

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VII Number 8

Paso Robles, California

August 1996

August Meeting

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

Please note that this meeting, the August Meeting, is to be held on a Tuesday as usual. The September Meeting will be changed to Wednesday as was agreed upon by the Staff.

For the Dinner at this August Meeting we have been promised beef ribs by our Chef Supreme, Bob Miller. This should be another great meal and another incentive for attending the meeting.

As to the speaker for the evening, George Marrett had someone all lined up but it now appears that the individual will be having an operation instead of speaking to us! As of this point we don't know who we will have but George will come up with something special, you can be assured.

The Air Show

(A compilation of some thoughts from several sources)

There is no doubt that this year's Air Show was an excellent production. It was well organized, ran smoothly and many of the past problem areas, such as security, parking and ticket taking were handled beautifully this year, thanks to Col. Ted Watt and team!

Unfortunately, we did not make any money.

Now... rather than grouching about everything that went wrong we should look at what went right and just how close we came to turning it around and making it a successful venture WHICH CAN AND WILL BE DONE!!

There were several main problem areas this year.

In the first place, we were unable to secure the "up front" big sponsorship dollars that are required to make the event a financial success. With a specific program to get this element of the show into "sync" with the rest of the planning and execution, we can easily "turn the corner" for the coming year. This is an element that really needs to be considered and worked on because there are funds out there available for organizations such as ours.

A second major consideration was the fact that in earlier years we had fuel sponsorship. For the past two years we have NOT had a sponsor for the fuel costs and this has had a severe (negative) financial impact on our final results.

Another problem was perhaps related to the time of the month. Many people are paid on the 1st and 15th of the month. Also, Social Security checks arrive early in the month so there may not be all that much spendable money left by the end of the month. Just a thought.

The truck accident on 101 also contributed to our low gate. We know this because many people said when buying tickets that they had been waiting in line for up to two hours to get to the show.

So there you have it, troops. Several obvious areas that can be readily improved upon or avoided that can make the difference between barely breaking even and making an honest "hat full" for the group.

The actual show figures are very interesting because they indicate just where our major expenses are and where our income must come from. With just a bit of fine tuning

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

of our "game plan" this thing can be easily turned around.

Now, some good news is that we have learned that the Canadian Air Force "Snowbirds" may be available to us next year. This is a Premier aerobatic demonstration team flying a 9 aircraft (military jet) routine. These guys are close, fast and HOT! They also like to do some of the smaller shows and are far less costly than most of the big name US teams and they require much less in the way of accommodations and other perks. They also have a great reputation and could be a tremendous initial draw for us without putting us in the poor house.

With a group like this as a "name" drawing card and by rethinking some of the aspects of the production of our show there is

absolutely NO DOUBT that we can make our show a great success and worthy of the effort we put into it. Local support, increased and aggressive funding efforts and tightened expenses will see us on top!

We are required by the terms of our lease with the City to put on an air show. There are many people as of this moment who are working on realistic plans for next year. You can rest assured that we WILL have an air show next year and it will be successful! You will be hearing more soon!!

Anonymous Donor to Make Matching Fund Gift

We have been informed of an incredibly generous offer made by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

This donor is willing to put up \$5,000 dollars against matching funds of the same amount!! In other words, any amount donated from five dollars or one hundred dollars donated to the Museum will be matched by the donor up to \$5,000 dollars! This means that we could conceivably wind up with \$10,000 in our coffers which would go a long way toward offsetting some of our immediate financial concerns

This is just the kind of donation that other Museums and groups are able to obtain to fund their programs. It is just the kind of thing we need to get us really going, to make payments on the loan we have and to sock something into our next project or projects.

While it is hoped that every member will make as much of a contribution as possible to take advantage of this situation, it is also an incredible opportunity for us as a group and

as individual members to see what we can do about getting some outside money from those who are willing and able to make contributions of this type.

There are many, many philanthropic groups, trusts and individuals who are more than willing to donate to educational and historical organizations such as ours. Many are set up just for this type of thing and there must be a any number of members who have some contact with groups and individuals who would be willing to make a contribution of some kind.

The matching fund concept is a universally accepted method of fund-raising used by universities as well as corporations and many others for increasing the value of contributions. To be able to have such an opportunity for our own group is extremely fortunate for us.

Please give this some in-depth consideration. This is a chance of a lifetime for us and everything we can do to make it happen will be tremendously worthwhile.

Please contact any one of the Staff members with any ideas you may have. Every suggestion or notion could be most valuable.

"Good Show" at Camp Roberts

On July 24 Camp Roberts put on a series of events that were capped by an old fashioned USO type show. We received the information too late for the July newsletter but coverage in the local paper seemed to be sufficient.

