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# AIRSHOW

CAF FRENCH WING - BULLETIN MENSUEL - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
**PUBLIC EDITION**

Volume 19 - N° 5 - May 2014

## EDITORIAL

**A**t a time when CAF CEO Steve Brown is dragging the headquarters in an expensive and pointless move from Midland to Dallas, I would like to insist on the necessity of staying in touch and in good terms with the Squadrons and Wings who are the true guardians of the CAF's spirit. Roger Robert's article on the Rocky Mountain Wing is an excellent illustration of the spirit of these Colonels who welcomed him very warmly during his visit in Grand Junction.

**O**n April 19, a few of our members gathered at the hangar to make an inventory of the Rearwin Sportster 8500 parts in our possession. We will shortly let you know of our plans concerning this restoration project.

**O**n April 26 and 27, the French Wing was present at the Air & Space museum in Le Bourget for the annual "Carrefour de l'Air" meeting of aviation associations, museums and collectors. The weather was poor and visitors scarce, but maintaining contact with similar entities and presenting the French Wing to

a few interested visitors justified our presence.

**O**ur next meeting will be the annual fly-in on Saturday the 24th of May. There is a growing and worthwhile list of attending aircraft, and we hope

many of you will join us for lunch. We will unveil a commemorative plate dedicated to the memory of Bernard Delfino, in presence of his wife Fumiko as well as his daughter Yuri and her family.

Stéphane Duchemin



Photo: Col. Roger Robert

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN WING



**CAF FRENCH WING FLY-IN: SAT. MAY 24TH**



## **Airshow - Public Edition**

Airshow is the monthly newsletter of the CAF French Wing. This "public" edition is meant for people who are not members of the association. Content which is for members only may have been removed from this edition.

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## CITY OF DALLAS TO BECOME HOME TO THE NEW COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE NATIONAL AIRBASE



The Commemorative Air Force's Headquarters recently announced on their website that the city of Dallas had been selected for the implantation of the new "CAF National Airbase". Some HQ personnel will be sent to Dallas by the end of the year with the rest being transferred when the new installations will be built, by the end of 2015.

The new base will include a "world-class aviation visitor attraction [...] using the very best of modern display techniques, including interactive displays, 4D movie experiences and hyper-realistic flight simulators." The initial 40 million-dollar budget will be raised to meet these goals.

Dallas mayor Mike Rawlings, a strong proponent of the new airbase, has welcomed the HQ's decisions and initial terms have been reached with the city regarding the proposed lease and associated financial arrangements.

The National Airbase will become home symbolic CAF aircraft such as B-29 "Fifi" and B-24 "Diamond Lil", as well as vintage fighters and transport aircraft. ■

*Above: Commemorative Air Force aircraft gathered for a "photo op" at Dallas Executive Airport after the announcement of the HQ's decision.*



CAF National Airbase- Concept Drawing

©2014 Verret Group, LLC/ Commemorative Air Force

*Above and below: Artist views of the proposed CAF National Airbase.*



CAF National Airbase- Concept Drawing

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MEMBERS ONLY

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## SPONSORSHIPS

### PIPER J-3

Sponsors make it possible for us to keep our Piper Cub flying. To thank sponsors for their generosity, free flight time is included with the sponsorships:

- **Flying Sponsor** : 250€ or (\$250) annual fee, with 60 minutes of flight time.
- **Restoration Sponsor** : 125€ or (\$125), with 30 of flight time.
- **Supporting Sponsor** : 50€ (or \$50), with 15 minutes of flight time.

## FURNITURE WANTED!

We are looking for some used furniture in order to finish setting up the mezzanine in the hangar in Le Plessis-Belleville.

A convertible couch would be very welcome, as would be a coffee table.

If you have such furniture that you don't use anymore and would be willing to give to the French Wing, please contact Stéphane Duchemin so that we can recuperate it and install it in the hangar.

MEMBERS ONLY

# CAF French Wing partners







## "SPIRIT OF LEWIS" IN PILOTER MAG!

Our Piper J-3 Cub "Spirit of Lewis" and the CAF French Wing were featured in the latest issue of the French aviation magazine "Piloter Mag" (No. 46, May-June 2014), which includes a special report about the legendary Piper Cub, a classic aircraft whose origins are often unknown by aviation enthusiasts. The article also features profiles by our Executive Officer Bertrand Brown, who draws under the name "Gaëtan Marie".

In addition, classic aircraft amateurs will be treated to

an article and pilot report on one of the few airworthy Ryan PT-22 "Recruit" in Europe.

