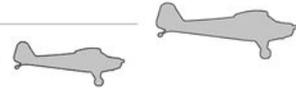




AIRSHOW



CAF FRENCH WING - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - BULLETIN MENSUEL

Volume 12 - N° 5 - May 2007

EDITORIAL

I wish to dedicate this issue to colonel Bill Katsones who was part of those who I admire particularly for their wisdom and their kindness. Bill Katsones and me developed a real friendship as soon as he joined our Unit, during the Summer of year 2001. Already, at this time, Bill had problems moving around, so badly that he was unable to attend any of the subsequent AIRSHO events in Midland, but the hope to come back to France, of which he visited - and loved - the Côte d'Azur, literally held him at arm's length. Alas, illness just won this fight, but his memory will always remain as one of the most enthusiastic French Wing members. The last email that Bill sent me left no doubt about the conclusion of the terrible combat he had been fighting for many years. The most elementary discretion and the friendship we felt for each other, forced me to keep to myself the moving confidences he wrote to me. But any attempt to get prepared for such a dramatic event is futile because one always hope for a miracle which, unfortunately, happens far too rarely. Bill leaves a gap that nothing or no one will ever be able to fill, but his memory and the friendship he honored me with are eternal. Good Bye Bill! or, rather, see you soon...

Life goes on, and this issue proves it with the arrival of two valuable new colonels and members of the French Wing. Let us welcome Matt and Maurice!

The rest of this issue includes the memories that the pictures sent last month by Marie-Françoise have brought back to col. Louis-Jean Gioux, our activities last news, the messages from the French Wing Officers, and the report on our aircraft maintenance which has been very heavy this month because of the annual checks, and finally, the status of the annual dues...

I wish to take this opportunity to remind all our members that they should normally pay their dues before May 1st. I want to thank those who have not yet paid these dues for sending their cheques as soon as possible.

Bernard

ONE MORE STAR IN THE SKY: COLONEL BILL KATSONES PASSED AWAY ON MARCH 26 AFTER A FIGHT WITH ILLNESS THAT LASTED TEN YEARS (Page 2)



Photo: Jacquin Katsones

TWO NEW MEMBERS FOR THE CAF AND THE FRENCH WING :

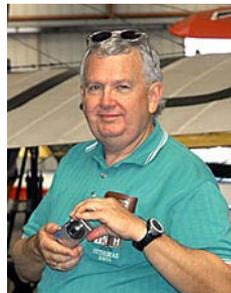


Photo: B. Delfino

COL. MAURICE GIRARD (Page 6)



Photo: B. Delfino

COL. MATTHEUS SIMEK (Page 5)



COLONEL SANDY SANSING WILL RECEIVE THE LEGION OF HONOR IN THE WWII HALL OF THE AIR MUSEUM IN LE BOURGET ON JUNE 15 AT 3 P.M. (Page 2)

FRENCH WING 2007/2008 ANNUAL DUES: CHECK THE LIST ON PAGE 3 OF THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY PAID THEIR DUES, AND IF YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THAT LIST, ACT NOW!

COLONEL BILL KATSONES HAS PASSED AWAY

Colonel William "Bill" Katsones was born on September 8, 1946. He was a CAF Life Member (N° 2151), and a Member of the French Wing since July 2001.

Bill's aviation career started when he was 18 years old and joined the USAF to become an Air Traffic Controller. He accomplished two tours in South East Asia. From November 1966 till November 1967, he was stationed on the air base of Ubon Royal Thai (Thailand), then, from November 1968 till November 1969, he was posted to Tan San Nhut, Saigon, in South Viet Nam. Bill obtained several distinctions for his service for the nation during his time in the USAF and in Viet Nam.



Katsones, Heather Mahealani Gibb, and William George Katsones III.

During the Gulf war, Bill dealt with the 747 which flew to Saudi Arabia. He was able to fly this trip once, in January 1991, just before the war started. As he was flying over the South of France, Bill promised himself that he would come and visit our country, which he did in May 1995, when

his wife Jacque and himself stayed on the Côte d'Azur (Nice, Cannes, Juan les Pins...).

Bill left Continental Airlines in 1998. Hit by cancer, he became a volunteer for the Anderson Network, helping new patients and the Anderson Hospitality Center.

Bill was very active in his occupations related to veterans: Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, member of the AMVETS, Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, Tan San Nhut Association, The Disabled American Veterans, and The Viet Nam Veterans Association. He was a sponsor of the Air Force Memorial Foundation, and colonel, Life Member, of the CAF and a member of its Units located in Corpus Christi and France.

The French Wing sends its sincere condolences to his wife Jacqueline, his daughters Michelle Page Katsones and Heather Mahealani Gibb, his son William George Katsones, III, his mother Margaret Katsones, his sister Nickie Wright, his nephew James Wright, his niece Auslyn Wright, and to his numerous friends.

We are sure that every one of our members has now realized how important Bill was for our Unit. Despite adversity, despite his illness, Bill brought his part to the CAF and the French Wing that he loved so much. His courage, his modesty, and his wisdom, are an example that each one of us needs to follow in his memory.



Painting: Roy Grinnell

Bill Katsones's favorite airplane: The P-40B flown by the Flying Tigers, illustrated here by a painting by Roy Grinnell.

Released from the USAF, he worked for the FAA as an Air Traffic Controller in Burbank then Los Angeles from June 1970 till November 1979. A health problem made him change job, and he became an Aircraft Dispatcher for Continental Airlines in Houston, Texas.

He met Jacqueline in Manhattan Beach (Ca.), and married her in 1983 at Marina Del Rey, Ca. Jacqueline and William had three children, two daughters and one son: Michelle Page

GRANTING OF THE LÉGION D'HONNEUR TO COLONEL SANDY SANSING

It's on June 15 at 15:00 that col. Sandy Sansing will receive the Légion d'Honneur in the WWII Hall of the Air Mueum in Le Bourget.