We are pleased to be able to report that both of our organizations were represented, although completely unofficially because of insurance considerations. Nevertheless, four L-Birds made the "missing man" pass over the festivities and the S-2

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



CAF Hangar Phone 238-9317

contributed with its usual beautiful "round engine" sound pass immediately thereafter.

Chuck Wentworth in an L-4 lead the group, the balance of which was composed of Obbie Atkinson in the L-16, George Marrett in the L-5 and, just in time to make it a true four man formation, Bill Clark in the L-19. We are grateful to Bill who took the time to make this work properly and the fly-over was much appreciated by all.

In addition to the fly-over Gary Corippo saw to it that "our" vehicles were on display as well. The two jeeps, one with the machine gun, and the new weapons carrier were all driven out by volunteers and definitely added to our contribution to the Camp Show.

Squadron to Host ILPA Group

Earlier this year the Squadron was approached by the International Liaison Pilots Association regarding the possibility of holding a "meet" here in the Paso Robles area. The Staff agreed that this might be a

good example of the sort of informal activity that could produce some good will, some interest on the part of the community and, quite possibly, a few bucks for ourselves. It was agreed that we would welcome the group and provide a fairly simple but good barbecue as a fun-raiser for us on one of the nights and a pancake breakfast on the last morning.

As of this writing, the group is planning on the dates of Friday, September 20 through Sunday morning September 22, 1996.

From what we gather, the ILPA is a rather informal organization and we have no idea, at this point, as to the number of aircraft and pilots who might plan to attend. It has been suggested that we hold a few low-key events like a spot landing and perhaps a "flour bombing" contest just to provide some interest and, probably, a little amusement as well.

More information will be available by the next newsletter but keep these dates in mind. It could be a lot of fun.

Blue Grass Festival and Brunch!!

Col. Dewey and Willa Killion have come up with a nifty idea for a way to have a delightful afternoon and make a little money at the same time. Jay Barber and his Wind River Blue Grass Band have agreed to play for us and Dewey and Willa have offered to pay for the cost of the entertainment as a donation to the Squadron! This is a very generous offer and the Staff was quick to accept.

It was suggested that we put on a brunch for the attendees and make a little money for the Squadron at the same time.

This event will be held on Sunday, August 11, from 11AM to 3PM at the Hangar. Admittedly, this is short notice because most of you will be receiving this newsletter on the 1st through the 3rd of August and the Festival will be a week from that weekend. Still, it's enough time to make plans for a fun afternoon.

C'mon out!! It'll be a great time!!

CAF Staff Elections

At the September Meeting the new CAF Staff for the coming year will be elected. Ballots will be sent out to all colonels in approximately two weeks. They are self-mailers and will be returned for tabulation at the September Meeting. As you know, only colonels are allowed to vote for the CAF Staff positions.

The Nominating Committee composed of Cols. Obbie Atkinson, Jeff Welles, Rosemary Netto and Bob Singleton have submitted a slate of officers as are shown in the following Staff Meeting Report. These individuals were chosen after due deliberation and after consulting with them as to whether or not they would accept the nomination.

Any CAF Colonel may apply for any one of the seven voting Staff positions and any colonel can nominate any other colonel. Please remember, however, that many individuals have been considered and approached, most of whom, for personal or other reasons, declined to accept appointment as candidates for Staff positions. All of the above named candidates were interviewed and questioned and have agreed to accept the responsibilities of the office and provide the amount of time and effort that the position requires.

If any Colonel wishes to be considered for one of the Staff

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

positions, or wishes to place another colonel's name on the ballot for consideration, please inform one of the members of the nominating committee prior to the time the ballots are sent out, which will be in approximately two weeks. There will be no nominations accepted from the floor at the September Meeting.

CAF Staff Meeting Report

(condensed & paraphrased)

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, July 17, 1996.

Attending: Cols. Jeff Welles, John Davis, Bob Singleton, Bruce Toomey, Glen Thomson. Also at the meeting were Col. Dewey Killion and Willa Killion.

Minutes

The Minutes of the June Staff Meeting were read and accepted as amended.

Treasurers Report

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

Old Business

Activities:

Willa Killion reported that the PX collected \$58. at the July 4th celebration in Atascadero. Jeff Welles reported that Craig Fossey was injured in a rear-end collision so some of the Activities planning would be delayed, e.g. Flea Market and Morro Bay Dinner Cruise.

Moving Old Trucks:

Jeff Welles will provide a trailer and Bruce Toomey will move old trucks from the old hangar site.

Navion Inspection:

Al Schade will contact Keith Bowers to look at the Navion to determine its condition for rework-to-flying status as well as its net worth as is.

