

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VI Number 1

Paso Robles, California

January 1995

January Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 1995 at the hangar. Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm. Again, it is suggested that all colonels be in uniform.

Our program for the evening will be another outstanding speaker provided by our Program Chairman, Col. George Marrett.

We will hear from Gregory C. Wooldridge, Captain, U.S. Navy, who, among other major accomplishments, was the Commander and Flight Leader of the Blue Angels during the "first-ever" U.S. military team flight demonstration over Moscow, Russia. A more comprehensive biography of Capt. Wooldridge appears inside the newsletter.

This should prove to be another fabulous evening so please make every effort to be there!

Squadron/CAFHQ Accord

The Squadron Staff is pleased to announce that another level of agreement has been reached with CAF HQ. This concerns the question of the liability insurance coverage for the '93 air show.

To make a long story short, HQ has agreed to accept a negotiated settlement of \$2800 rather than the \$7800 which was the original figure. This was worked out by applying some of our ANUAC credits as well as the rebates from the new colonel memberships.

This leaves only the question of the original unauthorized transfer of money to the Museum from the Squadron account. The Staff believes this will be resolved by establishing a long term rental agreement between the Squadron and the Museum. This is presently being worked out and HQ is apparently willing to accept the idea.

Here again we are receiving signals from HQ indicating a

sincere willingness to consider our rather unique status. This may be a result of a new and enlightened staff at Midland but we also believe that at least part of their understanding attitude may be a result of our delegation's efforts on behalf of the HQ airshow in Midland this past year.

Whatever the reason we are heartened and much encouraged by their responses.

The Staff would like to point out that the idea for the insurance proposal was the suggestion of Col. Don Leedom who, after listening to much discussion at the meeting, simply suggested that we "cut through the mustard" so to speak, and make the offer. We did and HQ accepted and. . . "hats off" to Don!



The Estrella Squadron Newsletter

is published monthly as an unofficial voluntary contribution. Content and opinion, other than by-line columns, is the sole responsibility of the Editor, Bruce MacE. Toomey unless otherwise noted.

Submission for inclusion are not only welcomed but solicited, including articles, display and classified ads, etc. Please send all submissions to the Editor (by name) at P.O. Box 3065, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

Graphics, computer layout, design and use of photocopying machine as well as paper and other supplies are the contribution of Stuart Toomey and,

Toomey Aviation USA
3044 Propeller Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

(Bruce Toomey has no business connection with or financial interest in Toomey Aviation).

Membership News

New Squadron Sponsor Members

Speaking of "hats off" we would like to make note of the following new Squadron Sponsor Members who have joined since October:

Steve Cerveny

Geri Siegel

Vernon Smith

Raymond Barksdale

Jon Escobedo

New Colonels

In addition we would like to offer our special congratulations to those former Sponsor Members who have elected to become CAF Squadron Colonels:

Kevin Craig

Arley Green
Dieter Eckert
Doug Miner
Gary Morrison
Pete Johnston
Rosemary Netto
William Sima, MD
Mike Slason
Gary Ryan

Doctor Sima joined as a new member and Colonel at the same time.

The entire membership welcomes the new members and we hope you will make every effort to get to know other members. Don't hesitate to step right up to anyone or any group and introduce yourselves. We're glad to see you!

Membership Objectives 1995

144 Squadron Sponsor Members

12 Honorary Members

50 Colonels.

With the addition of the above members we are well on our way to our 1995 goals. If every Flight fills their quota of new members we can easily reach these numbers!

Memo to Flight Leaders

Please remember to submit the name of your Wingman, (Deputy Flight Leader) on your Flight Report to the Adjutant, Col. Bob Singleton at the beginning of the January meeting.

Also, upon receipt of this newsletter, make certain that you or your Wingman makes contact

with each member in your flight so that all are present or accounted for at the meeting.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of January; Alpha Flight, under the able leadership of Col. Blake Wideman, will be in charge of the January meeting and the month's activities. Please coordinate with Hangar Chairman, Col. Kevin Craig with regard to setting up the hangar for the meeting.

(This is also a reminder to Flight Leaders that they use their creativity to assure that their Flight receives the "points" that will go to their "Flight of the Month" status and eventually for the "Flight of the Year" award. Cols. Singleton and Welles will be taking note!! Check your information packet.)

Gregory C. Wooldridge Captain, U.S. Navy A Brief Biography

Captain Wooldridge, from Springfield, Illinois, graduated from Blackburn College in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in economics. He was commissioned an ensign in July 1970 after completing the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate School and in November 1971 received his wings of gold, designating him a naval aviator.

Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer	Col. Jeff Welles
Executive Officer	Col. Hal Chilton
Finance	Col. Rosemary Netto
Adjutant	Col. Bob Singleton
Operations	Col. Glen Thomson
Maintenance	Col. Bob Miller
Safety	Col. Keith Bowers

Staff Appointments

PIO	Col. Blake Wideman
PX Officer	Willa Killion

Captain Wooldridge's first assignment was as a flight instructor in Pensacola, Florida. From there he headed west to join Attack Squadron 122 for A-7E transition training. He then reported to Attack Squadron 25, "Fist of the Fleet", onboard the aircraft carrier USS RANGER (CV-61).



In April Captain Wooldridge was assigned to Attack Squadron 127 at NAS Lemoore, California, where he flew A-4 Skyhawks as an advisory pilot. He reported to Fleet Composite Squadron 5 at

Cubi Point, Republic of the Phillipines, in January 1980, serving as Maintenance, Safety and Tactics Officer where he flew the A-4 as an advisory pilot there, as well as in many other countries in the Far East.

January 1983 found Captain Wooldridge back in Lemoore with the "Fighting Redcocks" of Attack Squadron 22 where he served as Maintenance and Operations Officer, later deploying to WESTPAC on the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-85). From January 1985 to November 1987, he served as Flag Secretary to Commander Light Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet at NAS Lemoore. He then spent six months transitioning to the F/A-18 Hornet with Strike Fighter Squadron 125, the "Rough Raiders".

Captain Wooldridge was assigned as Executive Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 195, "Dambusters", in Yokosuka, Japan, in May 1988. He assumed command of the "Dambusters" in August 1989, making numerous deployments on the USS MIDWAY (CV-41).

In November of 1990 Captain Wooldridge assumed command and served as Flight Leader of the Blue Angels. This tour included a "first ever" U.S. military team flight demonstration over Moscow, Russia.

Captain Wooldridge has flown over 7,800 mishap-free flight hours. His awards include

various deployment and unit awards, as well as the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal.

Captain Wooldridge is married to the former Anita Wright of Clovis, California. The family resides at NAS Lemoore. His two children, Matt and Ellyce, and two grandchildren, live in Springfield, Illinois.



Ralph Grasso

This good lookin' dude is RALPH Grasso. This is NOT Steve Grasso. There is no Steve Grasso. Your aging Editor humbly and earnestly beseeches Mr. Ralph Grasso's pardon for committing such a grievous error in print in prior newsletters!!!

CO's Column

Regrettably, there will be no personal message from our CO this month but he has asked your Ed. to note the following:

Committee Chairs

Program

George Marrett 466-7640

Dinners

Bob Miller 434-1594

Rosemary Netto 467-3521

Membership

Obbie Atkinson 238-9212

Air Show

Ashley Lightfoot 239-4461

Hangar/Grounds

Kevin Craig 238-4643

Bruce Toomey 238-9266

238-9516

Ground Equipment

Dave Geiger 239-1598

Project Manager

Gary Corippo 238-2090

238-0888

Insurance

Elmer Belmont 466-1062

Refreshments

Doug Miner 239-1054

Activities

Tina Leatherwood 239-7450

Don Leedom 238-4313

Meeting Setup

By Flights (see Kevin Craig)

Photo

Ralph Grasso 237-2813

Historian

Dirk Hale 237-0819

238-8447

Museum Director

Open

"Beech Group"

There will be an organizational meeting of the "Beech Group" right after the first of the year. The time and date will be announced at the January meeting.

Flight Leader Program

Our CO has specifically wanted to mention that the Flight Leader program is most definitely in place and at least one Flight Leader has already called for his Flight's first organizational meeting. This is also a gentle reminder that other Flight Leaders might consider doing the same.

Activities

Co-Chair Col. Don Leedom has announced that there will be a Fly-in scheduled for January 21. More details at the meeting.

NewsletterReadership

While a certain amount of blood, sweat and tears is involved in an effort to make your Newsletter at least somewhat interesting, it is apparent that there are those who don't read it, or those who don't get it (is your wife stuffing it in the waste basket before you see it?) or those who, for some reason or other, simply remain uninformed.

In an effort to make your perusal more of a challenge, the idea has been proposed that we come up with a sort of contest to, hopefully, pique your interest.

On one or more pages of this newsletter you will see three view silhouettes depicting military aircraft which were in use during the period 1939 to 1945. These have been culled from Jane's All

The World's Aircraft so they are authentic reproductions.

You are hereby challenged to identify these aircraft and the first individual who calls the Editor at 238-9266 each month, will receive a free dinner at the next meeting. A phone message left on the machine with the time and date will be sufficient if no one is there to take the message in person. We hope to do this every month.

At the end of the year the individual who has named correctly most or all of the aircraft will receive a special prize from the Editor which, rest assured, will be something better than a free subscription to the newsletter!

Your Editor cannot claim to have thought up this fabulous opportunity and must give due credit to the fertile mind of Col. Rosemary Netto!

Kudos To Our PIO!