This ceremony will be followed by a visit of the Air Museum, and, in the evening, by a dinner which will honor our hero.

Should you wish to take part in this ceremony and this dinner, please contact col. Philippe Duflot as soon as possible. He will give you all the necessary instructions. Beware! The number of gusts will be limited, so please hurry up!

CAF DIRECTORY

Those who ordered it at the end of last year have just received it.

This book lists all the CAF members who gave their agreement to get their contact details published. The first part is made of the CAF story. It is abundantly illustrated with pictures that were taken in the very early days of our organization. The second one includes a host of photos that members took the trouble to send to the CAF. The third one is an alphabetical list of colonels. And the fourth one is the list of all Units with the list of the members who belong to them and gave their OK for this publication.



Photo: CAF

AIR PARADE FOR THE 1945 VICTORY

Following the publication, last month, of never published photos of the Liberation air display, found by col. Marie-Françoise Le Cornec, col. Louis-Jean Gioux sent us the following letter:



"Congratulations to Colonel Marie-Françoise Le Cornec for her finding of photos of the airplanes that flew over France in a tight formation, in May 1945, to celebrate the Allied Victory over the German forces.

For several months the six french groups flying the B-26 Martin Marauder had been based in Saint Dizier (Haute Marne). From there, they flew raids over Germany and the german resistance pocket on the Atlantic coast. They included the Maroc 1/22, Bretagne 2/20 the only group made of Free French air crews (FAFL) whose aircraft had a Lorraine Cross painted on them, and Gascogne 1/19. These 3 groups formed the 31ème Escadre. The 34ème Escadre comprised the Bourgogne 1/32, Franche-Comté 2/52, and Sénégal 2/63. Since the beginning of May 1945, the bombardment missions over Germany had been cancelled because of the bad weather, and, especially, to avoid any dropping of bombs on our own troops on the ground which were moving forward fast.

On May 7, 1945, one could feel the end of the war approaching: The orders were to train for the victory air parade. Twelve aircraft of the Groupe Bretagne flying in formation to form a Lorraine Cross, followed by one or two flights of the other five groups. Sector of operation: Saint Dizier-Verdun. It's a difficult constraint to get all the planes together quickly and on time, and to keep in tight formation

in the turbulences. Duration of the mission: 2 hours and 15 minutes.

- 8 May 1945: Signature of the armistice by the two parties.

- 9 May 1945: Official mission to fly the air parade over Paris. Take-off of the 42 airplanes, plus a couple spare ones in case a technical problem happens.

Gathering over Saint Dizier, with the Bretagne leading, on the Paris-Dijon itinerary. Four hours and forty

five minutes in flight, at an altitude of 4000 feet. I flew the number two aircraft in the long branch of the Cross of Lorraine. It was a difficult exercise, but one can imagine the joy and pride of all crew members who took part in this mission which celebrated the end of the war which, for some of them, had started on September 3, 1939.

Col. Louis-Jean Gioux"



FRENCH WING ANNUAL DUES

IT'S NOW TIME TO SEND YOUR PARTICIPATION!

The French Wing annual dues are:

- 50,00 € if you are a colonel, Associate Member, or Friend of the French Wing (\$ 50.00 if you live outside Europe. See below).
- 20,00 € if you are a CAF Cadet.

If your name is not on the list below, we thank you for sending your cheque as soon as possible:

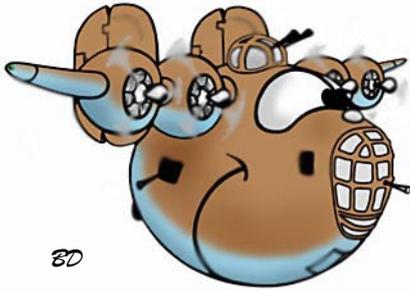
Gilles Avenel, Bob and Lilian Ayars, Jean Barbaud, Bunty Bateman, Shirley Bateman, François Bergeon, Guy Bortolus, Didier Bourrassier, Henri Bourrassier, Merrill Butikofer, Claude Cardinal, Didier Cardinal, Ernest Cartigny, Jean-Yves Cercy, George Chandler, Jacqueline Clerc, Daniel Costelle, William Davies, Bernard and Fumiko Delfino, Jacques Delorme, Stéphane Duchemin, Eric Ducreau, Philippe Duflo, Michel Fleury, John Francis, Claude Gascon, Louis-Jean Gioux, Maurice Girard, Roger Gouzon, Patrick Gremez, Roy and Irene Grinnell, Aubrey and Barbara Hair, Tex Hill, Rick and Louise Hudlow, Marie-Françoise Le Cornec, Jacques Leroux, Isabelle Lesser, George Lodge, Jim Lux, Léon Manoukians, Georges Marcelin, Jean-Claude Miniggio, Guy Perrin, Patrick Pierre-Pierre, Daphne Prebble, Hervé Quefféléant, John Roeder, Sandy Sansing, Semaan Soueid, Haruo Tanaka, Alphonse Thiry, Christian Tournemine, Gilles Troussard, Regis Urschler, Bernard Violette, Stella Wilkes, Ronald Wright.

The payment is done by sending a cheque to the CAF French Wing. If you live in the USA, send a cheque drawn to **Roy Grinnell**, giving the reason for this payment, to the following address:

Roy Grinnell
P.O. Box 719
LITTLE ELM
Texas 75068

Other members, please send a \$ 50.00 note in a letter, slid in between two sheets of cardboard.

SO LONG "DIAMOND LIL"... HELLO "OL'927"!



