

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VII Number 3

Paso Robles, California

March 1996

March Meeting

The March Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 1996 at the Hangar. Social Hour will commence at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Col. Bob Miller and his indefatigable Dinner Crew have promised us a corned beef and cabbage dinner! This great group has been experimenting with "different" meal offerings, i.e. something besides barbecues, and we certainly haven't been hearing any complaints! When things warm up they plan to get back into more outdoor cooking but during the past few months they have been coming up with some truly super meals.

We will have no speaker for this meeting. It will be a general business meeting instead which many have been asking for. It's a chance to kick around some old and new ideas as well as to hear what is and has been going on regarding activities at the site, possible aircraft restoration

projects, Air Show news, reports from HQ etc. If you want to know what's going on, BE THERE. If you have constructive suggestions or comments, this is the time to air them.

It is planned that we have a general or open meeting such as this about every quarter. Some may coincide with certain events like the Air Show but, in general, these will be a great opportunity to hear directly from your Staff and to offer suggestions.

Building Site News

Even a quick trip to the Hangar will let you know that The Few are still at it. We now have concrete walkways all along the edge of the parking area to the west of the Hangar. More base has been added everywhere to the roadway and the front lawn area has been raked and dragged smooth. We even have a new walkway at the side entrance of the Hangar.

The weather, of course, has been anything but cooperative and we

have some low spots in some of the parking areas but these are being cured with base and regrading. This is also a reminder of two things; one, do not drive from the driveway areas onto the dirt areas (and vice versa) when you know the dirt area is soft from rain. This really tears up the dirt area as well as messing up the graded and based parts. Also, please drive slowly and avoid sudden turning in the parking areas, This also tears up the base when it's soft. A lot of time has been spent grading and adjusting the area for better run-off so please take it easy while it's so wet.

CO's Column

by Col. Jeff Welles

Several of us just got back from CAF HQ's 1996 Wing Staff Conference. Those in attendance were, Blake Wideman, Bob Singleton, Glen Thomson and Gary Corippo.

This was a two day event which served to bring unit leaders up to

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Newsletter*

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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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3044 Propeller Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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

date on what's new with CAF, what other units within the CAF are doing and to provide specialized training and information for particular unit leaders in various areas. There were "breakout meetings" for Unit Leaders and Adjutants, Finance Officers, Maintenance Officers, Operations Officers, PX Officers and Museum personnel.

Of particular note were financial updates with indications that our organization is recovering adequately from the disastrous effects of the lawsuit brought against the CAF as a result of the PBY crash a few years ago in which the Court held the CAF liable for judgments. As many of

you who get the monthly Contrails newsletter have read, one of our members from Santa Monica purchased the Zero and immediately donated it back to the CAF. This and other efforts by HQ to raise funds to pay off the judgments have resulted in a very positive response from our members. The "bottom line" is that the organization is still in good shape financially, even after having to come up with better than \$1 million in unexpected costs.

There are several efforts going on in the museum area as well. Under the capable leadership of the HQ museum personnel, a program has been instituted to catalog and document the thousands of gifts that have been given to the CAF over the years. I get the reading that, as a result of their efforts, HQ will be able to identify duplicates in their inventory and possibly make some of those artifacts available to units with "field exhibits" (the term HQ uses in reference to museum artifacts in the hands of units). There was also some talk between wing and squadron representatives that if we made our own inventory of artifacts available to each other, we may also be able to help each other in building our various "unit exhibits".

In the past couple of years the "Footlocker" program has really taken off and is alive and functioning quite well at various wings and squadrons. Basically, this is an educational program whereby HQ makes available to

units a limited inventory of World War II artifacts which the unit places in various grammar school classrooms in their home towns. These artifacts act as teaching aids to supplement the study of that portion of history that deals with the Second World War. As many of us are aware, this period is being "down-graded" in many school curriculums and will continue to be in the future. This program gives us an opportunity to put our goals into action right here in our communities. For anyone who is interested in how we may implement this, please see me or any of the Staff.

