

Estrella Squadron Newsletter



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

Volume VII Number 11

Paso Robles, California

November 1996

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November Meeting

The November Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 1996 at the Hangar with Social Hour Commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

For those who might be wondering about the fact that the colder weather is upon us,

WE WILL HAVE HEAT!!

There will be at least two 150,000 BTU propane "bullet" heaters at a minimum to warm the building up initially. We will keep them on as long as we can put up with the roar and/or until our speaker begins his program. Thereafter, we are working on a couple of different additional heat sources such as "loaned, borrowed or stolen" radiant heaters to be spaced about which should help hold the heat generated by the initial blasters. In any event, we are aware of the problem and trying to do our best without totally decimating our budget.

Our November Chef de Cuisine, John Himes, has promised us meatloaf and it should be delicious. John has taken on three dinners or events in a row now, while at the same time being involved in a number of other efforts. We owe him a real vote of thanks for stepping in and helping the entire organization so willingly.

Our speaker for the evening will be none other than Sherman Smoot of Atascadero. Sherm, well known to many members, is an airline pilot with Continental and previous to that spent 11 years with the U.S. Navy flying F4 Phantoms which included a tour in

Vietnam. Beyond that he is also nationally known as a race pilot flying John Moore's SNJ6, "Bad Company" at the Reno Championship National Air Races. This year, 1996, after several previous extremely close finishes (like losing first place by 8/100 of a second), he brought home the "gold".

Sherm will share with us some of his experiences regarding the national air races. This will be a first for us and should be most interesting.

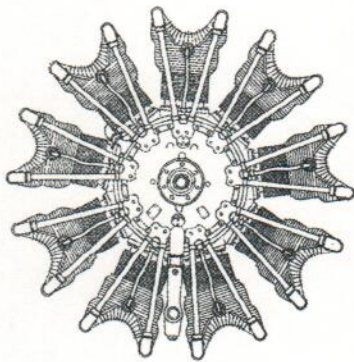
Additional Property Improvements

The Staff is continuing to investigate the possibilities of development of the second tract of land nearest the east/west taxiway as well as the 80' x 310' strip to the east of our present plot.

There have been several people interested in the large plot and discussions are continuing. As information becomes available the Staff will keep the membership informed.

The smaller strip, suitable for possible hangar construction, is also being discussed.

For those who may be interested, please bear in mind that these two tracts are being offered to us by the City at FULL COMMERCIAL RATES. If we are able to interest



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is published monthly as an unofficial and 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.

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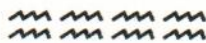


someone in developing them to whatever extent, we have to pay full fare.

The only property that was leased to us at the \$1.00 a year figure was that which is occupied by the non-profit Museum itself and nothing else.

There has been some confusion about this and this is just to let everyone know that on any piece from which we would receive money, we pay full commercial rates as established by the City.

We are hoping to be able to do something that will enable us to see a little income but certainly not from renting any part of a \$1.00 a year property!



Matching Gift Fund

A Report and an Editorial Opinion

The Fund, with an initial, minimum, informal goal of \$5,000, to be matched by an anonymous donation of an additional \$5,000, has reached the total of \$3,845.00 which has been donated by a total of 40 members and sponsors. That leaves an amount of only \$1,155.00 to raise to achieve our initial goal!!!

A thought was expressed at the last Staff meeting that we might not be getting the participation we had hoped for because there was no concrete goal for the eventual use of this money. A number of projects and ideas have been suggested but nothing has been written in stone.

Obviously, the most important overall goal at this time is to erect the permanent meeting hall and kitchen. This will allow us to concentrate on making the hangar a true museum with at least some space for beginning restoration projects; it will allow us to have permanent and acceptable food preparation facilities which, along with the meeting area, will be much more suitable as a profit source, derived from

renting out space to other civic and commercial organizations. It will allow us to have proper security for the museum as a museum instead of being half museum and half restaurant but will also give us a huge space to offer for rent under controlled security conditions and in conjunction with the other building.

