

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VI Number 8

Paso Robles, California

August 1995

August Meeting

The August Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 1995 at the regular Hangar, NOT the new hangar as was mentioned at the last meeting. There is no water or electricity at the new site, as of this writing, and the site itself is covered with a layer of dirt like fine talcum powder which would be a horror show if 50 or 60 cars showed up. It was a great idea but, maybe next time!

Social Hour will commence at 6:00pm as usual with Dinner at 7:00pm. A barbecue is being considered and will probably happen so plan to be there.

Our speaker for the evening will be retired Air Force Colonel, Joe Rogers. Col. Rogers, who is presently a consultant for Northrup, is a former test pilot and is probably best known for establishing a World Speed Record of 1525 miles per hour in an F-106 in the year 1959!

Col. Rogers has also had considerable experience in the SR71 and, (with his second seat

man), is the only one who has ever had to eject from the aircraft!

Needless to say, Col. Rogers should be a most interesting speaker.

Dues

We are sorry to report that there are still over 30 members who have not paid their Squadron dues. These dues are a significant source of money and we can ill afford to carry members who haven't paid. It is further to be regretted that there are a number of Colonels on this list as well!!

If dues are not brought up to date by August 1 those in arrears will be dropped from the Squadron membership list.

Museum

Construction

It is always somewhat risky to print names of individuals who have contributed to a specific job because one or more are always

left out. In the case of the erecting of the red iron at the Museum Hangar, however, it seems only fitting that those who jumped in and got it done in record time should be mentioned.

Gary Corippo, Glen Thomson, Ron Thompson, Kevin Craig, Dave Geiger, Gary Morrison, John Escobedo, Mike Valko, Dewey Killion and Ben Tuckey. All of these individuals pitched in for days on end and we now have the outline of the whole building sticking right up there into the sky for everyone to see!! With a flag on top, just like when they "top out" a skyscraper in the big cities!!!

When we first looked at that pile of stuff all over the ground at the site there was a lot of head shaking and beard pulling and most of us wondered how it was ever to be done. (Just like we wondered how the buildings were going to be taken down!!) Well it was done and although we still have a long way to go, those who did this deserve every bit of praise we can muster!!!

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, Col. 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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(Bruce Toomey has no business connection with or financial interest in Toomey Racing).

So if we left out someone, we apologize, but everyone involved ought to feel pretty darn good about a job well done!!!

Unsung Heros Dept.

In the last newsletter we handed out a few accolades to some much appreciated contributors. As usual when doing this, we neglected to include at least one other who should be high on the list and this individual is John Himes.

John was not only instrumental in getting much of our printing done, quickly and often on very short notice, but through his broadcast mailing program was responsible for the production of and mailing of our best brochure

to 23,000 homes in the area!! We also would like to add that this was done entirely at his own expense!!

Obviously, this kind of contribution goes a long way toward putting actual dollars in the Museum coffers and we are most grateful.

Another Welcome
Donation

We are also indebted to our resident A&P and I.A., Ken Grubb, for providing us with a microphone for our public address system that actually works! It doesn't spit, howl, rattle, squawk or shut off in mid message like our other one and we are all delighted to be able to hear our speakers. Many thanks, Ken!

CO's Corner

by Col. Jeff Welles

Over the last weekend there was an auction at the Weir Ranch, south of San Luis Obispo. Don Leedom called me ahead of time and said he'd be there to see if he could bid on a C-3 Link Trainer being offered among the lots. I understand from Gary Corippo that a friend of the Museum, Ed Stuart, was successful in the bidding and has agreed to put the trainer on "permanent loan" with the Estrella Warbirds Museum. What a great find!! What a nice gesture on the part of Ed Stuart!! We hope to see him at our August meeting so we can thank him in person!

I don't know how many of these were built during WW2 for the instrument training of our pilots, but there certainly can't be many left. I understand it is complete with even a control desk so if we could get a couple of mechanically talented guys together and work with Ed Stuart, we could have an operating example in our own hangar. How about it?

