

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



All the news that's fit
to print and then some!

Volume IV Number 11

Paso Robles, California

November 1993

• November Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 2, at the Hangar. Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

The program for the evening will be : "Pathway to Adventure," by Barney and Alice Path. This will be an in person recounting of their cross country trip in a Cessna 210 from Brazil to Europe!! It is presumed that this will be accompanied by slides or a film but your Ed. did not get enough info from George Marrett when he called from LA with the information. In any event, it sounds like a fascinating evening!

Air Show Date Change

In view of the fact that our scheduled Air Show date was found to be in conflict with the Winery Festival the NEW date for the Air Show will be June 4 & 5, 1994. You will note that two days have been designated. Please see more about this below but, in the meantime, please note this date on your calendars!!

Air Show 1994

Those of you who attended the last meeting were made aware of the fact that there was some interest in the possibility of having an air race program of some kind in conjunction with our regular Show events.. This has now been confirmed by the International Formula One Air Racing Association whose members have proposed entering into a contract to provide a 16 plane multi-heat race series during the two days of the Air Show.

As many of you know, the Formula One aircraft are the small, highly specialized planes with a 200 horse power (?) limitation. Small as they are they put out a lot of speed, noise and excitement. This opens up an entirely new aspect with regard to our Show and could conceivably increase our gate by a substantial amount. There are many individuals who are interested in air races who may not be terribly excited about War Birds so this could prove to be a tremendous attraction to air racing buffs.

Air races in general hold a special attraction for many people and the fact that there are no other races of this type

scheduled to be run in California in 1994, as of this writing, could go a long way toward making our own Show even more attractive.

Our Staff has indicated an interest in putting something together with the Formula One group and negotiations are in progress.

Building Fund Now at \$2,950.00!

The list of those who have voluntarily contributed \$100 or more to the Building Fund are shown below:

Glen Thomson	Bill Exline
Keith Bowers	Gary Corippo
Dirk Hale	Joe Sabo
Bob Miller	Charles Barclay
Don Leedom	Jim Roada
Obbie Atkinson	Harry Hines
Dewey Killian	Tom & Tina
Tom Weiss	Leatherwood
Bill Kitchen	

There are those who have contributed considerably more than \$100 and it has been suggested that the donations be segregated by amounts (100-299) (300-499) (500 and up, etc.) and a special plaque or sign be prepared

The Estrella Squadron
Newsletter

is published monthly as an unofficial voluntary contribution. Content and opinion is the sole responsibility of the Editor, Bruce M. Toomey. Submissions for inclusion are gladly accepted and solicited, including articles, display and classified ads etc. Send all submissions to: P.O. Box 3065 Paso Robles, CA 93447

Graphics, computer layout, design and use of photocopying machine as well as stationary and other supplies are the contribution of your local FBO, Stuart Toomey and Toomey Aviation USA 3044 Propeller Dr. Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805)-239-9210

CAF Hangar # 238-9317

naming donors as "Gold Flight", "Silver Flight" or something of that nature depending on the amounts donated. This would not be intended as an ego trip for anyone or a put down for anyone else but merely a way to show appreciation for individual generosity. At one rather well-known museum a person can purchase gold, silver or bronze "bricks" for different amounts that go into a wall with their names on them and maybe we could do something like that. Maybe something less formal like a sign could be made so that additional donors could be added at any time.

The whole object is to raise money for our new facility so any ideas that anyone has would be welcomed and considered.

Air Show Tapes

THE AIR SHOW TAPES ARE HERE AND READY FOR SALE!!

Those attending the last meeting were privileged to see the finished product and the crew of Obbie Atkinson, Ralph Grasso and George Marrett can be justly proud of a superb professional job. The cost of a tape is a mere \$19.95 and for that price every member should be able to purchase one. Remember, this a tax deductible item but even if it were not, every member could help greatly by purchasing one or more of the tapes and giving them out as gifts or showing them to prospective members or service clubs to promote the Squadron.

This has been a big effort by some dedicated people for the good of the Squadron but it won't amount to much if we don't offer our support.

Tapes will be available at the meeting and also, from now on, will be in stock at Toomey Aviation at the corner of Wing Way and Propeller Drive. You can also call Obbie Atkinson at 238-9212 and he can arrange for one to be sent, delivered, picked up or whatever.

