

# THE INVADER

APRIL 2002



An educational organization

<http://www.historicalaircraftsquadron.com>

**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT SQUADRON, INC.**

*An all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration, display and operation of former military aircraft*



## IMPORTANT SQUADRON INFORMATION

**MEETING NOTICE**-April and May membership meetings will be held on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. at the hanger. As the airshow season begins in June we'll schedule this meeting for another time.

### UPDATE ON SQUADRON ACTIVITIES-

**Only 39 members have paid their dues. PLEASE CHECK YOUR RECORDS** and mail in your membership if not paid.

Due to a vacancy for our Secretary on the Board of Directors, we are calling for persons interested in that position. If you are interested call Steve Clapper or one of the other Board members prior to the April General Membership meeting for consideration.

The airport Board has okayed the idea of us securing the aircraft from Rickenbacker for static display.

Don Bell and Dick Debevoise are organizing much of the paperwork in the office at the hanger

**Bruce Cook is sponsor of the April issue of the newsletter. Bruce is the proud owner and pilot of the SNJ. Thanks Bruce !**  
**If you'd like to sponsor a newsletter call Bob at 614-846-2876.**

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*Wings of Victory photo by Bob DeLa*

Jim Belshe is doing inventory of tools and materials at the hanger. It is hoped that this can be loaded into the computer.

Rob George says that the Smithsonian is going to have the entire restored Enola Gay on display in the near future.

Kathy Ridgway will be handling the Hospitality and PX. Diane McDaniel and Kathy have been working on fundraising in Lancaster. Emily Lorenzi will also help.

Diane McDaniel will continue handling membership.

Lancaster High School will hold their

prom in our hanger on April 27th. Volunteers needed to oversee the hanger.

Steve Clapper is finishing up the painting of the hanger and also negotiating the purchase of flag poles for hangar grounds.

Rob George is developing a library for the hanger for use by members.

Steve Stultz has removed our old site from the search engines.

## Letter From The President Steve Clapper



Hello Everyone! Great news the construction of the restrooms and office is done. All that is left is some painting. I want to thank all the people that made this happen.

As of Feb. 25th the office is all set up and ready to go, desk, filing cabinets, computer and other items are in place. Soon we need to start putting all of our paper work in order. This is when the fun starts. It is going to take a few people to get everything in order. So if you would like to help to get it up and running this will be a great help. Give

myself or Wayne Swisher a call.

Other good news, Oscar Watson from Community Development has talked with some of us on two different times about the possibility of raising money for H.A.S. to grow.

The first thing Oscar said was we need to get a good working plan together, to show what we would like to do and how far we want to go. So this is when your ideas can help the most. This plan is going to take some time to put together but with your help

this can get done. So for Oscar is very impressed with what we have done with very little. With his help teaching us, this should make a big difference. I will keep you updated what is happening and how as a group we can make it better.

Until next month, Steve

### AIR SHOW MEETINGS BEGIN -

The last Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Wings of Victory airshow will be the August 16, 17, 18 (New Date) Call Steve to volunteer if you can't make it to the meetings.. It's time to get started. SEE YOU THERE. Hanger Dance in works for August 30th to coincide with visit of B-17 Sentimental Journey and Heinkel from the Commemorative Air Force (formerly the Confederate Air Force).

**BT-13** will be next restoration project after A-26 Less mechanical crew needed for **Huey helicopter**.

This will be simple stuff. Disassembly, clean and put back together. **Things are happening...Let's Roll!!!!**

### VOLUNTEER REQUESTS

Still need volunteers to prep planes for the airshows ne spring. Crew for simple prep of the Huey helicopter for static display at the hanger. It's easy work. Come help. Call NOW !! Art Moose 740-454-7058 S2F Tracker Branson Rutherford 740-756-4136 A-26

**DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES? IT APPEARS MANY MEMBERS HAVE. PLEASE SEND YOU DUES NOW.**

Oscar Watson reviewing fund raising for squadron.


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**E-mail us at:**  
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**WEB SITE:**  
 www.HistoricalAircraftSquadron.com  
 MEETINGS-Open board meet 2nd Tues.  
 at 7:00 pm  
 Membership 4th Saturday at hangar.