Lastly, a visit like this gives those who attend a chance to refocus our vision for what our Estrella Squadron might be. We, obviously, have a great deal to be proud of, in terms of what we have been able to accomplish over this short last 5 years. By seeing what other wings and squadrons are doing, it tends to validate our efforts and provides examples of what works (and has not worked) with other units not much different than ours.

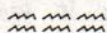
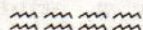
At our next meeting, on March 6th, we will be recognizing some of the people in our group who have given so much of their time and efforts. We are fortunate to have so many folks in our midst who believe so strongly in the goals of the Confederate Air Force. Please come out on Tuesday night for an update on where we are, where we are going and how you can be involved.

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
 Aircraft Restoration Projects
 Col. Al Schade
 Historian Col. John Davis
 Activities Craig Fossey

AIR SHOWJUNE 23, 1996L-16 Memberships

According to Col. Bob Singleton we still have a few memberships available. We can't recommend strongly enough what a great opportunity this is for anyone who wants to get back into flying or even someone who wants to start. More than one current member started out in our own L-16 and at least one and maybe two are going for their instrument rating! If you flew at one time but have let everything lapse why not get current again at a rate far below any FBO or even a flying club?

This also a great way to entice someone to become a Squadron Sponsor. All of us have heard at

one time or another, "I always wanted to learn to fly but couldn't afford it (or didn't have time or some other reason"). Well, this is the time to tell that person, "Do I have a deal for you!!") Seriously, this can work.

The L-16 is a great little airplane, perfectly suited for training and a lot of fun to fly. More than a few of us got our private ticket in an "Air Knocker" (Aeronca) many years ago. (Would you believe 50 years ago this year for your Ed.?!?)

Get in touch with Col. Bob Singleton for details. You'll be glad you did.

CAF Staff Meeting Report

(condensed & paraphrased)

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, February 21, 1996.

Attending: Cols. Jeff Welles, Blake Wideman, John Himes, Al Schade, Ted Watt, Bruce Toomey, Hal Chilton and Rosemary Netto. Craig Fossey, Activities Chairman was also in attendance.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report was read and accepted and will be posted at the Hangar.

Old BusinessHangar Heaters

It was decided that the heater loaned to us by Idlers was not

sufficient for our needs. Our hangar is pretty difficult to heat. Bruce Toomey reported that it would cost \$50. per day for each heater with a three day minimum to rent them. It was decided to hold off (and pray for warm weather!) until we could work out something permanent and, perhaps, better.

Aircraft Restoration

Blake Wideman reported that there is a CAF Stearman available at a Texas Squadron that they are unable to support. There are evidently funds available for this aircraft. It was decided to wait for the return of Col. Thomson who looked at both the Stearman and the L-17 while at the Staff Conference in Midland.

Member Profile

Ted Watt reported on the survey and Data Base program he is working on to put together a "profile" of our members. He asked for more Staff input and more information from members as to their interests and skills. Watt also questioned why Associate CAF memberships were not offered on our Squadron Sponsor applications. (More on this later.) Watt was asked to continue with his project, the initial plans for which were enthusiastically received.

CAF/Museum

Blake Wideman read his letter which was tabled at the last meeting. He raised questions with regard to rental procedures to be followed by the CAF and

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 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	
Craig Fossey	461-0367
Meeting Setup	
By Flights (see Kevin Craig)	
Photo	
Ralph Grasso	237-2813
Historian	
John Davis	544-6582 781-5157 x-4008

Museum and outside groups. He also raised questions with regard to insurance coverage and liabilities, particularly as concerns hangar rental, guest aircraft, museum artifacts and other items. It was moved that a committee be organized to clarify the relationships between the CAF and the Museum.

Old Equipment

Bruce Toomey reported that there have been complaints regarding the two truck chassis' in back of the small hangar at our old site. These are in pretty poor condition as far as the exterior goes and probably not worth restoration. While there are those who feel these should be junked, others maintain that they are good for parts in the event we get a better W.W.II vintage vehicle. It was decided to move them to the present site and possibly cover them or at least make them as inconspicuous as possible.

Midland Trip

Blake Wideman reported on the annual Staff Meeting in Midland. In attendance were Cols. Thomson, Wideman, Singleton, Welles, Corippo and Chilton.

