

Estrella Squadron

Newsletter



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

Volume VII Number 10

Paso Robles, California

October 1996

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October Meeting

The October Meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, October 2, 1996 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Our new chef de cuisine, John Himes, has said that the dinner will either be meat loaf or beef bourguignon! Probably the latter. John and crew did a great job at the ILPA Fly-in so you can be assured that we will be well fed!

As of this moment we don't know whether or not there will be a speaker. Col. Wayne King has said that Capt. L.D. Childress from Lemoore NAS has promised to send someone who will be of interest to us but we do not have a confirmation at this time.

ILPA Fly-in: Fun and Successful

The ILPA meet, held on Saturday and Sunday the 21st and 22nd of September was not only a pleasant and relaxed affair but was financially rewarding as well. Although we were somewhat disappointed by the turnout of aircraft, there were about 15 L-Birds in attendance all told, including our two, during the weekend.

The highlight of the weekend was the visit to the Clark Ranch in Shandon with the L-birds represented by Obbie Atkinson in the L-16 and Gary Corippo in the L-5. This occurred at about 9am on Saturday morning. Approximately

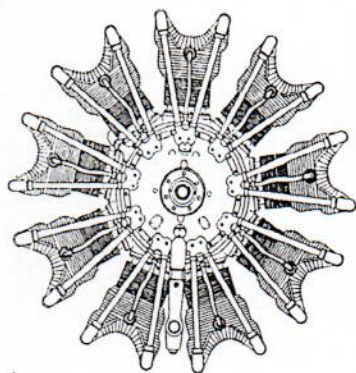
20 of our group attended both by air and by auto. We were to meet an unannounced (publicly) guest of Judge Clark who turned out to be none other than Lt. Col. Ollie North! Both the Judge and Col. North spoke to us informally regarding the present state of affairs in Washington and we were able to speak with each of them on a one to one basis which was most rewarding.

After the meeting, the small but beautiful chapel that the Judge has had constructed on a hill overlooking the valley, was open to us and we were able to tour the entire facility. This chapel has many antique artifacts and is an inspiring edifice. It was build for the benefit of the community and is open for services on Sundays and is available for weddings and similar events.

In the afternoon a relaxed flour bombing contest was held and white stuff was spread over several acres near the Hangar.

Later that evening we were treated to a great BBQ and music of the 40's for dancing and which also provided a nostalgic background to lots of good conversation. Yes, believe it or not, you CAN have music without having it blast you out of your mind!! Our DJ, Fred Strong, did a great job.

Some informal stories by a few of our guests topped off the dinner and a



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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.

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relaxed and pleasant time was had by all. For those of you who complain that we "never do anything", well... we didn't see you there and you missed out on a lot of fun. 'Nuff said.

Matching Gift Fund Growing!!

The Fund continues to grow with a current total of well over \$3,300. on hand!!

So far there have been 36 members who have contributed as of this writing. That means that there are 114 members who could still pop a check in the mail and put us OVER THE TOP!! If every one of these members could just send in 29 dollars each we would reach our goal.

Obviously, not every one can or will contribute so those of you who have just forgotten or put it off, please dig deep and send in as much as you can. We NEED this Matching Gift Fund and it will provide us with funds to begin to go ahead with our next phase of construction which we definitely need to get started on.

Museum Dedication Postponed

The Museum Board was to have held a formal dedication ceremony in the immediate future but it has been postponed until more has been accomplished regarding displays and general organization.

Starting this Saturday, September 28, however, the Museum will be officially open for visitation between the hours of 10am and 2pm. and this will continue henceforth. This is Saturdays ONLY, not every day at this point, but we have to abide by our agreement with the City to have the space open for at least some period of time. Once we have more artifacts in place and our Security requirements are established, the

Museum hours will be expanded as necessary.

We are looking for some volunteers to be docents at the Museum for these 4 hours every Saturday. If you would like to devote some quality time to this endeavor please contact Glen Thomson.

CO's Column

by Col. Blake Wideman

As we enter a new year for the Squadron (Sept. to Sept.) I am not only looking forward to the success of our organization, but I am looking back at all of the accomplishments that the past two years plus have brought us. Space does not permit me to list all of those accomplishments nor recognize the people, all volunteers, who make them happen. Thanks to Jeff and the outgoing Staff we have seen a tremendous growth in the Squadron, completion of what, at times, seemed to be impossible projects, and the fine tuning of an overall cohesiveness within the group. It will be a tall order to continue that momentum, but I am confident that the newly elected Staff can, with the help of the many who have brought us where we are today, make the organization even bigger and better.

