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Estrella Squadron

Newsletter



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

Volume VIII Number 4

Paso Robles, California

April 1997

April Meeting

The April Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 1997 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Chef John has indicated that we will be having "Italian" which will probably be Fettuchine and more. Whatever it is, it will be superb as have been the rest of the meals we have been having lately!!

Our speaker for the evening will be our own Robert C. (Bob) Kinsell who was scheduled to speak to us in January but was unable to because of the untimely death of his wife. We are most grateful that Bob has agreed to speak to us again and a brief biography below is from the January newsletter.

Bob Kinsell was a Photo Recon pilot with the 8th Air Force in England during WWII. While flying a P-38/F5-G, he was hit by AA flak at 35,000 feet while photographing the German sub pens at St. Nazaire, France, and then was bounced by four F-190s. 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 USC 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 to print out. 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.

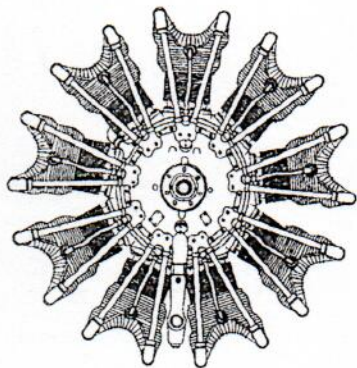
Docent Training Prior To Meeting

Don't forget that there will be a short Museum Docent Training Meeting just prior to the regular meeting on April 2nd. This will run from 6:30 to 7:00. Please see Executive Flight Leader Col. Bob Singleton on Tuesday evening.

The Docent program under the direction of Col. Gary Shepard is doing a great job for the Museum. There are people on hand during the scheduled times and we are getting a surprising number of people coming to the Museum. They are almost uniformly impressed with what has been done and there have been many positive comments as well as actual cash donations in the pot!

Museum Approval !

Another most interesting bit of news is that we have been officially approved by the State as a Museum entitled to



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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.

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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receive a vast number of artifacts that are held by both the State as well as the Federal Government. The Federal portion is evidently administered by the State. This is an incredible break because, for a while, there was some question as to whether or not the State would approve us. The inspector initially labeled us as a "club" but when he reappeared some time later we were ready for him! There were several knowledgeable members on hand to meet him and he seemed to be much impressed with what had been done in a short time.

This opens up a huge "storehouse" of surplus items that are available which, over time, could supply us with some fabulous items and this means Big Stuff like airplanes and all kinds of items we could only dream about previously.

Welcome New Sponsor Members

We are pleased to announce that we have two new Sponsor Members as of the last meeting!

Mr. Tony Napolitano and his wife, Rose, visited the Hangar some days before the meeting and decided they liked what they saw so Tony signed up! We're very happy to have Tony as a member and hope they both will join in as often as they can.

Also at the last meeting, Maria Goldman became a new Sponsor Member. Maria has been to several meetings and was responsible, with John Himes, for one of our excellent recent dinners. Maria has also volunteered to help with promotional work and will be a most welcome new member!

Flight Duty Roster

Under the new Duty Roster Program, for the month of April, Echo Flight will be the Duty Flight assisted by Delta Flight as Support.

In May, two new Flights will take over. Foxtrot Flight will have the Duty assisted by Golf Flight as Support..

AIRSHOW '97!!!

The Airshow is fast approaching and the Committee has been working night and day as individuals and weekly as a group. Things are coming along fairly well but the new concept of really trying to hold the line on expenses so we **ACTUALLY MAKE SOME MONEY** from this one is causing some problems that the committee is trying to overcome.

In order to assure ourselves that we cover our expenses it is necessary to have them covered up front. That means that we need **SPONSORS** to sign up for each sponsored airplane and other sponsors to take up the slack in other areas. If we're covered up front, what we get from the Airshow can be profit!

