



MILE HIGH FLIGHT 18

Order of Daedalians

Newsletter

May 2008

Get thee to Platte Valley 16 May

2008 Flight Schedule

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 7-10 days prior to each meeting. If not, please advise Flight Adjutant Ron Smith.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker/activity</u>
<i>12-16 May</i>	<i>Ft Walton Bch, FL</i>	<i>Daedalian Convention</i>
16 May	Platte Valley	Lafayette Foundation
20 Jun	Aurora Hills*	Lowell Thomas
18 Jul	Aurora Hills*	Army NG brief-Iraq
15 Aug	Wings over Rockies	TBD
19 Sep	TBD	TBD
17 Oct	TBD	TBD
21 Nov	Aurora Hills*	Business Meeting
?? Dec	Aurora Hills*	Christmas Party

* Aurora Hills Golf Course Tin Cup Bar & Grill

Witness flying debut of Fokker D. VIII

With the plethora of new attractions added over the past couple of years, Platte Valley is like a mini-boom town where the Lafayette Foundation never fails to surprise and entertain those who make the annual May pilgrimage.

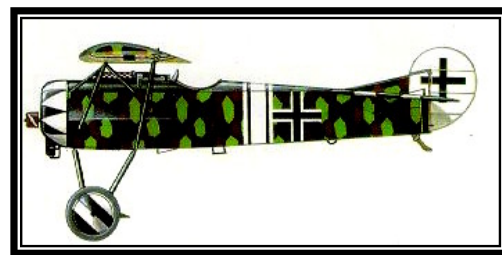
This year, Andy Parks has scheduled the maiden flight of the Foundation's newly renovated Fokker D. VIII (see specs below). Andy will also talk about who shot down the Red Baron. In addition to catching flight demonstrations and static aircraft displays, be sure to allow time for viewing the new displays inside the ever-expanding Colorado International Aviation Museum.

As in 2007, a catered lunch will feature whole roast pig with all the trimmin's (delish!!!). Cost will be \$20 per person, with iced tea and coffee provided and beer and wine available for purchase. Wives and other guests welcome. Activities get underway at 11:00 AM.

See updated map and driving directions to PV on page 6

FOKKER D. VIII

Year built 1918;
 Wingspan: 29', 4";
 Cruise/top speed: 90 mph/120 mph;
 Gross weight: 1,334 lbs;
 Original engine: 110-hp Oberursel Rotary (better performance post-war with 160-hp Gnome Rotary).



This was the last German fighter designed and built by Anthony Fokker during WW-I. An estimated 300 were produced. Though it was commissioned in the last weeks of the war and therefore had little time to prove itself, the Fokker D.VIII has the distinction of recording the last air kill in the First World War. It was often referred to as "the Flying Razor" by the Allies.

Johnson nominated for last Flight Associate slot



Val "Mark" Johnson, known to many members of the Flight for his wide-ranging experience in civilian and military aircraft, has been nominated by Jack Wilhite to become a Flight Associate. If approved by the elected officer staff, Mark would fill Flight 18's third and final

FA spot, joining Andy Parks and Mike Bertz as Associates—essentially as regular special guests of the Flight.

See **FA NOMINEE** page 2, column 2

From the Flight Captain



Fellow Daedalians:

I want to apologize to the membership for missing so many meetings. As most of you know, I am an adjunct (Latin for “works cheap”) faculty member at Metro State and the Community College of Denver. As a “part-timer”, I don’t always have control of my schedule and have to take classes when they are offered. That was the situation this spring. I want to thank my very capable Vice, Don Neary for filling in for me. I will be back beginning this month.

We are now self-sufficient in the audio-visual department, having purchased a new Epson projector for the Flight last month. I want to thank Gerry Spaulding for donating his time and equipment in support of our meetings for several years.

We are now planning our Christmas Party for this year. The Tin Cup has done an excellent job for several years, so we plan to stay there again this year. The live music seemed to be a great hit, so we are planning on the same this year providing we can find a band that fits our budget. The date has not yet been set, but it will probably be a middle of the week event during the second week of December.

It is time to think about Flight 18 Officers for 2009. I do not intend to try to break Yumper’s record for consecutive terms and will not be running again. Additionally, Ron Smith has decided to retire after three years in the saddle as Flight Adjutant. If you are interested in being Flight Captain or Adjutant next year, please call me at 303-730-0311 or send me an e-mail at thomas.martin@comcast.net. If no one steps up, I will be appointing an official “arm twisting” committee to

find volunteers. Being Flight Captain is a great honor, but the pay is lousy.