Desin: B. Delfino

The CAF is organizing, on May 12, in Midland, a reunion of twin tails aircraft to officially present the "new" CAF B-24A which is no other than the LB-30 "Diamond Lil" modified as a bomber named "Ol' 927".

The only parts of the modification that will not be fitted by then are the bomb doors.

They were located only recently with a collector who did not want to part with them. The deal was difficult, but this collector finally admitted that they would be better used on the CAF B-24A. These doors and four bomb racks were swapped for various parts that were found surplus in the B-24/B-29 Squadron's stock of spare parts.

Too bad that Midland is so far away. Our NC 856 would have looked terrific among all these twin tails!

THE CAF NEW OFFICERS' CLUB

The work on the CAF new O'Club, in Midland, has started! As one can see, the structure metal girders were erected in March, and the assembling of this puzzle is moving fast.



These photos, taken by our favorite spy, col. Jim Adams (Nicknamed 007), show the main entrance girders, and the entire frame of this hangar and O'Club.

This building is located not far from the place where the white and blue tent that was used as an O'Club was erected these past years. Unfortunately, it does not seem that this building will be ready for Airsho 2007...



FRENCH WING CONTINGENT WHICH WILL PARTICIPATE IN AIRSHO 2007

Here is a list that we believe is final, of the members of the French Wing who will be in Midland for AIRSHO, with, in brackets, the number of persons per party, with a total of over 40, a number never seen before!

Should your name be missing from this list, or if you forgot to tell us about your intention to go to Midland, please advise us as soon as possible:

Europe:

Gilles Avenel (1), Jean Barbaud (3), Didier Cardinal (1), Jacqueline Clerc (1), Jean-Christophe Debuissou (1), Bernard & Fumiko Delfino (2), Claude De Marco (1), Stéphane Duchemin (1), Philippe Duflo (3), Roger Gouzon (1), Alain Jimenez (1), Marie-Françoise Le Cornec (1), Léon Manoukians (1), Jean-Claude Miniggio (3), Patrick Pierre-Pierre (1), Frédéric Pollicella (1), Antoine Roels (1), Gilles Troussard (2).

USA / Japan:

Hugh Alexander III (2), George Chandler (2), Roy & Irene Grinnell (2), Barbara & Aubrey Hair (2), Rick & Louise Hudlow (2), George & Bobbie Lodge (2), Jim Lux (2), Sandy Sansing (1), Haruo Tanaka (1), Ron Wright (2).

Many of these members will stay at the Midland Holiday Inn Express where Irene Grinnell has made reservations.

2007 LA FERTÉ-ALAIS AIR SHOW

The badges and parking tickets have been booked with Editions Lariviere and, as the date of this airshow approaches fast, we wish to remind all participants of two major points:

- Rendez-vous at the airfield check-point on Friday 25 Mai at 15:00, and wait for the arrival of the French Wing van.
- **Do NOT go and ask the organizer for your badge!** Our Unit Leader will be the only one allowed to do that. This arrangement will stop any complications and errors that we suffered from in the past.

CAF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

All our members present in Midland must attend the CAF Annual General Assembly on Friday 28 at 15:00.

Since this annual meeting will celebrate the CAF 50th anniversary, this General Assembly should also be exceptional!

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR JOHN FRANCIS

John changed his email address Please make a note of it in your copy of the phone-book:

< francis.john@neuf.fr >

HELP TO RECRUITMENT

We wish to remind you that any member who will recruit one or more new colonel and member of the French Wing, between January 01 and December 31, 2007, will see his 2008 annual dues reduced as follows:

- 1 new colonel = 25 €
- 2 new colonels = Free

In addition, any CAF and French Wing member (Colonel, Associate Member, and Cadet) will have a chance to win two free return tickets to/from New-York with Swiss International Airlines, thanks to a free lottery draw during our 2007 General Assembly.

NEW MEMBER: COL. MATTHEW "MATT" SIMEK

Col. Matt Simek was a member of the party that took part in the Raoul Lufbery commemoration last year. The letter that he just sent to our Unit Leader, concerning the French Wing and the way he was welcome during his stay in France, shows to which point this trip impressed him, which is our best reward. Here is an excerpt of this letter:

"You cannot know how warmly I feel toward all of you. In two short weeks you opened your hearts to George and Cheryl and Cliff and me, and earlier to Roy and Irene, and you made us all feel as though we'd been family for a lifetime. It is a rare treat, indeed, to feel so close to people you had never known before first meeting. It is an honor and a privilege to be considered among you, and I will do my best to deserve it one day. I think the world of all of you and will one day try to understand what ever I might have done to deserve the warmth you all have heaped upon me ... and, I'm sure, us".

These heart-warming comments must not let us forget that Matt is someone very special. Sensitive, generous, full of humor, passionate, he was very nice company. A first class imitator, he filled our stay in Normandy with jokes of the best taste. Matt is also a professional photographer. This is because of his personal qualities and his job: Television Producer, President and Director of **Pacific Standard Venture Corporation**.

After studies in Art (Psychology and communication), Matt served in the US Air Force from 1967 till 1971, first as an



Air Traffic Controller, then as an information Officer, and finally in charge of a cable TV network for training purposes, in Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

His civilian career is closely linked to television production. A writer and producer for various companies, Matt is also the founder of various companies and associations like Pacific Standard Television, The Constitution Project, and ASN Ventures Corporation, just to name a couple.



As for Matt's hobbies, the photos of his "Tiger" (IFR), and of his Ford fire truck that he restored entirely and which is fully functional, tell you more than a long speech!... Welcome Matt!

