

# PROPWASH

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

Rocky Mountain Wings

P.O. Box 4125 • Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

## Gazette

June, 2018



HONORING AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION THROUGH FLIGHT, EXHIBITION AND REMEMBRANCE

# A Successful Month

"309" and four of the other 10 TBMs in Peru, IL



By Col Tom Howe - Editor

Three major Air Shows during May all following the spectacular show at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in April. The TBM and a variety of crews traveled to Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, New Mexico before traveling all the way to Peru, Illinois before returning home then to Cannon, AFB, Clovis, New Mexico to wrap up the month. Each and every appearance proved to be a successful effort with the near

flawless operation of "309" (thanks to our wrench wranglers) and the generation of revenue to insure our continued successful Wing Operations.

Two more scheduled appearances in June - the Boulder, CO 40's dance at the Boulder Airport on June 16th is always a vibrant (but tiring) event. We'll be a little lower key this year not running the quasi-professional photo operation we did last year. That

will make this event a bit more relaxing.

Then it's on to Hill AFB, Utah on the 23rd and 24th. Hill has always been a good show for us and should be this year as well.

Don't miss your chance to support one of the many shows to come this year. Contact Col Bob Thompson and have him schedule you for Hill AFB, Steamboat Springs, Eagle, Montrose...?



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE



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The Thunderbirds awaiting their show time on the line at Cannon, AFB



**WE'RE BUSY! BUT, WE'RE NEVER BUSY ENOUGH!!**

**RMW AIR SHOW SCHEDULE - 2018**

MONTH	DAYS	LOCATION	SHOW	TBM	CUB	STATUS
Mar	17-18	Luke AFB, AZ	TB Luke Days 2018			COMPLETED
May	5	Holloman AFB, NM	Legacy of Liberty			COMPLETED
	19	Peru, IL	Gathering of Avengers			COMPLETED
	26-27	Cannon AFB, NM	TB Special Ops Wing AS			COMPLETED
Jun	16	Boulder, CO	Open House/40's Dance			CONFIRMED
	23-24	Hill AFB, UT	TB Utah Airshow			CONFIRMED
Jul	25	Cheyenne, WY	TB Frontier Days AS			Cancelled
Aug	25	Evanston, WY	Airport Day Air Show			CONFIRMED
Sep	1	Steamboat Springs, CO	Wild West Air Fest 2018			CONFIRMED
	8	Eagle/Vail, CO	Wings & Wheels			CONFIRMED
	15-16	Montrose, CO	Tribute to Aviation			CONFIRMED
	29	Telluride, CO	Plein Air Festival			CONFIRMED
Oct	6	Prescott, AZ	Wings Out West Air Show			CONFIRMED
	26-27	Dallas, TX	CAF Airshow			Possible

Five shows complete and two months of a seven month schedule behind us. A long, active summer ahead.

Don't miss a chance to help your Wing make 2018 a great year!

Contact Col Bob Thompson to schedule your help at one or more of these great shows.

TB=Thunderbirds  
BA=Blue Angles

June 16<sup>th</sup> Boulder CO. Open House (BDU) Day 40's Dance Evening

PIC: RYAN, Chris Drive: Hine  
 1. Owen R. Swinehart K  
 2. Taylor K. Connor R.  
 3. Swanson R. Drinnen L. Kuehn

June 23,24<sup>th</sup> HILL AFB, Ogden UT (HIF) T/B's

PIC: HANCOCK Barry Drive: Toth (?)  
 1. Matthews J. Dutton D.  
 2. Drinnen L. Good L.(?)  
 3. Maddock D.

Assignments above are subject to change. Contact Col Bob Thompson for up-

**Rocky Mountain Wing Event Schedule**

Dates - 2018	Event Type	Location
9-Jun	RMW Staff Meeting	CAF-RMW Museum
16-Jun	<b>Boulder WWII Ball</b>	<b>Boulder CO</b>
14-Jul	RMW Staff Meeting	CAF-RMW Museum
11-Aug	RMW Staff Meeting	CAF-RMW Museum
23-Aug	<b>District 51 STEM Day</b>	<b>GJT</b>

**Rocky Mountain Wing Event Schedule**

Dates - 2018	Event Type	Location
8-Sep	RMW Staff Meeting	CAF-RMW Museum
13-Oct	RMW Staff Meeting	CAF-RMW Museum
10-Nov	RMW Staff Meeting	CAF-RMW Museum
1-Dec 9-Dec	<b>Xmas Card Photos with Santa</b>	<b>GJT</b>
8-Dec	RMW Staff Meeting	CAF-RMW Museum
?-Dec	2018 Survivor's Party	CAF-RMW Museum



