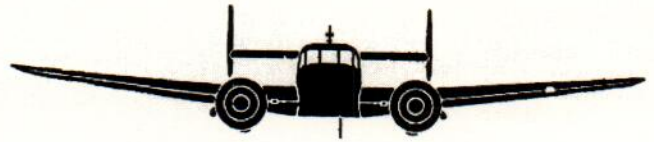


CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VII Number 1

Paso Robles, California

January 1996

January Meeting

The January Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 1996 at THE Hangar. Social Hour will commence at 6:00pm with Dinner at 7:00pm.

Col. Bob Miller and crew will probably come up with a Ham Dinner which should be delicious, as always!

We also had a request from Judy Corippo who has been the major pie chef and dessert producer for some time. Now that our membership has increased our dinner attendance has also increased to the point where it is just too much to ask for one person to make desserts for the entire dinner. Therefore, please give Judy a call (238-2090) and see what you can do to help her out.

Many thanks!

Our program for the evening has a most interesting background. At one point, soon after the A-6 had been delivered, a gentleman was observed at the hangar giving the plane a very close

inspection. He talked with Bob Foote for a time, who was out there working on his own plane, and then left soon after.

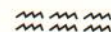
The follow-up to the story is told below in the gentleman's own words in the form of a letter given to the Editor:

There is a connection between an airplane located on the apron behind the CAF hangar and Los Osos resident, Ron Mullisen. The airplane is an A-6E Intruder, Bureau Number 154171, just recently flown-in, decommissioned on the spot by the U.S. Navy and donate to the Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron at the Paso Robles Airport. (Actually to the Estrella Warbirds Museum, ed.) Ron Mullisen is a Cal Poly mechanical engineering Professor married to Claire Mullisen who both have two high school children.

The connection is that Mullisen flew this particular A-6 twenty three years ago while he was attached to Marine Corps Attack Squadron 242 at El Toro Marine

Corps Air Station in Orange County, California. First Lieutenant (at the time) Mullisen's Aviator Log Book shows that he flew this aircraft ten times out of El Toro.

Ron was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1969 after he graduated from Cal Poly. He reported directly to the Navel Flight School, earned his gold wings and was selected to fly the A-6 which included a one year tour in Vietnam. After leaving the Marines he continued with his education and received his Ph.D. from Colorado State University. Ron has been teaching mechanical engineering at Cal Poly for the past 16 years. His talk for the January 2nd meeting is entitled "*Flying the A-6 in Vietnam.*"



This will be a most interesting program and one really close to home in many ways. Please try to be at our first meeting of the New Year in our own Hangar.

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).

Flight Duty Roster

For the first month of the New Year, the month of January: Alpha Flight, under the able direction of Col. Blake Wideman, (237-2810) will be in charge of the January Meeting and the month's activities.

The Flight Leader should coordinate with Col. Kevin Craig (238-4643) with regard to setting up the Hangar for the meeting and also contact Col. Bob Singleton, Adjutant, 239-2084 for general information with regard to coordination procedures for the meeting.

L-Bird Shares

There are now four shares in the L-16 available. Geraldine Bowers has just informed us of her intention to offer her share. As of the moment the shares open are those owned by:

Glen Thomson 238-4858
Geraldine Bowers (310) 795-2731
or 239-3358
Don Leedom 238-4313

Bruce Glen

(Don Leedom has offered to take calls for Bruce Glen who is out of the area)

Again, it can not be stressed enough as to what a great opportunity this is for anyone who is interested in starting to fly, anyone wishing to do some review work toward getting a license renewed or updated or anyone just wanting to do a few laps around the pea patch now and then. The rates are far cheaper than any commercial operation, the maintenance is being handled by a member who is an A&P and IA so you can't have it much better than this. We are in contact with several very capable, independent instructors, a couple of whom are members as well.

There is also a share in the L-5 available and anyone interested should contact Dick Griffith at 434-2124. Everything said about the L-16 goes for this too plus the fact that this is a larger aircraft as far as power plant is concerned and is a whole lot of fun to fly.

Get in there and get flyin'!!

CAF Staff Meeting Report

(Because of the Holidays there has not been enough time to formally prepare the minutes of the December Staff meeting for publication. The following are merely pertinent excerpts from the meeting notes for the information of the membership).

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

Col. Bob Miller purchased a stove with top burners for the kitchen at an excellent price to be used to augment the other which has been giving us some trouble. Since the purchase was made before approval was granted by the Staff, Col. Miller offered to pay for the stove himself. Several members felt that this was an undue hardship on Col. Miller because the stove is a definite necessity so they have made arrangements to repay him between themselves on a donation basis.

~~~~~

In view of the fact that we did not get the assignment of the L-4 from Headquarters several other ideas were presented. (These will be discussed in the newsletter in greater detail than space permits here).