The cost for site preparation, initial roughed in plumbing and electricity and the concrete slab for the meeting hall is, realistically, in the neighborhood of \$12,000. Once those facilities are in, the erection of the building can be accomplished with in-house labor, help from the Boys School and others. It will be a lot less difficult and far less dangerous than was the erection of the hangar.

So, if we really want to consider a concrete, meaningful and achievable goal, the base concrete for the meeting hall would be it. Yup, this means a total of 12,000 clams. **BUT IT ONLY MEANS AN ADDITIONAL \$2,155. TO BE DONATED BY 100 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT DONATED AS YET!!!** With 6,000 in the pot it will be matched by an additional 6,000 and we are **THERE!**

On a straight average basis, the 40 who have donated already have done so at the rate of approximately \$96. each. Just think what we would have if the 100 who have not yet donated would just come up with half this much on average!!

Obviously, not every one can or will donate, **BUT**, guys and gals, we have done so much with so little in the past, if we can just pull this off in the next few weeks we can have plans approved, contracts out and be ready to move by early spring and have a building up by next summer.

Think about people you may know who might have an interest in fostering a patriotic, non-profit,

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

historical and educational organization and ask them to come to a meeting or explain to them what we are all about. Ask them to contribute to a very worthy cause. This is NOT just a good ol' boys club, it's a

patriotic, educational and historic organization.

Think of companies and corporations who are often looking for a group or organization to support. There are small manufacturing and other types of businesses here in the community who would welcome the opportunity to support a group that represents a memorial to one of the more patriotic episodes in American life. They just have to be approached by friends or business acquaintances who can interest them in what we are trying to accomplish.

This can MAKE us. Right now we have a nifty building forged by our own efforts. With just a little more push we can be within easy reach of enough space to begin to fulfill our real goal of restoring and maintaining our own warbirds. With just a little more push we can be a first class operation in the eyes of the community, the city fathers and in our own eyes as well.

LET'S GO FOR IT!!! SEND THOSE CHECKS TO:
ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM
MATCHING GIFT FUND
P.O. BOX 570
PASO ROBLES, CA 93447



CO's Column

by Col. Blake Wideman

As I indicated in our last newsletter, I have been canvassing Squadron members to get a feel for their concerns in order to better formulate the direction we need to go in the future. One issue that appears in need of clarification is that of membership as it pertains to the CAF, the Squadron and the Museum. With respect to the CAF/Squadron membership the following is a brief explanation of the three categories in which one may participate. As far as CAF membership there are only two categories available. First is that of Colonel. To secure

Colonel status one must pay an initial \$200 (\$40 dollars initiation, \$160. Colonel dues) all of which goes to Headquarters in Midland. Annual renewal is \$160 and Colonels receive a membership card, CAF magazines and newsletters, discounts on CAF PX items from Midland and voting privileges in both the International organization as well as the local Estrella Squadron. The CAF also has an associate membership status for \$38, also sent to Midland, which entitles the person to little more than a membership card and the monthly magazine,

Those who are SPONSOR members of the Estrella Squadron (\$40 annually) are NOT members of the Confederate Air Force organization. They are members of the Estrella Squadron of Paso Robles and have no voting rights in CAF related elections or business items. Sponsor members comprise the majority of the membership of the Estrella Squadron and are invited to participate in any and all functions that involve the Squadron. Being a Sponsor member also provides the opportunity for prospective Colonels to become involved with the group and thus get a feel for the working of the CAF without having to plunk down that initial \$200.

In addition to the Squadron membership, efforts are underway to develop a membership program within the Estrella Warbirds Museum. Though the Museum membership, for all intents and purposes, is virtually the same as that of the Squadron, there is a need to individually list the members of the Museum and establish a fee structure for Squadron members and potential new, non-Squadron related members. A review of such a structure is presently underway as part of the action items being addressed by the Joint Planning Committee.

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)

Again, this is a thumbnail sketch of the memberships associated with the three organizations. If there are additional questions that have not been answered please see

me at the next general meeting or call any evening.

