

Estrella Squadron

Newsletter



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

Volume VIII Number 2

Paso Robles, California

February 1997

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February Meeting

The February Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 1997 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

The dinner for the meeting will be provided by Gary and Judy Corippo and will be the Ham Dinner that you were promised last month. (Sometimes your Ed. just doesn't get the "word"!).

Our program for the evening will be provided by Mr. Stanley P. "Stan" Butchart of Lancaster. Mr. Butchart served as a carrier pilot in the Navy and later joined NASA. While in the Navy he served with another young pilot named George Bush in VT-51 and after joining NASA in 1951 he flew with two other pilots who were also destined to become rather well-known, Neil Armstrong (first on the Moon) and Scott Crossfield (first to fly the X-15)!!

Mr. Butchart and his wife will be staying at the Paso Robles Inn as a guest of the Management.

A more detailed resume of Stan's career appears on page 4.

Chamber Mixer and Grand Opening

As most of you know, the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce approached us a short time ago about the possibility of having the February "Mixer" at our Hangar. The member originally

scheduled for that month is evidently unable to hold the function at this time.

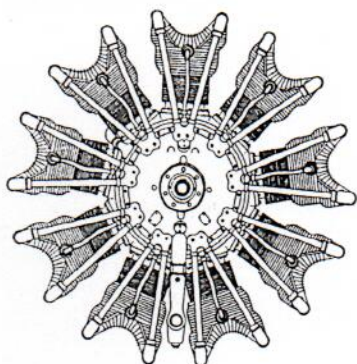
We, of course, were delighted to be asked and, after further thought, decided to combine it with what we are calling our Grand Opening. The Chamber agreed to combine the two so

... on Wednesday, February 12 (one week after our monthly meeting) we will hold the Chamber Mixer and the Museum Grand Opening, beginning at 5:30pm until 7:30pm or thereabouts.

It is requested that as many members as possible show up for this meeting and it is further requested that as many Colonels as possible attend in uniform. This is a once in a lifetime chance to show some of the more prominent and active members of the community just how much we back our organization.

In addition to Chamber members, we are sending out invitations to every organization and individual we can think of who has helped our group, either by financial sponsorship or in some other way. This is a rare opportunity to acknowledge the assistance we have received from many, many people and organizations.

As one looks around our rain-soaked site it is obvious that we have more than a bit to do to improve the looks of the place, both inside and outside. Consequently, we are asking that



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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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Paso Robles, CA 93446

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



every member who can give some time to be at the site on Saturday, February 1 and the following Saturday, the 8th about 9:00 or 10:00am. If you don't get the word from your Flight Leader, please make every effort to get out there on your own.

The usual crew of volunteers are already working on the weekdays as well as weekends and would definitely appreciate some help. They have installed the two new permanent heaters and are busily working on other projects as well.

Remember, this will be a very public viewing and many people will be judging us based upon what we have done to date.

LET'S MAKE THIS THING WORK!!

CO's Corner

The Airshow is coming!! The Airshow is coming!!

Yes, in less than 5 months it will be time for the Eighth Annual Air Show at the Paso Robles Airport and we have been working for some time to put this show together. As you may know we took a loss last year, what with moving the show to the end of the month, conflicts with other activities and the truck wreck that stopped all north bound traffic at the southern city limits, to name a few.

This year the show will be on June 1 and the overall activities will be reduced as compared to last year. There will be no Saturday night dinner/dance, ticket prices will be lowered, the fuel and lodging for invited aircraft will be reduced and there will be a greater effort to secure more sponsors, large and small, to support the overall show. We will also be placing more emphasis on the raffle as a fund raising effort. With respect to the sponsorship and the raffle, I am looking to the membership

to take the lead on both. With some 150 members of the Squadron I feel we can more than double our sponsor numbers if everyone makes the effort to secure one plane sponsor each. The sponsorships will be \$200. per plane and I am sure everyone, with a little thought, can find a friend or someone they do business with that they could approach. These people do not have to be aircraft related and they could also be members of a club or organization that could pool their money and provide a sponsorship in their groups name (20 people at just \$10 each could be a \$200 plane sponsor). Without this kind of support we will not be able to bring the classic warbirds to our shows in the future.

A raffle can bring us a good share of the much needed funds for continued growth of the Museum facilities. Not only can we use help soliciting local businesses for goods and services, but I am sure some of our members have good or services or even white elephants in the closet that they could provide for the drawing.