PO Box 220 - Newberg
Oregon 97132-0220 - USA

Tel: 1 503 538 1093
Email: mattsimek@earthlink.net



AERO CAR BOOT SALE ON JUNE 02 AT LE PLESSIS

The meeting held by the organizers of this event at Le Plessis-Belleville on Saturday, June 02, has defined the conditions for this day:

- The French Wing PX will be set up on an area located 15 feet away from the Piper J-3 and the NC 856.
- The price for the giant BBQ that will take place on Saturday evening has been set at 15 € per guest (10 € for the children).
- **The members who are interested must book their meal now and send 15 € per guest to the French Wing which will do a global payment.**
- Parents and friends of our members are welcome.

The sellers of spare parts for old airplanes or any aeronautical items, either amateurs or professionals, will be allowed to have a booth there, at a cost of 3 € per linear meter.

Classic airplanes that are not based in Le Plessis will be welcome during the entire week-end. The grass runway will be open to them, camping will be authorized, and there will be no landing fee. Should you know about aircraft owners who would like to take part in this event, please tell the organizer as soon as possible: Mister **Frank Vogels** of Aéro Picardie, whose email address is:

frank.vogels@wanadoo.fr

LE PLESSIS JUNE 03 FLY-IN

The French Wing will continue to celebrate the day after, June 03, by organizing a Fly-In at the hangar where our planes reside, and local leisure flight aboard the Piper Cub will be available for those who are interested. This event will be similar to the one that took place last year in June to celebrate the French Wing's 10th anniversary.

A picnic will be organized, and everyone is asked to bring a dish, a dessert, or a drink (Thanks for telling us about your choice).

Note: We bring your attention on the need for total safety during this event, and ask you to be particularly vigilant with your children.

NEW MEMBER: MAURICE GIRARD

Col. Maurice Girard's "god father" is col. Michel Fleury. They are both originating from Montbéliard, and they came to the Paris area to get a job there. If life split them geographically, their mutual friendship kept them bonded for ever.

Col. Maurice Girard became fond of aviation very early when he was a kid. During WWII he remembers clearly watching fighters and bombers. He could then see himself at their controls.

He was able to make this dream come true when he was mobilized for his national service, in 1956, in the Armée de l'Air in Morocco, because a note from Headquarters asked for volunteers to be basic reserve pilots (PER).



Photo: B. Delfino

The Air Force actually wanted volunteers to go to Algeria and accomplish missions and replace pilots who were trained on Ouragan and Mystère jets which were very expensive for the country.

Therefore, he spent one year training on T-6, in Marrakech, then Clermont-Ferrand, for flights in mountainous areas, and Dijon for shooting. After he got his wings, he was incorporated in Sétif and in Bougie (Algeria), with Escadrille 1/72 on T-6, in 1958.

He flew about 150 war missions until 1959, monitored by pilots from Djion. Released in 1959, he stayed in the reserve for a duration of 5 years minimum.



Photo: B. Delfino

To maintain his proficiency, Maurice flew with an aero-club for the Air Force. This is how, in Courcelles-les-Montbéliard, he met his very good friend col. Michel Fleury who is a member of the French Wing (*Photo below*).

His passion for aviation went on and he attended numerous air shows: In France at La Ferté-Alais, in Belgium in Anvers, in the USA in Harlingen and Edwards...

He was always travelling with Michel, and it's on one of these occasions that he met another very good friend, col. Philippe Dufлот well known in the French Wing.

To this day, he has flown a total of 800 hours

on several types of airplanes, but the majority on T-6.

Retired from Peugeot Automobiles after a 40 years career as an engineer, Maurice has three children and two grand children, and he is as fond as aviation as he was at the age of 7.

Col. Maurice GIRARD
21 Rue Ginoux
75015 PARIS
FRANCE
Tél: 01 45 78 88 71
email: baron43@free.fr

Let us welcome Maurice who is another first class recruit, and let us thank Michel for being his "god father"!

HANGAR OR NOT HANGAR?

An unexpected offer has been made to the French Wing in the shape of half a 11000 ft² hangar, therefore 5500 ft², in Compiègne. Sold by the Army (ALAT), this hangar has been bought by the city of Compiègne. The community of the surrounding towns offered the French Wing to rent this building for the cost of the electricity and water, about 100 euros per month. In exchange, we would have to organize some fly-in's, visits of the hangar by local schools, creation of a museum, etc... This mouth-watering offer would ask for a greatly increased participation of many more members than what we have today. The distance from Paris (About 60 miles) is a problem that would probably cause an erosion among our members in the long run. If some members do not hesitate to come to Le Plessis quite frequently, they would think twice before getting on the road to Compiègne. This trip would be a daily one for the members who are restoring the Rearwin...

In parallel, one of our members, whose goal is the well-being of the French Wing, has offered to finance the building of a 5000 ft² in Le Plessis-Belleville, a building that the Wing would reimburse progressively. Unfortunately, the airfield manager has declared that there is no more room for any building, but that an opening could happen in a near or far future. Nothing is frozen, since this generous member would also agree to build this hangar on a private airfield that could be created in the Oise district, as close to Paris as possible.

As always, for any big project, we must be very careful, we must make a serious and objective risk assessment, and, above all, take our time. In Le Plessis-Belleville, the only risk is that we remain renters, like we are today. Watch this space...

NEW ADDRESS FOR DIDIER CARDINAL

Col. Didier Cardinal has just moved house. His new address is:

55 Rue des Houx
77610 LA HOUSSAYE EN BRIE
Téléphone: 06 16 70 99 74
email: delta.charlie@wanadoo.fr

REPORTS

P.X. Fumiko Delfino



After the order and the arrival of the new French Wing embroidered T-shirts and the NC856 *Norvigie* patches (financed by this group),

we have ordered some tie-pins from Établissements Ballard, well known for their excellent productions. All serious collectors know this company, and I'm sure that our members will not regret this decision since their products are closer to jewelry than simple tie-pins usually met on airshows.