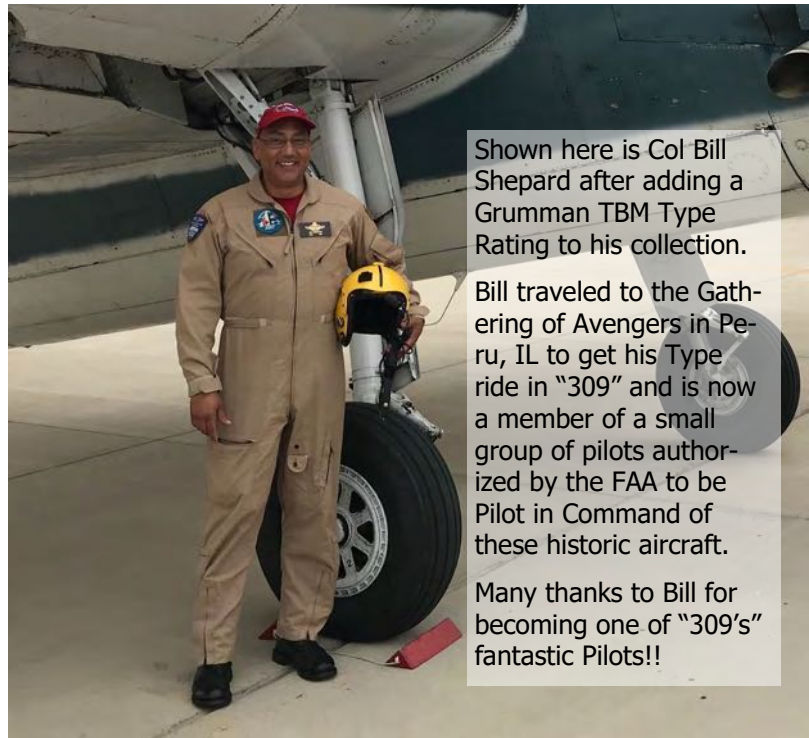
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**RMWCAF on the Web**  
[www.rmwcaf.org](http://www.rmwcaf.org)

**Keep 'em Flying**

# PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Shown here is Col Bill Shepard after adding a Grumman TBM Type Rating to his collection.

Bill traveled to the Gathering of Avengers in Peru, IL to get his Type ride in "309" and is now a member of a small group of pilots authorized by the FAA to be Pilot in Command of these historic aircraft.

Many thanks to Bill for becoming one of "309's" fantastic Pilots!!

## WING LEADER'S REPORT

*By Col Kent Taylor  
RMW Wing Leader*

Short Story: May was another great month, with all gauges in the green as we continued our long climb.

Great experience and good media exposure with 700+ Mesa and Delta County middle school kids at the Rise Above program and West Star's Special Needs Kids Day.

Good income from Holloman Airshow, the Hangar Dance, and Gathering of Avengers in Illinois. TBM is running great (thanks to our fantastic



Maintenance team!). Income is looking good, expenses are under control, and restoration debt is coming down. Life is good at the Rocky Mountain Wing J. Thanks to everyone who helped make an amazingly busy month completely successful. June will be less

hectic, with no local events, and only 3 TBM appearances at Cannon AFB, Boulder Airport and WWII Ball, and Hill AFB.

The Gathering of Avengers at the Peru IL Airport was amazing! It was worth the 12-hour round-trip ride in the ball turret. Ten other TBMs made it to the event and made an impressive sight when they were all lined up on the show line. And it was even more impressive to see five of them in close formation led by Barry Hancock in old 309, and joined by an A-26 intruder and an AT-11. Nine big radials all rumbling by to-

gether make a really impressive noise. The local parade of Veterans was equally impressive.



Photo by Col Kent Taylor

Doug Rozendaal and Bill Shepard joined us at the event, and they used the opportunity to get Bill type-rated in the TBM, and Doug flew with Barry during a practice formation flight and did Barry's 6802 Rides qualification. Our Reenactor friends from Salt Lake City



Photo by Col Kent Taylor



# MAINTENANCE REPORT

By Col Dick Maddock



Photo by Col Dick Maddock

## Maintenance Officer

May has been a busy month for the maintenance crew. Mid-May we performed the 75 hour inspection. By the end of the month, the plane will have flown to three air shows (Hollman AFB, Peru, IL, and Cannon AFB) requiring the 100 hr. inspection. We put 25 hours on the plane this month, which is a flight record for the RMW!

The round trip flight to Hollman AFB was made without any problem. The oil burn was at 1.2 gallons/hr. The plane had very little oil on the nose. (See photo.) Upon return, two rides were scheduled but the plane would not restart, due to the starter breaker tripping. The mission was aborted and rescheduled. The next day we checked and tested the starter system from the starter switch to

the starter motor and discovered that the starter vibrator coils were burned.

The starter vibrator is a device that induces a shower of sparks to the magneto to produce enough spark to start the engine. At RPM less than 150 the magneto will not produce sufficient spark to start the engine.

The trip to Peru, IL was a long maintenance-free flight. Upon return to GJT the starter again failed—same breaker problem. We inspected the system again, disconnected the vibrator and removed it from the plane.

When we opened the cover on the workbench in bright light, eagle eye Col. Bryon Huffman found a loose electrical connector lying next to the input hotwire, causing a dead short in the system. He removed the connector and the engine started right up.