As many of you know I have been conducting a very informal poll of the members to determine the general feeling as to where we want to head in the future. The list is long but there are some key comments that keep coming forth and I would like to share a few with you now. In no order of importance they are: we need a Squadron project (i.e. airplane to restore), we need more outside activities (i.e. trips to other museums, fun activities, etc.), we need more planning and explanation of work projects, and we need less negativism

Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer
Col. Blake Wideman

Executive Officer
Col. Ted Watt

Finance
Col. Rosemary Netto

Adjutant
Col. John Himes

Operations
Col. Gary Shepard

Maintenance
Col. Al Schade

Safety
Col. James Wood

Staff Appointments

At Large
Col. Jeff Welles

PIO and Activities
Craig Fossey

PX Officer
Willa Killion

Aircraft Restoration Projects
Col. Al Schade

Historian
Col. John Davis



CAF Hangar Phone
238-9317

(i.e. lets boast of our accomplishments rather than dwell on our weaknesses).

As we go forth let us all not forget that this is a VOLUNTEER organization and each person contributes at

the level they feel capable. It is my belief that, if we set our sights high enough, even those who believe themselves to be quite limited will find the ability to participate on a greater scale than they may have in the past, and I am counting on that participation to make us an even more successful Squadron and one that all can be proud to say they are a part of.

Flight Program

Submitted by Col. Bob Singleton

Col. Bob Singleton has been appointed to the position of Director of the Flight Program. All Squadron members have been assigned to one of the 12 Flights, each of which has from 10 to 12 members. The Flight Program has two primary objectives:

1. TWO WAY COMMUNICATION

Provide information flow to all members, in addition to information from meetings and the newsletter, on Squadron objectives, activities and needs for participation from the members.

Provide a channel for questions, concerns, recommendations and complaints from the members to the Squadron Staff.

This communication will pass to and from the members via the Flight Leaders and the Director.

2. RECRUIT MEMBERS FOR TASKS AS NEEDED BY THE SQUADRON

The Squadron has many programs--Dinner Meetings, Air Shows, Fly-ins, Hangar Building & Maintenance, Parades, Explorer Air Scouts, Organization, Finance, etc.

These types of programs need lots of help. We are a "Do It Ourselves" type of organization and there is enough to do for everyone to participate. Our

membership includes many types of skills which are vital to the success of the Squadron. We are working toward more aircraft restoration programs and the museum which will need additional help. Your Flight Leader will keep you informed on the need for help, so please step forward and do what you can do. The Flights have been participating in a repetitive task, that is to coordinate the monthly dinner meeting and provide help as needed. Each Flight is involved in one meeting a year. No one has agreed to head up the Dinner Team for a whole year at a time, but some people who know their way around a kitchen are volunteering to head up the dinner activity for two or three months in a row if the Squadron can provide the necessary help. In addition to the tasks normally provided by your Flight during you meeting month, your Flight Leader will call for some help to work on the dinner, so please step forward and volunteer. Many thanks!!

Land Available for Hangar Buildings

As has been mentioned at meetings on several occasions, the City has made available to the Museum a strip of land adjacent to our original lease just to the east of our lease parcel, for the purpose of erecting hangars of an agreed-upon size and type. This piece, which measures approximately 80 feet by 390 feet and could accommodate anywhere from six to 10 hangars, is available through the Museum.

This is an unusual opportunity for one or more individuals in our group to be able to obtain airport land at a reasonable cost which would benefit the Museum as well as those wishing to erect badly needed hangars.

Committee Chairs

Program

George Marrett
466-7640

Dinners

OPEN

Membership

Obbie Atkinson
238-9212

Hangar/Grounds

Kevin Craig
238-4643

Bruce Toomey
238-9266

Air Show

Blake Wideman
237-2810

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
461-0367

Photo

Ralph Grasso
237-2813

Historian

John Davis
544-6582
781-5157 (X-4008)

If you wish more information about this opportunity, please contact Col. Jeff Welles at 541-5765 or 544-7864.

