

# HEBER DISPATCH

April 2017

## Summer 2017 Events

The Utah Wing is spooling up for another summer of fundraising events! These events are intended both to keep our historic aircraft flying and to share our history with the community. Bomber Week will kick things off the first week of June as the Arizona Wing's B-25 known as *Maid in the Shade* returns to the Heber City Airport. Throughout the week of June 5-12, the bomber will be open for tours and sponsorship rides, in addition to our own Stearman and Texan. More information can be found in the attached flier, including contact information for booking rides. Friday of that week (June 9) will be our annual swing dance in our hangar. This dance coincides with the *Maid in the Shade's* 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The night will include vintage 1940's dress, swing dancing, and classic 1940's hits by the Danny Newell All-Star Big Band. This is always a great chance to celebrate both the history and the culture of the 1940's. Throughout the week you can experience and interact with World War II reenactors from the Utah Military History Group, as well as World War II veterans. Between the dance, the planes, the reenactors, and the people who lived it, you will be transported to the days of World War II. *Maid in the Shade* will arrive at the Heber City Airport around noon on June 5, and will depart around 9 AM on June 12.

Events will continue in August with the Planes and Horsepower Car Show. This car show will feature attractions which no other car show in the state can offer, including a professional photo-op of the cars with our aircraft, World War II reenactors, and an opportunity drawing for a flight in our Stearman. The show's photo-op will feature the Rocky Mountain Wing's TBM Avenger, which will be complemented by our own PT-17 Stearman, T-6 Texan, and PV-2 Harpoon. Following the car show that same evening will be our second hangar dance. The August dance is a mixed theme of 1940's and 1950's, and will again feature the Danny Newell All-Star Big Band. The 1950's theme for the dance is designed to complement the car show. The 1950's was a time when car culture began to take off, as automakers shifted from



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wartime production back to producing automobiles. This car show is meant to commemorate the shared history between the automotive and the aerospace industries. It will be a full day of history!

In September the wing will be making an appearance at the Historic Wendover Airfield's air show. This air field was instrumental in the war effort as a training base for bomber crews. It is most notable for its role in training the B-29 bomber crews which would drop the atomic bombs and subsequently bring an end to World War II. The Enola Gay hangar has been restored, and that is just one of many restoration projects that the organization is undertaking. This air show will help to raise funds for these projects.

In addition to our fundraisers, our T-6 Texan and PT-17 Stearman will be available for sponsorship rides from May through October. Contact Chris Ryan at (435) 671-6441 to schedule a flight.

## ***Stearman Update***

Our beloved Stearman is slowly but surely coming back together! Last winter our dedicated and hard-working volunteers spent many hours refurbishing the four wings and applying new fabric. This winter we have been hard at work again to restore the fuselage and internal components. After complete disassembly, the frame has been cleaned, blasted, and now repainting is in progress. After paint, the plane will slowly start coming back together with a completely refurbished fuselage and wings. The Stearman should be ready to fly in time for our summer events.





## ***Photo of the Month***



GoPro snapshot taken of our Stearman on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as it lifted off for Logan-Cache Airport.

## ***Short History of N1387V***

This particular Stearman's history was typical of many trainers post-World War II. Manufactured in 1943 in Wichita, Kansas, it served as a basic trainer with the US Navy in Corpus Cristi, Texas. After the war ended, N1387V found itself among thousands of Stearmans being sold off as surplus. It was stored at Bush Field in August, GA, until it was sold for \$500 in 1947 and found a new home in Catonsville, MD. In 1948 spray equipment was installed for cropdusting. It served extensively as a cropduster first for the Aerial Inspect & Fungi Control Corp of America and then the Aerial Spray Company, both based in Maryland. After a couple private owner exchanges the plane found its way to Arkansas in 1962, where it exchanged hands again from Johnson Flying Service to Agri-Flite. Under ownership of Johnson Flying Service, it had its entire fabric exterior refinished. It also received a 450 horsepower Pratt & Whitney R-985 engine with a Hamilton Standard constant speed propeller, upgraded from the original Lycoming/Continental 330 horsepower engine and fixed pitch prop. The plane exchanged hands a few more times, making its way through Texas and then to Leaders Flying Service in Minnesota in 1983.

