

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VI Number 12

Paso Robles, California

December 1995

December Meeting

The December Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 1995 at the NEW Hangar. For those of you who didn't make the November meeting, the entrance to the new hangar is on Dry Creek Road, 1.1 mile East of Airport Road.

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

Our Dinner Chairman, Col. Bob Miller, has spent a tremendous amount of time assembling an excellent crew, overseeing the installation of the kitchen facilities and organizing our whole food program.

The dinner for the December Meeting will be a SUPER true Christmas Dinner with turkey and all the trimmings so please plan to be there to support the Squadron and our dinner crew's Herculean efforts!!

Our speaker for the evening will be Bruce J. Hinds, Jr. who is currently the Chief of

Manufacturing Checkout and Production Flight Operations at Palmdale for Northrop's B-2 division. He has been with Northrop since 1982 and flew the first flight and the initial envelope expansion flights of the B-2 aircraft.

(More biographical information on Bruce Hinds on page 3)

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of December: November Flight, formerly under the able direction of Col. Dieter Eckert, will be in charge of the December Meeting and the month's activities.

(Please note that Col. Eckert has asked to be relieved of his duties as Flight Leader because he has accepted a position in the Santa Maria area and feels that he cannot do justice to the F/L program as a result.)

The Staff is currently seeking several individuals for Flight Leader positions but for the month of December either Col.

Chilton or Col. Toomey will fill in at the meeting for Col. Eckert. For those in the Flight, please remember that you are asked to show up early and help with the setting up of the meeting area including tables, chairs, etc. and whatever else Col. Kevin Craig, Hangar Chairman, needs for the meeting.

New Members

Since our last report, which was in September, we are pleased to announce the addition of several new members!

As Colonels;
Bill Anderson
Ted Watt

As Sponsor Members;
John Cromwell
John Kendall
Ellene Hayton

Please make it a point to welcome these new members and make them feel at home.

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.

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

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

Staff Report

(condensed & paraphrased)

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, November 15, 1995. Present: Cols. Jeff Welles, CO; Hal Chilton, Exec.; Rosemary Netto, John Himes, Glen Thomson, Craig Fossey, Blake Wideman, John Davis, Bruce Toomey, Keith Bowers & Bob Singleton.

Old Business

Minutes of the October Meeting reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Along with the regular report, which is posted and available, Rosemary reported that the

November Meeting netted approximately \$600 after expenses. She further stated that for the past 11 meetings approximately \$5226 was the net total which includes dinner donations, the raffle and drinks.

Past due hangar rents were discussed and those responsible will be notified, chastised, etc. (The L-16 and Navion groups are paid up). The Beech Project owed \$550 in hangar rent but because the project has been dissolved this amount has been written off as a result of a Staff vote.

L-4 Prospect

As of this writing we have not heard from Headquarters with regard to the disposition of the L-4 currently at Midland.

Flight Leader Program

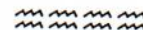
Col. Chilton reported on a meeting of the Flight Leaders at which time the F/L's indicated their willingness to contact their flights and try to provide manpower for various projects. It was noted, however, that people can't be pulled out of the hat, so to speak, without some advance notice. It was also brought up that the best intentions in the world on the part of potential workers was totally wasted unless supervision was available to delineate the jobs and outline the work required.

It was moved that three work days per week be established as more or less "official" work days and that the FL's should so inform their flights. Since Glen Thomson has devoted nearly

every single day to the project and is the one most knowledgeable as to the order of the jobs to be done, he suggested that Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings be established as work periods. The motion was passed.

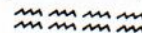
Hangar Construction

The necessity of having a trash pickup was discussed with Glen Thomson suggesting that an "on call" basis would be cheaper for the time being using plastic bags since most of our trash is limited, at present, to what is generated at the monthly meeting. Bruce Toomey, who usually disposes of most of the trash, courtesy of son Stuart's dumpster, held out for a regular one and a half yard small dumpster. It was decided that we make further inquiries as to prices and order the dumpster.



