



MILE HIGH FLIGHT 18

Order of Daedalians

Newsletter

May 2013

Platte Valley beckons 17 May; first visit since crash of red DR-1 tri-plane

2013 Flight Sked (so far)

Flight 18 normally meets on the third Friday of each month. Exceptions are announced in the newsletter and through the caller phone tree. Your caller should contact you via phone/e-mail 10 days prior to each meeting. If not, please advise Flight Adjutant Roy "Snooker" Poole.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity/Speaker</u>
18 Jan	Aurora Hills*	Flying with Bob Hoover
15 Feb	Aurora Hills*	Dam Busters/Spud
15 Mar	Aurora Hills*	B-52 shootdown -Greener
19 Apr	Aurora Hills*	"Rtn Flt"-McQuillan, RAF
17 May	Platte Valley	Hosted by Andy Parks
21 Jun	Aurora Hills*	TBA
19 Jul	Aurora Hills*	TBA
16 Aug	Wings Over Rox	Greg Anderson, host
20 Sep	Aurora Hills*	TBA
2-6 Oct	San Diego, CA	Daed. Nat Convention
18 Oct	Aurora Hills*	TBA
15 Nov	Aurora Hills*	Bus. Mtg/Elections
TBA Dec	TBA	Christmas Party

* Aurora Hills Golf Course Tin Cup Bar & Grill

Non-pilots as Daedalians?

Daedalian National Headquarters, concerned about the impact attrition is having on overall membership numbers, has asked for feedback from the flights on the notion of expanding Daedalian membership criteria to include non-pilot crewmembers and, possibly, drone operators.

The consensus of members attending our April meeting was that no changes to the criteria should be made at this time.

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Despite the loss of its iconic Fokker DR-1 tri-plane in a near fatal crash in the vicinity of Centennial Airport last August, the Lafayette Foundation, headed by Andy Parks, will host Flight 18 as usual on Friday 17 May. For most of us, it will be our first opportunity to visit with Mark Holiday since his remarkable recovery from the critical injuries he suffered in the accident, about which he has yet to regain any memory.

Activities will begin at 1100 with the doors of the Vintage Aero Flying Museum and Eagle's Nest opening at that time. Lunch will be catered by Bennett's BBQ and the cost will be \$20 per person. Following lunch, we'll hear the fascinating account of "The Luckiest Man Alive," encapsulated in the poster below. *Driving directions page 6.*

BRING YOUR SIGNICANT OTHER(S) AND ANY OTHER GUESTS YOU'D LIKE. THE MORE, THE MERRIER.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY MONDAY 13 MAY THROUGH YOUR CALLER.





Memo from the Flight Captain

Fellow Daedalians.

Once again National is asking Daedalian members whether we should consider expanding eligibility criteria for Daedalian membership as a way of dealing with steadily declining membership numbers. Some are concerned over the Order's loss of status and influence within the active Services as an ever increasing number of leadership positions are going to non-pilots. For the first time, we are being asked what we think of the idea of allowing non-pilots to become Daedalians. "Non-pilots" might include certain or all aircraft crewmembers and, perhaps, drone operators.

This issue will be discussed at the National Convention in San Diego in October. Meanwhile, the National Adjutant has sent a letter (excerpted in column 3) to all Flight Captains to "stimulate dialogue" within the Flights and to elicit comments from them.

The Flight 18 Officer Staff has had an opportunity to discuss the questions raised in the letter as have all members who attended our April meeting. Now we'd like to hear from the rest of our Flight members so we can let National know where Mile High Flight 18 comes down on the matter.

You may email your comments directly to me at gerkar@comcast.net, or send them to me via regular mail c/o 2925 Valencia Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80917. Or, you can send them to any other of our Flight Officers. No need to worry about being grammatically or politically correct here, just give us your honest opinion.

Some comments so far:

As mentioned in the **Non-Pilots** article that begins on the first page of this newsletter, the consensus among those who attended our April meeting was

that no changes should be made to our existing membership criteria at this time. Other points raised at that meeting included these:

The Order of Daedalians that we all joined is a highly respected fraternity of military pilots. Expanding membership criteria to include non-pilots would nullify The Order's fundamental organizing premise. It's *Raison d'etre* would cease to exist.

