

Estrella Squadron

Newsletter



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

Volume VIII Number 1

Paso Robles, California

January 1997

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January Meeting

The January Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 1996 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Chef de Cuisine, John Himes, with the help of members of Alpha Flight, has agreed to handle the January offering which will probably be a delicious Ham Dinner but this is not confirmed as of this writing.

Our program for the evening will be provided by one of our members, Robert C. (Bob) Kinsell. This is another case of trying to condense a mountain of incredibly interesting information into a small column for the newsletter.

Bob Kinsell was a Photo Recon pilot with the 8th Air Force in England during WWII. Flying an F5-G, he was hit by AA flak at 35,000 feet while photographing the German sub pens at St. Nazaire, France and was then bounced by four F-190's. Hit by cannon and machine gun fire and with his own aircraft on fire, he bailed out at 36,000 feet and was captured.

He was liberated from Moosburg International prison camp after 22 months in French hospital, Paris prison (German SS), and several different POW camps in Germany. He also survived the January 1945 forced march from Stalag Luft III.

After the war he graduated from U.S.C. with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

From then on his list of accomplishments, awards, patents and activities fills up another two pages which would take half the newsletter.

If the Flight Leader doesn't read the list during the introduction, your Editor will, because Bob has lived a most productive and contributory life.

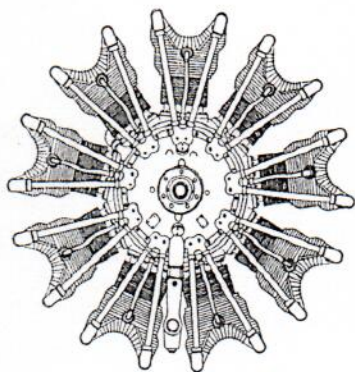
Suffice it to say, this will be a most interesting program and we urge you all to attend. It's really a treat when we can get one of our own to tell us of his or her past experiences.

Matching Gift Fund

As of today's date (12-31) the Fund stands at the grand sum of \$4,835.00!!!

This is really great and we are just \$165.00 short of our initial goal of \$5,000. We have had a total of 52 members participating so far.

As the one who initially sees the checks when they come in, I can't tell you what a great feeling it is to see those self addressed envelopes in the mail box. Just to know that here is another person or couple who is willing to subscribe to this project makes me realize how many people believe in our organization and are willing to back it up. It's a great feeling.



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.

Graphics, computer layout, design and use of photocopying machine as well as paper and other supplies are the contribution of Stuart Toomey and,

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



This total to date in itself is a great showing but if we could add just another 1.000 dollars we would have a total, with the matching donation, of \$12,000.

With this amount we can realistically start on the next phase of construction which will be the meeting hall, including a full kitchen and small "committee sized" meeting area so we won't have to heat or light up the whole place for our various committee and other small meetings. This will also provide us with a truly "rentable" facility for other groups in the area which is part of the reason for our existence. Coupled with the Museum area we would really have a huge facility that could provide us with some truly worth while income!

Obviously we can't do anything in the way of construction with the present weather as it is so it has been suggested that we keep the Fund open with the hope that we will get an additional \$1,000 before time to start further work. Those of you who have yet to contribute, please give it some real thought and dig in as so many others have and help make our dreams come true.

We Need a Few Good Leaders

We have openings for some Flight Leaders who will lead a team of up to 12 members on various projects for the Squadron and the Museum. Interested??

Call Bob Singleton for details, 239-2084.

L-16 Memberships for Sale

Want to fly at the lowest possible cost?
Want to learn how to fly?

There are several memberships in the Aeronca L-16 group for sale. Call Bob Singleton for details, 239-2084

The T-33 Is Here!!!

For those of you who have not been to the Hangar lately we are pleased to announce that the long-awaited and at one time, somewhat nebulous, T-33 is not only at our Hangar but REASSEMBLED and inside!

This has been a long time labor of love by a number of different members, starting earlier this year when about 14 or 15 hardy souls traipsed up to Madera Airport and started working on the disassembly, also in the mud. Because of the question of ownership the project was put on hold for a time until the USAF decided it was ours with the not inconsiderable help of the city fathers of Paso Robles.

A second crew was dispatched after the ownership question was resolved to bring the tail section back which had been removed from the fuselage earlier. This was also done in the mud. The resulting operation was about as hairy as it gets with the tail section sticking out from every direction way over the limits of even our wide load permit and at night and in a fairly high wind. It was accomplished without incident, however, much to the relief of those involved.

The third crew was dispatched to separate the fuselage from the one piece wing and then transport both back by trailer. The separation was somewhat more difficult than the crew had been lead to expect but with the devotion of a few lying on their backs, again in the mud, which by this time was even wetter and slicker than the first two times, it was accomplished.

This trip was a piece of cake and the whole pile arrived intact that same evening. Two Saturdays later it was reassembled by our crack retrieval, assembly and restoration team under the able direction of Col. Al Schade!!

There were many different members involved in this wild operation and it

Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer
Col. Blake Wideman

Executive Officer
Col. Ted Watt

Finance
Col. Rosemary Netto

Adjutant
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

would be impossible to mention them all by name and some would be left out. Those who were involved know" who did what" and after all, that's what counts!! As Winnie said, "Never have so many owed so much to so few".

So, now we have a nifty airplane that, with some work and paint and a little TLC will make a super gate guard. Well Done To All!!