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 Haven't paid you dues yet? Now is the time to do so. It's time to "thin the herd" and stop sending newsletters out to those who no longer paid up members. Full membership is \$50 and Assoc. membership is \$25.

If you'd like to continue to receive newsletter and be a member of the Squadron, please send your check money order made payable to "Historical Aircraft Squadron, Inc.:" to our office box address. That address: PO Box 156, Carroll, OH 43112

Thanks for your continued support  
*NOTE: without paid dues the newsletter will not continue to you.*

**REPORT FROM MIKE LORENZI**



**Members who attended the March meeting:**

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>John Dowla</b>         | <b>Michael Grant</b>     |
| <b>Harold Phillips</b>    | <b>Al Faelchle</b>       |
| <b>Frank Leach</b>        | <b>Ralph Woolever</b>    |
| <b>Emilie Lorenzi</b>     | <b>Larry Souslin</b>     |
| <b>Dick Debevoise</b>     | <b>Mike Lorenzi</b>      |
| <b>Mathew Smith</b>       | <b>Larry Craig</b>       |
| <b>Bruce Cook</b>         | <b>Don Bell</b>          |
| <b>Earl Watkins</b>       | <b>Malinda Ruthjferd</b> |
| <b>Branson Rutherford</b> | <b>Bruce Brudzinski</b>  |
| <b>Wayne Swisher</b>      | <b>Jim Baldwin</b>       |
| <b>Tom Palmer</b>         | <b>Bob DeLay</b>         |
| <b>Rob George</b>         |                          |

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

**LT. COL. Duane Baker**  
**Emilie Lorenzi**  
**James Foster**  
**Harold Carpenter**  
**Larry Craig**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS CHANGE!**

They are now the forth Saturday in each month. The meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and should be over by noon. Michael Grant stated at the AMarch 23 meeting that he coul recruit 4 or 5 more members if the meetings were held on Saturdays. This change will also help Branson by getting mc members involved with the A-26 Invader project. The change will be for April and May and if it works out the change to Saturdays will be voted on at the May meeting.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE HERE**

With both Steve Clapper and Wayne Swishers blessings two newly designed membership cards have been made. The executive card which sports a large flying star with a blue top border and an associate card which has a smaller version of a flying star and is all white.

The new cards better define the ddifference in membership and will help aid in proper recording of votes. The new cards were passed out on March 23 at the general membership meeting. Members at the meeting appreciated the new cards and commented on the professionalism of the new designs. The new cards, which are printed by a supplier in Columbus, Ohio, cost less than a dollar to make.

If you have not received a new card by April 20th, PLEASE CALL Mike Lorenzi at 740-808-1642 or mail your dues to Melinda.



## MORE FROM MIKE LORENZI

**IT WAS NOTICED THAT SOME OF THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS WERE INCORRECT.** This has been taken care of and a replacement card should be on it's way shortly. This only affected husband and wife members which were recorded as having the same number.

**A BIG THANKS!** Dave Alton, a member of H.A.S since 1996, donated \$350 to our general fund at last months Air Show meeting. Some of you know Mr. Alton as the owner of the S2 Navy Tracker which is based in Putnam County, Ohio. Mr. Alton mentioned that his pursuit for pilots to be "checked out" in order to fly the Tracker will be done soon and may number three by this summer. One of which will be Art Moose. Thank you very much from all of us at the Historical Aircraft Squadron.

*MIKE LORENZI salutes the troops as the truck delivers the Stuart tank.*



**CAN YOU PICTURE THE STUART IN A PARADE?**

## VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP FOR MANY PROJECTS-

The March general membership meeting yielded much more than just a bunch of smiling faces. Board member Mike Lorenzi, explained to all at the meeting that H.A.S. has an opportunity for everyone to join in and have a little fun at volunteering. A list of activities was passed out among the members wishing to sign up. The list shown below contains the activity, description, name and number of the members which signed up. If your name appears as a volunteer or you would like to join a particular group and help out, please contact the members in that category. This will help out in coordinating the activity.