We fully recognize the mission-critical role performed by non-pilot aircraft crewmembers and by drone operators today. However, to conclude that because these individuals are mission critical they should be eligible for membership in a fraternity of military pilots is a non sequitur.

Perhaps there should be an organization that everyone associated with military aviation is welcome to join, but The Order of Daedalians is not that organization. An appropriate name for it might be the Association of American Military Aviation.

While we fully appreciate that The Order is experiencing an acute attrition problem, we do not support a desperate-measures approach in a vain attempt to reverse that trend.

Our first-hand experience with the Colorado Air National Guard shows that junior pilots are probably not the best source of new members. Indeed, for some time now, what has kept our flight going is the stream of retired military pilots who are looking to rekindle that "old feeling" of squadron camaraderie that Daedalians provides.

There may soon be an Order-wide referendum on this matter, so please give it some thought and share your opinions with us.

Meanwhile, I hope to see everybody at Platte Valley on the 17th. Let's show our support for our good friends up there especially after all they've done for us for so many years.

Volabamus Volamus

Ger Spaulding, CAPT, USN (Ret)
Flight Captain

NON-PILOTS *from page 1*

What follows is an excerpt from the National Adjutant's letter to Flight Captains on this issue.

TODAY: The bond between crewmembers on any aircraft is very strong, particularly when they are formed as a crew and fly as a team on a regular basis. Some hold that the bond between crewmembers causes some pilots to resist Daedalian membership because their non-pilot crewmember(s) is excluded.

The evolution of technology and precision weapons has made the role of the combat systems officers particularly critical to full employment of many aircraft and successful mission accomplishment. The evolution of air and space forces has broadened the application of air and space power, e.g., unmanned drones, cyberspace and C4ISR. Non-pilots, many of whom are directly engaged with our enemies, now hold key leadership positions at all levels throughout the armed services.

All crewmembers, no matter what their rating, would most certainly embrace the principles included in the preamble of the Constitution and tenets of the Order.

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Has military aviation evolved to a point where the Order should consider expanded membership eligibility?
2. Would a broader membership base representing military aviation as it exists today enhance fulfillment of the Order's mission elements of advocacy, outreach programs and camaraderie, and the stature and voice of the Order in support of military aviation and aerospace power?
3. If membership criteria were broadened, are there aspects of the current criteria that should be retained, e.g., commissioned status, rated position(s) eligible for membership in the Order, etc.?

(End of excerpt)

Welcome Aboard

James Morgan
COL, USAF (Ret)
"Slim"



Slim's thumbnail bio

DOB: 14 Sep 1962, Beale AFB, CA.

Education: USAFA; multiple Graduate degrees.

Wings: July 1986, Reese AFB, TX.

Assignments: Commander - 6th Ops Grp, 100th Ops Grp, 319th Expeditionary Air Refueling Sqdn, AMC T&E Sqdn, 33rd Flight Test Sqdn, 900th Expeditionary Air Refueling Sqdn; Air Boss, 2007 Paris Air Show; Flew first combat mission over Afghanistan less than one month after 9/11; Flew first mission in support of Haiti relief Ops; IP for AFCOS Gens McPeak & Fogleman for 3.5 years.

Military Aircraft flown: KC-135A,E,R,T;NKC-135A,E;C-135B; EC-135A, C, G; Gulfstream G-V; F-15 C,D; F-16;T-38; T-37.

Military Flight hours: 4950.

Military separation: Retired 1 Aug 2011.

Civilian/commercial flight time: 150+ hrs.

Civilian employment: U.S. DoD Accounts Dir, Jeppesen.

Spouse: Myra.

Offspring: Three – one son, two daughters.

Residence: Highlands Ranch, CO.

Hobbies: Golf, flying, fencing (the pointy kind).

Sponsor: N/A. Transfer-in from Sun Coast Flight in Tampa, where he served as Flight Captain.

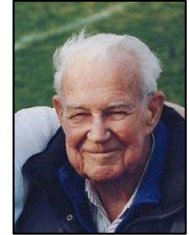
When a crash seems inevitable, endeavor to strike the softest, cheapest object in the vicinity -- as slowly and gently as possible.

