

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VI Number 5

Paso Robles, California

May 1995

May Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 1995 at the Hangar. Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

We are promised either a great beef stew or a number of casserole dishes for dinner and both of these items have been delicious in the past.

As usual, it is suggested that all Colonels be in uniform.

In view of the fact that this will be the last general meeting before the EWBM Air Show, it was decided by the CAF Staff that the meeting would be opened to the Airshow Chairman, Ashley Lightfoot, and his Staff for discussions as to final details and requirements regarding the Show.

If the Show is to run smoothly it is vital that you attend this meeting and be prepared to volunteer your services for one post or another.

Society Editor Needed!!

By Golly, if we keep getting more news of births and upcoming weddings and the like we may just need a Society Editor!

We are pleased to announce the future nuptials of our own Colonel Don Leedom and Nancy Leedom of Palm Springs.

Yes, you are reading it correctly. Nancy is Don's former wife and they are getting remarried!

This hot bit of news was "leaked" some time ago and we are delighted to be able to verify it and include it in the newsletter.

They will be splitting their time between Paso Robles and Palm Springs so we won't be losing Don all that often and, hopefully, we will be able to entice Nancy to come to Paso Robles as often as possible!!

The whole membership extends their congratulations and best wishes to both Don and Nancy!

Groundbreaking for Estrella Warbirds Museum Building

See article in Museum News

1995/96 Dues!!!

Yes friends, it's that time again. Squadron dues of \$35.00 annually are due as of the 1st of May.

Please bring a check to the meeting or mail it in. Our Treasurer, Col. Rosemary Netto, has spent a good deal of time and effort to get out an invoice mailing to everyone so there is NO excuse for not getting your payment in on time.

Please do this. Our bank balances are working their way down and this a major source of our funding. Please don't make Rosemary have to hound you for months on this.

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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Toomey Aviation USA
3044 Propeller Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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

Nancy Green To Conduct Monthly Raffle

Nancy Green, wife of member Col. Arlie Green, has consented to run the monthly raffle assisted by Pat Kitchen.

Anyone who attended the March meeting will recognize that we have the "rip-snortinest best all 'round gol-durned champeen raffle runner in the business!!"

Nancy was asked sort of off hand at the March meeting to help with the raffle. The rest is history. She grabbed onto the tickets and took off, pulling in nearly two hundred dollars!! By comparison, the last meeting was a total flop so we are delighted

that Nancy will take on this task which really helps the pot in a significant way!

The raffle will be slightly different from now on, giving several people a chance to win. The pot will be split with 50% going to the CAF; the holder of the first ticket drawn to get 25% and two succeeding ticket holders getting 12 1/2% each. So buy a lot of tickets so you can win Big Bucks!!

Explorer Scout Post

As was noted in the last newsletter, a request was sent to CAF HQ in Midland requesting permission to start up a BSA Explorers Air Scout program to be sponsored by the Estrella Squadron.

We are delighted to announce that HQ has responded with a resounding YES to our request and the program has already been put in motion.

The necessary local Executive Board has been put together consisting of Col. Blake Wideman, Joe Yarborough, Mark Dart, Col. Frank Lane, Col. Glen Thomson and Emil Mesko. Several of these individuals have fairly heavy past and present experience with Boy Scout programs so it would seem that we are off to a great start.

This is anything but a closed deal and ANY member who is interested is urged to become a part of this endeavor. This is something that will involve the whole Squadron and will be a most rewarding experience. It also gives us a really concrete

opportunity to be of service to the community.

Be A Part Of This. You will thoroughly enjoy it!

A Request

At the last Staff meeting it was brought up that the CO as well as the Meeting Coordinator are often inundated, at the last minute, just before the meeting, by suggestions or notices to be announced at that meeting.

Since it takes some time and advance planning to organize what one is going to say in the few minutes allotted, these last minute items often throw the individual's planning completely off, especially if the items are relatively important.

Therefore, it is suggested that, if something is important enough to be announced, you put in writing and see to it that the CO and/or Coordinator has some advance notice of the announcement.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Membership News

We are again pleased to report that we have gained two new members since the last announcement in last month's newsletter;

- Pat Stanhope, (who was a member in past years)
- William Dotts.

Both of these individuals are heartily welcomed by all the members and they will be contacted by their appropriate Flight Leaders.

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

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of May: Foxtrot Flight, under the able direction of Col. Mike Slason (237-8848) will be in charge of the May meeting and the month's activities. Please coordinate with Col. Kevin Craig with regard to setting up the Hangar for the meeting.

