



**CAF WASP SQUADRON
NEWSLETTER
Volume 2 Number 4**



Why a T-6? by *Laura Stants*,
WASP Squadron member, Kokomo, Indiana

On a sunny, warm September Saturday afternoon in 2006, I strapped into a T-6 for the first time. We were at small grass strip where we host an annual fly-in charity event, and Tom Woods was generous enough to loan us his T-6 to sell rides at our event. The last flight of the day, I climbed in the back seat, and the pilot gave me the controls. The open cockpit, the roar of the 1340 radial engine, the smell of the oil and exhaust and grass, the heavy plane with the light controls, it grabbed me by the throat and has never let go.

Two years and two weeks later, I soloed Nathan Davis's T-6. Friends and family sat near the runway on a golf cart, and as the sun went down I came around and did three full stop 3-point takeoffs and landings, with the canopy open and the wind in my hair, polishing off a full day of learning. My instructor gave me a dzus tool with the date of my first solo written on it, and advice that two other very experienced T-6 pilots also separately passed on, advice I heeded then and always will. "About the time you start feeling comfortable in the airplane...don't." The T-6 is an honest airplane, not particularly difficult, but one that demands your respect both on the ground and at the edge of the envelope in the air. It is called "The

Pilot Maker" and, as a training platform, it is hard to imagine anything better.

Flying the T-6 has had an impact on my life. The people I have met, the stories I have heard from the Greatest Generation, the men and women who were the real pilots of these airplanes, who did their duty to their country many times without recognition or fanfare. I am a custodian of the plane and the history, and nothing pleases me more than to share that story where I can. It is why I am so eager for the CAF WASP T-6 to start its journey. I know the impact a living, breathing airplane will have, not just sitting quietly in a museum, but roaring overhead with supersonic prop tips blating at the people below. It reminds and honors those who were there, it educates those who did not know and it inspires those few who feel it in their bones that they too need to be a part of this.

Sharing this with my daughter since she was six has been an integral part of the experience. She has grown up around it, but still understands the importance of the history in which she participates. She has been on formation flyovers, flown into airshows and fly-ins, and sat under the wings of both a P-51 and the T-6 for hours, as a small child, listening to stories and polishing off bugs. I pulled her from school to attend the last "Gathering of Mustangs and Legends", telling the school she would learn more history there than sitting in the classroom. She met and hung out with three WWII fighter pilots who flew the actual plane ours (Nathan Davis's "Checkertail Clan") was restored to represent, connecting with a



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generation of people that we are rapidly losing. It is important to me that my daughter understand this history. This mindset. That she realize what sacrifices were made by the men and women of that time, what courage and duty look like. That you can be young and scared and do what you need to do, because if they can do it, so can you.

On the way home from Oshkosh last year, my daughter was in the back seat of the T-6. We'd barely leveled off when she piped up with "Hey Mom. Do you mind if I fly us home?" I said "Sure thing." Next thing I know, the stick is moving back and forth in my hand, as she firmly says "I have the controls." Yes she does, as I cross my arms, and smile all the way home.



Say "hello" to the Squadron Maintenance Officer Intern

Don Obrieter, our Maintenance Officer, has selected Tiffany Whittington to be our intern. She appears each week on the Officer conference call bringing her knowledge and enthusiasm, as well as her love of planes. She and a fellow new WASP member, Tara Pope, will be at the AirPower History Tour stop in Dallas this week. They will be bringing parts and video to help "our kids", regardless of age, understand and enjoy the intricacies of an aircraft. This relates back to the WASP, because

aircraft mechanic training was vital in 1942-1944. Imagine training flights across west Texas or long cross country ferrying routes from factories to air bases with no GPS, no cell phone, and no one to assist if you needed to set the plane down in a farmer's field. Fixing the problem was a WASP's best option.

In Tiffany's own words...