These articles will be ready for the La Ferté-Alais airshow, although they ask for a difficult job with the etching. They will be gold plated and you will all be surprised by their quality. The price will be 9 euros (\$ 12.00) for the public, and 8 euros (\$ 10.00 for our members).

Question suggested by Patrick: Are any members interested by the financing of table sets or mugs with the Spirit of Lewis as the main subject? If you do, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will start working on the design.

PUBLIC RELATIONS Bernard Delfino



The arrival of the NC 856 at Le Plessis-Belleville has been the great event of the month. One must say that with its special warbird look, it made my task very easy. With it, no need to do any costly publicity! The announcement of its arrival on the airfield, by just word of mouth triggered a continuous visit of lovers of nice airplanes, of which many had never seen an aircraft of this type!

You will read, somewhere else in this issue the details of the reunion organized by the CAF in Midland, for the roll-out of the B-24A, and the publica-

tion of the CAF members directory, a book which is a true example of good communication, so useful that one wonders how we managed to live without it until today!

FINANCE OFFICER Philippe Duflot



Once again, the treasurer comes to ask for money. I don't have the best role, but when one is a "black cat", nothing can frighten him! Therefore, I shall ask you to look around your friends who like aviation and ask them to join us. There are advantages for the recruiters and the new recruits:

- **For you:** The satisfaction to see one of your friends become a member of our association, the pleasure to share meetings and emotions with him (or her), and a reduction of your annual dues next year.
- **For him or her:** The same as yours (Sharing, meeting, etc), a free 20 minutes flight on our J-3, an opportunity to win 2 return tickets to New York (Or Paris depending on your place of residence), and a reduced CAF annual dues the first year (\$ 100.00 instead of \$ 200.00, especially today as the change is favorable to the euro).

But also: Tasting a "Cardinal" drink in good company, the chance to participate in airshows at a reduced price, to have the pleasure to setup and dismantle a tent, and have the full respect of your banker and your baker since your mail will bear the title "Colonel"!... With all this, nothing or no one should resist you. Thanks for your help and see you all soon.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER Claude Gascon



With a weather that is getting better, flights are starting again, and I'm particularly happy about this. Our last flight with Patrick between Montbéliard and Le Plessis was done in a blue sky storm. A real delight!

I just received my new VFR maps and I'm starting to savor in advance what our next great trip will be, I mean to say the Tour de France which only lasted 4 minutes last year. I do hope that the 2007 version will be a success.

It's always a great pleasure for me to prepare future navigations, and I imagine us being at 900 feet among an ever changing scenery, and some sublime Great Alps landscape, the small valleys of the Great Doubs and Jura, the chain of volcanoes, the cliffs of the Vercors, and then the immense Atlantic, the groves of Vendée, Brittany, and Normandy, and once again the cliffs of the Caux county.

No other travel agent will be able to offer you all that, except the CAF French Wing which made a deal with the company Air Piper, and managed to get some very special prices...

Our Piper Cub is not a big charter plane, nevertheless, I believe that there are some seats available here and there. Therefore, do not wait any longer and proceed to the checking desk for a fabulous trip.

All I need to do now is cross my fingers and rub my favorite rabbit leg so that, I'm sure of it, the weather will be nice!

ADJUTANT OFFICER Roger Gouzon



My position as Adjutant Officer of the French Wing pushes me to ask all members who haven't paid their Wing annual dues to do it as soon as possible. The set limit date is May 1st for this payment, a date that everyone should respect.

I wish to also remind you that belonging to the French Wing requires imperatively that one is up to date with his CAF annual dues. It is your responsibility to make sure that you fulfil this condition to be a Wing member. Should you be late for that payment to the CAF, I thank you for solving that problem as soon as possible.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PIPER CLUB FRANCE

This sympathetic meeting took place in the offices of the Amicale Jean-Baptiste Salis in La Ferté-Alais on April 7, 2007.

The early morning mist delayed the departure of cols. **Patrick Pierre-Pierre** and **Bernard Delfino** who had decided to fly the Piper Cub. A first attempt at 10 A.M. showed that navigation was impossible, which forced them to turn back and wait another half hour. The weather improved rapidly and a very nice flight of 50 minutes took them to this temple of classic aviation where several aircraft of the same type were supposed to meet.

The *Spirit of Lewis* was the first one to arrive there, not counting the Piper Cub that resides in La Ferté-Alais. The latter was just coming out of a complete overhaul. It had been the subject of an accident three years ago, and this plane seemed to have rolled out of the Piper plant.



Photo: B. Delfino

The colorful Guy Fourdrain, President of the Piper Club France, and several other members welcomed us very warmly. The happy and relaxed feeling of this meeting was

there too, so much that Patrick granted Guy with the cap of a butter container bearing the trade mark "President", also well known for its delicious Camembert cheese!... The joke was highly appreciated, so much that this "distinction" stayed around Guy's neck for the whole day!

The other planes were more delayed than we had been, but we waited for them before going to the local inn for lunch.

The meeting took place after this meal, in the AJBS offices. Its main subjects were the Tour de France of the *Spirit of Lewis* along which several planes should

fly along with ours, either partially or completely, and the Piper Club France Fly-In which will take place in Popham, in England. So, some 98 years after the crossing of the Channel by Blériot, our Piper Cub will also fly over the Channel. The Anzani engine of Blériot's plane had an output of only 25 HP, but he was alone to fly it, as opposed to the 65 HP that our Continental engine is giving out, but there will be two pilots on-board: Cols. **Gilles Avenel** and **Patrick Pierre-Pierre**.



