

# Flight Feathers

The official publication of OneWingLowSquadron.org

## MEETINGS

FIRST  
SATURDAY OF  
THE MONTH  
AT 11AM

NO MEETINGS  
JULY/AUGUST

NEXT MEETING:  
SEPTEMBER 2nd

EMERGENCY  
CALLS FROM  
OUR FIELD

**352-485-5111**

## 2023 WISE OWLS

RON SANDERS  
PRESIDENT  
& TREASURER

RICHARD GIBSON  
VICE PRESIDENT

GILBERT PRIEUS  
SECRETARY

ART SCHEURER  
SAFETY COORDINATOR  
& FIELD MARSHALL

BRET MARTIN  
FERNANDO MESA  
AMA INTRO PILOT  
INSTRUCTORS

### Hurricane IDALIA damage to OWLS facility.

Wednesday, August 30, 2023 saw a visit from Hurricane IDALIA to the Big Bend area of Florida. Although we didn't get the worst of it, IDALIA gave our facilities a little "goodbye kiss."



An Article From Bert:

## P-51D Mustang RED TAILS - **BUNNIE**



As a Red Tail, Brown was a pioneer. He was one of the first black pilots in the Army Air Forces. Back before Brown and his colleagues took pilot training, the common assumption among the U.S. military's higher-ups was that black people could not fly airplanes. They weren't coordinated enough, or smart enough, or brave enough, so the thinking went. To test that, the Army Air Forces agreed to provide pilot training to a select number of black men.

Brown was among them. And the training program proved so successful, the pilots were assigned to escort bombers on their runs. In the beginning, "many people didn't know we were African-American,"

Brown said in a 2015 interview:



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“But the planes flew so closely to the bombers they were protecting that sometimes crew members would look up to see a brown face nodding down at them. Eventually a lot of the bomber crews gave the pilots a nickname. Roscoe Brown is famous for being one of the three Tuskegee Airmen 'jet-killers,' " which is to say that Brown, in his little propeller-powered P-51 (he named it Bunnie, after his daughter) squared off with a state-of-the-art German fighter jet, and brought it down. At the time of his death, Brown was the last survivor of the troika that earned the coveted "jet-killer" moniker.



Brown flew 68 missions and would eventually be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery and skill. The Airmen as a group would receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 in belated recognition of their service nickname: Red Tail Angels.



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