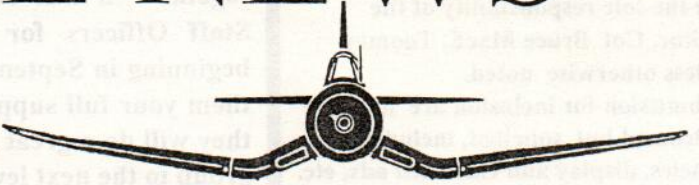


CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

Estrella Squadron



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

Volume VII Number 9

Paso Robles, California

September 199

September Meeting

NEW MEETING DAY!!

WEDNESDAY

The September Meeting will be held On WEDNESDAY, September 4, 1996 at the Hangar. Social Hour will commence at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

The Dinner at the September Meeting will be Bob Miller's special Catfish which will be grilled outdoors this time rather than in the closed Hangar!!

(Editor's Note; Now, those of you who don't like fish, and catfish especially, this is a clarion call to come and try this item. I dislike fish in general but I will scarf up Miller's catfish any day of the week. Truth!)

The speaker for the evening will be a special treat; Louis D. "Deak" Childress, Captain, U.S. Navy who is the new Commanding Officer at NAS Lemoore replacing our friend

Capt. Gregory C. Wooldridge who was called back to head up the Blue Angels again after the resignation of the last commander.

We are grateful to have Captain Childress take the time from his busy schedule to speak with us and hope this will continue the valued and friendly relationship we have with Lemoore.

Captain Childress' biography is so interesting it defies paraphrasing so it is reproduced fully beginning on page 5.



Also at the meeting we will announce the results of the election for new CAF Staff Officers. This will be a most interesting meeting and we urge all to attend.

It is again requested that ALL Colonels be in uniform.



CO's Column

Col. Jeff Welles

As my term of leadership draws to a close, it provides an opportunity to re-evaluate the events and changes during the past two years.

All of the following were accomplished by our membership during that short time period.

1. We leased the hangar site from the City, which gave us the opportunity to think about a home of our own.
2. Castle & Cook donated the buildings on the old almond plant site to us.
3. Our members expended man-years of effort in dismantling and transporting the buildings to the new site.
4. We negotiated an \$80,000 loan from the City at very favorable terms. (We have borrowed \$31,500 against the commitment as of this date and are getting ready to make the first principal payment of \$6,100, plus interest, within the next couple of weeks).

(cont'd next pg.)

The Estrella Squadron Newsletter

is published monthly as an unofficial voluntary contribution. Contents and opinions, other than by-line columns, are 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,

Toomey Racing USA
3019 Propeller Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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

5. We built the first building of our complex and moved in November, 1995.
6. We expanded our membership of Colonels from the low-20's to just about 50 Colonels at this writing.
7. We have resolved our differences with Midland over several issues we had with them regarding insurance for our 1992 Airshow. We have participated in their annual airshow in Midland and attended staff conferences in respectable numbers.
8. We have expanded our membership (associates and Colonels) to about 150 members.
9. We have instituted a Membership Committee Chairman, Obbie Atkinson, who has been very aggressive in getting new members and Colonels.

None of the above could have been accomplished without the sterling effort of YOU, our members. This is YOUR organization, and you deserve the fruits of your labor.

The Nominating Committee has put together a fine slate of potential Staff Officers for the next term beginning in September. Please give them your full support. I know that they will do a great job growing our group to the next level.

Our group (like many others) is always looking for new leadership. Take the opportunity to get involved. I can speak from personal experience - it is a most rewarding experience. I would challenge each of you to become more involved with our Squadron. You will enjoy the experience and we can use the help.

I will be remaining on Staff as a "Staff member-at-large. I hope to stay involved with specific projects that Blake and his Staff make available to me.

Thank you for all of your support. You can be proud of what you have accomplished.

Matching Gift Fund Half Way There!!!

The total on hand as of this writing is slightly over \$2,520 for the Matching Gift Fund. We are over half way there and with only 25 donors so far!!

Please don't let this opportunity slip by. ANY amount is welcome and remember, even if you think your donation is too small, it will be doubled by the terms of the Gift, so even a ten dollar gift becomes twenty dollars by the time it is counted.

