



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE



LOBO WING CHATTER

September - October 2019

David McBride, Wing Leader Update

Elections

Its election season and no, fortunately I'm not talking about local or national politics. I'm referring to Lobo Wing elections. Every two years we are required to hold elections for the staff positions in the wing. These eligible positions are: Wing Leader, Executive Officer, Finance Officer, Adjutant, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer, Safety Officer, Education Officer and Development Officer. The Unit Policy and Regulation section of the Commemorative Air Force Unit Manual Unit Regulation (available on the Commemorative Air Force website member section) contains all the procedures for conducting an election in the CAF. I encourage all members to go to this manual and read the pages that cover all these procedures.

The first step to be taken in the election process is to form a nominating committee. According to the regulations this committee is to be appointed by the Unit staff. We need to have a minimum of three members to form this committee. If you are interested in participating please let me know as soon as possible.

Fall 2019 Bowling Tournament

Another annual bowling tournament and another success. This year we had 12 teams, 48 bowlers, participating and everyone had a great time. We also had the ever present 50/50 raffle, PX items for sale and a silent auction. Combined with the registration fee, of which we received 52%, we were able to make a profit of \$823 for the Lobo Wing. Over 90% of this profit was from individuals outside the wing.



First Place Bowling Team “La Familia”



Second Place Bowling Team “Vickis Team”



Third Place Bowling Team “Lobo Wing”

LOBO WING CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party will be at Ortigas Restaurant on Wyoming on Saturday 07 December at 430 p.m. As with most things these days, prices have gone up slightly so we will be paying \$15.00 per person this year. This includes meal, drink (soda or tea), tax and tip. Beer and wine is available for an additional cost.

Looking forward to seeing everyone for this party.

Hangar

As always, you need to come out to the hangar and see what's happening. There are changes happening every weekend.

PT-26 Update

The PT is up again! After almost a year of struggles we finally have the PT ready to fly. As discussed in recent newsletters it's been a long haul. First it was the tailwheel and then it was the annual inspection. We had to deal with quite a few issues during the inspection including having the aircraft weighed for a new weight and balance. These types of issues come with using a new FAA inspector who has never seen this aircraft. He was very thorough and we appreciate the time he spent doing this inspection.

Now, since we've have the inspection done and we've been authorized to proceed, we can start advertising our Rides program. We're in the process of putting together our marketing program and hopefully in the near future we'll be selling rides to the public. Talk it up to all your friends!

AT-11 Update by Scott Witschger

The big item this month is the start of the propeller overhaul process. During a recent conversation with Cimarron Wing Maintenance officer Greg Downing in Guymon Oklahoma he informed me that they had to take their props (C-45) in for the AD (Airworthiness Directive) compliance inspection and volunteered to take our props as well. He would also kind of oversee and advise us on the process. The inspection facility is in Tulsa Oklahoma so this would save us over 300 miles of travel. Greg has several decades of experience with the Twin Beech so his advice is appreciated.

The two props we received with the AT-11 were overhauled in 1986 and as near as we can tell they were never installed on an aircraft. However the AD says they props must be have an initial inspection for corrosion and then a second inspection 18 months later, and finally another inspection after 60 months. Because the overhaul was so long ago we have to start over.

At this point what we need to know is if our props are good and need a minimum regrease and reseal, or if they need major work. We are hoping for the best and a minimum financial outlay. Time will tell.

Greg requested that they have the props before Thanksgiving so on November 16th Korry, Dustin and Larry loaded the props into Korrys trailer and on December 18th Maggy and I delivered the props to Guymon.



12 Planes of Christmas

As you know for the last few years CAF headquarters has run a fund raising campaign called Twelve Planes of Christmas. Each year they select 12 individual aircraft that are under minor or major restoration to participate in the campaign. The AT-11 has been a participant in all but one previous year. We were selected again this year but moved up in the process to number 2. We have had mixed results with the campaign but every little bit helps.

This time around we are going to try and put in a better effort to utilizing social media to kick start our campaign. The primary push will be on Facebook.

The following image is what will be the Facebook link page.



A Link on this Facebook page will take you to a “GoFundMe” page were a donation can be made.

Following is the GoFundMe page. After everything is set up we will be asking you to share this link with all your Facebook contacts and ask them to help us out.



Plane 2

AT-11
KANSAN

UNIT:
LOBO WING

LOCATION:
MORIARTY, NM

GOAL:
\$9,000

EXPECTED
COMPLETION DATE:
DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY:

The only one of its kind in the CAF fleet, the AT-11 Kansan has been undergoing restoration by the Lobo Wing for 18 years. Due to the extensive nature of the restoration and rarity of the aircraft it has taken a long time to complete the project. The Lobo Wing volunteers are committed and determined to seeing the Kansan back in the air sometime next year.

HISTORY:

The Kansan is a version of the venerable Beech Model 18 (often called the “Twin Beech”). This variant was built as a bombing and gunnery trainer for the USAAF in World War II. More than 1,500 were built for the USAAF; today just a handful remain.

This particular aircraft was used at Albuquerque Army Air Base (later named Kirtland Air Force Base), where many World War II pilots were trained as gunners and bombardiers.

Documentation shows that this aircraft was delivered directly from the Beech factory in Wichita, Kansas to Albuquerque Army Air Base. Once flying, it will be the oldest known airworthy Kansan.

TASKS AHEAD:

The goal is to restore the Kansan as closely as possible to its original condition when it was based in Albuquerque. The project has come a long way but is still missing a key component: the gun turret plexiglass dome. In addition, prior to flying more avionics are needed, including a certified ADS-B Transponder.

VISION:

The job of a World War II bomber pilot was to deliver the bombardier close to the target so the bombs could be dropped with precision. Some of these pilots became legendary, while others we may not know their names. What we definitely know is what these bombardiers accomplished and the important role these men had in the war. We also know every single one started their journey to bombardier in an AT-11. With this aircraft the unique story of how a bombardier was actually trained can be told. This adds a vital component to telling and educating the public of the complete story of the bombardier.



The Lobo Wing working on the AT-11 in November 2019.



Picking up the AT-11 Kansan in 2000

Special 12 Planes of Christmas Funding opportunity

The 12 Planes coordinator at headquarters encourages the participants to have a matching donation program. Either sponsored by an individual, a group of individuals or a local company. Their experience is that the wings that have a matching program are the ones that do the best in this fundraiser. If you would like to provide a matching fund challenge or have a company who you can talk into doing one please contact me at 505-235-7999. The program goes live on December 1st so time is short.

First of two R-985 Engines being rigged

Viewing the Port side engine is Scott Ruyle, Andy Wells, and our special member Julie Smith who visited us from Bedford Wyoming.



Saturday Cook

Our Saturday lunches are one of our main sources of income and this requires that each week we have the staff available to set up the lunch, cook chicken and burgers and clean up. The same members generally do this week in and week out and we are incredibly grateful. However, it would be really nice to share this opportunity to contribute. So we are looking for a few members who can come out Saturday to be our grill master.

The volunteer needs to be at the hangar by 10:30 to 11 AM and will generally be done by 1 or 1:30 PM. The ideal situation is for us to have several members who can rotate this opportunity so no one has to be there every Saturday. Even once a month would be great. Please let Dave or Scott know if you would like to help out.

Questions or comments about Lobo Chatter should be directed to:

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