We are actually planning to complete our long overdue Distinguished Pilot Award trophy case this summer. I’ve recruited a few volunteers to help with the project. I have a pretty fair woodworking shop at home and hope to complete the case by mid-summer.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the Platte Valley meeting on 16 May. It’s always a terrific show put on by Andy Parks and the Lafayette Foundation. As always, attendance by wives and guests is encouraged.

Those who attended last year’s National Convention will remember the yellow or green polo shirts with the Daedalian crest that were sold by Flight 11. I have located a source who can produce similar custom embroidered shirts for Flight 18. The cost would probably be in the \$25 range. Any profits we make will be donated to the scholarship fund. Please let me know if you are interested.

Volabamus Volamus

Tom

Thomas C. Martin, LTC, USAF (Ret)
Flight Captain

FA Nominee *from page 1*

Because Flight Associates are not members, they do not pay Flight dues. Nor are they entitled to wear the Daedalian blazer, to participate in voting of any kind or bring guests to Flight functions without the Flight Captain’s prior approval. However, they are welcome and expected to attend regular Flight activities and are encouraged to wear Daedalian name tags clearly identifying them as Associates.

Mark Johnson was born in Lincoln, NE on 27 Jan 1949, grew up in Colorado and learned to fly while attending Boulder High School. He was able to persuade his father, a minister who hates flying, to co-sign a loan for his private pilot license. Over the next

several years, he served a hitch in the Marine Corps, worked in the construction field and earned a BS in Business Administration from Metro State.

He is now president of two companies—Johnson Leasing, a commercial real estate and heavy equipment leasing company, and ASCI Read-Mix, headquartered in Commerce City with outlets up and down the Front Range.

He also owns a number of hangars at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (formerly Jeffco), home for his Venom and Baron aircraft. Along with Jack Wilhite and Mike Bertz, Mark will be participating in the annual open house/airshow scheduled for 7 June at RMMA. (*For more information call 303-271-4850.*)

Over the years he has owned countless civilian and military aircraft, the latter category including a Stearman, T-33, T-28D, A-26, Jet Provost, Sea Fury and, of course, the Venom. He holds type ratings in these and many other aircraft and is licensed to operate just about anything ex-military that flies—single engine, multi-engine, jet, land and sea.

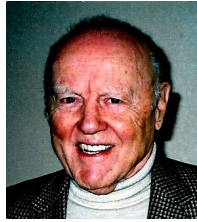
A member of the following organizations/associations, Mark has served on the Boards of several: Jeffco Aviation Assn, Silver Wings, EAA, Warbirds, QBs, Wings Over the Rockies, Warbird Operators, Classic Jet Assn, AOPA, Colorado Ready Mix Assn, Colorado Rock Products Assn, the Colorado Historical Society, and the Atonement Lutheran Church.

Mile High Flight’s elected officers (*see page 7*) will consider Mark’s Associate nomination at a staff meeting at Aurora Hills preceding the Flight 18 June luncheon. The staff will convene at 10:00 AM 20 Jun, at which time any Flight member who wishes to appear to address the nomination may do so. Members may also comment directly to the Flight Captain by letter in care of our P.O. address (*see page 8*), or by email to Tom Martin (*see column 1 this page*). The deadline for receipt of written comments is 15 Jun.



Final Flights

John C. Foster
COL, USAF (Ret)
Mar 4, 1916 – Nov 23, 2007



John enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1938 and retired from the United States Air Force after 30 years at the rank of Colonel with over 5,000 hours of flying time. During World War II, Colonel Foster commanded the 21st Photo Reconnaissance Squadron of the 14th Air Force in China. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal, recognizing several exceptionally long missions over enemy territory in his P-38.

He received a degree in Business Administration from the University of Denver. As John later wrote of his retirement years, "He is involved in community and church matters, and some golf." He was a member of the Denver Country Club, the Denver Athletic Club, Gyro, Daedalians, and St. Barnabus Episcopal Church.

Predeceased by his first wife, Betty Allen Foster, he is survived by his wife Jane Argall Foster, two daughters, three step-children six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He died peacefully under hospice care. Memorial Service was held on Saturday, 1 December at St. Barnabus Episcopal Church in Denver.



Member of Falcon Flight 11

William J. "Bud" Breckner, Jr
MGEN, USAF (Ret)
May 25, 1933 – Feb 16, 2008

Bud flew 100 missions over Vietnam as an exchange pilot with the Navy. During his subsequent Vietnam tour with the Air Force, he was shot down and held as a POW for eight months. Ultimately, he retired in 1986 as Commander of the 17th Air Force. Recently, he completed a six-year stint as a member of the Daedalian Foundation Board of Directors. He was also the *de facto* host of the 1998 and 2007 Daedalian National conventions in Colorado Springs. He was killed when his car slid off Highway 105 near Monument.

