

# CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

## *Estrella Squadron*



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

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Volume VI Number 2

Paso Robles, California

February 1995

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### February Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 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 again be an outstanding speaker, Gregory C. Wooldridge, Captain, U.S. Navy who was originally named (in error) as our speaker for the January meeting.

As a former Commander and Flight Leader of the Blue Angels, including the time of the "first ever" U.S. Military team flight demonstration over Moscow, Russia, Captain Wooldridge will be a most unique and fascinating speaker.

His biography is again published on page 3.

### Building Plans

The plans for the new construction were submitted again for the umpteenth time and should be out of plan check this week. If all goes well we

should be able to apply for a PERMIT immediately thereafter. With a permit in hand we are **ON THE MOVE**.

With a two to three week break in the weather we should be able to start grading for the pad and preparing to pour concrete within days.

The decision was made at the last EWBM Board meeting that we acquiesce to the City Council's obvious preference to include the two restrooms in that part of the building designated as Phase One, the "warehouse", which will eventually be the museum proper. We will, however, stub out for the necessary plumbing in the future office-PX-restroom addition as originally planned so that this can be changed in the future.

As many of you know, there was a good deal of adverse publicity voiced with regard to the City's reluctant agreement to let us continue to use outdoor temporary "port-a-potties at the new building for a period of time. Rather than make it difficult or uncomfortable for the Council,

since they have bent over backwards for us in many other instances, it was felt that internal restrooms in that portion of the building would be better, not only from a public relations standpoint, but also from the point of view that internal plumbing would certainly be a much more pleasant arrangement than the one we have at present!

### Last Month's Speaker

Because of a communication foul-up which can only be laid at the doorstep of your Ed. we were unable to give credit to the speaker who actually addressed our January meeting.

We were privileged to hear from Dave Arnold, Captain of Civil Air Patrol Squadron 103.

For those of us who had little or no actual knowledge of what the CAP is all about it was a most enlightening discussion. Captain Arnold not only gave us an excellent general rundown as to the importance of the CAP and its duties but provided us with



## 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.

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Paso Robles, CA 93446

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

some real food for thought with regard to our often haphazard flight planning and attitudes about flight preparation and safety in general.

Captain Arnold also provided us with some real eye openers with regard to the complexities of search and rescue and the dedication and hard work of those involved.

For those who have often regarded the CAP as a sort of light weight offshoot of the military, the recent death of three CAP pilots who were killed searching for other downed pilots should bring home the dedication and seriousness of the efforts of this valiant group.

We would like Captain Arnold to know that we felt privileged and

honored to have him share his time and some of his experiences with us.

## Squadron Activities

Our Activities Committee Co-Chair, Col. Don Leedom, has announced that we will hold our first Squadron "Activities Day" which will be in the form of an Open House to be held at the Hangar on February 18, from 9:00am to approximately 1:00pm or so.

There will be a Breakfast/Brunch and the public is cordially and earnestly invited! Seriously, ask your friends and acquaintances. We will have some public announcements, to be sure, but word of mouth is often the best. If each member brought one person this could be a great success.

The theme or idea of the Open House is to display everything we can come up with relative to the building and Museum project.

Members are asked to bring over their airplanes of all types, not just warbirds, to be spread about as static displays and to indicate the level of interest and involvement by the members the project.

We hope to have a Beech display as well as an L-16 display and perhaps a booth for each. It is also being considered that the various L-Birds may be available for rides for those who might wish to sign up as members or even perhaps prospective members as well. Details on this

particular idea will be worked out in the next couple of weeks.

This activity is a nifty idea and one which will be well within our abilities to put together as a first time project of this size.

This will offer us a great opportunity to get involved with the local townspeople and to show them what we are trying to do for them as well as ourselves.

It is imperative that we have as many members in attendance as possible, not only to help out but to make contact with our visitors and guests and make sure they have a good time and are informed as to our activities in general.

With this experience under our belt we can then consider going on to fly-ins, swap meets and other ideas which are obviously more complicated.

This is a perfect example of how we can promote ourselves and get outsiders to either join or at least be aware of the better aspects of who and what we are. Col. Leedom is to be congratulated and we urge that as many people as possible get in touch with him and offer to help in whatever way he or she can.

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### 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



**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.

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 Philippines, 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.

### Membership News

By: Col. Obbie Atkinson,  
Chairman,  
Membership Committee

The CAF and the Squadron continue to grow with the recent addition of two new colonels and two new Sponsor members:  
Col. Pinky Jones 688-6855  
Bravo Flight



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

will be expected to become involved in the activities of the Squadron.