Flight Leader should contact Col. Bob Singleton, Adjutant, (239-2084) for general information with regard to coordination procedures for the monthly meeting.

Flight of the Month

The honors for the Flight of the Month go to Col. Bill Exline and Echo Flight!
On our scoring system which includes members in uniform, number of guests, members in attendance, new members, etc., Echo Flight scored the highest!
Congratulations

Minter Field Tour

We are pleased to see that ALL of the L-Birds are in the air and all of them participated in flights to Minter Field on both Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23. Col. Obbie Atkinson and Ralph Grasso flew over on Saturday in the L-2 as did Col. Bob Singleton and Dave Yarnold in the L-16. On Sunday Cols. Don Leedom and Rosemary Netto flew over in the L-2 and Col. Hal Chilton and Dr. Dwayne Burbach in the L-16.

The L-5 was also up and running and was flown over on Sunday by Col. George Marrett and Dick Griffith as part of the checkout after major engine work.

Heavier Stuff

Not exactly L-Bird category but also in attendance at Minter was Col. Glen Thomson's S-2 with crew of Col. Killion and Willa Killion as well as Col. Dave Geiger.
Good Show!

Speaking of L-Birds

Col. Don Leedom has brought up the fact that occasionally memberships become available in the famed "Bug Smashers" group.

This group is composed of a number of people who got together after the Aeronca was originally purchased as a Squadron project and after the project sort of floundered for a time. Those who had money in it invited a few others to buy a

share and they all jumped in under the leadership of the late Paul Tardiff and Col. Don Leedom and rebuilt the whole thing, on their own, as an L-16.

This was a considerable undertaking and all involved can take a good deal of pride in bringing the project to a very successful conclusion.

Obviously, as time goes by, some members want to get into other projects or simply sell their interest for one reason or another.

This is a good group with a lot of very active participation and one that gets things done. If any one is interested in belonging to the Bug Smashers organization, please contact Col. Bob Singleton.

If there are those interested in obtaining more L-Birds, please contact Col. Don Leedom!!
There is a lot of fun flying in these aircraft without a lot of expense so give it some thought.

Dinner Crew Changes

We have been informed by our long suffering Dinner Crew Chief, Col. Rosemary Netto, that six years is enough. As of September of this year she has said she is going to call it quits in spite of several Staff members getting on their knees and begging her to reconsider.

This is a job that most of us have absolutely no idea about as to the

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

amount of work involved over the years. Not only has Rosemary done most of the cooking at her own home for the meetings, but she and George have also almost always been stuck with the unpleasant task of cleaning ALL the pots and pans that are used at the meeting itself as well as serving tools AND the stuff at home. They never really asked

for any help with this part of the job and your Editor, for one, is embarrassed that he never even thought to offer a hand.

Anyway, although Rosemary has had some good help from many of our members and member's wives over the years, most of the burden has been hers.

Sooo. . . We are looking for someone who will take on this task. It was suggested at the Staff meeting that it be a rotational thing but this was shot down because it takes one individual to be in charge, regardless of the amount of help that could be made available.

Rosemary has assembled a considerable amount of information (which she says she would be more than happy to share) as to quantities to be ordered of various items and just how to go about preparing food for a more or less specific number of people. As a result of her past efforts, whoever takes on the job for the next period of time will have a much easier time of it.

Evidently, there are some individuals who have said they might consider taking on the job for a time. If so, would you please let one of the Staff members, or Rosemary herself, know of your interest.

Knowing what we know now, thanks to Rosemary, there is no reason why any one individual should be saddled with the whole load.

The way it is set up right now, several others provide desserts

and salads etc., and certainly, with a little effort, there could be much more help available.

While rotation as far as the major course preparation is concerned may not work too well, there is no reason why set up and clean up can't be handled by others on either a specific or random basis.

In any event, since Rosemary will still handle things for a while, there is plenty of time for some one or a few "someones" to step in and learn about just what is involved. There is also time enough to do some reorganizing that could make the whole dinner program a lot easier and a bit more equitable.

Most of us agree that our dinners add a most enjoyable aspect to our monthly meetings. Just coming out to a cold (or too warm!) old hangar doesn't really sound too enticing and the dinners, which many thought would be much to difficult to put on, have been a most welcome incentive. A little more cooperation from all of us could possible make the job much easier.

Do we hear any volunteers???