Photo: B. Delfino

The grade of **Friend of the French Wing** is a level that we limit to 10% of our membership. This percentage is, today, largely exceeded. It's the reason why this level is no more available for recruitment. Therefore, I'm asking all our **Friends of the French Wing** who have spent more than two years at this level, to think about it and to decide if they can move up one grade to become a CAF Associate Member (\$ 45.00 or 35,00 € per year), or Colonel (\$ 160.00 or 125,00 € par an). This will help us regularize the current situation. Should you not be able to do that, please contact me or our treasurer Philippe Duflot, so that we can discuss it. I thank you in advance very sincerely.

OPERATIONS

Patrick Pierre-Pierre



The season of air-shows will soon start! The J-3 is ready. Its annual check is done. The NC 856 is ready too! Its radio has been overhauled, and the pilots have started their training.

I have written a Safety Manual about aircraft operation related to hand starting of the J-3 and its refueling. It will soon be available when the photos that will illustrate it will be taken.

Question: Do you own a video camera? Can you do a 4 to 5 minutes movie during the pilots training or during an airshow? Can you edit it, or get someone to edit it, selecting a few sequences, the flight preparation, the pre-flight check, the flight itself, and the debriefing? This video could be used on our future web site.

MAINTENANCE

Cédric Malhaire



Sorry! No report this month because of intense professional activities, and May will not be better...

EQUIPMENT

Didier Cardinal



Sorry! No report this month because of my moving. See Didier's new address on page 6 of this issue.



Photo: B. Delfino

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

Article and photos: B. Delfino

The annual check of the *Spirit of Lewis* was accomplished during the first week of April by a group of members who gathered in the hangar at Plessis-Belleville.

Responding to a call that was made last month, cols. **Roger Gouzon** (*Picture on the right*), **Jean-Yves Cercy**, **Patrick Pierre-Pierre**, **Guy Perrin** (*Below in conversation with Roger*), and **Bernard Delfino**, got together to carry out this work that did not present any major difficulty, but which still called for 5 days of intense work.



The engine health is good with no metal chips found in the oil filter, and a compression of the cylinders which had never been met before the cylinders and pistons change last year.

Thanks to these five members, the *Spirit of Lewis* is ready for a season made of airshows and leisure flights.

All it needs today is three more Restoration Sponsors to close the budget of its fixed and variable costs, to get the renewal of its Certificate of Airworthiness, which will be done on the same day as the NC 856 on May 4.



Two pilots who clean an aircraft entirely for hours, you will rarely see that anywhere else than in the French Wing! Cols. Jean-Yves Cercy and Patrick Pierre-Pierre show the example on the NC 856. You must earn your flying!



NC 856 NORVIGIE

The annual check of this plane followed the one on the Piper Cub. This plane revealed itself as a mechanic's dream since the technology that it originated from is so old... For the senior ones, it was a return to the good old days: This airplane is fitted with some very special features like the ailerons that split longitudinally in two parts when the flaps are lowered. The lower part increases the lift while it keeps on acting as an aileron. Another particularity is the variable pitch of the propeller which is entirely mechanical. This change in pitch is done by rotating a crank on the dashboard which acts directly on the blade angle. The lack of documentation forced us



to discover the plane and learn "on the job" how to carry out this check. Things improved when Jean-Yves and Patrick went to Angers and Dax respectively, to copy the documents that were found in these two museums of the GPPA and the ALAT.

The picture below shows cols. **Philippe Dufflot**, **Roger Gouzon**, **Fumiko Delfino**, and **Jean-Yves Cercy**, in action during one of the work days of this check, on April 21. We also had the pleasure to welcome col. **Christophe Bastide** among the volunteers (*Bottom photo*). He stayed two days with us and accomplished several tasks, including the most boring one: The polishing of the windows! Thanks Christophe!

These annual checks saw many members participate which was re-invigorating for everyone.

An Association like the CAF French Wing represents a lot more than the average Associations which are happy to simply keep old machines airborne. Remember: Our Wing does it before anything else to honor those who lost their life while maintaining them or flying them to defend our Freedom.

CUB & SPORTSTER

THE FRENCH WING PIPER CUB SPONSORING SYSTEM

The annual premiums and cost per hour are split as follows:

- **Flying Sponsors:** 250 Euros per year and 25 Euros per hour (Average cost per hour, over 10 hours: 50,00 €).

- **Restoration Sponsors:** 125 Euros and 40 Euros per hour (Average cost per hour, over 10 hours: 52,50 €).

- **Supporting Sponsors:** 50 Euros and 55 Euros per hour (Average cost per hour, over 10 hours: 60,00 €).

- **Non-Sponsors:** No annual premium and 80 Euros per hour.

This system, which is based on 50 flight hours for the whole year, asks for a sufficient number of Sponsors to cover the annual fixed costs of \$ 6800.00.

QUESTION: Can you buy your own Piper Cub and pay all the expenses related to such an ownership?... No?... Well, for a modest amount of money, you can have the pleasure to fly as much as you want on a legendary J-3, without the worries inherent to such an ownership. How?...

ANSWER: **BY BECOMING A SPONSOR!**



Peinture: Roy Grinnell

PIPER CUB SPONSORS FOR THE 2007 SEASON

Col. François Bergeon has become a Flying Sponsor of the Spirit of Lewis. Thanks to him, we only need three more Supporting Sponsors to close the budget of the fixed and variable costs for the current year. Come on! Just one more small effort and the Piper Cub will be able to operate the whole year. Thanks in advance!