I want to thank Col. Blake Wideman, our very capable PIO, for all the work and effort he, and everyone else who participated, put forth to make the visit of the Constellation ("Connie") such a marvelous success. Blake took the bit in his teeth and made the event happen. The crew of the Connie said that, at a successful visit, they take in about \$1,500 per day at large cities. Our event made them more than \$1500 over a two-day visit (not counting Wednesday, their maintenance day).

Our sponsorship of visits like the Connie are important to the group for a couple of reasons. First and foremost, WE OWE IT TO THE CITY to stage events like this. Part of the consideration that the City Of Paso Robles accepted in return for the very favorable lease on the property where our new facility is being built, was the promise that the Estrella Warbirds Museum would sponsor events that promote the airport, bring people to the airport, and develop press coverage about the airport. In that vein, we need to be sure that

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

we keep "our end of the bargain".

Second, one of the goals of your elected Staff this year was to have some fun and offer events where members could come out to the airport and the hangar and have some fun and get involved. This event meets that goal.

I understand that there was some discussion because we didn't make any money from this event. Certainly, our goal has always been to try to make some money for the group when we sponsor events, however, in this particular case "the numbers just didn't pencil out". We could not have been able to persuade the Constellation group to bring this fabulous airplane to the Paso Robles Airport with part of the revenue going to us.

This is an extremely expensive bird to operate and they took a chance by making the commitment to visit us. I am very pleased with the results.

Sure, we will attempt to make some money from the majority of

our events. From time to time, however, an opportunity presents itself that doesn't allow us our normal "cut". This was one of them.

VCR Donations

We are very pleased to have received several VCRs in response to our plea of last month, One from John Himes, another from Arnold Hermansen and two others from people whose names were unavailable to your Ed. at press time. Very sorry!

We will try to determine which of these is the best for our purposes and have it checked out by the local repairman who has a flat rate for VCR repairs. We will return the ones we won't use or, with permission, may ask if we can keep them on hand for future additional needs or as spares. In any event, we all sincerely appreciate the response to our request.

Upcoming Elections

At the September Meeting, Squadron Staff positions will be up for election by Colonel members for the coming year.

Immediately after the election, the new Staff will appoint Optional or Advisory Officers. These positions carry no voting privileges at the Staff level but are extremely important in themselves as Advisors to the Staff as well as a way of introducing and preparing

people for upcoming Staff positions.

The Nominating Committee is currently considering and interviewing members who would be willing to serve as Squadron Staff or Advisory members.

In addition, the Committee is actively soliciting input from any member who would like to nominate someone for a position, or who would like to fill a position, either as Advisory or Staff. The Committee is trying, diligently, to get different people involved in the running of the Squadron. The Staff is often accused of being a bunch of "good 'ol boys" (and girls!) and this is just the kind of thing we are trying to avoid. We want new blood, new outlooks and new ideas.

As is often the case, however, we "hear a lot of cacklin' but we don't see no eggs".

This is the time to get involved and to become part of **WHAT YOU WANT THE SQUADRON TO BE**. If you're not part of it you hardly have the right to complain about it so put your oar in the water and make a difference.

We would like to close nominations, so to speak, by the 15th of August. This will give us time to provide ballots to Colonels and get their return by the September meeting.

Obviously, we are required to accept nominations from the floor but we have always asked that this be curtailed and that nominations be presented in advance. Each applicant or nominee approached has to give

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

a good deal of thought and consideration as to whether or not he or she wishes to participate. An off-hand nomination from the floor just to honor someone usually proves to be embarrassing to the nominee who has never even considered the idea.

Each of you has ample opportunity to suggest someone

or to volunteer yourself between now and the 15th of August. As is stated above, make yourself part of what you want the Squadron to be.

Call Rosemary Netto at 467-3521 or Bruce Toomey at 238-9266 or 9516 to discuss any of this.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of August:

Juliet Flight, under the able direction of Col. Rosemary Netto (467-3521) will be in charge of the August 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, or Col. Bruce Toomey (238-9266) if Col. Singleton is not available.

Future Prospects For Dinners At The Monthly Meetings

We now get to a subject that requires some real thought.