For the first time in our brief history our organization is getting consistent and on-going news coverage and specialty notices in newspapers from SLO to Paso Robles. This is due to the efforts and abilities of our new Public Information Officer, Col. Blake Wideman.

Col. Wideman has a wealth of experience having handled the same sort of thing for PG&E and other organizations. He is doing a terrific job as was proven by

the attendance at the last monthly meeting where we had 100 PAID dinners!

This is also a reminder that he can't do it alone!! If there is an important or even a not so important function or event occurring with respect to the CAF or the EWM, please make sure that Blake hears about it in time, to get it into the local papers.

Even such things as Bug Smasher breakfasts or formation and spot landing contests have a certain amount of publicity value. New fencing at the EWM site or almost any event can be made into something newsworthy by a knowledgeable publicist.

So keep this in mind. It can do wonders for our image and for the good of the organization as a whole. Look up Blake's number on your membership list if you think of anything. In case you have misplaced the list his number is: 237-2810.

Another Unsolicited Editorial By Your Editor

Listening to some of the stories, opinions, conjectures and bedazzlements that seem to flow through this office, it is apparent that we should sit back and take stock of our situation every once in a while. The question seems to be,

"How Are We Doing?"
Well, I for one think we are doing just fine, thank you! For instance...

It is obvious that CAF HQ thinks we are doing just fine too. We seem to have patched up almost every one of our differences and they are as interested in keeping us as a unit as we are in remaining one.

The changes in the phasing concerning the plans for the Museum are flowing smoothly through the various City offices, thanks to almost daily work by Col. Glen Thomson. Permits should be available shortly.

The Hangar has never been in better shape, thanks to our Hangar Chairman, Kevin Craig. Fluorescent tubes have been replaced in almost unreachable spots, the floor has been washed and much old tape scraped off. The leaks in the roof have been repaired as much as possible and things have been straightened up considerably and numerous unseen repairs and changes made.

A new line of chain link fence has been installed at the Museum site which makes the place look much more like a soon-to-be operation and a lot of preliminary grading has been done. It really looks good.

The twin Beech is in place on our own ramp, not in some field. It is ready to be worked on as soon as an organization meeting has been called to prepare a schedule of work to be done and to advise those interested in the project as to how to begin.

We have a City behind us that is ready and willing to provide us with real help, dollars!! All we have to do is to present an approved plan, which is almost ready, and we can be off and running at the new site.

Obbie Atkinson, as Membership Chairman, has worked out a beautifully organized Flight program which will get every single member involved in one program or another. It will get every member acquainted with every other member and will provide a voluntary labor pool for projects ranging from building to whatever else is necessary.

We have excellent leadership which has already proven itself by the appointment of capable and hardworking Chairpersons, assistants and others who will get things done. In addition, they are directing the development of many new programs and activities which will do much to improve our group as a whole.

Granted, in recent weeks we have been somewhat stymied by weird weather and all the activities surrounding the Christmas season. This always makes everyone a bit edgy, but if there are those who are dissatisfied with our apparent progress in any area it is merely suggested that you review the above.

We have had many problems and we have overcome almost all of them. We have an enlarged membership base to draw from

filled with great people with enormous talents and abilities.

How are we doing? I think we're doing damn well. We are "Lean and Mean" and capable of tackling anything that is ahead of us with strength and determination.

There are NO NEGATIVES. There are only POSITIVES!! Lets Prove It!



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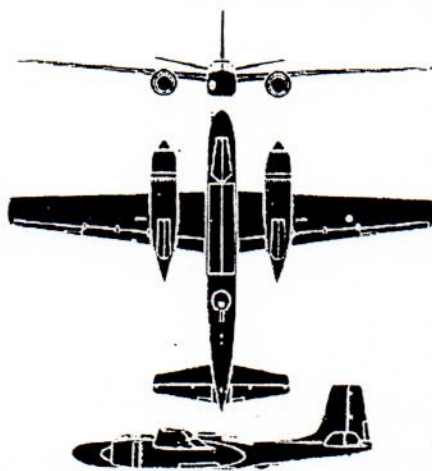
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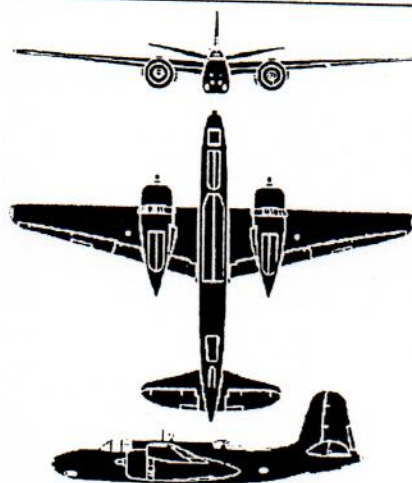


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Confederate Air Force
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To:

[Handwritten signature]
~~207 E. Highway 51 #11~~
~~San Luis Obispo CA 93401~~