SPONSORS 2007

FLYING SPONSORS

Hugh Alexander III
Gilles Avenel
François Bergeon
Jean-Yves Cercy
George Chandler
Bernard Delfino
Fumiko Delfino
Claude Gascon
Roger Gouzon
Irene Grinnell
Roy Grinnell
Jean-Claude Miniggio
Patrick Pierre-Pierre
Sandy Sansing
SKY RUNNER
Regis Urschler

RESTORATION SPONSORS

Bunty Bateman
Didier Cardinal
Michel Fleury
John Roeder

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Christophe Bastide
Frédéric Baudin
Henri Bourrassier
William Davies
Jean-Christophe Debuissou
Claude De Marco
Stéphane Duchemin
Louis-Jean Gioux
Barbara Hair
Aubrey Hair
Léon Manoukians
Haruo Tanaka
Ron Wright

REARWIN SPORTSTER

The need, during the entire month of April, to carry out the annual checks on the Piper Cub and the Norvigie for the renewal of their Airworthiness Certificate, brought the Rearwin restoration to a halt.

The workshop where this airplane is located will need to be vacated early in May. The aircraft and its equipment will then be transferred to Roger's other workshop, next to his house.

AIRFRAME

Before we can start stripping the paint off the tubes and welds, we will need to remove everything that can be taken off. Then we will need to make a sanding booth that will limit the projection of sand in the entire workshop.

The members who will not do the sanding will need to get busy with to catalogue all these parts. They will need to be cleaned, protected, and stowed. If necessary, they will be stripped of any paint, and repainted or re-chromed.

All this work will not be done in a few days. We expect the sanding process to take about three months of continuous work, spending 6 hours per day and 5 days per week. Detecting any cracks will be require one more month. Applying some primer will be quicker but will require an entire week.

All this work will also be slowed down by the aeronautical activities of the French Wing during the Summer since it's often the same members who get involved in these various activities... Unless other members decide that they, too, can help...

Therefore, it won't be surprising if the phase 2 of this restoration project spreads over 2008 and has an influence on the entire project. Future will tell...

LEBLOND ENGINE

The professional activities of col. **Cédric Malhaire** during April have been so intense that he was unable to progress significantly with the LeBlond engine restoration. Unfortunately, May will be of the same character.

We do not doubt that he will be able to catch up on this work because an engine restoration has for itself the limited space it requires on a small bench.

The possibility to stop any task with no influence on the resumption of the work is an advantage that the airframe does not have, because of its very large size!

2007 OPERATIONS

By col. Patrick Pierre-Pierre

The airshow season is nearly there. Should you have any question about them, I will answer them at once.

Places and dates are varied!... Where have you decided to go? In which Tour de France step will you participate?... Please remember to slide in your own program for the Summer season a day for the French Wing activities.

This day could be spent working on the Rearwin restoration or simply cleaning the J-3. All goodwill will be welcome.

Of the scheduled 18 events and airshows, we have been booked in 10 of them. I will inform you as I receive some news about the other ones, thanks to the tables printed on this Operations page in Airshow (Right and below).

Please do not contact the organizers yourself directly to avoid any duplicates.

TOUR DE FRANCE 2007

DATES	ITINERARY	PILOT	PASSENGER
13/7/07	Le Plessis/Troyes/Montbéliard	C. Gascon	L. Manoukians
14/7/07	Repos Montbéliard	C. Gascon	L. Manoukians
15/7/07	Montbéliard/Chalon/Issoire	Gascon/Miniggio	P. Duflot
16/7/07	Repos Issoire	Gascon/Miniggio	?
17/7/07	Issoire/Grenoble	Gascon/Miniggio	?
18/7/07	Repos Grenoble	Gascon/Miniggio	?
19/7/07	Grenoble/Mende/Toulouse	C. Gascon/?	?
20/7/07	Repos Toulouse	P. Pierre-Pierre	?
21/7/07	Toulouse/Périgueux/Couhé	P. Pierre-Pierre	R. Gouzon
22/7/07	Meeting Couhé	P. Pierre-Pierre	N/A
23/7/07	Couhé/La Rochelle	P. Pierre-Pierre	R. Gouzon
24/7/07	Repos La Rochelle	P. Pierre-Pierre	?
25/7/07	La Rochelle/Rennes	P. Pierre-Pierre	Hugh Alexander III
26/7/07	Repos Rennes	G. Avenel	Hugh Alexander III
27/7/07	Rennes/Deauville/Dieppe	G. Avenel	Hugh Alexander III
28/7/07	Repos Dieppe	G. Avenel	Hugh Alexander III
29/7/07	Dieppe/Le Plessis	G. Avenel	Hugh Alexander III

2007 AIRSHOWS & EVENTS

MONTH	DATE	PLACE	A/C	CREW One way	CREW Return	PX	ORGANIZERS
MAY	25-27	LA FERTE ALAIS	J3 NC	J-Y Cercy/P. Duflot Gascon/	PPP/ Gascon/	OUI	AJBS
JUNE	2/3	LE PLESSIS	J3 NC	TOUS (Fly-in)	TOUS (Fly-in)	OUI	CAF/FW
JUNE	10	NIORT	NC	PPP/Passager	PPP/Groupe Norvигie	NON	ASPAN
JUNE	14-17	POPHAM (UK)	J3	G Avenel/PPP	G Avenel/PPP	70ansduJ3/NON	Piper Club France
JUNE	14 & 18	BOULOGNE	J3	PPP/	/	NON	CAF/FW
JUNE	16/17	MONTLUÇON	NC	JY Cercy/P. Duflot/	JY Cercy/P. Duflot/	NON	Rassemblement AF
JUNE	23/24	LE LUC	NC	PPP/Groupe Norvигie	PPP/Groupe Norvигie	NON	ALAT
JULY	8	EVREUX	J3 NC	G Avenel/P. Duflot PPP/RG	G Avenel/P. Duflot PPP/RG	OUI	Armée de l'Air
JULY	13-29	TOURDEGAULE	J3	Voir tableau joint	Voir tableau joint	Mini PX	CAF/FW
JULY	22	COUHE VERAC	J3	Pendant tour de Gaule	Pendant tour de Gaule	Mini PX	Aéro club
AUGUST	5	SARLAT-DOMME	NC	PPP / P Duflot / R Gouzon	PPP / P Duflot / R Gouzon	NON	Aéro club
SEPT.	2	LENS	J3 NC	/, Duflot /	/, Duflot /	OUI	Air History
SEPT.	9	LA ROCHELLE	NC	PPP/groupe Norvигie	/	NON	Aéro club
SEPT.	16	TOUSSUS LE NOBLE	J3 NC	/Passager /Passager	/Passager /Passager	OUI	Air History
SEPT.	22/23	RENNES	J3	Gascon/	Gascon/	Mini PX	Aéro club

FRENCH WING P.X.