CAF Staff Meeting Report

Submitted by John Himes, Adjutant

(condensed & paraphrased for brevity)

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, September 18, 1996.

ATTENDING: Blake Wideman, Commander; Ted Watt, XO; Rosemary Netto, Finance; John Himes, Adjutant;

ABSENT: Al Schade, Maintenance Off.; Gary Shepard; Operations Off.; James Wood, Safety Off.

GUESTS: Bob Singleton; Glen Thomson; Bruce Toomey; Craig Fossey; Hal Chilton.

Minutes

The Minutes of the August Staff Meeting were reviewed with no corrections. Motion: Rosemary, Second: John. Approved

Treasurers Report

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

Old Business

1. Calendar of Events - Craig Fossey PIO is preparing a calendar of events for the coming year. He was asked to have it coincide with our fiscal year. He will coordinate the calendar with the county-wide calendar and the local chambers of commerce. Craig is back in action and again working on a dinner cruise on the Tiger's Folly.

2. Old vehicles - Still not moved because no pressure to do so. Bruce will move when he obtains the use of a trailer. NO Action.

3. Community Events - The CAF will have their vehicles in the Pioneer Days parade to possibly include out new

half-track. It is not known if we are entered in the Colony Days parade. Blake would like to see an event committee formed to ensure our awareness of and/or participation in events around the county. No Action.

4. Aircraft for CAF: Blake will form an acquisition committee to investigate acquiring a suitable aircraft for the Squadron to restore and fly. No Action.

5. Hangar Costs and Layout:

The Hangar is owned by the Museum and leased to the CAF which is responsible for all operating costs. The CAF has the authority to rent the hangar to help defray operating costs. Ted would like to see the Museum to pay proceeds from their events to CAF. Motion: John - The Museum shall pay the established hangar rental rate to the CAF for any of their public events which use the hangar. The CAF may waive the rental fee in advance. Second: Rosemary. Discussion: It was felt that this item should be discussed with the joint planning committee first which is to meet in two weeks. Motion: Ted - to table to our next Staff meeting in October, Second: John - Passed.

6. Hangar Layout Plans: The CAF has requested in the past that the Museum present a hangar layout plan to the CAF for our information and approval: to date no response has been received. Motion: Ted - The CAF requests that the Joint Planning Committee formulate an interior design plan and present it to the next Staff meeting in October, Second: Rosemary - Passed.

7. ILPA Fly-in (Event already occurred, omitted for space)

8. Dinner Teams: Rosemary is organizing teams to cook for general meetings. The Flights have been asked to help on their assigned nights. John

Himes will cook for October and November and Bob Miller and Rosemary Netto for December. We restated and clarified our policy that all persons who take a plate and sit down to eat must pay for their meals, workers included. We are a volunteer group, all members should pitch in.

9. Rosemary read a list of unpaid members. Personal contacts will be made if possible by those on the Staff who know them

10. Raffle: A chairperson for the monthly raffle is still needed. Blake working on it. No Action.

New Business

1. Explorer Scouts; Blake would like to see more participation by members. We need a female member so girls can join the group. Al Schade has said that he will get involved.

2. Museum Open House The CAF will help as needed for this Museum event on October 6. Cols. should wear uniforms.

3. Ted Watt has asked to be relieved as Flight Leader of November Flight. Bob Singleton was asked to find a replacement.

4. Power Bill; Our power bill went up 33% in August. We need to be aware of and careful of our power usage. No Action.

5. Hangar Security. We restated our policy that all hangar doors MUST be locked

any time there is no responsible member present for any period of time, including short flights. Blake will inform users of the hangar and will make an announcement at the next general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2120.

S-2 Mishap

By this time most of the members have been informed of the accident that occurred at the Fresno air show involving the S-2. Apparently the aircraft was following the Connie on take off for a fly-by and even though a considerable amount of time was allotted after the Connie lifted off, the S-2 ran into residual turbulence and settled back on to the runway just after liftoff and after the gear had been retracted.

Both engines and the propellers were obviously damaged but there was very little damage to the bottom of the fuselage. The aircraft was lifted up and the gear was lowered and it was towed off on its own wheels.

The best news is that none of the crew members were injured other than a few cuts, scrapes and bruises. Glen Thomson and Ted Watt from our group were aboard as were two other individuals from the airshow who are unknown to the writer at this point. Glen had his microphone banged into his face so he's sporting a fat lip and Ted has a bruise under his eye and got a small foreign object in the eye but is apparently okay. Larry Campo, who went to Fresno in the aircraft, elected to stay on the ground to let the two Fresno people go along so he was not on board at the time.