## WWII QUIZ

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5

### Historic Dates

Why is September 15, 1940, known as Battle of Briton Day?

### Naval Operations and Sea Battles

How many ships did the French scuttle at the Toulon navy base rather than let them fall into German Hands?

Thanks to author Timothy B. Bensford

## Wing Leader's Report

(Continued from page 3)

we were also there and stayed with us for most of the event. They helped set up, take down, fueled, gave wing walk tours, sold hats and t-shirts, and drew a lot of people to our display area. We qualified them as Safety Officers, and by the time the event was over, all of them had a chance to get a

ride. Great experience for them and us.

A lot of good stuff transpired at the event, but the highlight was the opportunity to give a 96-year-old veteran a ride. The smile on his face when I invited him lasted all afternoon through the airshow, while he walked up the stairs and we helped him into the back seat, where the smile turned into an enormous grin that lasted through the flight and deplaning, and it's probably still there today.



Photo by Col Kent Taylor

*Ed. Note: Some readers may not know that big radial airplane engines are notorious for seeping (leaking, but not really) lots of oil - even when sitting still - not even running. Keep-*

*ing that oil seepage to a minimum becomes a maintenance crew fanatical endeavor. The photo at the beginning of this article indicates that "309" has a truly loving bunch of wrench wranglers!*

**RMWCAF STAFF OFFICERS**

Wing Leader Kent Taylor  
 Executive Officer OPEN  
 Finance Officer Robert Toth  
 Adjutant Becca Walters  
 Operations Officer Bob Thompson  
 Maintenance Off. Dick Maddock  
 Museum & Mess Sergeant Dorothy Dutton  
 Safety Officer Robert Owen  
 Judge Advocate Gerald Feather  
 Marketing Officer OPEN  
 Public Information Officer Tom Dennis  
 PX Officers OPEN (Bob & Georgia temp.)  
 Newsletter Editor Tom Howe  
 TBM Aircraft Coordinator Bob Thompson  
 Cub Aircraft Coordinator Charlie Huff  
 Ambulance Coordinator Byron Huffman  
 Facilities Manager Kay Johnson  
 Recruiting Officer Keith Swinehart  
 Grants Officer Dave Shepard



On Thursday, May 24th, Museum Officer Col Dorothy Dutton conducted a private tour for these two WWII veterans and their families. The common comment, "It's really BIG!"

**NEXT STAFF MEETING**

**JUNE 8, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

**RMWCAF HANGAR**

**SUPPORT YOUR CAF WING.**

**WWII QUIZ**

(SEE PAGE 5)

**ANSWERS**

**Historic Dates**

Because it marked the turning point in the proportion of Luftwaffe and RAF losses. The RAF lost twenty-six aircraft while downing sixty planes of the Luftwaffe.

**Naval Operations and Sea Battle**

Seventy ships.



Photo by Col Dick Maddock

Our friends the WWII reenactors from the Salt Lake City area traveled all the way to Peru, Ill to join all the Grumman TBMs that also attended the TBM Gathering.

But these reenactors don't just get into costume to stand around and look like window dressing. No, they work. Our Maintenance Of-

ficer, Col Dick Maddock provided some action as shown here. Any member that has provided the work necessary to pull "309's" prop through prior to start knows this is work!

The reenactors also were trained as flight safety officers and rode during Peru rides.

# More from Peru



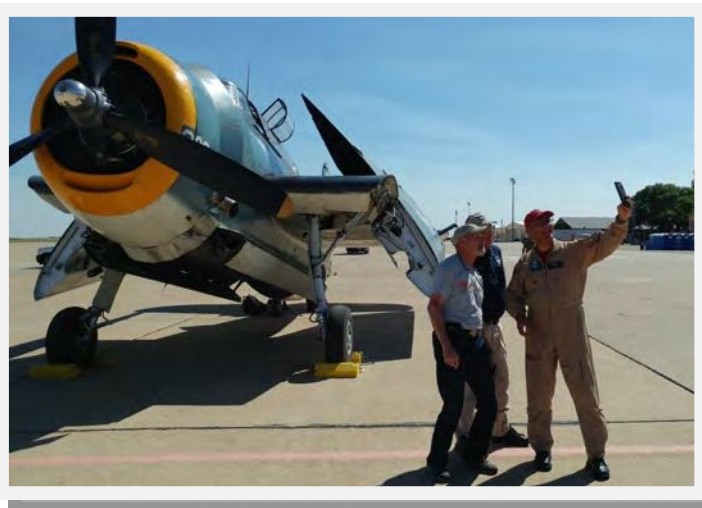
The reenactors from SLC didn't just react - they worked too.

PIC Barry Hancock knew Peru was straight ahead somewhere.

Our wing walk stairs are quite unique - as big a hit with the other TBM crews as the crowd.



# More from Cannon



How about a selfie? "309", PIC Bill Shepard, Crew Randy Swanson and Tom Howe.

Unpacking for a second day of PX sales and Wing Walk

"309" has a big propeller, as propellers go - but we are no competition for the props on a CV-22 Osprey!