### FILE: Piper Cub

The Cub family is comprised of several high-wing tandem twin-seaters designed initially by the Taylor brothers before production was taken over by Piper Aircraft when William Piper bought the Taylor factory. One has to go through a good portion of the alphabet before finally reaching the famous J-3

version designed in the late 1930s. Thousands of pilots, military and civilian, were trained on the thousands of Cubs that were built on the Lock Haven production lines. The Cub is still a common sight in aero-clubs and flight schools, making it quite worthy of a special report... Twenty-four well-illustrated pages, including 6 profiles, to (re)discover the story of this classic aircraft that became a legend...

### MAGAZINE

#### Test Flight: Piper L-4H Grasshopper

This is the military version of the Piper J-3 Cub, with the main difference being the extended glazed surface and military livery. The test aircraft only recently arrived in France and is identical to the Grasshoppers which arrived in France in 1944 after the Normandy landings...

#### Report: PT-22 Recruit

Of more than 1,000 built by Ryan, fewer than 10 PT-22 are still airworthy in Europe nowadays. The PT-22 (Primary Trainer) was used as an initial trainer for thousands by military pilots shortly before World War II. With its speedy silhouette, natural metal finish and the distinctive sound of its 160 hp Kinner engine, the Recruit has become a collector's item...

You can buy and read Piloter Mag from the editor's website: [http://www.pilotermag.com/Pilotermag/Sommaire\\_n46.html](http://www.pilotermag.com/Pilotermag/Sommaire_n46.html). ■



# FLY IN 2014

## CAF FRENCH WING

**Samedi 24 mai 2014**  
**Aérodrome du Plessis-Belleville**



Pour plus de renseignements :  
[flyin2014@caffrenchwing.fr](mailto:flyin2014@caffrenchwing.fr)



## MEETING AÉRIEN

AÉRODROME DE MARGNY-LÈS-COMPIÈGNE

14 & 15  
JUN 2014



COMPIÈGNE AÉRO CLASSIC

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## MEETING AÉRIEN

AMICALE JEAN BAPTISTE SALIS

*Le temps  
des hélices!*



7-8  
JUN  
2014  
AÉRODROME  
DE CERNY-LA  
FERTE-ALAIS



# Rocky Mountain Wing



*Article and photos by Col. Roger Robert.*

The CAF, initially called the Confederate Air Force, was the 1957 creation of Lloyd P. Nolen and four of his friends.

In 1971, a new structure was set in place for the organisation: the creation of regional units, the first of which was the New Mexico Wing.

Today, the CAF (now called Commemorative Air Force) has Wings in 26 American states and four countries, including France with the French Wing.

The Rocky Mountain Wing, which I discovered in 2012, is located in Grand Junction, Colorado. It was born in 1981 under the name "Squadron of the Rocky Mountain Wing".

In 1984, Wing Leader Col. Del Coulson filed a request with headquarters asking that the TBM Avenger (regis-

tered N53503) be assigned to the Rocky Mountain Squadron.

This Avenger served in the US Navy and later as a submarine hunter in the Royal Canadian Navy, flying off the light aircraft carrier HMCS Magnificent. It was one of



the twelve aircraft that flew for the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953.

Once the headquarters had approved the request, the TBM was transported from Mesa, Arizona to Grand

Junction Regional Airport in Colorado. A four-year restoration was carried out by the unit.

Funding came from several \$3,500 donations and other smaller but numerous donations. The work was carried out by volunteers.

In 1988, the unit became a Wing when it reached the 25-colonel mark required by headquarters. The RMS became the RMW, Rocky Mountain Wing, directly attached to the CAF headquarters in Harlingen, Texas.

Meanwhile, the RMW made the acquisition of a hangar that was supposed to be destroyed, allowing it to have better installations for its work.

The TBM restoration was completed in 1989, and the aircraft received colours carried by a TBM of VT-84, also known as the "Wolf Gang", a squadron based on USS Bun-





*The TBM Avenger of the Rocky Mountain Wing.*

ker Hill (CV-17). The squadron was the first to attack Tokyo, on 16 and 17 February 1945.

By now, the Wing included over 50 members. The Avenger became a source of revenue by appearing at airshows.

The year 1996 saw the arrival of the Piper J-3 Cub, known in military service as the Grasshopper (L-4 in the Army and NE-1 in the Navy).

In 1999, a new project was launched: the creation of a club house and conference room. This extension holds a museum of World War Two artifacts and hosts several associations from the Grand Junction area. The wing grew to over 65 colonels.

In 2000, it was decided to allocate a specific hangar to the Piper Cub, a task that was undertaken by RMW volunteers.

The TBM, J-3 Cub and DHC-1 Chipmunk of the Rocky Mountain Wing are available for flights. Based on that information, I decided to contact the Wing. The Avenger was not yet on my "scoreboard" as, despite the fact I am not a pilot, I have flown on many historical aircraft: Vampire, T-6, P-51, Fouga Magister, L-39, Pilatus PC-7, in which I flew aerobatics (loops and rolls...), P-40, Dauntless, Catalina (touch and

go), B-25, B-17, C-47, Junkers Ju 52, MiG-15, Antonov An-2, etc... I've also flown on the Concorde and took rides in hot air balloons and gliders.

