

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VI Number 10

Paso Robles, California

October 1995

October Meeting

The October Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 1995 at the regular Hangar, not the new one. In spite of tremendous efforts by "The Few" we are still about 30 days away from occupying our new Hangar.

Social Hour will commence at 6:00 pm, as usual, with Dinner at 7:00pm.

As of this writing we are informed that Bob Miller will take over the dinner arrangements for this meeting. He has been talking about a special barbecued fish presentation, and if this is so, and if it is just half as good as the last one, it will be spectacular.

Our speaker for the evening will be John S. (Jack) Gibson, a fourth generation Californian. Jack was brought up in the small farm community of Lake Elsinore, was graduated from San Fernando High School, and subsequently attended UCLA. He served three years in World

War II with a combat crew in the 20th Air Force - CBI Theater. He spent the last six months of the war as POW. He later served a year in the Korean War.

Jack spent over 30 years as a telephone engineer and computer analyst and is now an avocado rancher in the Cambria area.

Jack's WWII experiences are pretty unusual and he should have some very interesting tales for us.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of October: Lima Flight, under the able direction of Col. Bob Singleton (238-2084) will be in charge of the October Meeting and the month's activities.

The Flight Leader should contact Col. Kevin Craig with regard to setting up the Hangar for the meeting.

Wedding of the Year

We are delighted to announce the wedding of members, Geraldine Ann Siegel and Col. Keith Bowers, on Saturday the ninth of September at the Fort

MacArthur Chapel in San Pedro, California.

Those of our group who were in attendance were privileged to witness a bit of history in the making at this happy function. Just prior to the ceremony a long limousine arrived at the Chapel and from it stepped former President and Mrs. George Bush to attend the nuptial!! The background to this story is unknown to your Editor but suffice it to say that this was a bit of a mind-blower to those in attendance!!

In addition it should be noted that Dale Christian, the lead singer in "Phantom of the Opera," was the one who sang at the wedding and Chris Nash, the Channel 4 Weatherman was also in attendance and even mentioned the occasion on TV that night!! Pretty heady stuff for us country folk up here in little ol' Paso Robles!

Gerry and Keith have a condo down south but we are assured that Gerry will be spending at least weekends up here so we are

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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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most pleased to welcome her again into our midst and hope she will be around as much as possible.

Our most sincere
Congratulations to both of them!

L-16 Share for Sale

We have been informed that a share in the L-16 ownership is up for sale. This is a nifty opportunity for someone who wants to get in some inexpensive flying or for someone who hasn't flown for a while and wants to get back into it.

As most of you know, the L-16, while rather loosely thought of as a CAF plane, is actually not owned by the CAF at all but rather by a group of individuals

who brought it back to life from a collection of parts and who maintain it for their own pleasure and to enhance the overall image of the CAF. If you are interested, please contact Col. Bob Singleton who can fill you in on all the details.

If you know someone outside the group who might be interested please let Col. Singleton know this as well. It's a good way to build interest in the group and entice someone to start or get back into flying.

Speaking of L-Birds

Those of you who manage to wade through this deathless prose all the way to the minutes of the October Squadron Staff Meeting will note that mention is made of the proposed acquisition of an L-4 (Piper Cub) from CAF Headquarters in Midland.

Col. Hal Chilton, our Executive Officer, was reading through the latest Headquarters publication and noted that, among the aircraft available to the Wings and Squadrons, was an L-4 version of the Cub.

Evidently, Hal has been thinking for some time that a more complete representation of WWII L-Birds associated with our Squadron would serve several purposes. They provide relatively inexpensive flying and are fairly reasonable to maintain and they are already identified with the Squadron by virtue of our fly-bys on various national and local holidays. Coupled with the privately owned L-3 and L-5, the L-4 would add significantly

to our "Squadron" representation. Also, being an "L-Bird" it would be somewhat less daunting (to say nothing of being less expensive) for us to take on than something like a B-25!!

Since time was of the essence, Hal contacted Don Leedom and they both agreed to put up the necessary funds to enable an offering to be submitted to Headquarters. As of this writing they have not heard as to whether or not we are being considered.

Bear in mind that the Squadron, as such, will not bear any of the cost obligations. This would be a sponsored aircraft in the name of the CAF but completely financed by donations and shares sold.

Also bear in mind that even though we may be selected we are still not committed until it is agreed upon by the Squadron that we take the bird.

Another aspect of this would be that it certainly wouldn't do us any harm in the eyes of Headquarters if we took on a CAF aircraft, no matter how small. It would go a long way toward proving our desire to be an active and responsible part of the CAF as a whole.

From all indications, the aircraft is in operational condition and ready to be delivered. Those attending the AirSho '95 in Midland this weekend will have a chance to check it out and will report to us at the next meeting.

In any event, more information is available in the Staff Meeting minutes.

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. Keith Bowers
 Safety Col. Bruce Toomey
 At Large Col. John Himes

Staff Appointments

PIO Col. Blake Wideman
 PX Officer Willa Killion
 Historian Col. John Davis

CO's Column

by Col. Jeff Welles

Those of you who are CAF Colonels get a monthly newsletter from CAF Headquarters, called *Contrails*.