We are extremely fortunate in having Col. Brian Webster on our team who has volunteered to head up the enormous effort of obtaining sponsors. Brain has almost singlehandedly revitalized our entire approach and concept of going after sponsors and we all owe him Big Time for what he is doing. He can't do it alone, however, and this is where we can all help. Included in this newsletter is a sheet entitled "Airplane Sponsor" with an application. We urge every single member to go through their list of friends and acquaintances as well as business contacts and really try to enlist as many as possible as sponsors for an airplane for the sum of \$200.

OR, many of you may know individuals or business concerns who regularly contribute good sized amounts to various groups. We urge you to contact these people and ask for their support. It is surprising the

Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer
Col. Blake Wideman

Executive Officer
OPEN

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 Co-Chairs
Elaine Borden
Linda Hermansen
Maria Goldman

PX Officer
Willa Killion

Aircraft Restoration Projects
Col. Al Schade

Historian
Col. John Davis

CAF Hangar Phone
238-9317

number of people who are more than willing to give substantial amounts for a good cause and all that has to happen is that they be ASKED!!

We are trying to finance a patriotic, non-profit,, historical and educational institution right here in Paso Robles so that future generations will be able to remember the sacrifices and triumphs of thousands of their own fellow citizens who contributed to the fight for our freedom from tyranny.

Our little group is a way to do this and we are damned proud of what we are trying to accomplish. If you, as individual members and sponsor members can get this across to others there is no reason we cannot have a successful air show and a successful organization as a whole.

Make a copy of these two pieces of paper. Get as many people interested as you can. This is something that you can do on your own that entails a whole lot less effort than the things that many other individuals are immersed in at the Hangar or in other areas.

Please give this your best shot. If we have a successful Air Show we can really have our dreams fulfilled!!

Security!!!

We are still having trouble with our Security . Not with the System but with PEOPLE!!!!!!

Two weekends ago, a group arrived at the Hangar about 8:30am to find two of the big doors open about three feet and the side door unlocked!!! This is just asking for it.

For Pete's Sake, if you don't know what to do about locking up, call one of the people on the list and we'll walk you through it. The list is hanging on the side door with the padlock! "Nuff said, I hope!!

Mess Officer Confirmed

Yes, friends, it's official, Carol Weiss has agreed to become our Mess Officer which will be a tremendous help to all concerned with providing us with our nifty meals. Our meeting dinners are a huge part of our whole picture and attract many outsiders who eventually

become members. Again, our thanks to Carol!

More Good News!

We are also extremely pleased to announce that, not only did we get a response to our plea for a Public Information Officer we received THREE!

As a happy result we will have Linda Hermanson, Elaine Borden and Maria Goldman all helping out with the chores, each, perhaps, operating in different parts of the county! They will get together and decide how they want to work it but, wow!! how lucky can we get!???

CAF Staff Meeting

submitted by Adjutant John Himes
condensed and paraphrased for length

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, March 19, 1997.

ATTENDING: Voting Staff Members: Blake Wideman ,CO; Rosemary Netto, Finance Officer; John Himes, Adjutant; Al Schade, Maint. Officer; James Wood, Safety Officer.

Staff Members: John Davis, Historian; Bob Singleton, Flight Exec., Glen Thomson, Museum Liason; Linda Hermansen, PIO; Elaine Borden, PIO

Minutes. The minutes of the 3-5-97 General Meeting were accepted without correction.

The minutes of the 2-19-97 Staff meeting were accepted without correction.

Treasurers Report. The treasurers report was was accepted after some discussion as to the number, use and costs of running all the refrigerators, freezers etc. We do not need all we have and John Himes will review our needs to see if we can't

Committee Chairs**CAF****Program**

George Marrett
466-7640

Membership

Obbie Atkinson
238-9212

Mess Officer

Carol Weiss
239-2637

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

consolidate. The kitchen frige needs coolant as it is running too much.

Old Business.

Flight Leader: Bob Singleton reports that his main activity is to get the Docent program up and running. He does not see any need to combine Flights at this time but he has instituted a program of combining Flight duties for certain events.