We are nearing a point of beginning the activities building project and a successful air show will assure that the project moves ahead on schedule. Remember, we only get out of our efforts what we put into them. If we are to see a successful future we must combine our efforts now, so please support AIRSHOW '97

Thank you. Blake Wideman

Security System Violations

The Security system has been installed as was announced at the last meeting. It has been noted that on at least two occasions the system was not armed when the Hangar was closed for the night. If we don't arm the system there is no point in having it.

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
Blake Wideman (Temp)

PX Officer
Willa Killion

Aircraft Restoration Projects
Col. Al Schade

Historian
Col. John Davis



CAF Hangar Phone
238-9317

PLEASE READ THE SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS LOCATED ON THE WALL ABOVE THE CONTROL BOX TO ARM SYSTEM WHEN YOU LEAVE. WE ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE ARTIFACTS BASED ON THE

PREMISE THAT THEY WILL BE PROTECTED. LET'S SEE THAT THEY ARE!!!

If you don't know how to use the System, call one of the people on the information card hanging on the padlock on the steel (side) door.

P.I.O. Needed!!!

Craig Fossey has asked to be relieved of his duties as Public Information Office so we are asking for a volunteer to take on this position. Ideally it would be someone who is familiar with newspaper work or who knows the kind of information newspapers and other media forms would like to have for publication or broadcast. Someone with writing skills or a frustrated author would fill the bill nicely.

This is not a killer job and wouldn't take very much of one's time, but if handled properly would be a tremendous boon to the Squadron and the Museum.

Please, someone step forth and take the burden off Blake Wideman's shoulders since he already has several full time jobs with the organization such as CO, Air Show chairman, Activities chairman etc. plus a full time job with PG&E which keeps interfering with his Squadron and Museum duties!!

L-5 Share Available

We have been informed that an ownership share in the Stinson L-5 is available immediately. This is a great airplane and is in excellent condition. There are only four owners so the use of the airplane is restricted to those individuals rather than a whole gaggle of people with different capabilities. If you want to get back in the air or continue flying at a reasonable cost it would pay you to look into this. Contact Dick Griffith at 434-2124 for details

Welcome New Members

Please welcome aboard two new members:

J. W. Brazelton
Edwin Vincik

We are delighted to have you with us and hope you will enjoy yourselves.

T33 Restoration

As you know, the T-33 is here on the site and the large parts have been put together so it looks like an airplane! It looks pretty impressive too!!

Al Shade, our Restoration chief, has announced that there will be regular work parties every Saturday for those of you who are interested in putting this bird in proper condition to display as our gate guard. Hours will be from 10:00am to 4:00pm so come on out for all or any part of the day. All help will be appreciated. The airplane itself will be placed in the Hangar while it is being worked on so you won't have to brave the elements, such as they have been for the past few weeks (read, forever!!)

This is fun work with a bunch of great guys so all of you who have been waiting for an airplane project, this is a great way to start.

CAF Staff Meeting

submitted by Adjutant John Himes

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, January 15, 1997

ATTENDING: Voting Staff Members Present: Blake Wideman, CO; Ted Watt, XO; Rosemary Netto, Finance Officer; John Himes, Adjutant; Al Schade, Maint. Officer; Gary Shepard, Operations Officer; James Wood, Safety Officer.

Staff Members, Committee Chairmen and Guests Present: John Davis, Historian; Bob Singleton, Flight Exec.; Glen Thomson, Museum Liaison, Bruce Toomey, Newsletter;

Committee Chairs

CAF

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

Brian Webster
237-0222

Refreshments

Doug Miner
239-1054

Activities

OPEN

Photo

Ralph Grasso
237-2813

JOINT CAF/EWM

Joint Site Improvements
Glen Thomson

Joint Community Events
Committee
Gary Corippo

Jeff Welles, Officer at Large; Gary Corippo, Museum.

Minutes

The minutes of the 12/16/96 Staff meeting were reviewed with corrections. Motion to accept, Jim Wood, Second, Ted Watt: Approved

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported a cash balance of \$9607.08 as of 1/15/97. There was a review of the year-end financial statements that will be sent to Midland. The final figures showed a net loss of \$1030.33. The budget was presented for 1997 which was based on historical information. There was a great deal of discussion regarding our budget and our finances in general. It was agreed that more work needs to be done if we wish to have more control. Motion by Ted Watt to approve the budget for the purpose of submission to Midland but that it be sent to the Planning Committee for review and refinement. Second Gary Shepard, Approved. A bill from Wyricks Plumbing was submitted for \$173.17 for sewer clean out. Motion to approve plumbing bill. Second, Jim Wood. A discussion regarding kitchen procedures and possible solutions followed. Approved. The L-5 group paid their past due hangar rent but protested and refused payment of the 10% late fee.