As I was reading the September issue, I came across a little table buried in a column written by Floyd Houdashell, CAF Headquarters Staff Controller. In his column he indicates that since the beginning of the ANUAC Credit Program in August, 1992 through June 30, 1995, the top 10 units producing ANUAC Credits are:

B-29/B-24 Squadron	147
Arizona Wing	123
So. Minnesota Wing	120.5
So. California Wing	103.5
High Sky Wing	103.5
Gulf Coast Wing	78
Dixie Wing	64
Carolinas Wing	43
DFW Wing	39
Estrella Squadron	32.5
Highland Lakes Sqdn.	32.5

I think I seem to remember somewhere in my notes that, at last count, there were about 80 or 90 Wings and Squadrons, with Wings obviously being the larger organizations. And whadaya know? Here sitting in a tie for 10th place on the list is our very own Estrella Squadron! Keep in mind that the very popular B-29/B-25 Squadron is, what I would call, a "special purpose" Squadron, formed about 20 years ago for the express purpose of restoring the B-29, FIFI. Look at where the groups that are ahead of us are located; mostly headquartered in big cities or close to large metropolitan areas.

What this tells me is that we have something going on here in Paso Robles that is very special. In a county of "only" 200,000 people, plus or minus, we have produced a membership record that can only be envied by other Squadrons and Wings in the CAF. I want to congratulate all of the new Colonels who have "joined up with this outfit" in the recent past, and I want to congratulate the faithful Colonels who have renewed their memberships over the years.

The Building Project

If you haven't had a chance to go by the site of our new home in progress, take a close look. We are getting VERY close to being finished. One of these days, don't be surprised if you get a phone call from your Flight Leader asking for your help in the move from our existing hangar into the new facility. Please respond with

your best effort when that time comes.

Thanks again to all who have so unselfishly given of their time and effort to make project a reality.

Staff Report

(Condensed)

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, September 20, 1995.

Present: Cols. Jeff Wells, Squadron Commander; Hal Chilton, Executive Officer; Keith Bowers; Gary Corippo; John Davis; Bob Singleton; Glen Thomson; Bruce Toomey and Blake Wideman.

Old Business

Minutes of September Meeting reviewed and approved. There was no Staff Meeting in August due to lack of quorum and, therefore, no minutes.

Financial Report:

The Treasurer is on vacation and Col. Wideman is paying current bills in her absence. There is not enough information at hand to make a full report until the Treasurer returns. Nunno Corp. has submitted unusually high electrical bills for the period which will be reviewed by the Treasurer on her return before being paid.

Meals at the General Meeting:

Col. John Himes has agreed to accept the task as Team Leader for the Dinner Team at such time

Committee Chairs

Program	
George Marrett	466-7640
Dinners	
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	
Don Leedom	238-4313
Meeting Setup	
By Flights (see Kevin Craig)	
Photo	
Ralph Grasso	237-2813
Historian	
John Davis	544-6582
	781-5157
	x-4008

dinner is concerned with Miller's handling October and Singleton's handling November. (Ed.Note. By that time we hope to have facilities installed)

L-4 Proposed Acquisition
 This program was discussed by Col. Hal Chilton. Hal said that the request had been submitted by Don Leedom. We are competing with other Squadrons and Wings for this aircraft and even if we are selected we are not committed and can still back out. The financial arrangements are that we are to establish and maintain a \$5,000 Maintenance Fund from \$1500 donations from those interested who will then be entitled to fly the aircraft. Insurance coverage would cost approximately \$1300 per year and we would get \$25 per hour (wet?).

Col. Corippo asked if the aircraft would have to be returned once a year to HQ and this will be determined. Col. Thomson said that they can look over the L-4 when they are in Midland for Airsho '95. Col. Welles said that this project must not present any cost obligations to the Squadron.

Motion: Col. Chilton moved that the Squadron pursue procurement of this aircraft with the understanding that Col.'s Leedom and Chilton will assume the initial costs. The sponsors will take responsibility for the aircraft maintenance and the Maintenance Fund, hangar and insurance costs and there will be no cost obligation to the Squadron.

The Motion was seconded and carried.

El Salvador C-47
 Col. Corippo said that he is still pursuing the possibility of obtaining this aircraft.

New Business
New Hangar: Col. Corippo estimated that the new hangar could be closed in by mid-October. Col. Thomson said that completing the construction and hanging of the hangar doors is the pacing item. Nunno Corp is building the doors.

Squadron Historian
 Col. John Davis is our new Historian. He needs back issues of meeting minutes and news letters. Col. George Marrett is planning to tape interviews with Squadron members. Col. Welles said that CAF HQ has a program of interviewing WWII veterans on audio tape.

Flight Leader Program
 The Flight Leader Program will be discussed at the October Staff Meeting when Col. Obbie Atkinson can be in attendance.

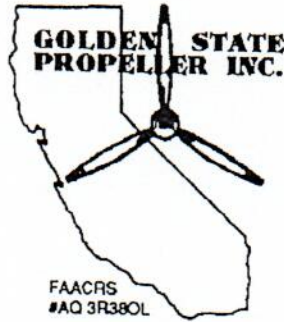
Meeting was adjourned at 20:47.



as we have adequate (though temporary) kitchen facilities in the new hangar. An interim plan is in effect to limp along with volunteers until the facility is ready.

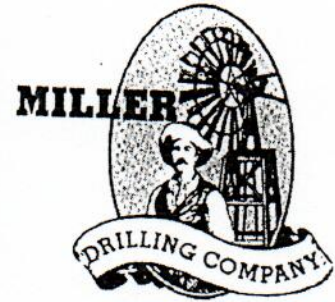
A suggestion that the Flights take over during this period was considered and for the next two months Col. Bob Miller's "Mike Flight" and Col. Bob Singleton's "Lima Flight" will switch monthly duties as far as the

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