

Estrella Squadron



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

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December 1996

Inside:

December Meeting Page 1

Matching Gift Fund Page 1

Joint Planning Committee
Page 2

CAF Staff Meeting Report
Page 2

Flight Duty Roster Page 4

Hangar Security Page 4



**Merry Christmas
& Happy New
Year to ALL!!!**

December Meeting

The December Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 1996 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Yes, we will have heat again, maybe even better than last month!

This will be our

Annual Christmas Party!!

We will NOT have a formal speaker but will have FANTASTIC entertainment by superb professional musicians who just happen to be members of our group, Gary Ryan on banjo and Ralph Grasso on guitar. If you haven't heard either of these two you are in for a treat like you won't believe. This is big time pro music and you will be amazed, we promise. Ashley Lightfoot will also sing for us, probably accompanied by Ralph, and will add much to the enjoyment of the evening!!

Our old dinner crew headed up by Bob Miller and Rosemary & George Netto has volunteered to take on this Christmas Dinner so be prepared for a full on turkey dinner with all the trimmings!! There will be plenty of Christmas Spirit and Christmas Spirits so come, one and all, and have a great evening in good conversation and camaraderie with your friends and fellow members!!

Matching Gift Fund

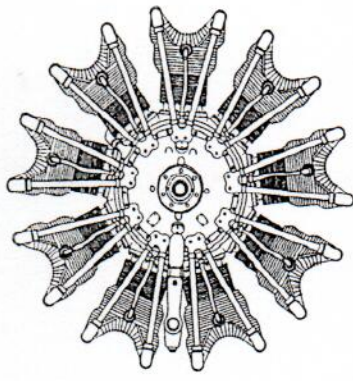
The Fund continues to grow with checks coming in on an almost weekly basis. We now have a total of 44 individual contributions with a resulting figure of \$4,495.00 on hand!!!

This is TERRIFIC! We are only \$1,500. short of our \$6,000. goal which, when matched by our anonymous benefactor, will give us a total of \$12,000.!!!

We are now talking serious money; enough to begin the pad for our next building which will be the meeting hall and the complete kitchen. With this facility up and occupied we can then turn the present Hangar into a true museum and fulfill the major part of our obligation to the City and to ourselves.

If you have not contributed, please, pick up that pen and send in a check. We have received contributions ranging from the low two figures to four figures! Every single one of them counts. We have received contributions from individuals early in the program and then even another check from the same individual at a later date!!

If you have mislaid your pre-stamped and addressed envelope, please send your contribution to: Estrella Warbirds Museum, Matching Gift Fund, P.O. Box 570, Paso Robles, CA 93447



**The Estrella Squadron
Newsletter**

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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Toomey Racing USA
3019 Propeller Drive
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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



**Joint Planning
Committee**

The Committee, chaired by Exec, Col. Ted Watt, has been working diligently to come up with some realistic directions and plans for improving the two entities and ways that new and better organized committees can be constructed to aide both.

As of this writing, (just prior to the November Museum Board meeting), the Committee has submitted the following major committee recommendations:

1. ES/WM Joint Site Improvement. Chair: Glen Thomson
2. ES Site Maintenance. Chair: Bruce Toomey
3. WM Activities. Chair: Blake Wideman
4. WM Support Development. Chair: Jeff Welles
5. ES Membership. Chair: Obbie Atkinson
6. ES/WM Joint Community Events. Chair: Gary Corippo

The above committees were accepted by vote of the Staff.

Other committees approved by Staff as operations were:

- ES Budget Committee, Chair: Rosemary Netto
- ES/WM Joint Liaison Committee, (Chairs to be named shortly)
- ES/WM Joint Committee for Aircraft Acquisition, ES Chair, Al Schade, (WM Chair to be named shortly)
- ES Oral History and Foot Locker Committee, Chair, John Davis.

Two other planned committees are also in the works but require a bit more study. These are:

- WM Membership Committee
 - WM Operation Committee
- It is the Planning Committee's intention to clarify the areas of joint operation as well as the necessary financial division between the Museum and the

Squadron. The problems arising from the lack of a clear, written policy have cause considerable anxiety among the members and this will be straightened out once and for all.

**CAF Staff Meeting
Report**

Submitted by Col. Bob Singleton for Adjutant John Himes (Condensed and paraphrased for brevity).

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, November 20, 1996.

ATTENDING: Voting Staff Members Present: Blake Wideman, CO; Ted Watt, XO; Rosemary Netto, Finance Officer; Al Schade, Maintenance Officer; Gary Shepard, Operations Officer; James Wood, Safety Officer; Bob Singleton sat in for John Himes who is on vacation.

STAFF MEMBERS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND GUESTS PRESENT: John Davis, Historian; Craig Fossey, PIO; Bob Singleton, Flight Exec.; Glen Thomson, Museum Liaison; Bruce Toomey, Newsletter; Jeff Welles, Member-at-Large; Keith Bowers and Gary Corippo.

Minutes

The Minutes of the October Meeting were read and approved as amended.

Treasurers Report

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. January Meeting.
Bob noted that the first Wednesday in January falls on January 1 and our meeting would be competing with Bowl Games etc. Blake moved to change the meeting to

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

January 8 and the motion was passed.