Tragedy struck in 1986 when the Stearman crashed in the Oquirrh Mountains west of Salt Lake City while on a cross-country flight. The Utah Wing of the Commemorative Air Force obtained salvage rights and recovered the plane, restoring it to its full glory in 1988. To this day this Stearman has been the poster child of the Utah Wing, making appearances at air shows and giving sponsorship rides. Starting in 2015, the wing began an effort to restore the Stearman. In the winter of 2015-2016 the four wings were completely restored. In 2017 the restoration work continues with refurbishment of the fuselage and internal components. Thanks to the dedication of the Utah Wing's passionate and devoted volunteers, this Stearman's story will continue.

# ***Short History—The Battle of Iwo Jima and Its Relevance to the Air War***

***19 February—26 March, 1945***



The Battle for Iwo Jima has been immortalized by the infamous flag-raising photo, an unintentional snapshot taken atop Mt. Suribachi on the island's south end. Most of the Marines who would fight for the island had never heard of Iwo Jima up to that point, as was the case back in the states. This 8-square-mile Pacific island however would soon gain infamy, as the campaign's fierce combat mounted an unexpected and appalling toll in casualties. This photo became a monument for not only this struggle but for the war in general.

By February 1945, American momentum in the Pacific had wrested many strongholds from Japanese hands--the Philippines, the Solomons, Gilberts, and Marshall Islands being some of the more notable. The Japanese home islands were finally coming into view, but a few steps remained for the weary Americans. The Japanese would not surrender these steps easily, fighting even more fiercely despite their own exhaustion. One remaining stronghold to be taken was the tiny island of Iwo Jima, located 750 miles south of the mainland. Strategic value of the island was much debated before the invasion, and its value is still debated to this day. Although many islands in the Pacific campaign had been completely bypassed, Iwo Jima held strategic value particularly to the air war against Japan. After seizure of the Mariana Islands, the B-29 Superfortresses now had a forward base from which it could wage an unrelenting bombing campaign against the home islands, and on Tokyo in particular. This was a similar strategic campaign to that waged against Germany, aiming to destroy the ability to wage war from their infrastructure. Unlike the bomber crews flying over Germany, however, crews in stricken bombers in the Pacific had few options to crash-land or to bail out, lest the crew be stranded in the vast Pacific Ocean with little hope of rescue. Iwo Jima lay between the Mariana Islands and Japan, and contained three airfields. In American hands, this island could serve as an emergency landing site for stricken bombers on their way back from Japan. It could also serve as a base for P-51 escorts, who lacked the range flying from the Marianas. In Japanese hands, the island served the mainland as an early warning defense system, alerting Japan any time B-29's were sighted.

Planners for the invasion estimated a quick and assured victory, considering that the Japanese had no aerial or naval support (depleted at this point), no option for retreat, and that they were harassed relentlessly by an aerial bombardment campaign since June 1944. The amphibious invasion was expected to meet very weakened Japanese defenses after they were delivered a three day naval bombardment. The Japanese however had been preparing intricate tunnel defenses since June 1944, and were lying in wait. When the amphibious landings began on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the island was still defended by 21,000 Japanese strong. The

defenders could not hope to win the battle, but in their fierce defense they could wear down the Americans to the point that they would sue for peace with Japan with more favorable conditions.