Events Calendar. Jim Wood has turned our information in to several web sites and is working on getting us linked into other web pages. He will keep our information current in this media.

Planning Committee. We need a Chairman to spearhead the program which is critical to our organization.

Community Events. Blake Wideman is concerned about insurance coverage on our motor pool equipment. He will check with Brian Webster to resolve the situation. In the meantime, no equipment should roll in community events.

Hangar Layout. We still need a layout plan so that we know where we can display CAF items on a permanent basis.

Hangar Security. It's still a problem! The Hangar was found open and empty of personnel on a recent Sunday am. Good quality displays demand good security.

Aircraft Acquisition. We did not receive the Stinson 108 from Midland as expected. Glen Thomson suggested we write a letter of protest expressing our disappointment and concern. We need Midlands's support if we are going to be viable Squadron. It was recommended that we formulate as aircraft acquisition plan so that when another airplane does become available we will be able to react quickly.

Air Show. Blake Wideman passed out auto posters and requested that we get them in the back windows of as many vehicles as possible. The show is well on its way and is expected to be very exciting and financially successful.

Dinner Teams. Carol Weiss has accepted the position of Mess Officer and is well on her way toward getting us organized. We discuss the effect of business meetings on our attendance at general meetings and questioned the wisdom of having too many such meetings. No action.

B-17 Picture. We are missing a very valuable picture of a B-17 which was donated to the Museum. Any information as to its whereabouts is solicited.

PIO Linda Hermansen and Elaine Borden were appointed as PIO Officers. They will work closely with the media in their home area. They will meet as a committee to lay out a program. (I believe this has been modified by the addition of Maria Goldman as an additional PIO but this is not confirmed as of this writing, Ed.)

Fund Raising. We need to decide where and how to best get the Air Show PX on the road. A schedule of worthy events is needed. We also need a display case in the museum to make our PX items available to visiting guests. A motion was passed to authorize the purchase of three display cases from Erika's House of Fashion for \$275 each. Jeff Wells committed to underwriting the cost of one case and we will ask the Museum to fund one case.

New Business

Newsletter: Costs of mailing the newsletter were discussed. Bulk mail will be looked into. It will allow us to mail heavier peices to more people for less money.

Aircraft Rides. No rides may be given in any aircraft in the name of the CAF because of insurance considerations.

Museum Business. Al Schade is going to have the T-33 mechanically ready for the Air Show. It is scheduled to be done on May 15. He will also try to get it painted before the Air Show.

XO. We are looking for an able body and an able mind to fill this position. All qualified and interested please step forward immediately.

Supply Officer. It was suggested by Al Schade that we have a Supply Officer position added to the Staff to supply and organize all types of supplies necessary for our operation.

Elections. Elections are just around the corner. New Officers will be needed for next year. Rosemary Netto, our Finance Officer has already stated that she will not return as Treasurer. All persons interested in service should consult with Blake Wideman.

Adjourned 1904 hours
Submitted by John Himes,
Adjutant

Confederate Air Force History

As the voluntary editor of this magnificent opus I am often asked questions about the origins of the CAF and its history. Over the next couple of issues I would like to serialize an article from one of the CAF

HQ publications for the information of everyone.

The origin of the Confederate Air Force dates back to 1951, with their purchase of a surplus Curtiss P-40 Warhawk by Lloyd Nolen, a former World War II Army Air Corps flight instructor. In 1957, Nolen and four friends purchased a P-51 Mustang, each sharing in the \$2,500. cost of the aircraft. With the purchase of this Mustang, known as *Red Nose*, the group now known as the Confederate Air Force was unofficially founded.

Legend has it that upon arriving at the Mercedes airfield in deep south Texas one Sunday morning in 1957, the group found that someone had painted a sign on the fuselage of the P-51 as a joke. The sign read, "Confederate Air Force". All the pilots seemed pleased with the new name, saluted each other and decided it should stay.