The following articles are available with a payment by cheque to the CAF French Wing. (+ P & P).

- Wing patch: € 9,00.
- "Gioux" type patch: € 6,00.
- Various epoxy pins: € 5,50.
- Various pins "cloisonné": € 5,00.
- 100 A4 sheets with the Wing logo and your personal address: € 10,00.
- Warbirds photographs 30x45cm: € 10,00.
- T shirt Piper CUB, 170 grammes, Hanes, L or XL: € 15,00.
- T shirt cartoon P40, 170 grammes, Hanes, L or XL: € 15,00.
- T shirts other sizes on order.
- T shirt illustrated with the picture of your choice (Maximum size A5 - Warning! Only send pictures that are free from any copyrights!): € 15,00.
- Aircraft profiles 15 cm x 20 cm ready for framing: Various types: € 4,00 chaque.
- Vidéo filmed in Midland (55mn) VHS PAL: € 16,00 ©.
- Eric Besançon large size paintings: F4U Corsair and Messerschmitt 262 night fighter: € 30,00 P & P included ©.
- Poster N°1 Avions de la seconde guerre mondiale peint by Jean Bellis, 61x81cm: € 9,00 (FW Members), € 10,00 (Non Members) © + P & P.
- Greeting cards with Jean Bellis' profiles: € 4,00 each (P & P according to quantity) ©.
- Roy Grinnell prints - Normandie Niemen, F4U7, and B26 Marauder - Unsigned: € 40,00 + P & P € 10,00. Signed by veterans: € 60,00 + P & P € 10,00 ©.
- Roy Grinnell print of the Piper Cub: € 10 + P & P (FW Members), € 15 + P & P (Non members).
- Post Cards based on the same paintings (B26 Marauder and Neuneu): € 0,50 each (P & P according to quantity) ©.
- CD Rom of all FW Newsletters since January 2000, French and English, and 200 photos of warbirds taken during Airsho in Midland, by B. Delfino: € 10,00 P & P included ©.

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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WING PROJECTS

PATRON COMPANIES SUPPORTING THE FRENCH WING

SKY RUNNER - TOPGUNART.COM - EPSON
AVIATION CLUB DE FRANCE - DIFFUSION SERVICE
EDITIONS LARIVIERE - UNIVERS PUB - SWISS INTERNATIONAL

THANK YOU!

• This month, our most sincere thanks go to:

- **François Bergeon** who has become a *Flying Sponsor* of the *Spirit of Lewis*. Thanks to him, we are close to closing this budget for the current year.

- **Christophe Bastide, Jean-Yves Cercy, Fumiko and Bernard Delfino, Philippe Dufлот, Roger Gouzon, Guy Perrin, and Patrick Pierre-Pierre**, for their very active participation in the annual checks of the Piper Cub and the NC 856. These two checks have asked for more than 400 hours of hard work! Imagine the cost if we had to pay for a mechanic to accomplish these tasks!...

- Let us also thank col. **Didier Cardinal** for the donation of various parts and material that we should have had to purchase.

- Finally, let us thank all the members who have already paid their annual dues to the French Wing. At the time of typing these lines, except for errors or omissions, 37 members haven't sent their participation. We thank them for sending their dues as soon as possible.

Without this participation, our Association could not exist and fulfil the CAF and French Wing goals. You can be sure that we use this money with the greatest care and caution because we do know its value.

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	58000
	56000
	54000
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	10000
	8000
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	4000
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Claude DE MARCO	50,00
Roger GOUZON	2,00
Michel PERRIN	4,00
Jean-Pierre JOB	80,00
Jean-Christophe DEBUISSON	50,00
Henri BOURRASSIER	50,00
Hugh ALEXANDER III	18,50
Sandy SANSING	700,00
Regis URSCHLER	907,00
George CHANDLER	750,00
Matt SIMEK	100,00
Guy BORTOLUS	10,00
Patrick PIERRE-PIERRE	5,00
Eric BESANCON	20,00
Jean BARBAUD	40,00
Shirley BATEMAN	50,00
David & Eileen BOTTLEY	50,00
Marie-Françoise LE CORNEC	50,00
Philippe DUFLOT	13,00
Christian FALENTIN	15,00
Barbara & Aubrey HAIR	105,00
Claude REQUI	17,00
Kim TOLFREE	5,50
Eric JANSOONNE	30,00
Christophe BASTIDE	45,00
David PRICE	25,00
Fumiko DELFINO	223,60
Bernard DELFINO	269,75
Haruo TANAKA	45,00
Eric REARWIN	10,50
Yves DONJON	8,00
Roy & Irene GRINNELL	140,00
Bunty BATEMAN	150,00
Marcel FRANCISCI	100,00
Dominique DEUDON	200,00
John ROEDER	175,00
Ronald WRIGHT	104,00
Léon MANOUKIANS	30,00
Aviation Club de France	3750,00
Georges MARCELIN	605,00
Activités French Wing	57,00
Avoir précédent	856,96
TOTAL	9736,81