[Editor's Comment]

(After surveying the site and noting that the space provided at the end of the driveway area for a dumpster was not any where near ready (no concrete or solid base as required) and also keeping in mind that the first heavy rain will turn everything that isn't heavily covered with base into a quagmire, it was decided that we hold off on obtaining the dumpster. Trash from the meeting and whatever else accumulates for the time being can be placed in the red trailer and hauled away as frequently as necessary until blacktop is laid and a pad poured in the regular dumpster slot.)



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

Staff Appointments

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

New Business

Col. Welles reported that at the next meeting, the Squadron (as tenant) will hand over the first check for hangar rent to the Museum. He also reported that at some point the Museum will complete the basic facility and the Squadron will have to fund the remainder, e.g. special improvements needed by the Squadron.

Squadron Activities

Col. Welles introduced Craig Fossey who is the new Squadron Activities Chairman. Craig will be working on a new Activities Calendar to project the next six months ahead and he needs input.

Glen Thomson indicated that an L-Bird formation training seminar could be held here, inviting L-Birds from other areas. Bob Singleton reminded us that the regular annual meetings of the L-16 and L-5 Groups will be coming up and these can also serve as a basis for a Squadron

breakfast and/or other informal aviation activities.

Hangar Availability

Col. Welles reminded the Staff that with the approaching completion of the basic hangar we are obligated by the terms of out lease with the City to make the hangar available to other groups for various functions. There was some discussion as to what might be charged to cover the costs involved such as security for our own items, kitchen equipment, parking etc.

A subcommittee will be established to work out guidelines.

Meeting adjourned at 2150.

Bruce J. Hinds, Jr.

(Continued from page 1)

Prior to his career with Northrop he had four tours of duty with the Air Force as a test pilot and test manager at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB between 1967 and 1982. While at Edwards he was Deputy for Strategic Systems Test which integrated ALCM, B-52 improvements, B-1 and other strategic test program efforts, Director of the K-10 Combined Test Force, Chief of the Bomber, Transport, VSTOL Branch, Operations Officer and Director of the C-5 Joint Test Force and Operations Officer of the AWACS Joint Test Force.

He has over 12,000 hours of flying time which includes 6,000 of test and test support flying. He has been a project pilot on

numerous systems which include A-3 barrier tests, U-2 modifications, STOL assault landing tests, receiver air fueling tests on many aircraft, record air drop testing on C-130 and C-3 aircraft and several radar test programs.

He has presented several papers at SETP symposia, served as a session Chairman in 1976 and Symposium Chairman for the 1982 Symposium. He was co-recipient of the Kinchloe Award in 1990.

Bruce has served on the Membership and Nominating committees and was Chairman of the *COCKPIT* Publications Committee. He is a Trustee of the SETP Scholarship Foundation and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Foundation.

He has a B.S. in Metallurgy from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a MBA from Auburn University. Bruce resides in Palmdale with his wife, Pat.

This will be a most interesting program and one which will end our successful year on a very high note.

Please make every effort to be there!!

L-Bird Shares for Sale

There are now three L-16 shares for sale. One is owned by Glen Thomson 238-4858, who originally bought a share more to support the initial project than for any other reason. Another is owned by Bruce Glen 238-1583 who, for personal reasons, was a

Committee Chairs

Program	
George Marrett	466-7640
Dinners	
Bob Miller	434-1594
	434-1888
Membership	
Obbie Atkinson	238-9212
Air Show	
Ashley Lightfoot	239-4461
Hangar/Grounds	
Kevin Craig	238-4643
Bruce Toomey	238-9266
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	
Craig Fossey	461-0367
	466-6511
Meeting Setup	
By Flights (see Kevin Craig)	
Photo	
Ralph Grasso	237-2813
Historian	
John Davis	544-6582
	781-5157
	x-4008

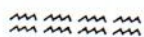
member for only a short time and now wishes to sell his share. The third is owned by Don Leedom 238-4313 who is moving to the East Coast in the very near future!

There is also a share in the L-5 for sale owned by Dick Griffith 434-2124. As mentioned before, Dick says that the L-5 has never run better than it is right now so

this would be a great time to think about buying a share.