We NEED the money and this matching gift offer is an incredible

way to DOUBLE the amount that is donated. Please send in your check today in the prepaid envelope that was sent with the letter.

ILPA Fly-in Sept. 21 & 22

The 3rd Annual West Coast ILPA Gathering (WCIG) of liaison pilots and aircraft is now a confirmed fact.

The event will be sponsored by the Squadron and will be held on Friday and Saturday September 21st and 22nd at the Hangar. There will be a Barbecue on Saturday night and an informal breakfast on Sunday. (The EAA is also holding a breakfast on Sunday and it is possible that we may work with them in this regard but details have to be worked out).

Other than that the event is ON and it looks like a lot of fun. There will be some flour bombing and spot landing contests and at least one area gaggle (out and back) flight. Bill Clark has kindly offered to let those who wish to fly out to his strip and back.

We hope that there will be a good participation by the members as well as some needed volunteering to help with the activities. More about this at the meeting.

C'mon out!! This is what we're here for!

A Vote of Thanks

Our departing Commanding Officer, Colonel Jefferey Welles, has left us, earlier in this Newsletter, with a written summation of what the group as a whole has accomplished in the past two years.

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



This has been a period of tremendous growth, many changes and many improvements. It has also been characterized as a time of somewhat tumultuous problems and emotions.

Throughout all of this, we, as an organization, have been guided by the calm, reflective common sense of our CO. Never, in the midst of strife and argument has he ever refused to give anyone a chance to air their views. But in the end, his calm voice and reasoned approach has always quieted the storms and soothed the angry.

He has also been a definite "hands-on" leader. He has tackled the worst of jobs, has been on hand for the lowest and meanest work whenever required and has always been a strong pillar holding up the structure of our group. He has been a wonderful financial advisor; he has worked on every committee in the organization and usually many nights in a row, coming all the way from SLO; he has taken on the most

time consuming of jobs; he has traveled all over the country representing the Squadron and has done all of this with incredible good humor and all the time emanating an attitude of quiet competence and ability.

Jeff gave us a summation of the accomplishments of past few years. What modesty will not permit him to say but what every one of us knows from the bottom of our hearts, the accomplishments could never have been achieved without his leadership.

To Col. Jeff Welles we humbly say,

Thank you.



CAF Staff Meeting Report

(condensed & paraphrased)

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

Attending: Cols. Jeff Welles, John Davis, Bob Singleton, Bruce Toomey, Glen Thomson, Rosemary Netto, Blake Wideman and John Himes. Also at the meeting was Col. Gary Corippo.

Minutes

The Minutes of the July Staff meeting were read and accepted with two amendments.

Treasurer's Report

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

Old Business

Activities - Craig Fossey, Activities Chairman is still being treated for

injuries suffered from an automobile accident. Consequently the Flea Market program and the Morro Bay Dinner Cruise are still on hold.

Old Trucks - Bruce Toomey to move trucks to Gary Morrison ranch with trailer provided by Jeff Welles' organization.

Navion Inspection - Al Schade, our Restoration Officer, looked over the Navion to determine its condition with regard to re-working to flying status and net worth as is. As an airplane built for the Navy it is coated with zinc chromate inside and, consequently, in quite good condition with regard to corrosion. It has been sitting for 10 years, however, and the eight owners have stated that it is not for sale at this time. We will continue to look for a suitable restoration project.

Hangar Operating Costs - It was earlier reported that the operating costs for our Hangar were in the area of 40 dollars per day. This estimate was made with the thought of renting the space to community groups. The cost does not include the fact that Squadron people would have to be on hand to look out for our interests. John Himes said that nothing in the area is available for less than 75 dollars a day. A committee composed of John Himes and Bruce Toomey was formed to check going rates and recommend a fee structure for the use of our Hangar.

Hangar Layout - The committee consisting of Jeff Welles and Glen Thomson is to provide a layout of the Hangar to show areas that could be apportioned for restoration, meetings, etc. Glen said he thought K.O. Eckland had been assigned this task and said he would check

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

John Himes announced that he will head up a barbecue of Saturday evening the 21st and there will be music by Fred Strong who has a treasury of WWII music.

