

Estrella Squadron

Newsletter



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

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Volume VIII Number 7

Paso Robles, California

July 1997

July Meeting

(Now, if I can get this right this time...)

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

This will be our annual post Air Show "thank you" barbecue for our sponsors and our Air Show member/workers. Our own Mike Wing will be doing the cooking again so we can all look forward to another excellent dinner.

The dinner will be on a no charge basis for our sponsors and for those members who have had a time card filled out by their Air Show work group leader. All others will be asked to pay as usual. Of course, all members who worked and wish to pay as a donation will receive the sincere thanks of our financial gurus.

Our program for the evening will be provided by Mr. Jeff Byard of Atascadero, currently a pilot for U.S. Airways flying Boeing 737-300s and 400s.

Mr. Byard originally learned to fly in a WWII surplus Schweizer TG-3A back in 1967 when he was 14 years old. (For the uninitiated, a TG-3A is a glider. Ed. note)

He moved to the Central Coast in 1975 to study Aeronautical Engineering at Cal Poly and later flew DH-114s (Heron), Nord 262s and Fokker F-27s for Swift Airlines out of SLO.

He is now flying for U.S. Airways as noted above.

In addition to the above, Mr. Byard is presently serving as the President of the National Soaring Museum in Elmira, New York.

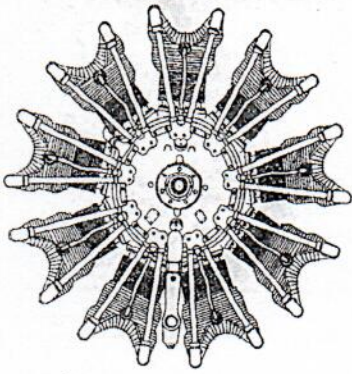
He will be speaking about vintage sailplanes and, in particular about the eight and one half year restoration and history of his Schweizer TG-2, a WWII trainer used to train the pilots who flew the large invasion gliders into combat.

Along with his brief resume, Mr. Byard sent along a nifty article, which he authored, entitled "The Life and Times of a TG-2". It is a compact history of a little known period during WWII concerning the training gliders and those who flew them. It is also about his restoration project of the TG-2. I won't say any more because I hope he expands on the above topics. It is a great tale and will be of considerable interest to those who are interested in what the CAF is all about!!

C.O.'s Column

On Wednesday evening July 2, after our VIP. Recognition "Thank You" Dinner at the Hangar, AIRSHO '97 will become history. As it takes its place with the shows before it, certain aspects of this show stand out and need to be recognized.

Probably foremost in our members and sponsors minds is the question of whether or not we made any money. The answer is YES! Though not all the bills are paid at this writing, we have a



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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Paso Robles, CA 93446

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



good handle on their amounts and we are expecting to see a profit of \$3,500 to \$4,000 from this show. It should be noted that we came in under budget, even with an unexpected 1/3 plus increase in our insurance premium.

As it states in the CAF Headquarters manual and as any other air show committee around the country will tell you, an air show is not the "pot of gold at the end of the rainbow" and many shows last year lost bundles on their shows. I am hearing this story repeated already this year so I am quite pleased that we did what we did.

With a paid attendance of around 4,300 it is also obvious that our gate will stay at about that level in the future if we do not bring in the well known, and very expensive, acts such as the Blue Angels or the Thunderbirds. If we attempt to sign such acts it must be remembered that, without big sponsors, the expected increase in attendance will do little more than offset the additional costs, so the bottom line still would not be that "pot of gold".

This brings me to another key point, sponsors. If we look closely at the books, our profit this year almost directly parallels the additional sponsorship moneys brought in by the efforts of Col. Brain Webster. Through his fantastic "bush beating" he almost single-handedly overcame the lost revenue caused when Twin Cities/Sierra Vista Hospitals chose not to provide their usual \$2,500 and Rite Aid, the new Thrifty/Payless owners, refused, at the last minute, their usual \$2,500 sponsorship.