The infamous flag-raising photo was taken four days after the initial invasion of the island, as Marines of the 5th Division scaled Mount Suribachi. The infamous photo to this day serves as a monument to victory, but nobody would have guessed at the time of the flag raising that the battle would last for another 31 days. Three of the six men in the photo would be killed in the subsequent days of fighting. At the end of the battle, the Americans suffered 7,000 casualties, while the Japanese suffered 21,000 dead, with only 216 being taken prisoner. Marines on the island began to question the purpose of their sacrifice for this seemingly insignificant island. Their perspective was changed slightly when they witnessed the first stricken B-29 make an emergency landing on the island. The crew deplaned and immediately kissed the ground, grateful for having been delivered. As horrific as this campaign was, worse things awaited the US as it made its way for Okinawa.

### **Book/Movie/Documentary Recommendations**

*Iwo* by Richard Wheeler

*Flags of Our Fathers*, book written by James Bradley and Ron Powers

*Flags of Our Fathers/Letters From Iwo Jima*, both films directed by Clint Eastwood

*Whirlwind: The Air War Against Japan, 1942-1945* by Barrett Tillman

## ***Event Highlights--Swingin' on a Star Gala***

As a nonprofit organization, the Commemorative Air Force recognizes the mission and the dedication of other nonprofits. There are numerous organizations with various causes which aim to better the community. The Commemorative Air Force's own cause is to share history with the current community and to preserve it for generations to come. Each year our fundraising events help us to accomplish this task, and our most successful events have been the swing dances. Similarly, the Children's Service Society of Utah hosts their annual Swingin' on a Star Gala every February. With swing and blues dancing to a live jazz band, this event has the same reminiscent feel as our own hangar dances. Proceeds from this dance go towards services to prevent child abuse and neglect. This has been the mission of the CSS of Utah since 1884, making it the state's oldest nonprofit organization. The organization provides many resources to the community for the welfare of children. The CSS will be providing support for our summer events, at which details on their next Swingin' on a Star Gala and other events will be made available.



<http://cssutah.org/event/swinging-on-a-star-gala/>

## ***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 1--October 31, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

### Contact Information

Phone: 435-709-7269

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

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# Commemorative Air Force B-25 Bomber



## B-25 Bomber *Maid in the Shade*

**Heber City Airport**  
**June 5-12, 2017**

### MUSEUM DONATION

\$5 adults \$3 seniors children and WWII vets free

### B-25 TOUR DONATION

\$5 adults \$10 family

## EVENT ACTIVITIES

- June 5th 12-1pm** B-25 arrives Heber City Airport  
**June 5-11 9-4pm** B-25 tours, B-25 rides \$650  
 cockpit \$325 aft, Stearman  
 bi-plane open cockpit rides  
 \$275, AT-6 rides \$375, aircraft  
 displays, museum tours,  
 military PX sales, WWII  
 reenactment activities

**Reserve Your Ride**  
**435-503-7903**



- June 9th 6-10pm** Swing Dance Party \$15 adults, \$25 couple, kids & WWII vets free  
 The Danny Newell All-Star Big Band  
**June 10th 8-10am** Pancake breakfast \$8 adults \$3 seniors and children  
**June 12th 9am** B-25 departs Heber City Airport

**SPECIAL HEBER CITY HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ROOM RATE**  
**(435) 654-9990 — (844) 765-0677**

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\*\*P-51 Mustang will not be present



COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE

# PLANES AND HORSEPOWER CAR SHOW

Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9 AM

Russ McDonald Air Field

Heber City, UT

\$65 for professional photo op of your car with TBM Avenger, PT-17 Stearman, and T-6 Texan

\$50 for photo op with TBM Avenger and PT-17 Stearman

\$20 for entry without photo op

Regular admission is \$5

*Opportunity drawing for 30 minute flight in the Stearman for all car show entries*

All proceeds benefit the CAF Museum

Register now at [www.cafutahwing.org/planes--cars-2017](http://www.cafutahwing.org/planes--cars-2017) (space is limited!)



Car show will be followed by 50's-themed swing dance at 6 PM featuring

The Danny Newell All Star Big Band (\$15 entry, \$25 for couples)

Please contact [James.A.Humpherys@gmail.com](mailto:James.A.Humpherys@gmail.com) for any questions

SPONSORS

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

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