Trex has left the building

Long time Flight member and all around great guy Dave Trexler has left Colorado for greener pastures in North Carolina. Our sincere best wishes go with Dave and Roburta.

Before departing, Dave became a Flight Life Member to perpetuate contact with Flight 18.



Flight 18 Life Membership Dues

(Annual Flight dues = \$12.00)

Age Group

30/under.....\$305	61 – 65.....\$165
31 – 35.....295	66 – 70.....135
36 – 40.....280	71 – 75.....110
41 – 45.....260	76 – 80.....90
46 – 50.....240	81 – 85.....75
51 – 55.....215	86/Over.....60
56 – 60.....185	

FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2008 FLIGHT DUES?

Please mail this coupon along with a check for your 2008 plus any delinquent Flight dues you owe. Add any amount you desire to donate to the Scholarship Fund. *Only Daedalian Life Members (LMs) are eligible to purchase Flight 18 Life Memberships and stop paying annual dues. If you qualify and 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: [2008 Flight Dues \$12.00 or FLM DUES \$ _____] + Flight Dues for prior years @ \$12.00/yr \$ _____ + Scholarship Fund \$ _____ = Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

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

The Iraq they won't talk about

Guest op-ed by Amir Taheri,
New York Post 04/23/2008

Both opponents and supporters of the war in Iraq seem reluctant to raise the issue of what's going on there *now* as an issue in the presidential race.

Opponents, of course, can't deny that things are better than a year ago—and may fear that this could persuade voters that President Bush was right after all.

After all, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid decided that the war was "lost" a year ago. And critics have sounded the tocsins about the supposedly coming Iraqi civil war for five years. (Some even suggested at times that Iraq was *already* in civil war.) They've also predicted "the end of Iraq," including its *de facto* partition into sectarian cantons. Yet Iraq has defied all those predictions.

Perhaps worse for the antiwar crowd, close examination of Iraq's situation today might lend credence to Bush's analysis that the Islamic Republic in Iran has emerged as the chief troublemaker there. That could lead only to one conclusion: the need to act against Tehran.

War supporters share that concern, though for different reasons: They can't seem to build a consensus on dealing with the Iranian threat. Since they also can't be sure the recent easing of the situation in Iraq will last until Election Day, it may seem wisest not to push the issue.

But how to avoid a serious discussion about Iraq *now*? War opponents have an easy answer: Focus on the ugly parts of the past five years.

They claim that the war was illegal, presumably because France's Jacques Chirac didn't specifically approve it and the UN's Kofi Annan moaned about it two years after the fact.

And they cite pseudo-studies that claim hundreds of thousands of Iraqi deaths as a result of Saddam Hussein's

demise - conveniently ignoring the fact that these studies (including a scandalous one published by the Lancet) have been exposed as bogus.

They also bring up the scandals of Abu Ghraib, allegations against profiteering by big US companies, and, last but not least, the fact that no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq.

If war opponents always shift the focus back to the past, war supporters look to a putative future, countering their foes' jeremiads with some of their own.

Their catalogue of coming catastrophes runs something like this: If America abandons Iraq now, genocide would follow; al Qaeda would revive; Iran would benefit enormously; the Middle East would become destabilized; America's word would be devalued, and so on.

All of that, of course, *might* happen—we simply don't know.

For my part, I don't think that a US departure *would* lead to genocide. The Iraqis are not Huttus and Tutsis; the sectarian war we witnessed a couple of years ago was a *war of the sectarians*, not a conflict that set neighbor against neighbor as in Rwanda or former Yugoslavia.

Nor do I think that al Qaeda would be revived. Al Qaeda in Iraq has had its back broken. Having lost the popular base it once had in parts of Sunni Iraq, it has little prospect of winning power anywhere in the country.

I don't think that Iran would benefit either. On the contrary, it might find itself bearing some of the burden that America now bears in Iraq. And that does not look like beneficial for a fundamentally weak and fragile state like the Islamic Republic, which increasingly faces challenges at home.

Would the Middle East be further destabilized? Again, we don't know. The US presence has helped keep some tensions under control; its departure could release them, leading to regional wars. But even a major war,

like the Iran-Iraq one in the 1980s, wouldn't *necessarily* affect the broader balance of power.

Even the argument that US withdrawal could devalue "America's word" isn't that strong. Most people, in the Middle East as elsewhere, know that elections change US administrations and that the priority of each party is to win power, not to comfort allies.

Three decades ago, America abandoned its allies in South Vietnam to massacre, concentration camps and boat-people ordeals. It shut its doors to the Shah of Iran, a lifelong ally—and, after admitting him for medical treatment, quickly expelled him in the most humiliating manner. Yet, elsewhere, America's word was not devalued.