Wideman attended a Newsletter Seminar and learned that many Squadrons and Wings had increased their membership significantly by distributing copies to places like Jiffy Lube, doctor's offices and the like where people have to wait for a period of time. It was reported that one Squadron had received a substantial donation of some thousands of dollars from an individual who just happened to pick up a copy of the Newsletter and wanted to make a contribution!

It was suggested that Bruce Toomey will work closely with Craig Fossey, our Activities Chairman and promotional expert, as well as Col. John Himes, who is a professional in

the areas of mail marketing, printing, design, etc., to broaden our distribution of the Newsletter.

John has even offered to let us mail under his 3rd class permit which could greatly reduce costs of mailing until we get our own mailing permit.

Toomey did ask for some relief in the event we enlarge our mailing list because the current letter, after composing and editing it in the first place, plus the printing, folding, labeling, stamping etc. takes quite a while at present and taking on more is a bit overwhelming.

It was suggested that, if we really start to enlarge it we might allocate a modest amount to have the Newsletter professionally printed, collated and mailed etc. after the material is presented to a printer in camera ready form by Toomey. (This suggestion was enthusiastically received by guess who?)

New Business

March Meeting Agenda

It was decided that the March Open Business Meeting should include, but not be limited to: Midland Report, Financial Report, Activities Report by Fossey, Museum/CAF Membership, Restoration by Al Schade, Explorer Scouts and the Air Show.

Activities

Craig Fossey reports that he has worked out details for the Flea Market and will report at the next meeting.

Blake Wideman reported on an FAA Accident Prevention Program he attended and indicated that the FAA is looking for locations and facilities for future similar programs. This might be a possible rental for our hangar and maybe even a way to make a few points with the "Friendly Aviation Association".

Hal Chilton reported on the proposed ILPA (L-Bird Fly-in) which he recommended could be held on September 20-22, 1996. We should get advertising in place in aviation pubs and think about a possible barbecue, dinner dance, fly-by, games etc. The Staff approved the date.

Restoration

Al Schade, our new Aircraft Restoration Projects chief, would like to have the Cherokee moved inside. He feels that this could be a possible project and being outside and all opened up isn't doing it much good. This promoted some discussion since the airframe was a donation to the Explorer Scouts from the former Mid-Cal Airmotive group which was headed up by member Marc Dart. There was also some discussion as to the condition of the air frame.

It was suggested that Marc be contacted to determine what he felt was the actual condition of the aircraft and whether or not it was worthy of restoration in view of possible wing spar problems or corrosion or whatever else he might know of. Blake Wideman will make the contact. This could be a fairly realistic project

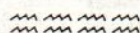
depending on the condition of the airframe.

Blake Wideman reported that the Explorer group will be working on the F-4 section.

Awards

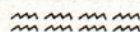
A number of people were selected for the annual awards and they will be announced at the March Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 21:20



Air Show

June 23, 1996



Attention Flight Leaders

For the benefit of the Flight Leaders, we have installed a file rack on the west interior wall of the Hangar right by the kitchen. Each Flight has its own file and we ask that you check it once in a while for information and supplies.

You will note that there is also an "Adjutant's" file. This is for the Flight Leaders to turn in their completed monthly attendance reports at the meeting. It replaces the grubby little cardboard box presently tacked to the bulletin board where you were supposed to place your reports previously.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of March, Delta Flight, under the able leadership of Col. John Kendall, will be in charge of the monthly meeting and the month's activities.

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

Special Notice!!

Bring yo' badges!! You have had a month's warning so look in your sock drawer or under the couch and see if you can't find it!

We really want everyone to wear his or her badge to help new members get to know one another and to help old members get to know the new ones and also to help old members remember the names of other old members!

If you don't have it and if you forgot to try to cajole Col. Obbie out of a new one during the month, you are in trouble and will probably be fined a whole buck!

As was said before, Col. Obbie spends a lot of time trying to make this whole project work and he has been updating the big board with name changes etc. so please help us make this thing do what it's supposed to do.

Thank you!



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