Change of Meeting Date for General Meeting:

The meeting date will change from the first Tuesday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month

commencing with the September 4th Meeting. Meeting times will remain unchanged.

Nominating Committee:

The Committee composed of Cols. Jeff Welles, Rosemary Netto, Bob Singleton and Obbie Atkinson recommended the following as members of the Staff of the Estrella Squadron, to be voted on at the September Meeting for the following year.

Voting Members:

- Sqdn CO Col. Blake Wideman
- Executive Officer Col. Ted Watt
- Finance Off. Col. Rosemary Netto
- Adjutant Col. John Himes
- Maintenance Off. Col. Al Schade
- Operations Off. Col. Gary Shepard
- Safety Officer Col. James Wood

Non-voting Member:

- At Large Col. Jeff Welles

A number of recommendations were also made for Committee Heads who work closely with the Staff but actual appointments are made by the newly elected Staff.

Voting for Staff members is limited to fully paid up Colonels.

Cost of Operating Hangar

The cost of operating our hangar was reviewed by a committee composed of Cols. Bob Singleton, Rosemary Netto and Bruce Toomey. Rosemary presented a tabulation of our current costs as follows:

	<u>3mo.</u>	<u>6mo.</u>
Rent @ 950/mo	2850	5700
Electric	398	630
Gas (Kitchen only)	104	140
Water (No grass)	37	
Water (some grass)		117
Phone	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>
Totals	3445	6643

Minimum cost to CAF

Per Mo.	1148	1107
Per Day	38	37

The Committee recommended rent to non-profit groups and paid up

members, including kitchen use, at \$50 to \$75 per day. Heating was not considered. Renting party to provide clean-up and repair fee in advance to cover tasks not completed by renter.

Blake Wideman asked what other facilities charge. Rosemary said the Senior Center charges \$20 per day for room and kitchen but this is a much smaller facility than ours. Jeff Welles asked that other organizations and municipalities be contacted and Bruce Toomey agreed to do so.

Hangar Layout:

The committee composed of Jeff Welles and Glen Thomson are to provide a layout of the hangar showing areas for restoration, museum and meeting areas. Glen said that Museum Curator, K.O. Eckland is also working on this layout and they will all get together for a final layout consideration.

ILPA Fly-in:

The Western Division of the International Liaison Pilots Association plans to have their 1966 Fly-in is Paso Robles, utilizing our Hangar. It was moved and passed that we host this event which will occur on September 20, 21 & 22. Invitational and informational flyers will be sent out and a committee composed of Jeff Welles, John Himes, Blake Wideman, Bruce Toomey, George Marrett and Bob Singleton was formed to make arrangements.

New Business

Blue Grass Festival Sunday August 11, 11AM to 3PM.

It was moved that we host this brunch and event which will feature Jay Barber and his Wind River Blue Grass Band. Dewey and Willa Killion will pay for the band as a donation to the Squadron.

Meeting adjourned at 21:15.

Membership News

We are pleased to announce the addition of several new members:

Col. Brian Webster of Paso Robles, an Aviation Insurance Broker.

Col. Donald A. Severa of Templeton, a rancher.

Richard Umphrey of Paso Robles who has attended a number of past meetings.

Eric Stroud of Golden State Propellers, well known to many.

Thomas H. Thornton of Paso Robles who had his Ercoupe in our Show.

We are most happy to welcome them as members and hope everyone will make them feel at home.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of August, Juliet Flight under the able direction of Col. Gary Shepard will be in charge of the monthly meeting and the month's activities.

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

We Are Now Complete

No hangar or shop worthy of the name can be considered complete unless there is one simple ingredient: the Hangar (or Shop) Cat.

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We are now truly accepted with the arrival of one nifty red feline who seems purrfectly happy with the present arrangement which is, being fed and watered at least three times a day by whatever sucker walks in the Hangar. How many guys are carrying bags of cat food in their cars and trucks?? Fess up guys!

Actually, a cat can be a good omen and will certainly cut down on the mouse population as well as bird poop which can be most beneficial to rag wing owners. If the cat is not appreciated contact Joan Toomey who will take him on in a heartbeat!!

There is an informal contest to name the cat. All suggestions should be placed in the cardboard box attached to the moveable bulletin board (Flight Leader Board). Whoever comes up with the winning name (to be chosen by a committee composed of an undisclosed group to avoid any hard feelings, embarrassment or charges of influence peddling or outright fraud) will receive free copies of the newsletter for life and a free ticket for the monthly drawing at the September meeting!!

Classified

*** Special Notice ***

Join Gary and Judy Corippo on a GLOBUS ESCORTED TOUR OF NIAGARA FALLS, OTTAWA AND QUEBEC.

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Call Judy at 238-2090 or 461-1222.

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