

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE

NEWSLETTER VOL. I No. 1 ESTRELLA SQUADRON

PASO ROBLES, CALIF.

February 6, 1990

HOT NEWS:

Much has been happening since the last meeting and successful barbecue thanks to a number of dedicated souls.

Probably the biggest and best news is that we have a potential home, thanks to the efforts of our Adj. Col. Gary Corippo. The Nunno organization, builders of hangars and industrial buildings, located on the Paso Robles Airport (off Dry Creek Rd.) has offered to lease us their large end hangar (facing the airport runways) for a fairly nominal sum. Much if not all of the cost of the hangar will be covered by rentals to several members for hangar space, if all works out.

This would be a super deal, giving us a place to congregate, carry out projects (about which more later), hold public functions such as our fund raisers (barbecues, shows, etc.) and, in general, giving us space to get together as we wish on weekends or whatever to accomplish whatever goals we set for our organization.

The place needs some clean-up work and outdoor fixing-up which can provide us with a real reason to get together in a common cause. Not that we all don't have enough to do around home (!) but this could be a truly great place to hang out, swap lies and make this Squadron into something worthwhile.

BUSINESS STUFF

On the weekend of January 29 several members attended the CAF Wing Staff Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. This was for Wing, Unit, Squadron etc. officers, primarily, to help them with the business of running the various groups and to keep them abreast of what is happening on a national basis and at Headquarters. Those in attendance from the Estrella Squadron were, Cols. Glenn Thomson, Archie Hansen, Bruce Toomey, Gary Corippo and Jerry Smith.

As a result of minor problems with the S-2, Thomson, Hansen & Toomey were reduced to driving to L.A. and flying commercial rather than thundering out on the S-2. Corippo and Smith arrived in style somewhat later in Smith's 310.

To put this meeting as well as the true function of the Confederate Air Force into some sort of perspective, the writer of this missive would like to offer a few personal observations; as a newcomer to the Paso Robles area as well as to the CAF I was pleased to join a group of local people with similar interests. I had thought that the CAF would be somewhat fun but, perhaps, more of a group of

local "good old boys", both here and nationally, playing around with some heavy iron.

Quite frankly, I was astounded at the dedication evidenced by all those in attendance in Phoenix with regard to the true meaning and purpose of the CAF which is to promote a patriotic regard for, not only the aircraft alone, but for those who flew them in defense of our country. We all had a lot of fun but there were those who have poured thousands of hours and, often, plenty of money, into various Wing and Squadron projects in attendance, who gave the real meaning to the organization and the reason for its existence. Every one was very much on an equal basis with one another and every one was made to feel as though they were an integral part of the group as a whole.

The above may sound a little sticky but it made the writer considerably more determined to make our local Squadron grow and prosper. What we can do together is a great mix of fun, fantasy, worthwhile hard work, companionship and can serve as a healthy reminder to younger generations of the debt they owe to the past.

There are some interesting plans being formulated for all of us in the Squadron which will give us some real reasons for belonging to and participating in the organization. This will not be just a club of a few individuals having fun with great old airplanes. We can be a truly positive force for our community, for the aviation-oriented people in the area, for the airport and for the CAF as a patriotic organization.

MORE HOT NEWS

It looks as though we might get our first project to work on which would probably be an Aeronca airframe owned by Arnold Del Rio. There are tentative plans afoot to rebuild it as an L-4(?) and incorporate it into our overall "fleet". Arnold would supply all parts and materials and we would provide the labor and get to fly it when done. It could be an excellent way to get some rusty old-timers off the ground just for fun and we might be able to interest a whole lot of young people in aviation as well.

Other things are in the mill but time does not permit this makeshift correspondent to provide more info.

Join up all those of you who are interested!!! We need more members and you will receive a lot in return!!!

OOPS!!... Can't close without mentioning the hospitality of the Arizona Wing. They had a reception at their facility (an ENORMOUS spotless hangar at the Mesa airport) which houses the B-17 "Sentimental Journey" among other aircraft. A great spot, something for us to strive for!

PASO ROBLES SQUADRON - CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE

Squadron contact
Glen Thomson
238-4858

Thank you for your interest in helping to form a new squadron here in Paso Robles.

The Confederate Air Force is a non-profit organization which restores, maintains and flies aircraft which flew during the WWII period of 1939-1945. A flying museum dedicated to the history of United States aviation. The CAF consists of dedicated members and supporters belonging to Wings and Squadrons located throughout the world.

The Paso Robles Squadron is interested in your participation as a member. The Squadron is in need of volunteers with all types of skills to work on the aircraft and related activities such as airshows. Being a member of the Squadron will be a rewarding and interesting experience. The association with other members is the chance of a lifetime to play an active part in the heritage program of US aviation.

Please fill in the information requested below and someone from the Squadron will be in contact with you.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

I am interested in participating.

Name _____ Telephone (h) _____

Address _____ Telephone (w) _____

City _____ Zip _____ Occupation _____

Pilot Yes _____ No _____ Aviation related skills (if any) _____

Type of aircraft interests / _____

_____ / _____

_____ / _____

_____ / _____