In 1958, the group made their second purchase - two Grumman F8F Bearcats for \$805.00 each. Along with the P-51, this gave the pilots the two most advanced piston-engine fighters to see service with the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy in World War II.

In 1960, the CAF began seriously to search for other World War II aircraft, but it quickly became apparent that very few were still in flying condition. The CAF Colonels were shocked that the aircraft which played such a major role in winning World War II were being rapidly and systematically destroyed. No one, not even the Air Force or Navy were attempting to preserve even one of each type of these historic aircraft for display for future generations to see!

On September 6, 1961, the Confederate Air Force was chartered as a non-profit Texas corporation in order to restore and preserve World War II-era combat aircraft. By the end of the year there were nine aircraft in the CAF fleet.

In 1965, the first museum building consisting of 26,000 square feet was completed at old Rebel Field, Mercedes, Texas. The CAF created a new Rebel Field at Harlingen, Texas when they moved there in 1968, occupying three large buildings. The CAF fleet was rapidly growing and now included medium and heavy bombers such as the B-25, B-26, B-17 and B-24.

Today, the Confederate Air Force is comprised of approximately 7,000 members, several hundred of whom serve as pilots and flight or maintenance crew members committed to preserving World War II American aviation heritage. The year 1991 marked the beginning of a new era for the CAF with the opening of the new Midland headquarters and museum, with better facilities to preserve the CAF fleet, which now numbers 135 aircraft, for generations to come.

The CAF is an all volunteer organization, made up of members from all walks of life. Membership is open to all men and women, age 18 or older. You need not be a veteran nor a pilot to join the CAF. Privately funded and totally self-supporting, the non-profit, tax exempt group is dedicated to preserving the military aviation heritage of World War II.

More to come in May Issue!!

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Craig Fossey
General Manager

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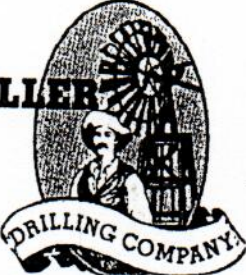
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To:

AIRPLANE SPONSOR

\$200

Welcome! And thank you for supporting the Estrella Warbird Museum in presenting the 8th annual Paso Robles Airshow. Your \$200 tax deductible donation will be used to offset the expenses of bringing the many unique and one-of-a-kind aircraft to our show. As an AIRPLANE SPONSOR you will receive the following:

- A. Two VIP tours of the Lockheed Constellation presently scheduled to be on display at the show.
- B. A 2x2.5 ad in the Airshow Extra being printed by the Country News-Press. *
(estimated retail value=\$70) Approximately 25,000 Extras will be printed for the airshow and distributed throughout the county.
- C. Eight (8) tickets to AIRSHO '97 (est. value=\$40)
- D. A SPONSOR sign at the aircraft sponsored and continued recognition via the P/A system before and during the show.
- E. One 8x10 photo of the sponsored plane. We would like the sponsor in the photo, but will take same if sponsor not available.
- F. One VIP parking pass.

Only one aircraft will be included with each sponsorship package, but a sponsor may sponsor as many aircraft as desired. Sponsor names will be drawn and assigned to the aircraft as they arrive. If you have a particular aircraft you want to sponsor please indicate on the bottom of this form. If that aircraft does not arrive another one will then be assigned.

When you receive your AIRPLANE SPONSOR package you may use it as you choose. Tickets, tours, etc. may be given to employees, relatives, special customers, etc. We only ask that you inform us as to whom, if anyone, will be in the photo with the aircraft.

Again, thank you for being a part of AIRSHO '97!

* NOTE: The Country News-Press is publishing the AIRSHOW EXTRA and will be offering sponsors the opportunity to upgrade from the 2x2.5 ad provided with the sponsorship to any size desired at a very reduced rate!

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor name _____ Name of contact _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Alternate Number _____

Name to be shown on sponsor sign _____

Description of product/services _____

Information you would like presented on P/A system. _____
