the astronauts at the tenth annual Spacefest in Tucson, Arizona, August 8th-11th. The Wings Over the Rockies Museum in Denver, Colorado, will also celebrate on the 50th anniversary on July 13th-20th, also with appearances by a few Apollo astronauts. Those wishing to travel to Johnson and Kennedy will surely be able to take part in a commemoration (the official gala at Kennedy, like any D-Day event in Normandy, has long been sold out).

Local Anniversary: 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike

May 10th

In 1869 the nation was still in a tumultuous reconciliation after a bloody civil war. Symbolic of patching the nation together, May 10th saw the completion of the first transcontinental railroad right here in Promontory, Utah. This event did eventuate in Utah's place in aerospace history. It was this connection that made Utah a

railroad hub throughout the remainder of the 19th century, and on through the 20th century. This strategic importance in turn made Ogden, Utah, the favored choice for a new Army Air Corps Base in the 1930s. This new base would eventually become Hill Air Force Base, which to this day serves as a vital strategic location for the US Air Force. The location of Promontory would also be home to Thiokol, which was the primary contractor tasked with designing the solid rocket boosters for the Space Shuttle. The boosters had to be transported by rail from Promontory, and this had to be considered in the overall design of the Space Shuttle. The size of the solid rocket boosters was thus limited by the size of the railroad. A reenactment of the Golden Spike will take place on May 10th in Promontory to celebrate the 150th anniversary, and will have an entire weekend of festivities from May 10th-12th.

Social Media

Mysteries at the Museum on Facebook

Breezing through a museum, most patrons might only pay various artifacts with a passing glance, without being given proper consideration of the history behind them. In similar style to Travel Channel's "*Mysteries at the Museum*", we will be posting backstories to artifacts found in various museums across the country, starting with our very own. There are many artifacts in our museum, aside from the planes, that have very unique stories. These backstories will be posted on the Facebook page as well as in this newsletter. In addition to Facebook, the Utah Wing is now on Instagram! The link is provided in our contact information.



In Memoriam—Steve Guenard



It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of our long-time Wing Leader, and one of the founding members of the Utah Wing. Steve Guenard made his final flight on December 23, 2018, in his home in Lake Providence, LA. Before leading the Utah Wing, Steve served honorably in the United States Air Force, graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1970 and flying the F-106 during his service from 1970-1976. Steve would go on to fly for Delta Airlines for 27 years. The Utah Wing owes its existence to Steve, his passion bearing the creation of the Heber Aero Museum and eventually the Utah Wing of the Commemorative Air Force. As the exemplar of dedication, the wing will not be the same without him, and he will be sorely missed. The wing will honor his

service and his dedication to our cause this summer during our events.

Utah Wing's Newly Elected Officers

Wing Leader—Matt McNamara

Finance Officer--Dave Gorrell

Operations Officer—Chris Ryan

Maintenance Officer—Thayne Harbaugh

Adjutant Officer—Robert Meals

Education Officer—Beth Ann Schneider

Safety Officer—Bill Noland

Veterans Project

There are many veterans out there whose stories remain untold. We would like to gather these stories and give them the awareness they deserve. We would also like to have as many veterans present as we can for all of our events. If you have information on any veterans, from World War II and beyond, please contact;

James Humpherys

Phone: (801) 928-6950

Email: James.A.Humpherys@gmail.com

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Commemorative Air Force could not put on their events without the help and support of our sponsors. The organization is delighted to always receive such unyielding support from other members of the community.

<i>Redmond Real Salt</i>	<i>Lee's Market</i>	<i>Zermatt Resort</i>	<i>Heber City Corp.</i>	<i>UAMPS</i>
<i>Ridley's Market</i>	<i>Heber City Smith's</i>	<i>Heber City Walmart</i>	<i>Holiday Inn Express</i>	<i>CRC Designs</i>
<i>Brian Lee Farmers Insurance</i>	<i>CRC Designs</i>	<i>Zions Bank</i>	<i>Ackerson Eye Care</i>	<i>Wasatch Wave</i>
<i>Park City Rotary</i>	<i>Midway AmBank</i>	<i>Burton Lumber</i>	<i>Tracer Barricades</i>	<i>Watts</i>
<i>Enterprise Utah Division of Arts & Museums</i>		<i>K.W. Robinson Construction Inc.</i>		<i>Diversify</i>
<i>Wealth Management</i>				

Volunteering with the Commemorative Air Force

We Need Your Help This Season!

Although most members of the CAF are licensed pilots, no special skills are required to volunteer with us. We have volunteers from every skill set and every walk of life. All members share a passion for history and a dedication to preserving it. The only requirement for volunteering is annual membership dues to the national organization and a smaller annual due to the Utah Wing. Volunteers who pay these dues can assist with our summer events and make greater contributions! Info regarding membership can be found on our website.

Commemorative Air Force-Utah Wing Information

The CAF Utah Wing Museum is located in Hangar 38D at the Russ McDonald Airfield, Heber City, UT. The museum will be open May 4--October 26, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturdays and Sundays only.

Contact Information

Phone: 435-709-7269

Ride Coordinator:

Chris Ryan

801-719-8876

<https://www.cafutahwing.org>

Follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/cafutahwing/>

And Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/caf_utahwing/

B-17 Rides—Arizona Wing Information

<https://www.azcaf.org/location/heber-city-ut-tour-stop/>