Thanks,

Blake.

Chaplain Wanted

At the October Staff meeting it was suggested that we canvass the membership for someone who could act as our Chaplain. It was felt that in an organization such as ours a Chaplain would be a meaningful addition for the benefit of all of us. The duties would have to be discussed but the Staff felt sure that someone would be interested in this position and would be able to help provide us with the input necessary for establishing the position.

The Staff sincerely hopes that one of our members will consider this request and contact any member.

CAF Staff Meeting Report

Submitted by John Himes, Adjutant
(Condensed and paraphrased for brevity)

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, October 16, 1996

ATTENDING: Voting Staff Members Present: Blake Wideman, CO; Ted Watt XO; Rosemary Netto, Finance Officer; James Wood, Safety Officer; **ABSENT:** Al Schade, Maint. Officer

Staff Members and Committee Chairmen present; John Davis, Historian; Craig Fossey, PIO; Bob Singleton, Flight Exec Dir.; Glen Thomson, Museum Liaison; Bruce Toomey, Newsletter; Jeff Welles, At Large; and Gary Corippo.

Minutes

The Minutes of the October General Meeting were read and approved.

The Minutes of the September Staff Meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted and will be posted at the Hangar

OLD BUSINESS

Flight Leaders - Bob Singleton read a report regarding the new Flight Leader process and discussed plans for further improvements. It was suggested that Flights be reassigned in part to achieve a better working balance.

It was suggested that we develop job descriptions for officers and chairmen in addition to those contained in the CAF manual.

Calendar of Events - Craig Fossey has registered us in the County calendar of events for our 1997 Air Show and will develop an additional calendar for our own internal events.

Community Events - Gary Corippo said we were the hit of the Pioneer Day parade. Plans are in place for the Atascadero Colony Days parade. Gary plans to have us better organized for the future. It was noted that all vehicles with one exception are the property of or in the care of the Museum but may be used by the CAF. It was questioned as to who would pay for fuel for public events.

Hangar Rental Fees - Ted Watt reported that the joint planning committee was in general agreement regarding the concept of rental fees. Glen Thomson said the Museum also agrees in concept but feels that events that are of joint benefit to both groups should not be subject to rental fees. The Museum has taken no action. A motion was passed that the joint committee develop a facility use and rental policy acceptable to both groups.

Hangar Layout - A floor plan was submitted by K.O. Eckland showing where equipment would be placed within the hangar. Glen was asked to ask K.O. for an overlay showing how the space would be utilized for both meetings and while in the museum mode. Also, the CAF would like a prominent space to display CAF information and paraphernalia.

Dinner Teams - Cooks responsible for the meeting dinners have volunteered and have been assigned through May of 97. They will be assisted by the appropriate Flights. The December meeting will be a Christmas Dinner Party with entertainment and all the trimmings and there will be no speaker.

Unpaid Members - There are still 4 unpaid members. An attempt will be made to contact them personally before they are dropped from membership.

Raffle - Blake to ask Bobbie Schade to take on the job.

Aircraft Acquisition - Blake asked for a deferred discussion until the joint planning committee develops a realistic committee structure to properly handle the project.

Hangar Security - Bruce Toomey to look into security systems for the hangar/museum. He will report at the next meeting. All padlock combinations will be changed asap since they are known by so many former members and outsiders as well. Combinations will be provided on a need to know basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Sharing of Air Show Proceeds - It has been suggested that the Museum somehow share the proceeds of the annual Air Show with the Squadron in view of the amount of work by Squadron members. After much discussion it was decided that the joint committee would include this item in the general recommendations they will develop regarding clarification of duties and responsibilities between the groups.

Chaplain - It was suggested that a Chaplain would be a nice addition to our group. (See newsletter article).

Interest Rates - Rosemary Netto was asked to find better interests for our funds and report back at the next meeting.

ILPA Meet - Blake reported on the success of the ILPA Fly-in and there was a discussion about other possible L-Bird events. Glen will look into it.