~~~~~

Col. Bower discussed several possibilities regarding heaters for the Hangar. It was agreed that we continue to look at these as

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

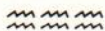
Staff Appointments

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

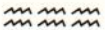


CAF Hangar Phone 238-9317

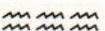
well as the possibility of temporary multiple space heaters from Taylor Rents for the next few months.



The subject of tools for use by the possible restoration groups or others connected to the Squadron was discussed. Col. Singleton of the L-16 group suggested that their group might be willing to donate what tools they still have left if one or more satisfactory tool boxes could be obtained since the one they are currently using belongs to Col. Bob Miller who needs to have it returned. It was decided to ask for possible donations of one or more tool boxes by the membership.

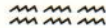


The Staff agreed to accept the request that the privately owned L-2 be hangared in the CAF Hangar in exchange for the normal rental fee for such aircraft.



The Staff agreed to allow the Museum to hold an auction in the Hangar, at a future date, as a fund raiser in place of a regular CAF program which would normally include a speaker. It was envisioned that the auction could possibly attract a number of additional "outside" people to the dinner which would be put on, as always, by the CAF which would reap the benefits of an enlarged dinner "take".

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm



The Beech Project

Mention was made in a previous newsletter regarding the status of the twin Beech and the fact that the Staff had decided to drop the project and sell the aircraft to Col. Tom Leatherwood, who had originally put up the acquisition money. This decision was made after a thorough discussion of the pros and cons.

While the initial enthusiasm for the project was shared by nearly everyone, it was obvious that when the time came for the membership to put up even the original acquisition funds to reimburse Col. Leatherwood, the realities of the project became somewhat more apparent. There was barely enough raised to reimburse Col. Leatherwood and there were those who had pledged who never did put up the promised funds (including the

writer, I regret to admit) for one reason or another.

It soon became apparent that there was some additional misunderstanding between various factions as to the amount of time and money it would take to restore the aircraft. There were those who thought it should be completed within a year or a little more and there were those who thought of it as along term project taking, perhaps, as much as 5 years. It was felt by many that those who were opting for the short term did not understand that this was a voluntary project, supported and manned by a group of more or less untrained individuals and that the group as a whole was far from being able to put up \$75,000 or more in a short period of time to complete a restoration. It was also noted by many that we were in the throes of building the new installation which, in itself, was a mammoth project and, as is the case in any voluntary group, being accomplished by the Herculean efforts of a very few.

It soon became apparent that the Beech Project was being pretty much ignored with everything else going on AND with the obvious prospect of even more construction and volunteer work being necessary to meet the requirements of the City at the new site.

In any event, Col. Leatherwood was contacted to see if he would be interested in taking the aircraft back, which he

Committee Chairs**Program**

George Marrett 466-7640

DinnersBob Miller 434-1594
434-1888**Membership**

Obbie Atkinson 238-9212

Air Show

Ashley Lightfoot 239-4461

Hangar/GroundsKevin Craig 238-4643
Bruce Toomey 238-9266
238-9516**Ground Equipment**

Dave Geiger 239-1598

Project ManagerGary Corippo 238-2090
238-0888**Insurance**

Elmer Belmont 466-1062

Refreshments

Doug Miner 239-1054

Activities

Craig Fossey 461-0367

Meeting Setup

By Flights (see Kevin Craig)

Photo

Ralph Grasso 237-2813

HistorianJohn Davis 544-6582
781-5157
x-4008

graciously agreed to do and those who donated funds were also contacted with regard to the return of their donations. There were those who wished to have the funds returned while others offered to leave theirs in a "pool" so to speak, for the possible purchase of other projects.

The Staff, therefore, decided that our interests would be best served if we concentrated on the

more pressing projects currently "in the works" instead of a project the size of the Beech restoration. Consequently, the aircraft was sold to Col. Leatherwood who, obviously, has a keen interest in twin Beeches in general and was willing to accept the aircraft.

Other Project Possibilities

The Squadron Staff is well aware of the fact that the main purpose of the CAF is to restore aircraft and they are equally aware of the interest that many have shown in this regard.

Currently, there are several aircraft in Midland that are up for assignment including two Cessna UC-78s or Bobcats (or Bamboo Bombers, if you prefer) as well as others. There is also the Navion project that is currently in storage here in Paso Robles.

Without touting either the virtues or problems of these or any other particular aircraft, obviously there are other choices for future restoration.

Perhaps it would be better for us to wait until other aircraft are available from Midland and then bid on one of those. It might also make better sense for us to bid on an airplane that is already in flying condition and then merely keep it up rather than take on a full restoration.