Hangar Security

As was mentioned in the December newsletter we have been given a security system by Great Western Alarms here in Paso Robles. This is a donation by Marion and Lynda Todd, owners of GWA. This is a full-on system which is monitored 24 hours a day at their downtown offices and they are set up to contact the police or fire departments as well as individuals at the moment anything happens. Both entrance doors are monitored for entry as well as breakage and the big hangar doors are guarded by a double light beam system (to avoid false alarms by the cat). There is also an alarm for our office trailer door and a motion detector for the inside so we can begin to work in there with office equipment, computers and the like and free up some space inside the Hangar as well as having a half way decent office.

This also puts a bit of responsibility on ourselves as well. Upon entering the building one must code in a response at our wall mounted control center. If this is neglected, a call will come from the GWA Alarm Center downtown asking for identification. If this is not handled properly the police and/or someone designated on the list of members will be notified.

False alarms get pretty annoying to the police so to avoid as much of a problem as possible, the access codes and lock combinations will not be given out to every member since there are many who seldom, if ever, need access other than at specified meeting or work periods. This is not to say that anyone is barred from entering at all. Anyone who has a need to enter the premises will be given the proper codes either at the time or whenever necessary. At this

point in time, however, the present combinations are known to half the populace of Paso Robles and we would like to restrict this.

Something is also going to have to be worked out with regard to the L-Bird groups. There are still instances of the plane or planes being taken out of the Hangar and the doors being left open with NO ONE in attendance. There is no point of having a security system if the hangar doors are left wide open with the front gate open as well.

We already have some items in our Museum that are fairly valuable and would be sorely missed if stolen. There are also any number of people who have offered to give us or loan to us various historic items, some of considerable value, but they want them protected.

So be advised that there are going to have to be some rules with regard to Hangar access.

This shouldn't be a problem because if we want something nice we are going to have to take care of it.

Welcome New Members

We have been a bit remiss in this department for a month or two so now is the time to catch up.

Please welcome aboard:

Philip Dolim
Col. Donald Hilston
Col. Brian Webster

We're delighted to have you with us and hope you enjoy yourselves. Col. Webster has already jumped into the fray by taking on a Flight Leader's job and even having to Chair the last meeting about 10 minutes after taking on the F/L chore! He did a great job too!!

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

Al Schade
927-8303

Project Manager

Gary Corippo
238-2090
238-0888

Insurance

Brian Webster
237-0666

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)

New Meeting Rooms

Please be advised that, for the remainder of the cold weather season, all meetings of the CAF Staff, the Museum Board and

the Air Show Committee will be held at Centennial Park in one of their meeting rooms.

This has been arranged for at a truly low cost and will be much more convenient for all concerned than trying to cram a fairly good sized group into some poor soul's home!

Contact your committee head or Staff or Board member for further details.

Magazine Program

By now every member has received a packet of information sent out by Col. Gary Shepard with regard to the 40% off magazine renewal or subscription program. This program ends on January 15 so if you want to get in on it and if you want to make a definite contribution to the CAF you've got to get with it.

I know of at least three people who have renewed or taken out several new subscriptions each for others, relatives, friends, kids etc., all at a whopping discount, a huge part of which comes directly back to us. Please dig through your old mail pile and find this packet. This is a great opportunity to subscribe to or renew magazine subscriptions at a tremendous saving and help ourselves as well.

Send those envelopes in to Gray Shepard as soon as possible!!

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of January, Alpha Flight, under the able direction of Col. Blake Wideman will be in charge of the monthly meeting and the month's activities. It is suggested that the Flight Leader contact Col. Bob Singleton (239-2094) for instructions as well as the Dinner Coordinator, John Himes (466-6102).



Surprise Ahead!

At the January Meeting the membership will receive a great and welcome surprise donated to the Museum by Connie and Jerry Smith. It's still being worked on so we are not allowed to let the cat out of the bag as to what it is but it is a truly valuable item for the Museum. Be There!!!

Corippo Finds Another Tug

We are informed by our highly active and versatile chief scrounger, Gary Corippo, that he has located another ramp tug in the Long Beach area. He found it some time ago and has been dickering with the owners for months to get them to donate it or at least give it to us at a low price. Last weekend he called and left another message and lo and behold, they called back and said we could HAVE it. Now all we have to do is go get it which could happen in the very near future. This will be a great addition since it is somewhat smaller and more maneuverable than the big one we have now. It needs some work but is evidently intact so it sounds like a nifty deal.

And As If The Above Wasn't Enough!!

Gary Corippo has also found a 40mm Bofers Anti aircraft cannon in Michigan that the owner wants to trade for a 57mm cannon like the two we have at our own place. (Thanks to Col. Gus Gustafson). It is mounted on its own trailer and is the kind you see in the movies that has a gunner on either side, one cranking to raise or lower the muzzle and the other on the other side handling the traversing.

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:

Every 2nd Wednesday:

CBI Group

Monthly Luncheon. 2nd
Wednesday of each month at
the Elks Lodge in San Luis
Obispo.

Info:
Dewey Greil 544-4969

January 11-12:

Pomona Valey Air Fair
at Cable Airport, honoring
military L-Bird pilots
Info: (909) 982-7173

January 17-19:

Formation Clinic

at Riverside Airport, Riverside, CA
conducted by the Inland Empire
Squadron of the CAF!

Info:
Chuck Hall (619) 789 8178

February 28 - March 2nd

Cactus Fly-In

Arizona Antique Aircraft
Association, Casa Grande, AZ

Info:
(602) 830-9670



February 22:

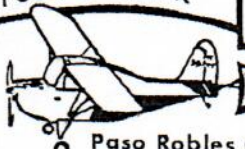
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