New Colonel Vernon Smith has accepted appointment as Flight leader of Delta Flight and is busy already.

Assignments of recently accepted members are as follows:

Col. William Sima 239-4639

Juliet Flight

John Escobedo 238-6141

Foxtrot Flight

Raymond Barksdale 238-0917

Alpha Flight

Flight Leaders, please take note of these assignments and contact your new members.

Flight of the Month

Our congratulations to Col. Rosemary Netto's Juliet Flight which was clearly, Flight of the Month for January with a report of 23 points achieved.

A large majority of the Flight was in attendance at the January meeting with many wearing uniforms and, of course, the resourceful recruitment of 2 new members added greatly to the credits accumulated.

Col. Blake Wideman's Alpha Flight was the close runner-up with a total achievement of 19 points.

All members are reminded again to please report to your Flight Leader on arrival at the meeting to assure that you are included in your Flight Leader's report.

Again, Flight Leaders, if you are unable to attend a meeting,

please make certain your assigned Wingman contacts each member prior to the meeting. Also make sure that on meeting nights you or your Wingman completes the Flight Report and gives it to Col. Bob Singleton, Squadron Adjutant prior to announcements.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of February:

Bravo Flight under the able leadership of Col. Keith Bowers will be in charge of the February meeting and the month's activities. Please coordinate with Col. Kevin Craig, Hangar Chairman, with regard to setting up the Hangar for the meeting.

Suggested Projects for Flights

It has been suggested that a list be prepared and run in the Newsletter monthly regarding extra jobs that could be done by those Flights looking for points for Flight of the Month and Year etc.

Obviously, the completion of these odd jobs would contribute tremendously to the improvement of various aspects of our physical plant, both inside and out, as well as in areas other than just the hangar alone.

Some ideas are as follows:

1. A rack for our chairs that would be moveable and that would facilitate setting up and restacking (see Toomey for possible wheels)

Col. Michael Fahringer 239-8687  
Delta Flight

and

Richard Cummings 438-3610

Golf Flight

Dennis Macklin 466-0683

Juliet Flight

We extend our sincere welcome to these quality members. Each will be contacted by their respective Flight Leaders and



2. A rack for tables;
3. Making sure that extraneous "stuff" is placed in the storage boxes, continuously, rather than remaining under foot;
4. Painting the old gray tables (see Toomey for free paint!);
5. Painting the fibre trash drums and labeling some, clearly for "cans only" and "wet trash only";
6. Removing downed branches from either side of driveway area so the area could be cut without ruining the mower. (Residue could be dumped toward the farmer's field for later burning or chopping);
7. Cleaning up CAF stuff around and in back of small hangar so this area could be cut too;
8. Planting the few bushes that the City Council would like to see (actually, require) along the road at the new site;
9. Taking down the CAF entrance sign at Nunno's driveway and perhaps talking Col. Ryan into repairing it.

Granted, most of the jobs that have been suggested up front are those having to do with the appearance of our physical plant. There is the thought that we will be moving soon so why bother but we won't be there all THAT soon so why not make what we have look as good as possible while we're here?

We are looking for other suggestions too so please communicate with Col. Obbie or your Ed. with suggestions.

## Raffles & Flourishes

(Sorry!!)

At the last Squadron Staff Meeting it was decided to address the idea of suggesting donation increases for meals and libations. Consequently, as of the February meeting, the suggested donation for Dinner will be increased to \$6.00 and for wine, \$1.50. Soft drinks will remain as they are now.

No one has to be told that the price of everything keeps going up, so in keeping with our efforts to provide an excellent meal for our members and guests as well as trying to make a few bucks for the Squadron, it is imperative that the donations be increased as above.

In addition... it was moved that an informal donation raffle be conducted at each meeting with tickets a \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The person with the winning ticket will split the proceeds with the Squadron on a 50/50 basis so a winner can actually realize a fairly substantial pot. We need the bucks and this sounds like a fun way to do so.



Tue. thru Sat. 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
Closed Sunday & Monday

## Landscaping at New Site

One of the requirements by the City at the new site is that we have some sort of landscaping along the fence on Dry Creek Road. They have even gone so far as to indicate what they would like to see and have indicated that they would like to see some results as soon as possible.

The initial requirement is not exactly burdensome. When the call went out for immediate "landscaping" volunteers the response was somewhat less than overwhelming, obviously because it sounded like we needed to "landscape" the whole area at one time.