Heaters - Heat is needed immediately for the November meeting as well as for the rest of the winter meetings. We will beg borrow or rent something for November and Wayne King will be asked to check on possible surplus heaters from the Navy as a result of base closures.

Awards - Jeff was asked to update our award plaques with the names of '96 winners and make a presentation at the next meeting.

Outside Presentation - It was agreed that the Atascadero Rotary be allowed to make a 5 minute presentation of their "Light Up The Lake" project at the next general meeting.

Gatehouse - the idea of a small military style gatehouse between the two gates was discussed. B. Toomey will look into it.

Announcements - The T33 project is continuing and will be reported on later.

Meeting adjourned at 2155.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of November, Mike Flight, under the able direction of Col. John Cromwell will be in charge of the monthly meeting and the month's activities. It is suggested that the Flight Leader contact Col. Bob Singleton (239-2084) for instructions as well as the Dinner Coordinator for November, John Himes (466-6680).

Docents Needed

As was mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Museum is now open every Saturday from 10am to 2pm. We need volunteers, male or female, to be there during these hours to keep the Museum open, answer whatever questions they can and keep an eye on things in general. We hope to get a volunteer schedule posted as soon as we can so that anyone interested can just write their name down and help by putting in a few hours once or twice a year.

It is necessary that we have definite open hours for the Museum so please don't just leave this to someone else.

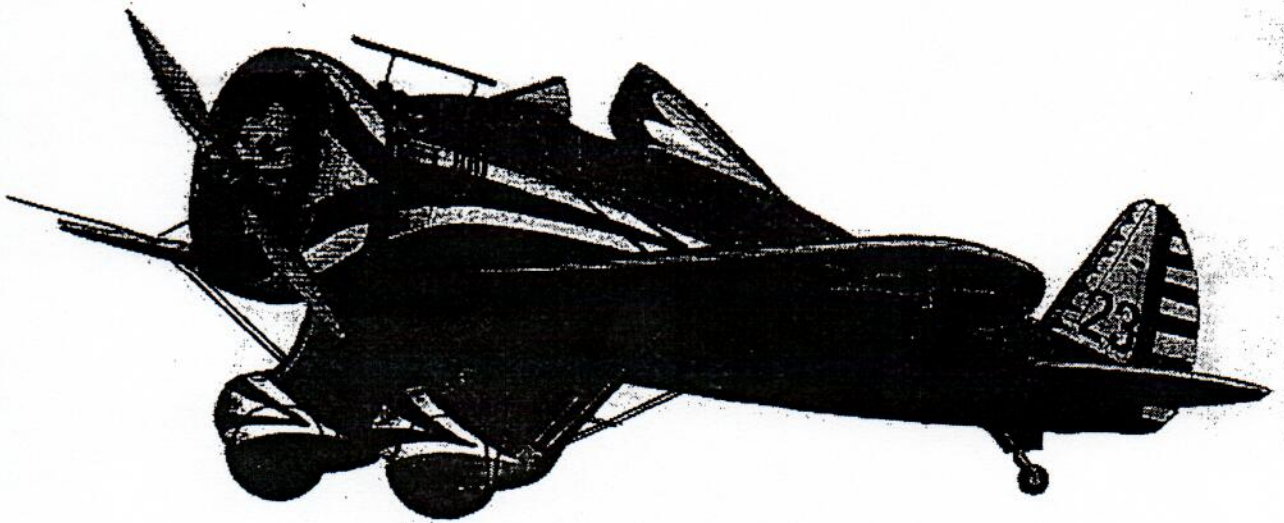
Calendar of Events

(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, until we get our act together:

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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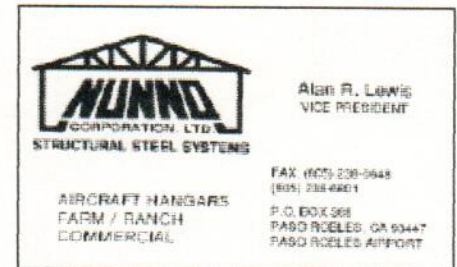
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