



# **LOBO WING CHATTER**

AUGUST 2016

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM LOBO WING LEADER, DAVID McBRIDE**

It has been quite a while since I've written an update so this may be a little lengthy. Last December I took over as Wing Leader again as our previous Wing Leader had to leave the wing for personal reasons. We hope that sometime in the future he'll be able to return to the unit. The other unit officer changes are Scott Witschger moving back into my previous position as Executive Officer and Chuck Swanberg moving into the Maintenance Officer position.

There has been a lot of activity since my last update so I'll try to touch on as many items as possible. In February Scott Witschger and I attended the Staff Winter Conference in Dallas which is the new location for headquarters of the CAF. The new headquarters is very nice and emblematic of a lot of changes in the CAF. The staff has almost doubled in size and the hangar attached to the offices has lots of room. The plan for the entire site is very impressive and eventually will house some aircraft, a maintenance facility and some displays. There have been some changes in personnel also including a new operations officer and maintenance officer.

Two of the breakout sessions that Scott and I attended while at the staff conference dealt with social media and safety. Social media is an extremely important topic for the CAF. It is our best means of reaching out and touching as many people as possible and getting our message out. Two of the ones that are pertinent to us are Facebook and our website. I know a lot of you are shaking your head right now saying "what is Facebook?" and/or "no way am I getting on Facebook!". It is open source and for the most part has unrestricted content and as such is subject to a LOT of opinion. What's important to us is it is an important advertising tool. All I can say is you need to consider getting on Facebook....it's not that bad. The other important tool we have is our website. Right now our site, Lobowing.org, is undergoing a lot of changes as we are moving to a different server and updating the site. Hopefully, we'll have it finished sometime in September.

The other very important topic as I stated above is SAFETY. The insurance representative for the company the CAF uses spent over an hour covering liability. Last year alone the CAF was responsible for thousands of dollars (one lawsuit was over \$150,000 involving a CAF member) in insurance claims from injuries related to working in our hangars/facilities. Not one of these injuries was documented by any of the wings and completely blindsided the CAF and the insurance company! Last week at our Saturday morning meeting we discussed a lot of these issues and pointed out how important it is that any time anyone has an injury of any kind it must be documented. We are putting up a clipboard right outside the door to the kitchen that has the forms that are required by the CAF.

The other item we discussed was safety in general in our hangar. Remember, our facility is a restoration facility and as such we do a lot of maintenance that could be hazardous. It was stressed in our meeting that anytime there is a project going on that could be construed as hazardous there needs to be a team meeting and there has to be a team leader who is in charge of the evolution. Having said that, it is important to note that everyone is a safety officer in our hangar. Any time anyone sees something unsafe SAY SOMETHING! Also, we have designated all work areas in our hangar as “Authorized personnel only” areas so that only those people who are members are allowed in those spaces. It’s important that all members take the time to politely explain to any non-member the reason for us taking these precautions. We cannot afford, financially or emotionally, to suffer any catastrophes in our hangar.

The aircraft in the Lobo Wing have been keeping everyone very busy. If you haven’t been to the hangar in a while you will notice some dramatic changes especially with the AT-11. Scott will address all those changes in the next issue of the Chatter, but suffice it to say there has been tremendous progress and you need to come to the hangar to see it all! As for the PT-26 we’ve had quite a few challenges. The new engine we installed early last year was running well and then we changed to detergent oil after the initial break in. We went from ½ quart/hour to over 3 quarts/hour and the plugs started fouling. After some extensive trouble shooting and expert consultation we decided to go back to mineral oil and the usage has dropped a little but still not where we want it to be. We’re still trouble shooting and have confidence we are on the right track and expect to get the usage and plug fouling under control soon.

One of our biggest issues is recruiting. In June the Lobo Wing had a booth at the 75th Anniversary Airshow at Kirtland AFB and had a great time for two days. Our main objective was to attract some new members and we did that. We were able to attract two new members from that show and recently one more member signed up because one of our members recruited him (the fact that he just retired also played a part). Rose will address who these new members in her section.