- Advice given to RAF pilots during WW II.



Final Flights

Thomas M. Crawford, Jr.
COL, USAF (Ret)
Jun 16, 1924 – Feb 7, 2013



Born in the Panama Canal Zone, Tom grew up as the son of an Army officer in the nomadic lifestyle familiar to military brats everywhere.

After high school, he began college courses at Syracuse University and enlisted in the Army Air Corps aviation cadet program. He completed navigator school at Selman Field, LA, and was commissioned as a reserve 2nd Lt. He attended Lafayette College in Easton, PA, served as a navigation instructor at Westover Fld, MA, and was preparing for overseas deployment as a B-24 navigator when, like his father before him, he was accepted to West Point, graduating in 1949.

Go to Final Flights, page 6 column 2

Flight 18 Life Membership Dues **Effective Jan 2012**

Age Group

30/under....\$385	61 – 65....\$205
31 – 35.....\$370	66 – 70....\$170
36 – 40.....\$350	71 – 75....\$140
41 – 45.....\$325	76 – 80....\$115
46 – 50.....\$295	81 – 85.....\$95
51 – 55.....\$265	86/Over.....\$75
56 – 60.....\$235	

2013 FLIGHT DUES - \$15 (Due 1 January, as are National dues)

Please mail this coupon along with a check for your 2013 plus any delinquent Flight dues you owe. Add any amount you desire to donate to the Scholarship Fund. *NOTE: Daedalian Life Members (LMs) and Daedalians whose National dues are current may purchase Flight 18 Life Memberships. If you choose this option, please select the appropriate dues amount from the above schedule, enter that amount in the FLM space below and include it in your check.*

Name: _____ Daedalian # _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed for: [2013 Flight Dues \$15.00 or FLM DUES \$ _____] + Flight Dues for prior years + Scholarship Fund \$ _____ = Total Enclosed \$ _____

**** Make check payable to: DAEDALIAN FLIGHT 18**

**** Mail to: Mile High Flight 18, P.O. Box 472976, Aurora, CO 80047-2976**



(Above left) The oldest living Daedalian John Thompson of Flight 11 and second oldest Daedalian Ollie Cellini of Flight 11 shake hands on 20 March 2013 for the first time over 71 years. The two seasoned fighter pilots, both of whom recently turned 100, last saw each other in Baton Rouge, LA, shortly after Pearl Harbor. From there, they followed different paths to war as pilots and leaders. Although neither knew it until February of this year, they've been living within 60 miles of each other for the last 45 years. So, how is it that the two oldest Daedalians happen to live in Colorado? Must be that pure Rocky Mountain spring water.

(Above center L to R) Dale Boggie, Ollie Cellini, John Thompson, Ger Spaulding.

(Above right) While the two oldest Daedalians may be somewhat challenged, both are otherwise in remarkably good health. Neither uses a cane, walker or oxygen, take daily neighborhood walks and do other exercises. And, both still drive. Even though the number of attendees was kept smaller to minimize background noise, we think we overheard this exchange between the two honored guests. Ollie: "My hearing isn't what it used to be." John: "Mine either. We'll really have to speak up." Ollie: "No, I don't need a tea cup." John: "Yes, agree. Hiccups really are a pain in the butt, aren't they?" Fortunately, daughters Linda and Julie were on hand to facilitate.



(Above left) The venue for this historic and long overdue reunion was the Pegasus Restaurant in Castle Rock. Right before lunch are (L-R) Ollie's daughter Lindal, Ollie Cellini, John Thompson, John's daughter Julie Ramsett and Betty Thompson, John's ever-cheerful bride of nearly 73 years.

(Above right, L-R) Ed Montgomery, Flight 11; Jack Patton, Flight 11; old "Hoot" Gibson, Flight 11; Ollie's daughter Linda; Dan Beatty, Flight Captain, Flight 11; Ollie Cellini; John Thompson; Ger Spaulding, Flight Captain, Flight 18; John's daughter Julie Ramsett; John's wife Betty; Ed Cuffe, Flight 18; and Flight 18 Provost Marshall Dale Gie.