It's surprising that these shares have not been snapped up. The L-Birds represent the least expensive flying available anywhere. They are great for someone wanting to get back into flying after a long lay-off and they are just fun to fly! If you want more information, call the individuals above. If you want to know more about the L-Bird "group" get in touch with Obbie Atkinson or Bob Singleton who can fill you in on all the fun things in which they are involved.

This is a great opportunity.



Airshow
June 23, 1996!!

Car Parking at Meetings

At the last meeting we had our Explorer Scouts out in the parking lot trying to direct people to proper spots. For the most part they were ignored which is not right for several reasons.

Those of you who work out there regularly know fairly well where you should and shouldn't drive. The rest have no idea as to what is sticking up out of the ground in the way of pipes or electrical conduit or what might be graded for a specific reason etc. If someone breaks something it could be pretty expensive in many cases to repair or rebuild

so. . . for those who DON'T know what's in the area, please let our crew direct you to a parking spot.

Member Survey

We are again including the Member Survey form and ask that you fill it out, send it in or give it to Bob Singleton at the next meeting.

The last response was something short of phenomenal with about 10 to 15 returning the form.

The purpose of this is simply to let the organization know what kind of interests and talents you may have that you might be willing to share with the group. This is not meant to be coercive in any way, simply informative.

Work Schedule and Working Days

Along with setting up the program for specific work days, the Staff asked that a work schedule be prepared to give everyone an idea as to what needs to be done in an around the hangar.

Glen Thomson has made a list of items and Bob Singleton has organized them into three categories; work to be done on the hangar inside; work to be done on the hangar outside and work to be done on the grounds. This schedule will be used by Glen, Gary Corippo and others who are familiar with the projects to assign the various jobs to those who show up to work.

The schedule will be posted so that everyone may refer to it as needed.

There have been two problems in the past; people have come out to work and there has been no one to assign a particular job which leaves the volunteer totally in the dark as to what is needed and, as a second item, there has been no schedule of jobs that need to be performed.

Glen has said he will make every effort to be on the job on the three days that have been chosen (and if the past is any indication he will probably be there on all the other days as well!)

In this way, anyone who comes out will be welcomed and will be put to work doing something worth while.

Again, this is voluntary so don't necessarily wait for a call from your Flight Leader. Know now that you can go out there for what ever period of time you can give and feel that you will really be accomplishing something.

There are obviously a great number of people who can't show up on a week day but maybe they can come out on a Saturday. A lot of good work gets done on the weekdays and maybe the Saturdays can be a bit more relaxed with more people showing and maybe spreading the workload out a bit. With a few more people showing up we might even make it a bit more festive and boil up a few hot dogs around lunch time and kick back a bit!

We're trying to get more organized to have some fun and to make this thing really work!

JOHN HIMES
Owner

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Remain Anonymous

7

ESTRELLA SQUADRON--CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

I am interested in participating in all of the following activities which I have marked with an "X":

- 1. Aircraft restoration and maintenance
- 2. Representing the squadron at airshows away from home
- 3. Working as a team member on our own airshows
- 4. Helping to build and maintain hangars and other facilities that we need for our tasks
- 5. Participating in Squadron and Museum meetings and other group activities
 - a. As part of the program and/or planning
 - b. On the many tasks to make the meeting a success (cooking, serving, setting up tables, cleanup, etc)
- 6. Representing the squadron in civic events (parades, festivals, etc)
- 7. Becomming a Squadron Officer or member of the Staff

fold here

fold here

- 8. Heiping out on fund raising tasks (raffles, soliciting donations, selling PX items, etc)
- 9. Perform maintenance and repair of Squadron/Museum ground equipment (trucks, tugs, auxiliary power units, etc)
- 10. Other tasks not mentioned above

I have training and/or experience in the following fields which may be useful:

Please add any comments, questions or complaints you have about the Squadron and its operation:

Member _____ Date _____ Flight _____ please print

Flight Leaders: Please return these to Bob Singleton, Adjutant 239-2084

fold here

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