Why? America is estimated with regard to its economic, military and cultural power—all likely to remain unsurpassed in for the foreseeable future.

Perhaps more important, when all is said and done, is that America has often behaved better than other major powers in history. All big powers betray; the United States has betrayed less than most, and less brazenly.

The only *useful* debate about Iraq would focus on what is happening now—not what happened five years ago or what might happen five years from now.

It is what is happening *now* that makes new Iraq worth fighting for—not only for the Americans but also for all who dream of a free, pluralist, prosperous Middle East.

Iraq has bled, but remained unbowed. Iraq has resisted al Qaeda and the Iranian terror machine. Iraqis are learning to build a new society based on pluralism and are discovering the values that, in time, helped develop the Western democracies.

Despite all its sufferings, or perhaps because of them, Iraq has not succumbed to the forces of darkness, partly thanks to continued US support.

That good news merits being part of the presidential debate. ###

Doolittle Raider 66th Anniversary Reunion

Six of the eleven surviving Raiders attended the group's 2008 reunion 16-20 April at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas Love Field. Bill Bower was there (*far left in photo*), but says he will not make the Doolittle Raider Homecoming and Training Re-enactment slated for Fort Walton Beach & Eglin AFB 28-31 May. He says *commercial* flying is too hard!!

Bill spoke at the reunion in tribute to Jacob DeShazer, who died 15 March. SSgt DeShazer was the bombardier on Crew 16, all of whom were captured by the Japanese. As a POW in China, he was subjected to extreme cruelty for 40 months until rescued. After post-war training, he moved to Japan, where he served as a Methodist missionary for 30 years. His Raider comrades toasted him and retired his goblet in a private ceremony.

Boggie to represent Flight at National Convention - again

-- Will seek return to traditional Order of Daedalians Tenants and Objectives

When The Order of Daedalians published updated Bylaws in 2004, the language of the original Tenants and Objectives was extensively rewritten with no rationale for the changes provided. Dale Boggie has completed a detailed review of the new language which concludes that, in most cases, the revised text is inferior to or at odds with the spirit of the original.

While representing Flight 18 at the National Convention in May, he hopes to "right the ship" on this matter.

2008 Scholarships

*From Bill Greener,
Scholarship Chairman*

At the March Flight 18 meeting, the members of the Flight unanimously voted to award Daedalian Scholarships to the following ROTC cadets:

Cadet Chris C. Cady is a junior at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is a major in psychology. With a grade point average of 3.3, he was on the Dean's List in the Fall 2007 semester. He was a Distinguished Graduate of Field Training in 2007. He actively participates with the Silver Wings military fraternity; being the Chapter Vice President from the Fall Semester through the present time. He has taken and satisfactorily passed a Class III Medical Physical. He has been a private pilot for the past three years, and has just received his pilot slot in the AFROTC unit. Cadet Cady is highly motivated to become a career Air Force pilot upon graduation.

Cadet Chris R. Heiserman is a junior at Colorado State University, majoring in Biological Science with a minor in Biomedical Science. His current grade point average is 3.373. He has actively participated with the Civil Air Patrol and has been the financial Manager of the Arnold Air Society. He was the Top Gun at Field Training in 2007. Cadet Heiserman was also the Push-Up Crew Commander in 2006. Even though Cadet Heiserman has not yet passed a flight physical, he successfully passed a regular physical examination in 2005. His intentions are to graduate in 2009 and become a career Air Force pilot.

Midshipman Colin Caines is a sophomore at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His major is International Spanish. He has a grade point average of 3.7 in Spanish and an overall cumulative GPA of 3.77. He has been extremely active with the drill and rifle/pistol team. He is a two time

recipient of the Academic-Aptitude Superior Achievement Award given to those students with a GPA above 3.5 and in the top 10% of their class in aptitude. He has demonstrated strong management and outstanding leadership skills. With an aptitude score of 4.33, he is among the top midshipmen in his class. Midshipman Caines has some flight training and is looking forward to further flight training. His goal is to become a Navy fighter pilot after graduation.

Cadet Cady will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, with \$500 going to each of the other two. Typically, these amounts are matched by National.

Wilhite fantasizes one more time



For the 10th time in its 11-year history, Jack Wilhite participated in the annual Colorado Rockies Fantasy Camp in Tucson, AZ, 29 Jan-2 Feb.

Jack's only AWOL from Fantasy Camp was in 2006 due to a broken rib suffered when he did not fall off a ladder in his hangar at RMMA.

He's undecided about continuing the string—not because he'll be 80 next year, but because the ever-increasing number of participants means less time to interact one-on-one with Rockies players and coaches.