As I said originally, there has been a lot happening in the Lobo Wing. Once again you need to come out and see for yourself! ANY SATURDAY 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. *Dave*

## **MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS**



Sabina England, Helicopter Pilot at Kirtland AFB



Dave McBride, Sabina England & friend Greg Shaub & Walt Dill



## **Other New Members:**



Walt Dill, Owner ASAP Auto Glass



Mike Van Bibber, Retired



George Martin & Mike Van Bibber

**GLAD YOU JOINED US!**

## **Bowling Tournament Fundraiser—October 29, 2016**

We are all set for the Third Annual "In Their Honor" Bowling Tournament on Saturday, October 29, 2016, at Starlight Bowling Lanes, Santa Ana Star Casino in Bernalillo. Check-in time is 12:30. We will follow the same venue as in previous tournaments. Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places awarded. Wonderful door prizes for everyone. Great Silent Auction Items up for bid. A "treat" for every 9-pin strike. And the best part it's really lots of fun! Attached is the registration form. It's not too early to get your team together and practice if you feel the need!



## **Christmas Party, Saturday, December 3rd —Ortega's Mexican Restaurant**

As you are aware we no longer have connections with The Meadows since the passing of Don Witschger. This Christmas season we will try something new and you don't have to bring any food!



We have booked a private room at Oretga's Mexican Restaurant located on Wyoming at Comanche (next to Sandia Computers). You will have a choice from 5 different entres. Cost will be approximately \$12-\$14 per person (tax & tip included). Cocktails/Drinks are not included. Details on choices will be given later.



## UPDATE REPORT ON MEMBERS

Happy to report Scott Witschger & Scott Ruyle are recovering and doing well from their recent surgeries. We miss you. Get lots of rest. Wishing a speedy recovery to both of you.

## KUDOS TO SARA & LAUREN McBRIDE

Dave McBride's wife, Sara, and daughter, Lauren are short of being amazing! They organized our PX inventory (no small task), made a peg-board display of our new t-shirts, hats, toys and other airplane memorabilia and moved the glass display case of items so everyone who visits the Hangar has access to all these wonderful treasures!

Merci

Gracia

Danke



BEFORE: Lauren & Sara McBride moving & organizing "stuff"



AFTER: Lauren & Sara McBride HAPPY all went well

Summer is ending, temperatures are falling and the Lobo Wing continues on an even keel. Next month will bring new beginnings as in a new Website, progress on the AT-11 and the PT-26 in the air. Life is good! There's always a but....BUT we need your continued support and help in many areas. Just ask us!

'Til next month and remember: *The Lobo Wing is Small but Mighty!*

***LOBO ROSE***

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**SIGN UP NOW**

**LOBO WING  
COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

**"IN THEIR HONOR" EVENT**

**Continuing our remembrance of the men and women who served  
in military aviation throughout our nation's history**

**THIRD ANNUAL BOWLING FUNDRAISER EVENT**

**PLACE:** Starlight Lanes (Santa Ana Star Casino)  
**Date:** Saturday, October 29, 2016  
**Time:** Sign-in 12 Noon; Opening Ceremony 12:30 pm; Bowling 1:00 pm.  
**Cost:** \$25 per Bowler or \$100 per Team  
**Contact:** Ron Dikes 505-480-8620 email: [runabout@ix.netcom.com](mailto:runabout@ix.netcom.com)

- There will be awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams.
- Door prizes, silent auction and 50/50 cash raffle.

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
BOWLERS NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Team contact person

Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH \$100.00 FEE CASH OR MONEY ORDER.  
SUBMIT REGISTRATION FORM TO EITHER STARLIGHT LANES OR TO LOBO WING c/o Ron  
Dikes, 6692 AUGUSTA HILLS DR., RIO RANCHO, NM 87144**