Building Project

At the last Airshow group meeting those attending were brought up to date on the latest with regard to the land lease and the Castle & Cook buildings.

THEY ARE OURS!!!

Col. Corippo read a letter of commitment from C&C indicating the terms under which we could have the buildings, i.e. leaving the property neat and clean, etc., etc. In addition we were informed that the lease had been signed by the City authorities.

This is tremendous news and opens up a whole new direction for the Estrella Squadron and the Estrella Warbirds

Museum. While there is obviously reason for rejoicing, a little reflection will also bring about a few sobering thoughts as well. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done but the rewards will be fantastic.

This is the opportunity we have been seeking to bring a cohesiveness to our group, a visual confirmation of the strength of our existence and a physical plant of which we can all be tremendously proud.

We will all be called upon to help. There is something that each member can contribute to further this project whether it be taking down the buildings or doing the inevitable paper work and organizing that will have to be done. We have over 100 members. Please be prepared to give something of yourself in this effort and don't leave everything up to a few individuals.

Dave Geiger will be calling for dismantling crews, but if hanging by your eyelids from a 40 foot crane basket isn't exactly your cup of tea, don't worry about it. We need sheet steel stackers, wrench twisters, (that's as in wrench not wench!) steel markers, sweepers, fork truck drivers, truck drivers etc., etc.

PLEASE, make up your minds as to what you can contribute and call Dave NOW.

Amelia's Winter Hours

New winter hours at Amelia's Restaurant have recently been posted. Starting the week of October 18 the restaurant will be open from 9am to 4pm Tuesday thru Saturday and will be closed on Sunday and Monday. Get there early, eat lots and support one of our fellow Squadron members!!



Paso Robles, Cd.
239-3902

Winter Hours
Tues. thru Sat. 9am - 4pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

CHARLES W. BOWMAN PH. 805 238-7069
OWNER

Unique Builders
GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTOR



STATE LIC # 510551



JUDY CORIPPO
Travel Consultant

Johansen's Travel Service
8740 Pueblo Ave., Suite C
Atascadero, CA 93422

(805) 238-2090 Res.
(805) 461-1222 Bus.

L-Bird Tales

Col. Don Leedom recently handed your Editor an embarrassingly well written and printed newsletter put out by the ILPA (International Liaison Pilot and Aircraft Association.) He wondered if there might be articles in it that would be of interest to our own newsletter readers. You wouldn't BELIEVE some of the tales therein!!

Although time doesn't permit for this issue (Editor late as usual) we will try to include some articles in the future, SUCH AS! taking an L-Bird off from a cable suspended from two booms off the side of a moving LST, the airplane hanging from a hook and sliding along the cable!! They also landed this way by snagging a loop with the hook!! We promise that we will have some real articles and pictures in the next newsletter.

Operating Task Teams

We have decided to run the list of Teams as a regular item simply to keep everyone informed as to the types of teams and their Leaders. (See box)

Program Team	George Marrett 466-7640
Dinner Team	Bob Miller 434-1594
Hangar Team	Hal Chilton 239-3679
Grounds Team	Bruce Toomey 238-9266
PX Team	Emil Mesko 238-6629
Safety Team	Bob Singleton 239-2084
Ground Equipment Team	Dave Geiger 239-1598
Insurance Team	Rusty Roy 237-9684
Meeting Coordinator - Different member for each meeting.	

This will, hopefully, enable those interested in helping the Squadron find their niche. It will also let everyone know when there is a change in Leaders since the present (and future) Leaders were promised that they would not be stuck in the job forever! Pitch in guys! With over 120 members on the list we could really get some things accomplished if more would simply give it a try!

"WARBIRD SCENE"

VOL:9 By: Col. Tom Leatherwood

"OSHKOSH" ! That word sure conjures up a lot of different thoughts for me. Although I haven't been yet, I feel like I have through the eyes and ears of friends and the media. It's probably the most visibly published aviation event ever. I vow here and now to attend in 1994. No more excuses. Actually I have the best excuse ever TO go as we have been invited to travel with Kent and Sandy Blankenberg in their Lockheed Model 12. In which case getting there and back may be the best part of it all.