In 2012, after exchanging several emails with Rob Duncan, I had the pleasure of flying on the TBM Avenger, flown by Bob Thompson during a flight over this magnificent region (Colorado National Monument).

During the flight, we were briefly accompanied by the helicopter of a Frenchman who had settled in Grand Junction some 30 years earlier. On board the helicopter were a local journalist and... my spouse.

We were splendidly received, with the added bonus of be-

ing featured in the local television news and having dinner in a restaurant with some of the RMW members.

The next day, I was taken on a car ride in the Colorado National Monument area and met a French winegrower who had settled there (note the Citroën 2CV on one of the pictures). It was an unforgettable experience!

I wish to thank Rob Duncan, who had to decypher my emails written in "English", as well as Bob Thompson, Jim Peterson, Mo Bloemsmma and Jim for their kindness and reception. Heartfelt thanks also extend to the "Frenchies" (the helicopter owner and the winegrower). I spent two exceptional days in Grand Junction thanks to them, and will keep some great memories of my time there.

While I was waiting for the TBM flight, I discovered in a nearby hangar the sole Rutan Model 202 Boomerang ever built, and another rare aircraft whose name I unfortunately forgot. ■

**Visit the RMW's website :**  
[www.rockymountainwingcaf.org/](http://www.rockymountainwingcaf.org/)

*The Piper J-3 Cub, which joined the Rocky Mountain Wing in 1996.*



*Right: the Rocky Mountain Wing museum, in Grand Junction Regional Airport.*



*Left: Roger Robert with Avenger pilot Bob Thompson.*

*Below: an aerial view of Colorado National Monument.*

*Bottom: the TBM N53503 of the Rocky Mountain Wing in flight.*



Photo Greg Goebel (CC BY-SA 2.0)





*Left: the local news channel's helicopter that filmed our flight, and the journalist.*

*Below: the TBM Avenger team members with Roger and the journalist.*



*Left: French wine is exported worldwide, and so are French winnegrowers...Note the 2 CV on the right of the photo: not a common sight in North America....*

*Right: the only Rutan Model 202 Boomerang.*



# Battle colours: Spitfire Mk V

Profil: Bertrand Brown (aka Gaëtan Marie)

[www.bravobravoaviation.com](http://www.bravobravoaviation.com)



With 21 confirmed aerial victories and 2 probables, Jean Demozay was the third-ranking French ace of World War Two. Ironically, he had been rejected from military service pre-war due to physical inability. He scored his first "kill" over a Junker Ju 88 while flying with the RAF during the Battle of Britain. In June 1941, he became the first French officer to lead a British Squadron when he took command of No 91 "Nigeria" Squadron. He only enjoyed peace for a few months, as he was killed in a plane accident on December 19, 1945.



Because of a broken leg, Polish pilot Jan Zumbach was not able to participate in the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Having fled to France, he joined the air force and fought the Germans flying MS.406 and Curtiss H.75 Hawk fighters before joining the RAF to pursue the fight. He was credited with 8 aerial victories during the Battle of Britain. From May 1942 to November 1943, he commanded No 303 (Polish) Fighter Squadron and flew on several Spitfire Mk V, including this aircraft. Shot down and captured by the Germans, he ended the war in captivity, with a total tally of 12 aerial victories, two shared, five probables and a damaged.



Australian pilot Kevin Gannon was a police cadet when war broke out. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force and flew with No 615 Squadron based in India in 1943 and 1944. His aircraft was this Spitfire Mk Vc called "Snifter", which was equipped with a Vokes tropical filter and adorned with a telling nose art. He scored two aerial victories, a probable and three damaged over Japanese aircraft.



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## NEW PX ITEM

### LA FERTÉ-ALAIS 2012



CD Rom made of 110 photos taken during the 2012 La Ferté-Alais air show. Images 1600 pixels jpegs for your computer wall paper or private printing. (10 € incl. P & P, 8€ for our members)

## 2014 FRENCH WING SUBORDINATE OFFICERS

THE FRENCH WING IS LOOKING FOR  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING  
POSITIONS:

- PX: Deputy
  - Fly-in: Officer and 3 deputies
  - Recruiting: Officer and deputy
- Should you be interested by these jobs, please contact the French Wing!

The CAF French Wing is a non-profit Association ruled by the 1901 law, and registered under number 2473 of the Journal Officiel dated 10 July 1996.

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Danielle Dufлот  
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### PIPER J-3

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- **Restoration Sponsor** : 125€ or (\$125), with 30 of flight time.
- **Supporting Sponsor** : 50€ (or \$50), with 15 minutes of flight time.!

Non-sponsors also have the possibility of flying on the Cub at a cost of 90€ per hour. ■

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