"I am new to the CAF. I am the aspiring maintenance officer for the WASP squadron. I am a maintenance mechanic student in Oklahoma. My passion for these iconic War Birds and the future of women in aviation is what inspired me to be a part of this amazing squadron. I believe so strongly in this program and its remembrance of the strong women who stood out in a "man's world." The women of the WASP are a very vital part of aviation history. I am embracing their spirit by helping to inspire the young women of the future, whether they are aspiring to be a pilot or an aviation mechanic such as myself. This squadron is much more than maintaining a War Bird, it is maintaining a Legacy!"





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WHAT's HAPPENING –

WASP is an AirPower History

Tour participant

Remember last month we saw the memorabilia from Miriam Linstrom, courtesy of her son, WASP Squadron Member Lindy Segall? It will be in Dallas this week as part of Air Power History tour



Keeping the treasures company, will be Rosie the Riveter (WASP Adjutant, Lisa Foster), seen below with WASP Squadron member McKenzie Best, prepping.



And there will be PT-22 and poster photo stations, write-a WASP opportunity, gliders and aircraft specific trading cards. Plus Tiffany and Tara, the aircraft mechanics.



The WASP 'warehouse' May 13, 2017

UPDATES

1. **T-6 Business Plan:** The CAF Board has voted to acquire the AT-6 used in Sweetwater WASP Training. In order to be assigned to the WASP Squadron, we must have a solid business plan. With the assistance of many, the plan, with substantiating financials is moving forward to a projected completion in mid-June. This action is being undertaken by the Squadron Officers, based on your survey responses that are solidly behind the plane and the responsible financial approach.

2. Trading Cards

- 7 different cards are previewing at the AirPower History Tour event
- The completed trading cards, both graphics and supplier information, are available to any CAF Squadrons who are interested.

3. Website:

www.riseabovewasp.org/squadron-home
It's growing, albeit slowly, and changing. The past Newsletters now have links, as does Keegan Chetwynd's article on Story Telling.

4. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR Wings over Dallas October 6-8:** The event will feature bombers. Your Squadron will again participate, exact content will change based on what we learn this week. Contact Lisa to join in retsoflm@yahoo.com. Aside from the Squadron, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer. Contact Lstrhan@cafhq.org



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METRICS

Our ability to reach and deliver on our mission is dependent on our being able to report our impact/success. Asking for buy-in to our programs or for support, either financial or otherwise, means being able to quantify what we do in a way which is meaningful.

This means counting every time we engage in an activity: Ramp, flyby, touch and go and landing.

At the AirPower History Tour Dallas stop, we will have ramp numbers, “flyby” estimates for the Wasp tables, and “touch and goes” where someone takes a card/handout (if we do multiple handout styles we will count each separately). And when someone is engaged in the activity, we will count it as a “landing”. While these are just beginning metrics, they are a good start for an important habit to develop.

INQUIRING MINDS...

Want to know the difference between RiseAboveWASP and the Wasp Squadron...

RiseAbove is the Educational effort that includes a CAF developed movie, a provenanced airplane, a Flight Plan for Life series of activities and staffing to support the delivery of the program. Its premise is to use the history of a disadvantaged group to tell an inspirational story. RedTail was the first program under the RiseAbove umbrella.

RiseAboveWASP is both a fundraising effort AND the name of an Educational Program. RiseAboveWASP is currently developing the movie and raising funds to complete it.

The Wasp Squadron has a mission to deliver outreach education, based on the Wasp story, to the youth of America. The Squadron will deliver the full RiseAboveWASP Program, when it is available.*

In the meantime, the Squadron is developing materials and activities, testing them with various organizations and CAF units, packaging them to share with all other CAF units and building metrics to enable continued fund raising in support of further development.

The Squadron is also responsible for developing the Business Plan that will demonstrate its ability to support the operation of the T-6, and upon plane assignment to the Squadron, executing that plan. The Plan is currently scheduled to be presented in mid-June.

