The G-1 Flies Tomorrow

By Carl Berkowitz

In anticipation of predicted rain Wednesday through Sunday of this week, which would preclude scientific sampling missions, two G-1 missions are being considered for Tuesday June 22, 1999.

The first proposed mission will consist of sampling at constant altitude along circles centered over the Nashville VOR. The radius of the circles will (nominally) be 5, 10 and 15 miles, all at one altitude. If the forecast for rain is discontinued, this mission will start at 1 PM CDT. If the rain forecast for Wednesday continues, this mission will be flown later in the afternoon (~4 PM CDT) to facilitate comparison with results for the second possible mission (below) and to avoid problems with pilot duty time.

In order to make use of our limited time in Nashville, if rain appears likely a second mission is being considered for Tuesday night. Upon completion of the earlier mission to characterize the urban plume, the G-1 will depart again from BNA between 9 and 10 PM CDT. It will fly two circles of approximately 15 miles radius centered over Nashville VOR at altitudes of 2200 and 2700 ft MSL.

After flying these two circles, the G-1 will proceed to sample the Nashville plume, which is presently expected to be north of the city. The definition of the sector for sampling the plume will be based on wind forecasts to be issued Tuesday AM.

The Caribou, too!

The DeHavilland Caribou, operating out of John Tune Airport, plans to fly a south to north grid pattern from just south of the Nashville Metro area to the TNKY border. Takeoff time is scheduled for 6 PM CDT. We anticipate maintaining a constant flight level of 11,000 ft msl. Southerly winds are expected, so the along-wind axis of the grid pattern will be oriented south to north, while the cross-wind legs of the grid will be oriented east-west. The cross-wind legs are about 50 km long. We plan to fly 6 cross-wind legs from Nashville to the north and then return to the south on the center line back to Nashville. We will fly this pattern twice and then return to our base at John Tune airport at 10 PM CDT. We may have to adjust the orientation of this grid pattern slightly according to the actual wind direction.
A little ozone music?

In addition to putting those wonderfully useful little ozone maps out on the SOS website, Bill Parkhurst and Toree Myers (UAH) are also updating hourly ozone data from the two SOS enhanced monitoring stations at Dickson and Downtown (Polk Building). As you can see from our front page figure, ozone levels have begun to climb in the Nashville area with yesterday’s Downtown station recording topping out at 101 ppb from 4:00 to 5:00 PM CDT (or EST, take your pick). These data will be found on the SOS 99 Measurements webpage soon.

Who’s Cornelia Fort?

Thanks to the considerable help and patience of our friends at Comelia Fort Airpark— Bill Colbert, Sr., and Bill Nelson Colbert— Eric Williams and company have assembled one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive air quality/meteorological monitoring stations in the world. Great things are expected and miracles are an everyday occurrence!

For all you history buffs out there, it’s interesting to note that Comelia Fort is not named after a fort, as you might expect, but rather after a Nashville debutante named Comelia Fort who lost her life in the service of her country as a member of the Women’s Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). The first of 38 WASPs to die in service, Comelia reported for duty as a Women’s Air Ferrying Service (soon after changed to WASP) pilot in October 1942. She lost her life on March 21, 1943 in a mid-air collision near Abilene, Texas, while on a ferrying mission in a BT-13 trainer.

Interestingly, Comelia was flying as a civilian instructor in Waikiki during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. Here’s a recounting in her own words:

“At dawn that morning I drove from Waikiki to the John Rodgers civilan airport right next to Pearl Harbor, where I was a civilian pilot instructor. Shortly after six-thirty I began landing and take-off practice with my regular student. Coming in just before the last landing, I looked casually around and saw a military plane coming directly toward me. I jerked the controls away from my student and jammed the throttle wide open to pull above the oncoming plane. He passed so close under us that our celluloid windows rattled violently and I looked down to see what kind of plane it was.

The painted red balls on the tops of the wings shone brightly in the sun. I looked again with complete and utter disbelief. Honolulu was familiar with the emblem of the Rising Sun on passenger ships but not on airplanes. I looked quickly at Pearl Harbor and my spine tingled when I saw billowing black smoke. Still I thought hollowly it might be some kind of coincidence or maneuvers, it might be, it must be. For surely, dear God...

Then I looked way up and saw the formations of silver bombers riding in. Something detached itself from an airplane and came glistening down. My eyes followed it down, down, and even with knowledge pounding in my mind, my heart turned convulsively when the bomb exploded in the middle of the harbor. I knew the air was not the place for my little baby airplane and I set about landing as quickly as ever I could. A few seconds later a shadow passed over me and simultaneously bullets spattered all around me.

Suddenly that little wedge of sky above Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor was the busiest fullest piece of sky I ever saw. We counted anxiously as our little civilian planes came flying home to roost. Two never came back. They were washed ashore weeks later on the windward side of the island, bullet riddled. Not a pretty way for the brave yellow Cubs and their pilots to go down to death.”

Calypso Cafe

If your budget (or you waistband) won’t stretch to eating at Zola every night, here’s a cheap and interesting alternative. Calypso Cafe is in a little strip mall on Elliston Place, just where it meets West End Ave. It’s a small place with minimal atmosphere (plastic tablecloths and plastic patio chairs) but great food. The signature dish is chicken. Choose from a quarter (under $4) or a half (under $6) with one of two sauces, barbeque (slightly spicy) or curry (apple-based, nice and sweet). It comes with your choice of two side items from a menu of about a dozen items. I like the Cuban black beans and the cornmeal and coconut muffins, but there are also baked, mashed, and sweet potato and other choices. Top it all off with a slice of what may be the best Key Lime pie in Nashville, and you’ll spend under $10. There are also several salads and some vegetarian items on the menu if you’re not into chicken. Calypso Cafe has been around since at least 1994, and I’ve wished for something like it in Boulder ever since. Sounds like another four out of five star choice. ★★★★
Satsuma - No Sushi Here!

By Bill Parkhurst

Okay, I must admit that the name Satsuma sounds like it ought to be associated with some type of oriental cuisine, but it’s about as far away, culinarily speaking, as it can be. Satsuma, which as I understand it is some kind of an ornamental orange bush, is associated with fine southern cooking.

In any case, the Satsuma Tea Room, 417 Union Street in downtown Nashville, is just a block away from the James K. Polk Building where our SOS monitoring station is located. It’s only open for lunch between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM on weekdays and it’s certainly worth the effort to visit. You can park behind the Davidson County Courthouse and walk on down Union.

This is where many locals eat so I would recommend arriving either before 11:30 or after 1:00 to avoid the rush. The decor is eclectic, to say the least– mismatched chairs and somewhat rickety tables– and the wait-staff is older than what you might expect (Fred F. said that it’s one of the few places he’s been lately where the waitresses can refer to him as “young man” and really mean it)– but nobody goes there for the decor or wait-staff anyway. It’s their homemade plate lunches– usually 5 or 6 different choices each day–and their heavenly yeast rolls, combread, and desserts that keep folks coming back again and again and again. Also, as an added bonus, you’d be hard pressed to run up a tab of more than $10 for the whole meal, so it’s inexpensive, too. As you may have guessed, I’m a die-hard Satsuma fan. Four out of five stars only because it’s not open on evenings and weekends. ★★★★