When we first started meeting in our present Hangar, someone thought it would be a great idea if we could have a simple dinner on meeting nights. As you all know, Col. Rosemary Netto was prevailed upon to be the driving force behind this idea. With the occasional help of some, and the considerable participation by

Col. Bob Miller and others, simple dinners became great casseroles, wonderful bean feeds and festive barbecues with a half dozen different salads, vegetables and desserts, many provided by member wives and others.

After almost six years of this, Rosemary gave us fair warning several months ago that she would retire as of the end of the August meeting. This was mentioned in a past newsletter along with a request for volunteers to fill Rosemary's shoes. As of this date no one, to our knowledge, has stepped forth to take on this highly important task.

Although it may seem somewhat daunting, Rosemary assures us that, with the help of some of the wives and others, it is not as tough as it may seem. This is not to take anything away from her past efforts in any way but, rather, to acquaint others with the fact that she has organized and written down information regarding some of the most difficult things, like knowing how much to order of what, and where to get things and the time it takes to prepare things and how far in advance etc. She also has all kinds of recipes for larger scale cooking and serving amounts which will be most helpful.

She has also assured us that it doesn't really take as much total time as one might think if one is as organized as she can instruct someone to be.

Best of all, she has offered to be of as much help as necessary to

whoever would take on this very important role.

While it was at one time suggested that each Flight take on a dinner this was dropped after Rosemary made it clear that continuity was of too much importance to just shift the duty from one group to another each month.

A main bone of contention concerning the whole dinner picture has been one of cleaning up the pots and pans after the meal. Usually everyone clears out in a hurry after the meal leaving the Hangar crew to close up and leaving Rosemary and George to rinse out pans in cold water and lug them home to clean. On some occasions others have helped but here is a case where the Flight crew of the month might take on a tad more responsibility and be expected to clean up to help out the Dinner crew. It wouldn't take long and it would only amount to each Flight member taking home one pan and gleaning it in hot water and seeing to it that it was returned. Not too much to ask, eh?

In any event, the Dinner aspect of our meetings has become a highly important part of our whole scene. It's a nice incentive when asking a prospective new member to attend a meeting; it is certainly fun for all of us; it definitely aids in bringing us together and it's just a whole lot nicer than coming out to a barny old hangar and sitting around. (That's something one does on

weekends when one's wife is complaining about the height of the grass etc.!)

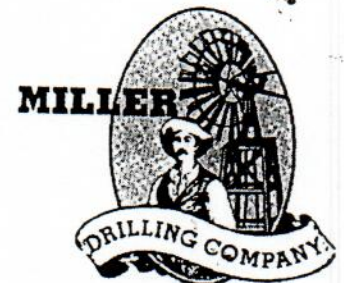
We need help! Will someone volunteer to head up this vital part of our whole organizational structure? Whoever takes this on can probably do so with a number of conditions, especially as far as help is concerned.

Please consider this and get in touch with Rosemary (467-3521) and talk with her about it. It will go a long way toward keeping our organization strong and healthy and you will be rewarded by the undying gratitude of many hungry people!



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Estrella Warbirds Museum, Inc.

Museum News

Volume I Number 6

Paso Robles, California

August 1995 August

Greetings From The Construction Trailer

By Gary Corippo,
Project Manager,

The construction at the new Hangar site is proceeding slower than I want but, all in all, we are making progress. The slab is in, the red iron is about 95% complete and we are almost ready to hang sheets of steel.

We will, hopefully, start to put in the septic tank (donated by Blackburn & Ashton) and the sewer line to it by the time you read this newsletter.

A.J. Sanchez Construction has, again, come through with equipment to grade the parking lot and cut grade for the curbs that are required by the city.

Steve Cerveny Electric is going to help us with the electricity, including setting up the panel and running wires to the light standards that will light up the place. When you see Steve, don't forget to thank him, and if you need some electrical work done for yourself, don't forget to call him.

We will start to put in the curb forms this weekend and try to pour them sometime thereafter. Once we have the curbs in we

can grade the parking lot, compact it, and then grade it for our base material that will precede the black top. After we grade the parking lot we can start to focus on the grass area that will be between Dry Creek Road and the main building.