Old Business

Flight Leaders: Bob Singleton discussed the role of the Flight Leader and the flights. Bob has leveled the rosters and has met with the Flight Leaders to explain. He is suggesting that the Flight Leader select a wingman as his assistant and as a potential replacement. The duties and responsibilities are being defined and refined by the Planning Committee. A certificate will be presented to the top Flight Leaders for 1996. Name badges are being updated to correspond with the new flight alignment.

Events Calendar:

Bruce Toomey will keep the calendar up

Planning Committee:

No Report

Community Events

Still too early in the season. Most events occur later in the year.

Hangar Layout

Deferred to next meeting. No plan has yet been received from the Museum.

Dinner Teams

John Himes presented a plan for organizing our meal functions which recommended creating a Staff position of Mess Officer. Motion: John Himes moved that we create a new Staff position of Mess Officer and that we seek a volunteer to fill the position. Second, Rosemary. Approved.

Hangar Security

The system is up and running and the codes are available to those who need them. If you need them call Glen Thomson, Bruce Toomey, Keith Bowers or Gary Corippo. The system must be armed when the last person leaves the Hangar. It was noted that the Hangar doors are still being left open when no one is around. Security will be stressed at general meetings and in the Newsletter.

Heaters

Two heaters have been donated. Other items including pegboard and cabinets were also donated.

Gatehouse

Blake Wideman is negotiating the donation of an authentic gate house.

Savings Account

Done - no new information

Footlocker/Oral History

John Davis has some donations and is proceeding with the project. More donations and help are welcome.

FAA Pilot Safety Program

Attended and sponsored by Blake Wideman, Al Schade, John Davis Jim Wood and other friends, relatives and family members. Over 300 home baked cookies were provided and enjoyed. It was the consensus that we

maintain an involvement with this group.

Job Descriptions

Only two received to date, discussion deferred to next meeting.

New Business

Grand Opening/Chamber Mixer. A Chamber Mixer will be held on Feb. 12 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Museum. Doug Miner is the team leader of the project and he will need your help. Wine donations are being sought, all other costs will be split 50-50 with the Museum. CAF share of the costs will come from the special projects fund.

Fund Raising

Deferred to next meeting

PIO

Craig Fossey has resigned as PIO. Blake will fill in, in the interim. Bruce will solicit a replacement in the Newsletter.

Magazine Sales

The project was a financial success and should do better in future years as the project becomes better publicized and understood by the members. We made a net profit of \$395.

Hangar Team

Bob Singleton suggested that we form a Hangar team to manage the operation of the Hangar. This concept is being studied by the Planning Committee

T-33 Project

The big pieces of the bird are together. Detailing now needs to be done which could take up to a year. Al will set up work dates and will lay out functions to be done. He would like project leaders to help with people functions.

Announcements

None

Meeting Adjourned 9:48pm

Resume of Stanley P. Butchart

Stan was born in New Orleans on 3-11-22 and moved to Spokane, Washington when he was 2 years old. He attended schools in Spokane through Jr. College and went through the famed CPT (Civilian Pilot Training) program. He enlisted in the Navy V5 program in 1942 and went to pre-flight at St. Mary College. He was at "E"-Base at Pasco WA to March of 43 where he flew N2S and N3N aircraft and then went to Corpus Christi, TX where he graduated with "Wings of Gold" in July of 1943.

He was assigned to Opa Locka, FL for operational training and was carrier qualified on the USS Wolverine on Lake Michigan flying SNJs.

He then reported to Norfolk and was assigned to VC-51 at Chincoteague, VA where the Squadron was changed to VT-51 (No more SBDs!) He had further training at Hyannisport, MA and Charleston, RI and then had his shakedown cruise aboard the USS San Jacinto in February of 1944 and then went through the Canal and into the Pacific.

Stan participated in 4 invasions (Saipan, Guam, Palau Islands and Leyte). The Squadron was recommissioned in January of 1945 and got as far as the Hawaiian area when the war ended.

Stan then attended the University of Washington from 1946 through June of 1950. He worked for nine months at Boeing as a Jr. Design Engineer on the B-47.

He joined NASA in May of 1951 and retired in March 1976 after spending the last 10 years as Director of Flight Ops.

Estrella Warbirds Museum Directors Meeting

submitted by Blake Wideman, Secretary

The Board of Directors of the Estrella Warbirds Museum met on January 21, 1997.

ATTENDING: Keith Bowers, Gary Corippo, John Cromwell, George Marrett, Ed Stewart, Glen Thomson, Jeff Welles and Blake Wideman. Also attending were Bob Singleton and K.O. Eckland.