### **AIRPLANE JACKS:**

Wayne Swisher  
Bruce Brudzinski  
Don Bell

The airplane jacks are needed for the testing of the landing gear retraction on the A-26. This is probably the most important project to getting the A-26 back in the air. There are 2 large, 2 medium and 1 small jack. They need to be cleaned, rebuilt if necessary and tested.

### **GNAT:**

Rob George  
Earl Watkins  
Bob DeLay  
Don Bell

The GNAT needs to have the body work finished and prepped for painting. Tires need to be inflated and decals or markings will be added for a finished product. The GNAT will be used as a static display, taken in parades and as a prop for selling pictures of people sitting in it during our airshow.

### **TUGS:**

Wayne Swisher  
Si Debolt  
Bruce Cook  
Bruce Brudzinski  
Michael Grant

The tugs, Little John and Fat Boy, need some tender loving care on a regular basis. Little John has a dragging starter and Fat Boy needs a good once over.

### **LANDSCAPING:**

Rob George

7715Wayne Swisher

Spring has arrived. Grass has to be seeded around the hanger. Flower seeds need to be planted and general lawn care throughout the summer. We need a lawn mower.

### **OFFICE DOORS:**

Rob George  
Frank Leach  
The office, bathroom and utility room doors need to be sanded, stained and handles reinstalled.

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Earl Watkins  
This would involve someone presenting to the group information on field trips, cookouts, ball games and anything else members would enjoy doing together as a group.

**PULLING TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE H.A.S. SOMETHING WE CAN BE PROUD OF.**

# A-26 IS COMING TOGETHER

thanks to these dedicated individuals.

After nearly three years of patience and perseverance, the A-26 Invader is progressing towards completion. As Jim Beleshe stated "Everytime we open up a panel there is a new set of problems. Something needs replaced or fixed."

But according to Branson they are very close to starting up the engines. Branson says, "Then we'll be able to check out all the related systems. Electrical, hydraulics and etc." Spit start scheduled for April 3rd with fire in the pistons on Sat. 6th at 1:00 p.m. From a pile of parts to a flying aircraft in record time with mostly a group of 6 or 8 dedicated volunteers. Should be looking good for the Wings of Victory airshow. The following are the most active volunteers:

Branson Rutherford, Jim Ridgeway, Jim Baldwin, Jim Belshe, Ralph Marshall, Tom Palmer, Harold Carpenter, Ralph Woolever, Mike R  
B. DeLay ph



Test version of the A-26 during 1943 USAAF photo



last minute work prior to fire-up of the radials



New member Howard Carpenter working on hydraulics one week after joining squadron. That's dedication.

The guys are now working with smiles on their faces as the job nears the exciting time of completion. New tires were recently installed.



Jim Ridgeway sorts out wiring.

The Douglas A-26 Invader was a real hot rod in it's day. Durring WWII it would out run many of the fighters and deliver the mail quick and fast before turning home.

Army Air Corps ordered 3 prototypes in 1941. One with a 75mm gun, one with four 20mm forward firing cannon and four 0.5 in. guns in the upper turret with nose radar. The third was an attack bomber with optical sighting station in the nose and two defensive turrets. Designated A-26B. Faster than any other tactical bombers with the exception of the Mosquito. Began operations with the 9th Air Force on 19 Nov. 1944.



Branson inspects final work on canopies.

We can use unskilled labor. Just show up on Wednesday or Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and see Branson for He'll give you a small area to refurbish. JOIN THE TE

# ATTENTION

## Schedule to date

**NOTE CHANGE** The Wings of Victory airshow will be held on August 16,17 and 18  
Volunteers needed to work at the Squadron tables at other airshows. Call Kathy Ridgeway  
614-899-9690. All shows are 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. Sat. and 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. Sun.

Moraine May-  
Findlay May 17,18,19

Blue Ash June 8,9


Toledo Air Show Sept. 7-8 Toledo Airport featuring Blue Angels



## This Month in History

April 9, 1946 Pan Am Bids Farewell to Flying Boat Era. Land based aircraft such as the Lockheed Constellation and the Douglas DC-4 have delt a death blow to the pioneer flying boats for oceanic travel. The great routes laid out by Pan Am are now made obsolete by the long distance land based aircraft. The age of air travel is launched in earnest.The B-314's are history.


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