This is not the fact at all. What is required are clumps of 3 or 4 Escalonius plants in five gallon can size and 2 Ceanothus plants on either side, in one gallon can size, at each of about 10 spots twenty to thirty feet apart along and inside the fence line.

George Netto has already volunteered his time on this project and it was proposed in the "projects" column that one of the Flights jump on this.

May we suggest that either George's Flight or one other call George and see what has to be done. The Hangar and Grounds committee would be glad to help. With any luck at all we could get these plants donated if we have our PIO take a picture or two and submit a short article to the local papers while they are being planted.



## "Warbird Scene"

by Col. Tom Leatherwood

I'm back! For better or for worse. But probably only temporarily as the "Stork" is about 6 weeks away and I'm sure that bottle warming and diaper changing will take the place of my journalistic endeavors.

Anyway, what's happening on the Warbird scene? Locally, Glenn Thompson finally has the T-28 up. And he says it's "running great" with the new engine. Jerry Smith just brought the F-86 back from Texas where it has been on display at a museum. All the L-birds seem to be up and about, and after a month of bad weather we finally got the Beech up for a local flight.

### "Freedom Flight"

Update: A group of World War II enthusiasts have organized what will likely be the largest gathering of WWII aircraft since 1945 for a cross-country flight from Long Beach, CA to New York City in Late July to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ending of WWII.

560 aircraft have pre-registered for this event to be held in late July. 300 of them are T-6's! The flight will overnight in 6 different "Host" cities where ceremonies

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and different events will take place, culminating at "Floyd Bennet Field" in New York which is being re-opened for this event.

It is estimated some 10 million people will witness the celebration in New York which will include fly-overs of the Statue of Liberty. Sponsors across the country are being solicited for the different aircraft. (hope I can get that play pen in the airplane). More on this as it develops.

### Auction in Africa:

The South African Air Force will be holding a much awaited auction in late February. Two C-54's and 3 T-6's will be sold. The S.A.A.F. is one of the last groups to operate these types. They are also reputed to be among the best maintained aircraft anywhere so I'm sure competition will be fierce.

We have been trying to analyze the route that 2 South Americans took last year when they flew their Fairchild 24W from South Africa to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with the thought of duplicating it in one of these T-6's. A container would run over 10,000 dollars to the east coast.

### Douglas Dauntless:

Here's a story that touches a nostalgic note for me. In the past I have talked about growing up in the San Fernando Valley and hangin' out at Whiteman and San Fernando where a lot of derelict WWII aircraft were sitting.

Well for many years an SBD Dauntless sat at San Fernando near the CAP's headquarters in

complete but un-flyable condition. I acquired a few "hours" in the old hulk during those years and later always wondered what had become of it. Well I'll be if it didn't appear recently in Trade-A-Plane, for sale. Still in un-restored condition. Asking price 400,000, but owner would listen to reasonable offers!!!? A bargain considering there are only two flyable in the world today. Although a couple of projects are in the works.

In addition, another Dauntless has been dredged up from lake Michigan and is for sale as well as a Wildcat in the same condition. Don't laugh. We saw the Wildcat that was pulled up 2 years ago and it was flying at Oshkosh '94! The paint in the aft fuselage was still in such good shape that they just left it. There was air in the tires and the battery took a charge, 50 YEARS LATER!