The Staff would be most interested to hear the opinions of the membership with regard to any aircraft project, keeping in mind the availability and

practicality of any particular aircraft. Please give this some thought, discuss it among yourselves and let any Staff member know how you feel about it. This will go a long way toward getting us all involved in a meaningful and achievable project.

New News!!

Well . . . maybe not exactly new news but. . . We have been after Col. Tom Leatherwood to write another Warbird column but he has just been too busy moving into his new hangar and a dozen other things.

He did call with another piece of news, however, and that is that his wife, Tina, is expecting again in June!! So, he is sort of forgiven for the time being but we would like to see some more of those informative columns on the Warbird Scene as soon as possible!

Work Schedule

Our three day work schedule has not had much time to prove itself because of the Holidays but, nevertheless, some chores have been at least partially completed. There is still some digging out to be done in the areas where the new sidewalk will be installed and it would be great if we could get this done as soon as possible because of the coming rains. So, grab a shovel and come on out for little while and maybe we could have a sidewalk before the next meeting.

In any event, it is to be hoped that after the start of the New Year many of us will find the time to come out on any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday and devote at least a few hours to one of the posted projects.

Fossey New Activities Committee Chairman

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Craig Fossey as our new Activities Committee Chairman. As those of you who worked the Airshow last year know, Craig is with radio station KIQO Golden 104, and did a great job of promoting the Show over the air.

Craig would like to hear from any member who has ideas as to activities that could promote the CAF and the Squadron and become a source of income. He is talking about such things as aviation swap meets, fly-ins,

contests, or any other idea that would be in keeping with our purposes and image. We could have things for airplane enthusiasts only or open houses for the whole community or activities in conjunction with other groups etc. etc.

Rack your brains and see what you can come up with and then call Craig at 461-0367. Many of you are constantly suggesting things that we could or should do. Here's your chance to put these to work!!!

Tool Box!

Don't forget, anyone who has a good sized tool box who wants to donate it, please do so. Remember, it's a write-off and certainly will be of help as well!

Flight Leader Program


We are pleased to include in this newsletter the results of the first year's operating statistics regarding the Flight Groups. As a result of the vision and effort of Col. Obbie Atkinson, as an almost solo endeavor, the program is alive and kicking and has been delegated to a Staff member to make sure that it's importance is further recognized and provided for. New Flight Leaders have been appointed and will be announced soon. The structure is being tightened up and member skills and interests evaluated and noted.

At the end of 1995 the number one group was Juliet Flight under the direction of Col. Rosemary Netto, followed very closely by Golf Flight under the direction of Col. Doug Miner.

Congratulations!

CAF FLIGHT LEADER REPORTS--PARTICIPATING AT SQUADRON MEETINGS 1995

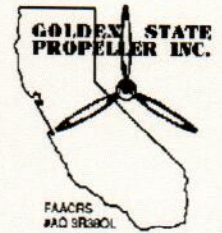
													TOTAL			
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DUTY MONTH	FLIGHT	FLIGHT LEADER	PHONE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	DATE
1995																
JANUARY	ALPHA	BLAKE WIDEMAN	237-2810	18	18	9			6			10		10		71
FEBRUARY	BRAVO	KIETH BOWERS	239-1854	19		10	11	10	8	14				19	9	100
MARCH	DELTA	VERN SMITH	541-8050		12	12	8							10	10	52
APRIL	ECHO	BILL EXLINE	543-2067	7	7	8	17			13	12	7		9	3	98
MAY	FOXTROT	MIKE SLASON	237-8848	17	20	6		16				20		14		93
JUNE	GOLF	DOUG MINER	239-1054		13	9	16	10	22	10	9	13	16			118 ← #2
JULY	HOTEL	DIRK HALE	237-0819			2										2
AUGUST	JULIET	ROSEMARY NETTO	467-3521	23	28	10		11	11	11	15			11		120 ← #1
SEPTEMBER	KILO	JAMES WOOD	772-1362		6	6	8					13	5	6	9	53
OCTOBER	LIMA	BOB SINGLETON	239-2084		35	7	11						17	12	7	89
NOVEMBER	MIKE	BOB MILLER	434-1594		23		9									32
DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	DIETER ECKERT	239-0459	6	12											18
BIG SCORES COME FROM 1) SUBMITTING A REPORT EACH MONTH, 2) OBTAINING A NEW																
COLONEL, 3) LOTS OF GUESTS, 4) LOTS OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING,																
AND 5) BEING THE DUTY FLIGHT OF THE MONTH. BOB SINGLETON, ADJUTANT																



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