The latter, however, may have been a blessing in disguise since Longs Drugs chose to join us in our hour of need by taking over advance ticket sales and providing some excellent advertising for the show. They also provided our film for the show and are presently processing the enlargements that we will be providing our sponsors. Since the

show, Longs management has expressed great interest in helping us even more in 1998.

This is enough for now. I will be providing more on AIRSHOW '97 in future newsletters. Please watch for those editions as we look further into the workings of the show and the great people who made it come together.

It's About Dues, Folks

Every May our Financial Officer sends out an invoice to EACH member. As of the present time there are a number of members who have not sent in their \$40.00. As most of you know, this is the one main source of income that we can count on and it is extremely important for the continued operation of the Squadron.

Since this is a volunteer organization it seems to be a bit unfair to list those who are in arrears in a publication that goes to every one.

In view of our vital need for funds we are simply going to put a red dot on the mailing label of the newsletters sent to those who have not paid (as of this writing) to remind them that they are overdue. Please watch for this and make every effort to get current. We NEED the bucks!!

CAF Staff Meeting

submitted by John Himes
condensed & paraphrased for length

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, June 19, 1997

Attending: Voting Staff Members: Blake Wideman, CO; Rosemary Netto, Finance Officer; John Himes, Adjutant; Al Schade, Maintenance Officer.

Staff Members and Chairmen present: John Davis, Historian; Bob Singleton, Flight Exec; Glen Thomson, Museum Liaison; Bruce Toomey, Newsletter; Dewey and Willa Killion.

Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer
Col. Blake Wideman

Executive Officer
Open

Finance
Col. Rosemary Netto

Adjutant
Col. John Davis

Operations
Open

Maintenance
Col. Al Schade

Safety
Open

Staff Appointments

At Large
Col. Jeff Welles

PIO and Activities
Elaine Borden
Linda Hermansen
Maria Goldman

PX Officer
Willa Killion

Aircraft Restoration Projects
Col. Al Schade

Historian
Col. John Davis

Flight Coordinator
Col. Bob Singleton

CAF Hangar Phone
238-9317

correction. There was no Staff Meeting in May due to the Air Show.

Treasurer's Report: Cash balance is \$11,412.35 as of 6/16/97. Rosemary presented an updated six month financial statement for review. The statement contained a detailed report of all income and expense items for the last three months. Glen reminded us of the high cost of running the overhead lights and asked that we not use them unless absolutely necessary. Rosemary was asked to look into the benefits of securing a 6 months "T" Bill vs out present savings account interest rate.

Old Business

Flight Leader: Bob will be gone for 2 1/2 months. He will ask Al Davis to help with his duties in his absence. Good docents are still needed; training will continue to be made available.

Calendar of Events: Bruce is continuing to improve the calendar as more information becomes available to him.

Community Events: We need to have our presence made in public events but we must be sure to have proper insurance before participating. Our flyovers on Memorial Day were well received.

Newsletter: Bruce cannot continue with the full publication of the newsletter without getting help for the production or assembly portion. It was agreed to increase our newsletter circulation to 200+ so that we would be eligible for bulk rates. The savings in postage will help with the cost of production of the newsletter. John will consult with Bruce and develop a cost.

(Editor's note: In fact, it has been suggested and more or less understood that we would effectively double or triple the number of newsletters sent out by sending them to sponsors, city fathers, supervisors(2) motels, medical waiting rooms and other public people

and places. This is the problem. It simply takes too long to do all the writing, editing, copying, folding, stamping, labeling, sorting etc. by ourselves, (Joan and me) if we mail more than the number we mail out at present. John Himes has agreed to look into trying to make up a rate that would be fair to him and to us too so that we might be able to have the mechanics of production and mailing done by a professional print shop.)

Hangar Security: No new problems with security have been noticed in the last few weeks. The side door MUST be closed when arming the system. There have been some physical problems with securing the large hangar doors. John suggested that we develop instructional signage and place it on the doors so that everyone is aware of the proper procedures.