Twin Cities Hospital has kindly offered to donate \$500. toward the event.

Blue Grass Brunch Results - Willa Killion has reported that we made slightly over 200 dollars at the brunch for which she and Dewey Killion sponsored the live band. This was a pretty good take in view of the fact that there was so little notice of the event and consequently, the small amount of advertising. It was agreed that everyone had a good time and it was a very pleasant affair.

New Business

Dinner Team Leader - It was reported that Bob Miller will not lead the Dinner Team after the September Meeting. We badly need a new leader and it was suggested that we ask for volunteers who would do it for a 3 month period.

Advertising Ourselves - John Himes suggested that we communicate with other air groups (EAA, Ultralites, etc.) and let them know who we are. Bob said we should participate in activities at other cities with our trucks and jeeps carrying CAF signs and banners.

Good Guys and Gals - Rosemary moved that we make Elaine Borden an honorary member for all her past help both as a former Airshow Co-chairman and her contributions every month at the meetings. This motion was enthusiastically passed unanimously. Bob moved that Certificates of Appreciation be presented to Stuart Toomey for providing us with the constant use of his copy machine, paper and

layout work on the newsletter and to Nancy Green for leading the raffle team to success. It has been a lot of fun and a constant source of revenue. Both motions passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2055.

Hawthorne Air ShowBig PX Success

Willa Killion reported on the recent Hawthorne Airshow which was attended by herself and Dewey, Glen Thomson, Blake Wideman and Bobbie and Al Schade all in the S-2. Although they had to pack up and leave fairly on Sunday the PX made slightly over \$700 between Saturday and Sunday noon!! This is an example of what can be achieved when organization and effort are teamed up, both of which seem to flow through Willa and Dewey's veins in abundance.

Willa will be going into the hospital for a back operation in mid-September and Bobbie and Al Schade have offered to take over the PX while Willa is recuperating. Although Willa will be sorely missed it would be hard to imagine a better pair to take over the PX department in her absence. (Or any other department for that matter!!) Both Al and Bobbie have given ample evidence of their capabilities in the past year or two.

We all wish Willa the very best of luck during her operation and recovery and we hope she gets the relief she richly deserves. It won't be the same without her!!



with him to determine what progress had been made.

ILPA Fly-in

The International Liaison Pilots and Aircraft Association (Western Division) will hold their 1996 Fly-In at our Hangar on September 21 and 22. Committee members for the event are Jeff Welles, John Himes, Blake Wideman, Bruce Toomey, George Marrett and Bob Singleton. We have received a membership list, posters have been mailed and Bill Clark has graciously agreed to accept a group visit to his ranch.

Blue Grass Brunch

Results (An expansion of Staff Meeting notes)

Although mentioned in the Staff Meeting notes, the membership should also be aware of the fact that, in spite of short notice and not much advance advertising, the Brunch made a bit over \$200 for the Squadron. The fact that Dewey and Willa Killion donated the Band is no small part of this picture and we are most grateful.

Willa also said that on top of the fact that we made some money, there is enough food left over in the freezer to handle the ILPA meeting and, perhaps, even another dinner!

Everyone had a good time in spite of the heat and something like this could be a welcome permanent annual program. With proper advertising and plenty of notice we could attract a good crowd of people from the community and this is just the way to get ourselves better known throughout the area.

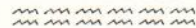
Planning Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the newly formed Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Col. Ted Watt met on Thursday the 22nd of August. Col. Watt prepared a comprehensive agenda for discussion and most of the items were covered.

It is apparent that there are number of areas that require review and considerable thought with regard to improving the organization as a whole. Col. Watt and the group are working on a much more meaningful committee plan which will allow a far better utilization of

member talents without the all too frequent "calls-to-action" with regard to sort of vague projects and plans.

In addition, a considerable number of areas were discussed with regard to improvement of overall plans and objectives, some of which will help clarify the relationship between the Squadron and the Museum and which may arrive at benefits for both. It is believed that recommendations for improvement in these areas will be most welcomed by the membership and will be the beginning of a vastly better organized overall plan of action.