Our Newest "Colonel To Be"

Morgan Ashley Leatherwood

Who Is This Handsome Dude



None other than our own Ken Grubb who stopped by the April meeting to say, "Hello," while on his way to a somewhat more formal affair. As our resident A&E and IA, Ken has been of more than a little help to the L-Bird group.

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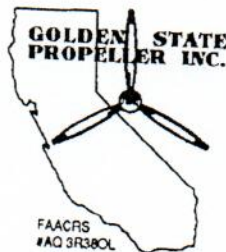
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Estrella Warbirds Museum, Inc.

Museum News

Volume I Number 3

Paso Robles, California

May 1995

Paso Robles Air Show Update

by: Ashley Lightfoot,
Air Show Chairman

It's down to the wire for the 6th Annual Paso Robles Air Show, folks, and this is the last newsletter before ceremonies kick-off on June 3rd. We still need help from as many people as possible, so please donate your time. We will be talking about the Air Show in detail Tuesday night, so come on down and volunteer for whatever job you think you can handle.

You may have noticed tickets for sale at Thrifty and Payless Drug Stores recently. The management of these stores has agreed to sell advanced tickets for us throughout the coastal area. Also, KSBY Channel 6, has begun running advertisements for the show at various times throughout the day and the Country News is dedicating the entire May issue of the Life & Leisure Magazine to the Air Show. Pure Gold 104 is also jumping in with advertisements during their normal broadcast day.

We would like to have as much feedback as possible from all of you, so if you see or hear an ad for the Air Show, make a mental note and bring your comments with you to the meeting Tuesday night. Also, if you patronize any of our sponsor's establishments, please say a word of thanks to them for sponsoring our event. We will have a complete list of our sponsors at the meeting and, obviously, at the Air Show.

We've had some additional confirmations since the last newsletter. One of the more prominent is the A-10 Warthog demo team that is coming from Langley AFB to perform for our show. This is the aircraft that earned it's reputation as a formidable ground attack aircraft during the Gulf War. The performance of this demo team should be quite spectacular. We are also finalizing the details on an act called "Rockets Red Glare." This act will perform an evening aerobatic/pyro act for the Opening Gala Saturday night and will also start the Show on Sunday morning.

We are also wrapping up the detail on a hot air balloon arrival and flight Sunday morning in conjunction with a pancake breakfast. As you can see, we have a lot on our plate. (No pun intended)(Well, maybe.)

I started this article with a plea for volunteers and I'm going to go into a little more detail now. At previous shows, we've actually paid other organizations to sell and collect tickets. The logic behind this is that paid individuals are more reliable than volunteers. Though this has proven to be the case in any instances, the financial drain comes from the Warbird Museum's pocket, which defeats the purpose of having the Show to begin with. We want to prove the stereotype wrong this year. We want to handle the thankless job of collecting and selling tickets, along with many other undesirable jobs, ourselves. To do this we need hard working volunteers who will dedicate themselves to a tough, unglamorous job and stick it out to the end.

Now, we aren't going to set you out by yourself and leave you there. We will

have a rotation set up so that everyone gets to enjoy the show. So, PLEASE, consider volunteering and sign up on the list this Tuesday. Of course, all volunteers get free admission to the show, and if you work at the Gala, you'll get in for free also. So there is incentive other than just plain feeling good about yourself and helping the museum, America, and making the world just a little bit better. (OK. I'm stretching. You get the idea.) See you on Tuesday.

Ground Breaking Ceremony

There will be a formal Ground Breaking Ceremony on Thursday, May 11 at 10:00am at the Estrella Warbirds Museum site on Dry Creek Road

It is expected that a number of City Officials will be present as well as members of the press.

We are requesting that as many members as possible from the Museum Staff and the Estrella Squadron of the CAF be there for this function.

This is the end of a long chain of events and the beginning of a whole new era for all of us. It is important that we have a good turnout to show the City Officials as well as the community as a whole that we are a serious organization that will contribute to the community in many ways.

Building permits have been issued, contracts for the cement have been signed and we are ready to GO!

Please be there on Thursday, May 11 at 10:00am. !!!

Building Project Update

Our Project Manager, Col. Gary Corippo has been spending so much of his time in El Salvador or Alaska or some other strange place for so long that he probably doesn't know where home is anymore. He has squeezed in a couple of columns in between trips in the past couple of months but this time he has just been too darn busy!