As you can see, things are starting to happen!!

This is about it for now. I would like to see more of you out there to show the workers some support. If you can get out there we are usually working on Saturday mornings. Just come on out. We don't necessarily work the whole day and any time you can give us will help and be a significant contribution.

Thanks!

Personal Observations

by Bruce Toomey

To see the red iron rising out of what was a plain dirt field not long ago is pretty impressive. To think back a few years ago when we first met above the Kyodo hangar, to our own rented space at Nunnos and now, to our own soon to be complex, is damn near mind boggling.

In spite of set-backs, including a fairly disastrous (financially) air show in '94, long drawn-out conversations and negotiations with CAF headquarters, the City fathers, banks, contractors and on and on, we are incredibly close to realizing our dreams of a Museum space, a meeting and events building and even a restoration building, to say nothing of an attractive landscaped area we can all be proud of.

This, of course, leads up to my favorite subject, volunteerism.

In spite of whatever has happened, our own group of volunteers has made our dreams come true. There are complaints because there are not enough of them but if we added them all up I am sure we would find that there are many, many more than the so-called 10 to 20% or so that most groups seem to feel is the number of real workers in any organization.

Sure we all have different interests and some of us are quite content to see the whole thing as a "club" and simply pay our dues, donate a bit for a friendly dinner and sit around and chew the fat. Hey, this is supposed to be fun and we need the quiet sponsors too. There are plenty of us, however, who simply haven't

taken the time to just start to get involved. It's easy and any contribution of any kind is of REAL help. For those of you who have been "thinking about it" just come on out and see what's happening!!

The construction at the new site is currently being reviewed with an emphasis on clear cut priorities, sequences of jobs to be done and a method of being able to set up guide lines so that almost anyone can come on to the site and know what has to be done with little or no supervision.

At the same time, we are trying to improve our supervisory procedures so that there will be knowledgeable people on hand, written or laid-out plans and schematics to let everyone become familiar with what has to be done and in what order and, in general, providing a stable and organized program that everyone

can feel comfortable in working with.

But you've got to come out. We've heard that people have to be asked, specifically. Well, we are asking. Come on out Saturday morning. Be prepared to slap on a hard hat (courtesy of Gary Corippo) so you won't get a bolt through your skull, pull on some gloves and put in a few hours, until noon or so, and really feel that you are accomplishing something. Give Gary a call and let him know you will be there.

We have good equipment and a certain amount of tools and nobody is going to be asked to do more than they are capable of doing. There are plenty of small jobs that have to be done and they just take "hands". Obviously, a lot of our members are employed and concerned with making a living for their own families but a lot of these

guys have been out there too. Those of us who are retired or not actively working can take up a lot of the slack and can easily devote a few hours a week on a regular basis toward making this thing really work.

What has been done has been done with a small handful of people in an incredibly short amount of actual working time. A few more hands would double the speed at which we are accomplishing, what a lot of us thought, was impossible.

Remember, we're trying to get better organized and better set up to utilize our time and the efforts of our volunteers.

Call Gary, see if we're working this weekend. C'mon out and give moral support if nothing else, but come out and be a part of something great. You'll be glad you did!

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Calendar of Events

August

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

12-13 Santa Paula, CA Air Show

25-27 Paso Robles, CA, West Coast Fairchild Fly-In/Reunion

26-27 San Diego, CA, NAS Miramar Air Show

26 Hobbs, NM New Mexico Wing CAF Open House & Fly-In

26 Willits, CA, Airport Day

26 Grass Valley, CA, Grass Valley Fly-In Nevada Co. Airpark

September

1-2 Madera, CA, EAA Chapter 376 End-o-Summer Fly-In

1-3 Hayward, CA, Hayward Air Fair

4 Lincoln, CA, Lincoln Fly-In

2-4 Camarillo, CA, CAF's So. Calif. Wing Open House

9 Chino, CA, 50th Anniv. VJ Day, Planes of Fame Museum

14-17 Reno, NV, National Air Races



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To:

