



# LOBO WING CHATTER

JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2017

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

## A BIG "IT'S ABOUT TIME" HOWDY!

Summer is just about behind us and hopefully you all enjoyed interesting travels or memorable days right in your own backyard.

It's time to take a look at what's been happening with the Lobo Wing: the PT-26, the AT-11, coming events, and unfortunately members Gone West.

### PT-26 UPDATE by Wing Leader, Dave McBride

The PT-26 is and has been doing very well. As I write this we are finishing up the annual which took a little longer this year. We put new tires (mounted and balanced courtesy of Andy Wells) and bearings on the wheels, tuned up the right magneto which had some points that needed replacing and put the tow lugs on the wheels (thanks to Scott Ruyle and Chuck Swanberg). We also spent four days cleaning the entire airplane and then waxing it with Pledge. Should fly at least a half knot faster!

Speaking of Andy, if you don't already know he is our newest PT-26 pilot and instructor. He has been flying the PT quite a bit and if you ever want a ride just let him know....he'll be happy to oblige.

The next event for the PT is the Land of Enchantment Fly In sponsored by the EAA on Saturday 26 August at Double Eagle Airport. This is also a great opportunity for the Lobo Wing to raise some money. We will be there with the PX selling everything we have plus selling root beer floats. I encourage everyone to come out and help as we always need extra hands to accommodate breaks. The EAA will also have a pancake breakfast and hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch.

### Our PT-26 Pilots:



Dave McBride



Andy Wells

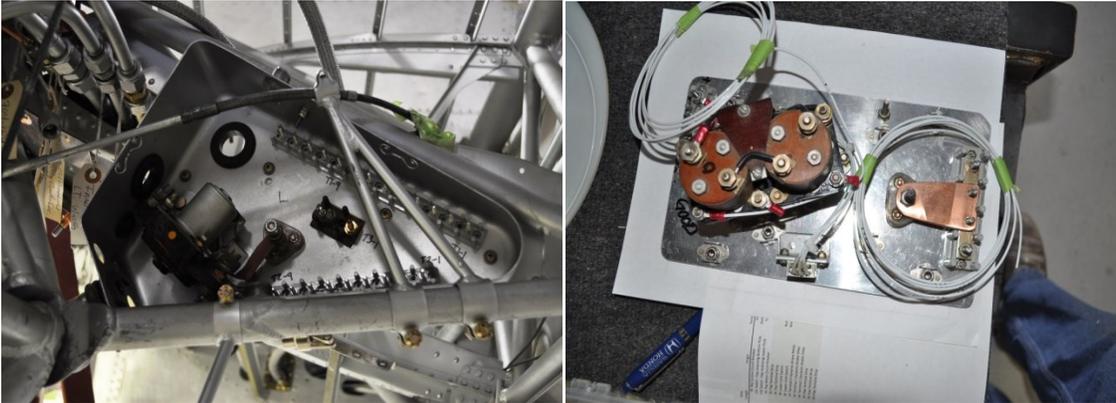


Mike Rice

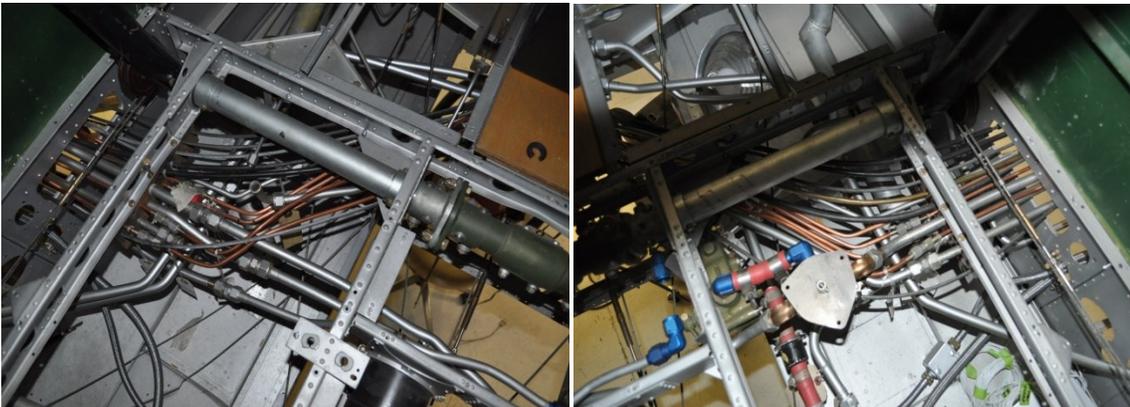
**AT-11 PROGRESS REPORT ( by Scott Witschger, AT-11 Project Manager)**

After the last AT-11 update in the September 2016 CHATTER you should have received a very detailed update in December 2016 that was the Semi-Annual update sent to headquarters. Since then progress has been made in many areas. At this point we are concentrating on the things that must be completed prior to the Wing center section skin being installed and riveted and finishing up the rear cabin area.

To that end we are finishing and installing all of the electrical system equipment that mounts to the airframe so that final wiring can be completed. We need to do this so we can nail down wire loom routing and wire length prior to printing and installing the new wiring. A source was located that could fabricate new flex conduit for the generator circuit and the magneto circuit and they have being installed. All new firewall connectors had been acquired except for the starter circuits which are no longer available. Serviceable used connectors are being refurbished. All the connectors are being installed in the firewalls.