To pinch hit, we can only say that the big news is the Ground Breaking Ceremony mentioned before. Along with that, we do have a contract for the cement. All we need now are for the elevations to be shot and the compacting to be done and with forms built and steel placed we will be ready to pour!

There will be more definite news in a few days as to just what has to be done and we may know by meeting time what will be the final word.
Lookin' Good!

Editor's Note

Not having attended many of the weekly Air Show meetings that most of the other Air Show sub-chairpersons have been going to, I did not know until I recopied Ashley's column into my computer that we were going to handle the parking and ticket taking ourselves this year. I think this is one of the best moves ever with regard to the Show in general and for making money in particular.

It's a crummy job, everyone knows that. (It ranks right up there with emptying the garbage cans and being responsible for the portable toilets during the Show.) It has always galled me though, that with 140 members on our roster (with very few honorary ones) that we had to PAY outsiders to handle this basic function. Having been a volunteer at Oshkosh off and on since the 60's I have always known that these jobs were handled by volunteers.

Now it's a lot of fun to watch the Show, especially when it's our own, but we've all been to air shows and if we even had to miss this one entirely it wouldn't kill us.

With the careful money management that's in effect for this year's show, as well as the excellent program that's developing, we have an excellent opportunity to recoup our losses of last year and really come out ahead, BUT, we need the help and full participation of everyone if it's going to work.

You can volunteer for a few hours work; you can volunteer for a days work or even two days including the Gala program. You can even volunteer for a day or two a week to help out some of the more long term projects but if you don't volunteer your time, some of the projects will be a horrendous burden for some already overworked people or they won't get done properly, if at all

It really isn't too much to ask in view of the fact that 20 or 30 people work their buns off every year for months on end to get the Show up and running

PLEASE COME TO THE TUESDAY MEETING. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SOME TYPE OF JOB. THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR ORGANIZATION DEPENDS ON YOU!!!

The Beech Project

Please note that when this project was first introduced in the newsletter some months ago, it was assigned the title of the "Beech Group." This was done without much thought by your Editor and it is clearly a decided misnomer. Henceforth, the change above.

As of the moment the Project is more or less on hold. We do not have enough room to properly work on the aircraft as we all know. With the Air Show

almost upon us and the building project nearly ready to take off it is obvious that we have enough to do for the immediate future without trying to take on a fairly complicated (even though most rewarding) project at this time.

Whatever the decision is with regard to the project, it should be clearly understood that this is a completely open project for every single member's participation. Those who gave or pledged funds up front did so, primarily, so that we could get the airplane before it was sold to someone else.

It is understood that those who put up funds should probably receive at least some priority or consideration with regard to possible training for a crew position on the aircraft or first crack at seats for a period of time when attending air shows. The fact remains, however, that this is a Museum project and not a closed deal and the participation in the restoration and refurbishment of the aircraft is one that is open to everyone. Actually, it will probably take the efforts of all of us to bring this project to fruition!

Anyone who wants to contribute money to the project is most welcome, obviously, but it's going to take a lot of air shows and a lot of functions over a period of time to finance this project. 'Nuff said.



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Calendar of Events

April

28-30 El Toro MCAS
Air Show, **Blue Angels**

May

6-7 Lemoore, CA
Lemoore NAS Open
House, **Blue Angels**
20 McClellan AFB Open House
26-28 Watsonville, CA Antique
Fly-in & Air Show
31 Colorado Springs, CO USAF Academy Open
House

June

2-3 Merced, CA West Coast
Antique Fly-in & Air Show
4 Paso Robles, CA Estrella
Warbird Museum Air Show
B-29 FiFi, etc



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June cont.

8

6-11 San Diego, CA Wings of
Victory B29 FiFi, etc.
9-11 Porterville, CA Moonlight Fly-in
11 Sacramento, CA Sac Exec Airport Air Fair &
Fly-Swap
17-18 Camarillo, CA CAF Fly-in

July

1-2 Redding, CA Air Show & **Blue Angels**
8-9 Sacramento, CA Air Show
15 Vacaville, CA Nut Tree Antique, Warbird &
Homebuilt Fly-in
14-16 Portland, OR Rose Festival & **Blue Angels @**
Hillsboro
22 Susanville, CA Air Show
27 OSHKOSH, WI, Greatest Show On Earth
Runs thru - Aug 2
29-30 Truckee, CA Truckee-Tahoe Air Show

August

11-13 Santa Maria, CA P-51 Roundup and Warbird
Fly-in

.....**MORE TO FOLLOW**



To:

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