There were over 400 Warbirds in attendance this year. A monumental feat considering the logistical problems and expense in getting these aircraft anywhere are huge. Each year brings out a rare new aircraft it seems and this year was no exception. Besides the Sunderland (see last months newsletter) there was a perfect and completely restored North American F-5. This is the photo reconnaissance version of the P-51 and is the only one so restored.

It is completely as original with every piece of gear, camera, and armament it had in WWII. Right down to the armor plate, gun-sight and detailed gun-bays. It is finished in the markings of Capt. Clyde East who achieved "Ace" status in this aircraft which he named "Lil Margaret". This particular aircraft only

has about 100 hours since new and even has a "new" Merlin, never installed before.

Incredible! Most Mustangs are restored less all the military hardware as it's heavy and virtually unusable except for conversational purposes. Hopefully this will set the standard for future restorations to come. To see this aircraft in comparison to the average one is to really separate the "men from the boys, historically speaking of course.

Speaking of air shows, we just got back from Point Magu where Paso Robles was well represented. Glenn Thompson, George and Rosemary of course, S2F. Jerry Smith and Connie, F-86. Bill Russell, Casa Jet, and John and Marsha Moore, AT-6. Plus another friend of Jerry's from Hollister with an incredible Lockheed T-33. The weather was great and the Blue Angels and the Canadian Snowbirds made it a memorable experience.

It was really nice to see John and Marsha Moore as John's schedule doesn't allow for many airshow appearances. John, with his usual style, had a car full of food, drinks and libation and kept everyone fed and watered throughout the weekend. Many thanks John. Jerry Smith had a particularly memorable time. He is now qualified to instruct in "Formation Driving". Sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

It seems like there's always bad news with the good. This month the bad news comes from Van Nuys where last week, Frank Elliot, one of the old timers in the "Condor Squadron" was killed while apparently "scud running" near Hughes Lake trying to get home. Also killed was an Italian airline pilot who Frank was checking-out.

What makes this particularly SAD news is that once again, it was such easily avoidable "bad news". I feel particularly connected to this piece of news as I had the opportunity to duplicate what happened myself and



Commercial Services • Search • Flight Instruction



(805) 239-4037



Alan R. Lewis
VICE PRESIDENT

FAX: (805) 238-0648
(805) 238-6801
P.O. BOX 368
PASO ROBLES, CA 93447
PASO ROBLES AIRPORT

AIRCRAFT HANGARS
FARM / RANCH
COMMERCIAL

choose not to. The weather was really crummy that Monday. Rain showers, haze, really poor visibility, low ceilings with mountain tops obscured. It was supposed to be improving however and there were just enough breaks in the ceiling to tempt someone who felt "proficient" enough to handle it. Frank had probably done it a 100 times with no problem. He knew those mountains well. We were in Oxnard and were trying to get home and had been since the day before. In fact, we were at the airport and loaded up ready to go. It was clear north of Santa Barbara and all we needed was a little hole to squeeze through. The ceiling just kept hanging in there at 4500 ft. though and not being instrument rated we scrubbed our flight, and drove home. That evening I heard about Frank on the TV news. My immediate reaction was anger. Why didn't he just say No! it's not worth it. 2 lives lost. FOR NO REASON. Well Boys, he died doin' what he loved! Didn't he? BULL!

I doubt if he "Loved to Die". But he did. That's all. Sorry Boys but that's one to many "missing man formations" for me.

Probably the greatest flier that ever lived killed himself the same way, in the same mountains. Frank Tallman.

ADIOS!

CLASSIFIED

Warbird Lighting Fixtures

In stock, virtually any lighting fixture found on all WW II aircraft. Interior, exterior. Also parts for same as well as any lamp used. All material is new / unused and prices are low. Call Tom at Avlite Aviation Prod.

☎ 239-4037

Lost & Found

Lost: Sporty's hand-held nav-com radio somewhere on the airport, either at the Hangar or left on a wing or somewhere. If found, please call Jeff Welles at 544-7864 (W) or 541-5765 (H).



BOB MILLER
(805) 434-1888
Well Drilling
Pump Sales & Service
Complete Machine Shop

301 North Main
Templeton, CA 93465
State License No. 324634



FAACRS
#AO 3R380L

Eric Struve
President

Ph (805) 544-8356
Fax (805) 544-7956
981 Airport Drive
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



To:

~~COL. JEFF WELLES~~
~~3007 S. Highway 101~~
~~San Luis Obispo, CA 93401~~