We are truly grateful that our two members and friends came through this incident with such minor injuries.

Willa Returns!

Willa Killion is back at home after her back operation. She has to take it really easy for quite some time but she sounded like her old self and we were truly pleased to hear from her.

She particularly wanted to thank everyone for their cards and phone calls and she's looking forward to the day when she can chuck her brace and come out to see her many friends.

We all look forward to that time too!!

Air Crew & Ground Support Meeting

Our friends who are members of the above organization have again invited us to attend their semi-annual meeting which will be held at the SLO Elks Lodge on Wednesday, October 30 at 12:30 pm.

This is an informal get together and the only speakers are those from within the group who speak from the floor. There are about 150 members so it's a going operation and we are pleased that they have seen fit to include us as invitees!

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of October, Lima Flight, under the able direction of Col. Bob Singleton will be in charge of the monthly meeting and the month's activities.

This will be the first time that the Flight will be asked to assist the Dinner Crew at the meeting and it is hoped that this arrangement will work out to everyone's advantage.

It means that once a year a Flight will be asked to help with the Dinner. That's it! No more scurrying around by those in charge of the food trying to find help. Once a year you will be asked to help out for a couple of

hours. This really isn't too much to ask in view of what the dinner does for the group and what the Dinner Crew does for us as individuals.

The Cat!!!

The fat fur ball remains unnamed but will soon be called "blubber butt" if he keeps getting fed like he has been. Yes it's a "he" or maybe an "it" and we've had names sent in like: Pinky, Pumpkin, Patriot (Pat), Ace, Tarmac, Headwind, Tailwind, Oliver (Ollie?), Red, Stowaway, Slipstream, Sponge, and a few somewhat less complimentary ones. The Supreme Grand Cat Naming Committee has not decided yet so keep those ideas coming. This is pretty important as you can imagine!!

Volunteers of the Month

or even the Week or the Day!!

We don't really have a category of "volunteers of the whatever" but if we did the grand prize would certainly go to Candy Chilton, Hal's wife and their two kids, Katie & Graham, during the ILPA Dinner.

Candy appeared at the Hangar last Saturday afternoon, evidently at Hal's request, and said she was told to ask for John (Himes) to maybe help a bit with the BBQ. Well, since none of the other volunteers showed up it wasn't long before she was elbow deep in raw

The World's Most Collected Aviation Artist ROBERT TAYLOR

Will be appearing in person for the first time on the Central Coast at the Soldier Factory in Cambria, on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5th from 12pm to 3pm. Aviation Enthusiast's have long admired Robert's Extraordinary Paintings of WWII Combat Planes in action. Now by very special arrangement is your chance to meet Robert while on his tour from his home in Bath, England. Robert will be at our gallery to personally sign his newly released book, Robert Taylor Air Combat Paintings Vol III.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to personally meet the artist. We always have a large selection of his prints on hand which he will also be autographing. Reserve your book or print. To do so we urge you to call the Soldier Factory at 927-3804 before Oct. 31.

If you can't attend, but would still like an autographed book, please contact us at:

THE SOLDIER FACTORY
789 Main Street
Cambria, CA 93428
(805) 927-3804

meat, trimming fat and then cutting up veggies and fixing beans. Katie pitched in too and sliced a zillion cucumbers and became the champion bean stirrer and Graham and a buddy were given the task of wrapping all the plastic utensils in napkins. Graham was even pressed into duty as ticket collector and woe unto anyone who tried to get a plate without a ticket!!

After working all afternoon and evening, Candy was last seen scrubbing and drying all the pots and pans until just before time to go home.

Its a fairly safe bet that she didn't know what she and the kids would be getting in to as almost the only dinner "volunteers" for this event but they all smiled brightly and dug in-through the whole affair and we owe her and the kids a sincere, WELL DONE!!

Calendar of Events

(We hope this will be an ongoing, much expanded column with aviation news and also a list of local county-wide happenings with which we can become involved.) For the moment, however:



CBI Group - Monthly Luncheon. 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Elks Lodge in San Luis Obispo.
Call Dewey Greil 544-4969 for details.

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