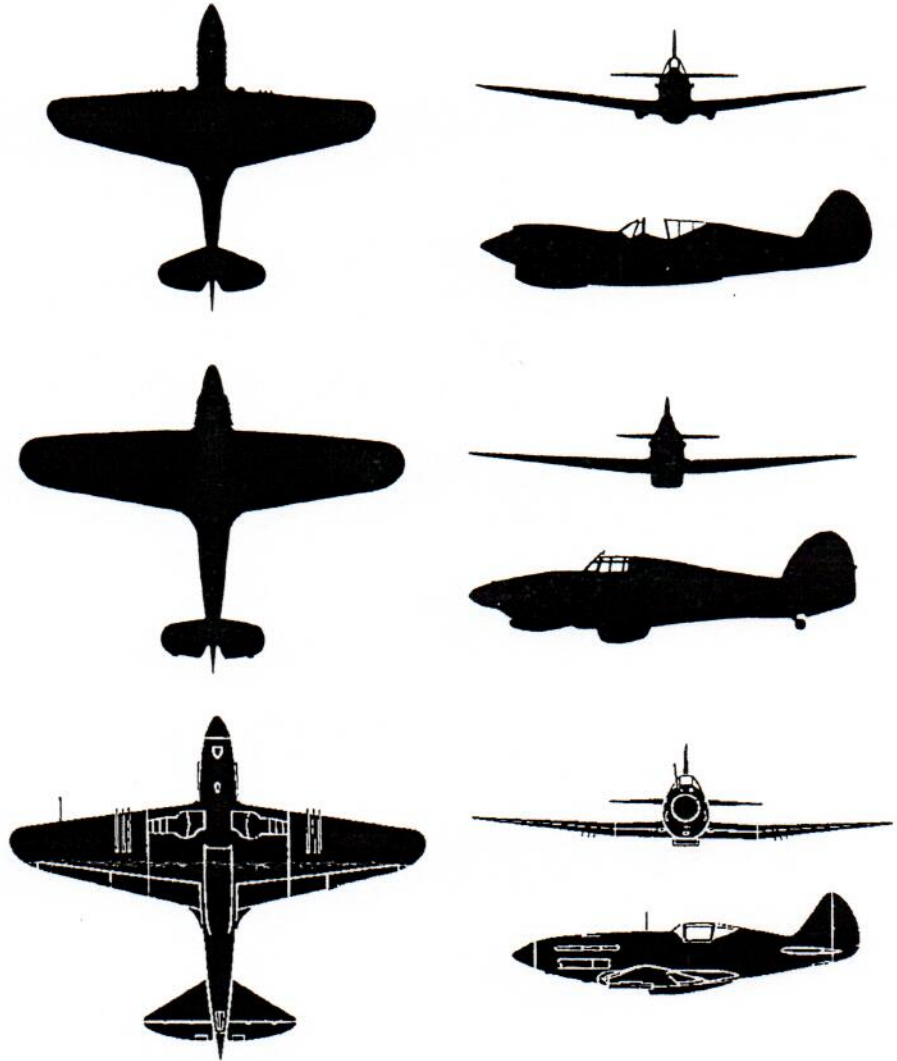
### "The Beech Group"

A number of people have asked me about the organizational meeting for the group so here it is. The meeting will be announced after two important conditions have been met. First, funding. Slightly less than 8000.00 dollars has been collected out of the 14,000 pledged in SEPTEMBER! It isn't going to happen this way folks. Your pledges are what kicked this project off and without them the buck will stop here. Ten people out of our 100 or so members are not enough to see this project through. Secondly, I have broached the matter of



getting the airplane inside for some time now to membership and staff and so far nothing has been done. And **NOTHING** will be done until there is a place to do it. I have diagrammed out how this can work within our existing space and somebody is going to have to get it accomplished. Leon has been bringing over the rest of the parts and they are accumulating in my warehouse as there is not space in the CAF hangar.

I can't, and won't, keep flogging these issues. You decide whether (or not) you want this project. If you do, then get behind it. If the response is positive I will announce in the next newsletter when the meeting will take place. Otherwise I feel my only option will be to return the funds already collected to the individuals involved and consider it a nice try. This coming Tuesday is the time. Come out and speak up. Maybe some of you think this is too much for us to accomplish. If so I want to hear it. I can "spin my wheels" in a lot of other directions than this one. It's been brought to my attention recently and has been pretty obvious by the response over the last year and a half I have been writing this column that a lot of members just are not reading the "Newsletter". I don't understand this.... If one is that indifferent, then why belong at all? Bruce knocks himself out to make sure that this publication gets out to each and every one of you and it's your duty, nay, your responsibility, to read it and be



## What am I?

For all you cocky characters who identified the last set of two silhouettes we are showing a triple whammy this month! A set of three look-alikes. A hint is that the three are each from different countries but all Allies. Be sure and call 238-9266 with your answer and call even if several days have passed. The first correct call wins the free dinner but it took several days before the first correct call came in. Have fun!! Next month we may give you some easy ones.

informed. Besides, its interesting, informative and oft-times humorous. It's for us, about us. If your not reading it you must have very little interest in yourself...????

Course, it just occurred to me that if your not reading it then I'm just "blowin' in the wind". Sure wouldn't be the first time. Your choice!... ADIOS!

# Classified

## For Sale:

Two small steel buildings, approximately 10'x 9' manufactured by Arrow Industries, one still in box, the other has base foundation just partially assembled. Complete with all hardware, nuts, bolts etc. including instructions. Cost \$250 each. Would sell either for \$200. or both for \$400. OBO Call Bruce Toomey at 238-9266.



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