2. Job Descriptions

Al Schade suggested that Flight Leaders have Job Descriptions. Blake requested that all Staff

Members should bring in a description of their job.

3. Events Calendar

Craig Fossey passed around a copy of the calendar that he is proposing for the Newsletter. Comments are requested.

4. Formation Flying

Glen Thomson said that the next CAF TRARON (Training Squadron) program on formation flying will be conducted at Riverside on January 17, 18 & 19. We have been informally asked to host a program at Paso Robles in the Spring. On completion of the program, Pilots receive patches qualifying them for formation flying in AT-6 and T-28 aircraft. Glen would like the CAF to establish an L-Bird formation flying program More details will be provided later.

5. Castle AFB

Jim Wood reported on his visit to Castle AFB in Merced. The Castle FBO invited us over as a group to visit their Museum. Gary volunteered that his wife, Judy, would be able to get us costs on a bus trip to visit Castle and maybe Ames Research Labs.

6. Hangar Layout

Blake said we need a detailed layout plan for the Hangar now that we have a floor plan. Glen will request this from Curator, K.O. Eckland.

7. Planning Committee

Ted Watt presented a list of four new committees that are recommended for the Squadron on Budget, Joint Liaison with the Museum, Aircraft Acquisition (joint with Museum) and Oral History and Footlocker. He moved that these committees be accepted which was done. Al Schade will represent the Squadron in aircraft acquisition. Gary Corippo will make a presentation regarding a committee for military vehicles at the January Staff Meeting.

A committee or some method is needed to assign or arrange for dinner teams for the 1997 meetings. Note: Bob Singleton said that untrained help will be provided by the Flight of the Month to the Dinner Team of the month but some method must be determined to see that the dinners are covered.

Tentatively, John Himes has volunteered as Crew Chief for the month of January and Gary and Judy Corippo have said they will take care of February.

8. Hangar Security

Blake opened a discussion on hangar security. This is primarily a Museum action but the Squadron has equipment also that should be protected. Bob Singleton suggested the following:

- a. Upgrade the locks and latches for the entry and hangar doors.
- b. Install a security system that would sound an alarm
- c. Hook up a system to telephone monitoring.

(Ed. Note: See more on security in news article)

9. Squadron Chaplain

Col. Park Parkening has agreed to be the Squadron Chaplain. Thanks Park for stepping up and volunteering.

10. Heaters

Bruce Toomey said that Glen Thomson had made him aware of a mushroom type convection heater giving off up to 200,000 BTUs. that would cost about \$139.00. A motion was passed to purchase one heater as a trial.

11. Main Gate

Gary said that the two sections of the gate were out for repairs and enlarging by Durabilt Fence Co. They should be reinstalled in the near future.

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)

The Footlocker is a collection of WW2 information and memorabilia having to do more

with the effects of the war on the civilians who stayed at home rather than the military side which is far better documented. This is a portable display which can be left at a school or other organization for a period of time and then discussed by one of our informed members at a planned time.

The Oral History Program is a collection of audio tapes which contains the experiences of WW2 veterans. These are CAF HQ sponsored programs. John Davis will be in charge and report on these programs.

2. Program for Squadron Funding
Gary Shepard introduced a program regarding re-subscriptions to magazines which is available to schools and other organizations such as ours. By simply re-subscribing through the organization the subscriber can get a special rate and the organization picks up 40% of the subscription price. With a majority of the members utilizing this service the Squadron could conceivably earn \$2,000 or more annually. A motion was made and accepted that this funding program be put into effect.

3. T-33 Status
Al Schade reported that the aft section is at the Hangar. The fuselage and wings can be obtained with one more trip in December. About 8 people will be needed. Al and Gary Corippo will schedule the remaining trip.

4. Air Show Update
There are problems with the June 8 date for Airshow '97. The Blue Angels will fly on June 8 at Lemoore NAS which will pretty much knock out any attendance at our show on the same date. The Snow Birds group, which we hoped to obtain, cannot perform outside of Canada from May through August. Our show is now moved to June 1, 1997.

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of December, November Flight, under the able direction of new

Flight Leader, Col. Brian Webster 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, Rosemary Netto (467-3521) or Bob Miller (434-1888).

Hangar Security

For several weeks we have been working with a number of companies with regard to security for the Hangar and the artifacts that we have at present and will have in the future. We have had quotes as high as \$1,800.00 which would put a hefty dent in our already over stressed budget.

We are happy to report that Mr. Marion Todd of Great Western Alarm Co. of Paso Robles has offered to DONATE a system to the Museum which will include alarms on site as well as a direct hookup to their 24 hour alarm answering service right here in town. This will also include protection for our little office (trailer) outside the Hangar when we move into it. Our only cost will be the nominal monthly charge for monitoring of approximately 25 to 35 dollars.

With the monitoring center here in Paso Robles, staffed with local people, rather than in Los Angeles as with one firm and San Luis Obispo with another, we can expect considerably better, faster and more personal service.

Mr. Todd is an aviation buff in his own right and is a friend of Obbie Atkinson who has made him aware of our operation and its goals.

This is a very nice gesture on the part of Mr. Marion Todd and his staff and is just the kind of local sponsorship that we need and deeply appreciate.

12. Member Awards

Jeff Welles is working on these awards to be presented in January.

NEW BUSINESS

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