ABSENT: Ted Watt.

Minutes

No past minutes were available at meeting time. General discussion of previous meeting held; topics, Martin Foundation grant; the Museum does not qualify for same.. Security System, adopted motion to pay monthly monitoring fee of \$25 on a 50/50 basis with the Estrella Squadron. No other actions had been completed and discussion ended.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Welles provided a comprehensive review of 1996 finances (in a complete folder) including air show figures. It was noted that the air show lost approximately \$2800 in 1996. John Cromwell reminded the Treasurer of the outstanding Cal Coast Irrigation bill. The Board was also reminded that Chuck Wentworth had donated a Vampire fuselage and it should be shown in "Museum Assets". Moved by Bowers, seconded by John Cromwell and passed.

Old Business

By-Laws: Final draft of by-laws presented by John Cromwell. After some discussion it was moved by Gary Corippo and seconded by George Marrett that the by-laws be adopted. Passed.

Joint Planning Committee: it was announced that Col. Ted Watt had sent in a letter of resignation from the Museum Board, as Squadron XO and the Airshow '97 Staff.

State Surplus Recognition Status: Gary Corippo reported that we do not qualify at present.. The Main issue seems to be the operating hours. Gary will call the State to determine their exact requirements and suggested we set hours of operation at 10-2 on Saturday and 12-2 on Sunday.

Brochure: K.O. stated that the brochure will not be completed by the February 12th Grand Opening/ Chamber Mixer. It was suggested that we put together a one page handout for those attending.

Missile from Cal Poly: A brief discussion was held regarding the process needed to transport the two halves of the missile to the Museum.

A-3 jet display: George Marrett reported that there is a high probability that the Museum will receive an A-3 Navy jet for display at the Museum. He is still working on the project.

New Business

Airsho '97: Gary Corippo suggested that the scope of the air show be cut way back so as not to lose money this year. Specific areas to cut were the number of paid performers, payment of fuel and rooms for specialty aircraft and have the Squadron/Museum members operate the food and drink concessions so as to keep the money generated as air show profits. As no specific action was taken at this meeting further discussion was halted until the upcoming air show meeting. Bob Singleton proposed that the Board look into sharing responsibility with the Minter Field/Shafter air show and alternating air shows

with them. It was pointed out that our lease agreement with the City of Paso Robles specifically states that we will provide and air show each year at the Paso Robles Airport. It was also recognized that Minter has a paying air show and it would be quite doubtful that they would even entertain a suggestion of this type.

Grand Opening - Chamber Mixer

Much discussion took place on the preparation for said event including cleaning the Hangar and surrounding area, making signs, an invitation list, securing more artifact to display, producing applications for Museum membership, etc. Gary Corippo asked for assistance for a Saturday (Jan. 25) work day.

Ted Watts letter of resignation was read into the minutes and them briefly discussed.

No further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm

Flight Duty Roster

For the month of February, Bravo Flight, under the able direction of Flight Leader, Keith Bowers, 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 regarding Hangar set-up as well as the Dinner Team head for the month, Gary Corippo (238-2029).

It has also been tentatively decided that Flights will provide Docents for the Museum on Saturdays and Sundays. The plan is that the Flight will provide one or, hopefully, two people out of the Flight for each of the weekends of their month. The Flight can rotate members during the month or do whatever they want to do to work it out.

There will be a six months rotation which means that each Flight will have one duty month where they help with the dinner and six months later they will

be asked to provide Docents. If there are any questions, contact Col. Singleton.

February, Juliet Flight is being asked to provide Docents.

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:

The Museum is Open! Every Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm and Sundays from 12:00noon to 2:00pm!!

Monthly

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

February

22

San Gabriel Valley 99s'
Weather Workshop, 9am to 4pm, Brackett
Airport, CA (818) 967-5882

28 through March 2nd

Cactus Fly-In. Arizona
Antique Aircraft Assn.
Casa Grande ,AZ

March

14 - 16

The Incredible Universe Aviation and
Motor Spectacular. Williams Gateway
Airport, Mesa, AZ
(602) 941-0061

22

Open House & Airshow, 10am to 4pm,
Riverside Municipal Airport
Riverside,CA
(909) 683-7263

The Airshow circuit is fairly slow at this time of year so there is not much to report. If you know of something special or of interest that might not be in the regular aviation publications please call Bruce Toomey at 238-9266.

Also, please call if you know of local happenings or events that the membership would be interested in or of which they should be informed. In other words, help make this calendar worthwhile!!!

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