We are trying to complete all work that must be finished under the cockpit floorboards prior to final floor installation as some of the electrical and equipment is actually attached to the cockpit floor prior to final wire routing.



We are also finalizing everything in the tail section from bulkhead 9 back so we can do a final install on the horizontal and vertical stabilizers.



The cabin floors have been completed and the cabin windows installed. The original radio rack holders have been installed along with the bomb retaining supports.

When the next report is sent to headquarters you will receive a more complete report.

Right now we need workers and cash. There are many, many small tasks that must be completed prior to final assembly; some require skilled fabricators but in many cases we are still stripping, cleaning and painting many parts or doing final prep and painting on newly fabricated parts. Regardless of your experience level we can find a way for you to participate.

And finally my bid for financial support, as reported last time, we are now experiencing a horrendous cash burn rate. If you have not already become a sponsor, please consider doing so.

Aircraft sponsorships are \$3500.00 and restoration sponsorships are \$1750.00. Payment plans are available to meet personal budgets. Please contact Dave McBride or me for more information. I can be reached at 505-235-7999.

## **LAND OF ENCHANTMENT FLY IN (LOEFI)**

The Lobo Wing is participating in EAA Chapter 179s Land of Enchantment Fly-In at Double Eagle II Airport on **Saturday, August 26, 2017 from 0800 to 1500.**

1. The **PT-26** will be on display
2. The **Lobo Wing PX** will be set up with T-shirts, hats, pins, coins, plastic airplane kits, etc.
3. Lobo Wing will be selling **ROOT BEER FLOATS** beginning at 1100.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** We will be selling RAFFLE tickets to **“WIN A RIDE IN THE PT-26”** for \$20 (only 150 tickets will be sold). Drawing will be at end of day. **WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT.**

**LOEFI Info and activities for the day:**

**Free Admission & Parking    Static Aircraft Displays    Exhibit Hall    Car Clubs**  
**Aircraft Judging    Youth Activities    Military Vehicles    Pancakes    Burgers**

**Come and enjoy this wonderful day; there's something for everyone!!!!**

## **GONE WEST**

### **COL CLAY KEEN** (Feb 21, 1923—May 12, 2017)

Clay was a 30 year life member of the Lobo Wing of the Commemorative Air Force. Clay joined when it was called the Confederate Air Force (he sure loved that name being a rebel himself) in 1987. Throughout the years Clay was a constant figure at just about all functions the Lobo Wing had and well known at the CAF Headquarters when it was located in Midland, TX. At the Headquarters general staff meetings, he began a trend at Roll Call instead of saying "here" all Lobo Wing members in attendance would stand and shout "ya at eeh" phonetically, it is "ya ta hey" a Navajo greeting. It caught on and other wings became innovative with their responses since then. Clay served as Executive Officer in 1991 and became the Wing Leader in 1992 thru 1997. During that time we had a hangar at Coronado Airport, now part of Sandia Casino. Our PT-26 flew into Coronado where the 12-year restoration project began. He was also involved with the CAF Oral History Program.

Clay Keen was laid to rest with full military honors at Fairview Memorial Park, Albuquerque, NM, with a celebration of life reception at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History. Col Clay Keen is sorely missed.

**COL JOHN T. REEVES** of Grand Rapids, MI, age 93, passed away on July 22, 2017. He was a life member of the CAF for 34 years. John was the Michigan Wing Leader until 2006. The Wing was restoring the AT-11. Due to unfortunate circumstances, the Michigan Wing disbanded and the AT-11 became available. The Lobo Wing decided it was the perfect project for us. In order for John to keep track of the progress of the AT-11, the wing's labor or love, he joined the Lobo Wing and began following its progress and giving us insights and recommendations when needed. Rest in peace, John.

## **COMING EVENTS**

September 30, 2017	Fall Bowling Fundraiser	Starlight Bowling	(see attachment)
December 5, 2017	Lobo Wing Christmas Party	(Details later)	

This is an invitation to pick a Saturday and bring a friend or two to the hangar and stay for lunch. Show them what we're bragging about the Lobo Wing and it's pride processions, the PT-26 and the AT-11 restoration. They will be impressed. Also, a reminder, referring to Scott Witschger's article, the hangar is open for serious work sessions on Thursdays, Call Scott day before (235-7999).

*'tl next time.....*

## ***LOBO ROSE***

*Remember, the Lobo Wing is small but mighty!*

Lobo Wing (CAF)

P. O. Box 20576

Albuquerque, NM 87154-0576

(Lobo Wing Web Site: [lobowing.org](http://lobowing.org) & FACEBOOK: CAF Lobo Wing)

# **FALL 2017 BOWLING**

## **FUNDRAISER EVENT**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**SIGN UP NOW**

### **A LOBO WING "IN THEIR HONOR" EVENT**

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

**Place:** Starlight Bowling (Santa Ana Star Casino)  
**Date:** Saturday, September 30, 2017  
**Time:** Sign-in 1:00 pm; Opening Ceremony 1:30pm; Bowling 2:00pm  
**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 #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH \$100.00 FEE, CASH OR MONEY ORDER.  
SUBMIT REGISTRATION FORM TO EITHER Starlight Bowling OR TO  
Lobo Wing c/o Ron Dikes, 6692 Augusta Hills Dr., Rio Rancho, NM 87144.**