***Outreach** means providing services to any populations who otherwise might not have access to those services. A key component of **outreach** is that those providing services are not stationary, but mobile; in other words they are meeting those in need at their locations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Natasha Sanders | Natashajanders@outlook.com |
| David Oliver | doliver@cafhq.org |
| Tara Pope | teepeetack@gmail.com |
| Ira Menin | iracomman@aol.com |
| Lynn Clark | Paradiseranch1@charter.net |
| Jan Andersson | jandersson@sqmarine.com |
| Mary Sobzack | sobzack@aol.com |
| Alma Smith | alma@b29b24px.org |
| Starr Krottinger | starr@flash99.net |
| Neils Agather | vnagather@agathertx.com |
| Robert E. Wickman | rwickman@verizon.net |



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972-458-7188
Gem Classics
5100 Belt Line Rd
Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75254

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 WASP Homecoming, Sweetwater, TX
May 27, 2017 Register [here](#).

AirPower History Tour
Dates: www.AirPowerHistoryTour.org

Airshow Breckenridge, TX
May 28

EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI
July 24-30

Wings Over Dallas,
October 6-8

2018 Wing Staff Conference, Dallas, TX
March 1-4, 2018

VIRTUAL WASP PX

1. Our online PX which was scheduled to be linked on our Squadron website is still a work in progress. Until it comes on line, please use this link to order business cards.



[Order WASP Business Cards here.](#)

2. **WASP Wings in gold and silver** - The little WASP wings that you received as a member of the Squadron can be ordered in sterling silver or 14k gold. They are each custom ordered, and run about \$100 and \$350, respectively.
If interested call, mention Ellie Dana:

Squadron Progress Report

This month, the Education Officer position has been filled by WASP member Sarah Zimmerman. An educator and a graphics expert, we are fortunate to have her guidance.

The progress score sheet has been moved to the website, as it has become relatively static.

SQUADRON Leadership

Squadron Leader: Debbie King
waspsquadron@gmail.com

Executive Officer: Ellie Dana
WASPSquadronXO@att.net

Finance Officer: Beth Jenkins
baipca@gmail.com

Adjutant Officer: Lisa Foster
retsoflm@gmail.com

Maintenance Officer: Don Obreiter
obreiter@cableone.net

Intern: Tiffany Whittington
tiffanypaige2287@gmail.com

Education Officer: Sarah Zimmerman
TwizzyBeth@gmail.com

Squadron Historian: Elaine Webb
webb.belaine@gmail.com

Public Information Officer: Kim Pardon
pardonb29@gmail.com



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OFFICER REPORTS

Squadron Leader: The preparation for our first outing is moving forward with deliberate haste. It's exciting to see the progress we are making in preparing materials, testing them and then being able to package and share them with all CA Squadrons.

Plans for requesting assignment of the T-6 are also moving forward, thanks to the assistance and ideas of so many.

-Debbie King

Executive Officer: We have successfully placed our "ad" in the Girl Scouts of North East Texas Program Supplement, for their 2017-2018 season.

The roster/membership process has been improved, and some members that were not receiving communication are now on the Roster.

The Wasp Museum in Sweetwater, welcomed Miriam Young and me, with a guided tour of the exhibits and the new Construction. We assured the new Executive Director, and long term Associate Director of our continuing support and policy of not infringing on their "space" in fundraising, publication rights, or representation of expertise. They were most gracious and we will see them again at Wasp Homecoming on May 27, where 8 of us from the Squadron have personally purchased a table. Rozelyn Beck and Keegan Chetwynd were on the 3.5 hour trip, providing endless entertainment. Keegan was an excellent driver, easily stopping for repeated ice cream replenishment.

The Foundation donation process has been documented. Forms are now available for anyone to donate with clarity of purpose and handling of restrictions.

- Ellie Dana

Finance Officer: We now have 134 members and \$6,700 in the bank. The reconciliation of members and dollars due to the Squadron form HQ is complete, minor funds are still to be paid to us.

Our PayPal account has been activated, and will be part of our new enrollment process. This will ease the complexity, and make our funds immediately available to us.

-Beth Jenkins

Adjutant: The AirPower History Tour Dallas stop is the target for the Wasp Squadron's first formal outing. Rosie the Riveter will be there, as will our poster, and handouts. The materials are present and accounted for. Practice sessions are underway.

-Lisa Foster

Questions or Suggestions?

Contact Col Ellie Dana
WASPSquadronXO@att.net
214-244-0876