S-108 Stinson: No letter was written to voice our complaint but Glen called Midland and voiced a strong complaint about our not receiving the S-108. No reason of denial was given.

Air Show Update: Net income from the Air Show is approximately \$4,000. Attendance was on a par with prior years, approximately 4800 paid attendees. Blake presented a detailed written summary of Air Show attendee interviews. There was a lengthy discussion about the report and its meanings. We were also presented with a report, "Questions and comments from staff, participants and performers". This report was discussed in detail as a means for bringing Staff up to date and to prepare us for next years show which will probably be a CAF sponsored show rather than a Museum sponsored show.

Dinner Teams: More chefs are needed to make the program work. Several names of potential chefs were mentioned. Blake will call them to

Minutes: The minutes of the 6/4/97 General Meeting were reviewed and accepted without

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

solicit their help as well as Carol Weiss to clarify her role as Mess Officer.

Squadron Display Area: Staff members did physical planning session to determine the optimum way to set up the new display cases and how best to display squadron items. Blake will make our wishes known.

PX: It was decided that the PX display would be set up near the front door so that it could easily be seen by and sold to Museum visitors. Staff decided to make it a requirement that all future PX sales be recorded on a simple duplicate sales invoice. Air Shows are the best place to sell PX items but it is not cost effective unless the PX can be flown to the show.

Fund Raising: Willa proposed a rummage sale and a Blue Grass Festival/chili cook off as a means to raise money for the Squadron. Also, Willa was given permission to put on a luncheon for the Atascadero Ford Club who would like to include our Museum as a stop during their upcoming outing. Willa and Dewey will contribute the meat and coordinate the production of the luncheon.

New Business

1998 Air Show As mentioned earlier, the 1998 Air Show will probably be sponsored by the CAF. Benefits will be, reduced insurance costs, additional CAF participation and potential help from other CAF Squadrons.

Combining CAF & Museum: There is a movement to combine both groups with the Squadron being the governing body and the Museum becoming a sub-division or sub-committee thereof. The time line for completion of the project is October 1997.

Property Development/Equipment Acquisition: Glen stated that we need to develop our property commercially in order to produce future revenues for the

Squadron. He has an idea for the use of 80 feet of city property adjacent to our property. Glen was asked to put together the details of the plan and to present it to the Staff for discussion. Glen also stated that we need to be able to take advantage of our ability to acquire surplus government property by acquiring certain valuable properties when they become available. Staff is in agreement but at this time we have no means to fund the costs of acquisition.

No such acquisitions are authorized, if funding is needed, without Staff approval.

Adjourned 10:42 PM

Calendar of Events

The following schedule on the next page is borrowed (with permission!) from the So Cal Wing's great newsletter since your Ed. has not had time to research the six or seven publications required to make up the calendar. There are changes, cancellations, additions etc. every month so its kind of a chore to rehash it and re-edit it constantly unless you have plenty of time which I don't have this month.

(I asked Paul Koskela, the Editor of the So Cal 18-24 PAGE monthly newsletter how long it took him to write it and put it out and he said, with a sigh, he starts the day after the current one is mailed!!)

By the way, it would be most helpful if our members would call me at 238-9266 if they know of any local events, Central Coast in general, or their own cities in particular, in which we should or would like to participate. The Chambers and other similar groups have been asked to send literature but they are notoriously remiss in getting things sent out. They may send one or two and then that's the last we hear. You can help!! Thanks!