(Below is the full biography mentioned on page 1).

Captain Childress

A brief biography

Captain Childress began his Naval career by entering flight training at Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida in July of 1973. He was commissioned in of November of 1973 and began primary flight training in the T-34 at Saufley Field. In January of 1974 he began basic prop training in the T-28 at Whiting Field and performed well enough to be selected for pipeline transition to advanced jet training. He reported to VT-25 in Beeville, Texas in July of 1974 and received his wings on December 20th of that year.

After graduation from flight school Ensign Childress was assigned to VF-74 at Oceana, Virginia flying the F-4 Phantom from the decks of the USS Nimitz and USS Forrestal from 1975 to 1978.

In October of 1978 Lt. Childress was assigned to VF-121 at NAS Miramar in San Diego as an instructor pilot in the F-4 RAG. Following the Navy's decision to single-site F-4 RAG training at NAS Oceana, he was reassigned in November of 1979 to VF-171, the East Coast F-4 RAG in Virginia.

In July of 1978 he reported to the staff of Commander Air Wing 17 as Landing Signals Officer and Safety Officer. Flying once again with the "Bedevilers" of VF-74, he completed two more Mediterranean deployments aboard USS Forrestal. He completed the final East Coast F-4 deployment in November of 1982 and reported temporary duty to VF-43 at Oceana awaiting assignment to VFA-125 in Lemoore, CA. While at VF-43 he was the first tactical fighter pilot to instruct in Fighter Wing One's Out-of-controlled-flight program, flying the T-2 and A-4 aircraft.

He reported to VFA-125 in July of 1983 as a part of the early cadre of instructor pilots in the developing F/A -18 program. He performed duties as senior LSO for the Hornet RAG, was one of the first three instructors selected for the newly developed Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific, and served as the RAG Training Officer.

In November of 1985 LCDR Childress reported as a plank owner in VFA-136 where he completed his department head tour until August 1988. The Squadron stood up in Lemoore, California and subsequently changed homeport to NAS Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida. During this time he made two Mediterranean cruises on board the USS Coral Sea.

In September 1988 LCDR Childress reported to Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy for a tour as Flag Secretary. He served on board the Flagship, USS Belknap until October of 1990.

From November 1990 until June 1991 CDR Childress completed his PXO/CO training track and returned to NAS Cecil Field, Florida to take over the reigns of VFA-82. While with VFA-82 he completed another Mediterranean cruise on board USS America as well as a 3 and 1/2 month Persian Gulf deployment where he acted as Senior Naval Officer to COMUSNAVCENT's contingency planning cell in Dhahran, Arabia.

In August/September of 1993 CDR Childress relinquished command of VFA_82 and reported to his current billet as Chief of Crisis Action Plans for the J-3 directorate of Headquarters U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. On 01 March of 1995 he was promoted to his current rank of Captain.

Captain Childress was born in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1950. He graduated from the College of William and Mary in Virginia in 1972 with a BS in Biology. He married the former Mary Sue Duckworth of Lynchburg, Virginia. They have two sons, Brent (21) and Christopher (18).

Captain Childress has received two overseas tour awards, the South West Asia ribbon the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and two awards of the Meritorious Service Medal.

T-33 (F-80) Report

It was reported that the negotiations for the eventual assignment of the T-33 to the Museum are all but completed. We are, evidently, just waiting to hear when we can pick it up.

This will be a super addition to our fleet and will make a really impressive gate guard out in front of the Hangar near the entrance.

It will require a good sized crew to finish taking the bird apart so we can truck it over here but this is really a fun job and will be most worthwhile. Keep this in mind as we await more news.

Dinner Crew Chief Needed

Bob Miller has done it again. He has said he is giving up his job as head of the Dinner Crew, for the second time, effective immediately after the September Meeting.

Now we have heard this before and in the past we simply just sort of avoided thinking about it and silently prayed that it would go away. Finally, Bob would get so he couldn't stand the long faces and would reluctantly decide that he would stick it out a little while longer, and we all breathed a collective sigh of relief.

This time, however, he says he really means it. He thinks six years is long enough, can you believe it?

All kidding aside, Bob's abilities and efforts over that past years have been a major contribution toward making the Squadron what it is today. Let's face it, the dinner has become a major come-on for new members and has made, what was once just a dusty get-together

over the Kyodo hangar, a truly delightful monthly event with great food and wine and the camaraderie of a great group enjoying themselves.

In addition, the dinner has been a major source of income and we would be sorely pressed if the diners ever come to a halt.

We NEED someone to run the dinners. Now, Rosemary, who is not exactly a stranger to the dinner business herself, has said that it isn't as big a problem as most people think. The cooking isn't the main thing since there can be help in that regard. The biggest concern is the ordering as to amounts of food and where and when to get it as well as being able to predict the amount necessary to buy during different times of the year considering holidays, vacations, weather, etc.

Now she and Bob have a great deal of information with regard to buying and amounts etc. which they would be glad to share.

She further says that she has all kinds of menus and recipes for large scale cooking which she learned from experience and which she would be happy to share also. She also indicated that Bob won't leave us entirely in the lurch but will be available to advise a new person whenever necessary.

So there you have it troops. If we don't get someone or a group of people who can take on this task we will be facing bleak times. There have been many suggestions such as one group doing it one month and another the next month but, as Rosemary says, its not simply the cooking but the ordering and knowing what to do when. This is something that only one or two

people can do and the more experience they have and get, the better. You just can't have a new person or group every month.

Please give this some thought. It will be discussed at the meeting.

Classified

*** Special Notice ***

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

September 27-October 7, 1996. See Fall Foliage in Toronto, St. Lawrence Seaway, 1000 Islands National Park, Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal and more! \$1139.00 per person, double occupancy plus air.

Call Judy at 238-2090 or 461-1222.

Lightenings in the Sky

Oh, Hedy Lamarr is a beautiful gal
And Madeleine Carrol is too!
But you'll find if you query, a
different theory
Amongst any bomber crew.

For the loveliest thing of which one
could sing
(This side of the heavenly gates)
Is no blonde or brunette of the
Hollywood set
But an escort of P-38's.

Yes, in the days that have passed,
when
the tables were massed
With glasses of Scotch or
Champaign,
It's quite true that the sight was a
thing to delight
Us, intent upon feeling no pain.
But no longer the same, nowadays
in this game,
When we head north from Messina
Straits,
Take the sparkling wine - every
time just make mine
An escort of P-38's.

Byron, Shelley and Keats ran a
dozen dead heats
Describing the view of the hills,
Of the valleys in May when the
winds gently sway
An army of bright daffodils.
Take the daffodils, Byron - the wild
Flowers, Shelley -
Yours is the myrtle, friend Keats'
Just reserve me those cuties -
American Beauties -
An escort of P-38s.

Sure we're braver than hell; on the
ground all is swell -
In the air it's a different story:
We sweat out our track through the
fighters and flak;
We're willing to split up the glory.
Well, they wouldn't reject us, so
Heaven protect us
And, until all this shooting abates,
Give us courage to fight 'em and -
one other small item -
An escort of P-38s.

The above salute to the P-38s of World War II first appeared in the Lockheed-Vega Star and was submitted to 'Senior' by June Hofstead of Morro Bay, who, in 1943 worked at the Lockheed aircraft plant in Burbank.

It was sent to us at the Squadron by Harold Schuchardt of the WWII Aircrew and Ground Support Group in honor of Major Richard Bong, America's unsurpassed "ace" with 26 downed enemy.

One Last Shot

We have the sad duty to report that there are still a number of members who have not paid their 1996/1997 dues. In the columns of this newsletter we have implored each and every past due member to send in his or her dues. We have stressed how important they are and what a great portion of our overall funds come from dues.

We don't publish the names of past due members as many organizations do. We feel that they are voluntary and that if you believe in what we are trying to do you will want to be a contributor.

If you are not involved in most of the activities of the group, that's okay. If you simply enjoy coming to dinner and being around like-minded people, that's okay too. There is room for every type of interest in our group BUT we DO ask that if you enjoy our facilities and the camaraderie of the group, please contribute to it.

We need your support so if you have simply forgotten to send in a check, please take the time to do so now.





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