- Jul 4- 6 CAF So Calif Wing Open House, Camarillo CA 805-483-7575
- 11-13 13th Annual Piper Cub Flyin, Lompoc CA 805-733-1914
- 12 Grumman TBM Avenger, Planes of Fame, Chino 909-597-3722
- 19-20 Van Nuys Aviation Expo, Van Nuys CA 818-785-8838
- 26-27 Torrance Air Fair, Torrance CA 310-325-7223
- 30- 5 EAA/Oshkosh Convention, Oshkosh WI 414-426-4800
- Aug 1- 3 California Int'l Airshow, Salinas CA 408-754-1983
- 2 Observation Aircraft, Planes of Fame, Chino 909-597-3722
- 15-17 Warbird Roundup, Santa Maria CA 805-922-8758
- 15-17 NAS Miramar Open House and Airshow, San Diego CA 619-537-4119
- 23 CAF New Mexico Wing Airshow, Hobbs NM 505-392-4656
- 23-24 Hawthorne Air Fair, Hawthorne CA 310-970-7905
- 29-30 Hayward Air Fair, Hayward CA 510-785-7070
- 30- 1 CAF So Calif Wing Open House, Camarillo CA 805-483-7575
- Sep 6 Northrop N9M Flying Wing, Planes of Fame, Chino 909-597-3722
- 11-14 Reno Air Races, Reno NV 702-972-6663
- 19-20 Western Waco Association Reunion and Flyin, Fresno CA 209-233-9547
- 20 Beale AFB Open House, Marysville CA 916-634-9183
- 20-21 Gathering of Warbirds, Fresno CA 209-255-6086
- Oct 4 Supersonic Flight 50th Anniv, Planes of Fame, Chino 909-597-3722
- 4 Santa Barbara Airport Day, Goleta CA 805-967-7111
- 4- 5 CAF Airsho'97, Midland TX 915-563-1000 ... THE BIG ONE!! BE THERE!
- 4- 5 California Coast Airshow, Half Moon Bay CA 415-726-5677
- 4- 5 Page-Lake Powell Air Affaire, Page AZ 520-645-9373
- 9-12 Copperstate Regional EAA Flyin, Mesa AZ 520-228-5480
- 10-12 San Francisco Fleet Week, San Francisco CA 415-776-7777
- 11-12 NAS Pt Mugu Open House and Airshow, Pt Mugu CA 805-989-8548
- 18-19 Edwards AFB Open House, USAF 50th Anniversary 805-277-4127
- 25-26 Riverside Airport Open House, Riverside CA 909-683-7263
- Nov 1 Korean War Aircraft, Planes of Fame, Chino 909-597-3722
- 1- 2 Wings Over Long Beach, Long Beach CA
- Dec 6 Bell P-59 Airacomet, Planes of Fame, Chino 909-597-3722

1997 USAF Thunderbirds in CA, AZ, NV		1997 USN Blue Angels in CA, AZ, NV
4 Oct Midland TX		2, 3 Aug Salinas CA
18 Oct Edwards AFB CA		15,17 Aug NAS Miramar CA
		11,12 Oct San Francisco CA


1997 CAF FLIGHTS-- MASTER SCHEDULE

MONTH	DINNER MEETING		DO-CENT PROGRAM	
	DUTY FLIGHT	BACKUP FLIGHT	DUTY FLIGHT	BACKUP FLIGHT
JANUARY	ALPHA (COMPLETE)		HOTEL (JAN 97)	JULIETT (JAN 97)
FEBRUARY	BRAVO (COMPLETE)		JULIETT (COMPLETE)	
MARCH	DELTA	ECHO	KILO	LIMA
APRIL	ECHO	DELTA	LIMA	KILO
MAY	FOXTROT	GOLF	MIKE	NOVEMBER
JUNE	GOLF	FOXTROT	NOVEMBER	MIKE
JULY	HOTEL	JULIETT	ALPHA	BRAVO
AUGUST	JULIETT	HOTEL	BRAVO	ALPHA
SEPTEMBER	KILO	LIMA	DELTA	ECHO
OCTOBER	LIMA	KILO	ECHO	DELTA
NOVEMBER	MIKE	NOVEMBER	FOXTROT	GOLF
DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	MIKE	GOLF	FOXTROT
AS OF 3/5/97 ANY QUESTIONS? CALL BOB SINGLETON, FLIGHT COORDINATOR 239-2084				

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To: