

Estrella Squadron

Newsletter



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

Volume VIII Number 11

Paso Robles, California

Novemberr 1997

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November Meeting

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

Chef John Himes has informed us that we will probably have spaghetti with a meat sauce for dinner along with the usual good stuff so come hungry!

Our speaker for the evening will be none other than Marge Bong Drucker, the former wife of America's All-time Fighter Ace, Major Richard Bong. She has been a promised and hoped for speaker for over a year but has been unable to come to Paso Robles until now because of other commitments.

Marge will relate the first time she met the Fighter Ace, her instant fame as the nose-art of the P-38 flown by Bong, their joint appearances to promote war bonds and, ultimately, the loss of her husband barely six months after their marriage. She will also discuss her book, "MEMORIES, A Love Story", and her ongoing efforts to secure support for the Richard I. Bong Heritage Center in Poplar, Wisconsin.

Few people who are not history buffs are aware that Richard Bong was credited with shooting down 40 aircraft during his tour of duty, or that his record still stands today! Those who are aware of his aerial combat skills could also tell you that he may have had even

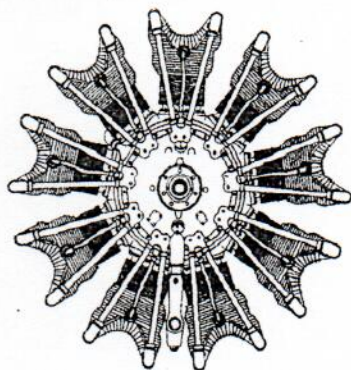
Bong: cont'd page 5

Peaceshield '97

by, Col. Gary Corippo
Squadron Leader

The Estrella Squadron of the Confederate Air Force has been invited to participate for the National Guard on Operation Peaceshield '97 On Saturday, November 15, 1997, the California National Guard will conduct opening ceremonies to start a combined exercise with the Ukraine and the United States. This the first time that an exercise of this type has been done by a Guard Unit. The exercise will be for relief type training, computer driven to simulate various scenarios utilizing military forces in support of law enforcement and disaster relief agencies.

To start the opening ceremonies, the Guard is going to put on quite a show and they are requesting our help. This presents a wonderful opportunity for the Confederate Air Force and our Squadron. Expected to be in attendance will be the President of the Ukraine and various members of his government., Vice President, Al Gore, Secretary of State, Madelaine Albright, U.S. Ambassador to the Ukraine, William Miller, Secretary of Defense, William Cohen, and General Shalikhvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. just to name a few. As you can see, with all of the media attention such as this will attract, we can contribute our utmost support which will reflect on our Squadron and the CAF. The plan now is to bring in



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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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aircraft from the Southern California Wing in Camarillo such as (2) P-51s, (4) SNJs, a T-28, an F8F Bearcat, a B-25 to fly with our own (3) L-Birds, an F4U Corsair, a T-28 and an S-2 Tracker. Oil and fuel will be supplied by Chevron Oil Company.

We are planning to have all of the aircraft staged at the Estrella Squadron on Friday, November 13 for a Paso Style "Mike Wing barbecue" at 1700. This will be open to the members, pilots, National Guard officials and the public. We intend to invite the media for publicity.

The price for the dinner is \$10.00 each and the proceeds will be used to cover the expenses related to the mission. After the meal the pilots will receive a briefing from Col. Chuck Miller, the Guard, and if the ceremony is in fact attended by the Vice President Gore, the Secret Service on the 0715 Saturday flight.

A Missed Woman,

A Missing Man

A TRIBUTE TO ROLANDE "FRENCHY" AMUNDSON WITH A BIT OF HUMOR THAT SHE WOULD HAVE ENJOYED.

by Col. Obbie Atkinson

After Frenchy's service I was scanning the local paper and was amused by the observations of a local reporter attending the heroine's burial and I quote, "soldiers then presented the flag which had been draped across the coffin to Amundson's daughter, Bernadette Leach. With dramatic timing a trio of Army planes *roared* overhead in a V formation just above the ceremony turning all eyes to the sky!!"

As most of you know, it was our loyal CAF crew of aviators who were the "trio of Army planes" appearing in the story. A quick check of the program, however, revealed that there were

actually four planes. Col. Chuck Wentworth, listed as "solo" in the program did the "Missing Man" maneuver in the Corsair and it was Chuck who did the "roaring overhead" as he passed our intrepid V formation of "Army planes" at 'warp' speed and disappeared into the Western sky!

Congratulations Chuck, a perfect "missing man" job. At least to that reporter you really pulled it off. All that was reported was the roar! The invisible roar!

Thanks guys. You did us proud!

Some Long Overdue Thanks

While we are on the subject of fly-bys, fly-overs or what have you it might be well to remember that these little events are paid for by the pilots themselves and that they are not reimbursed for fuel and oil. In the case of the L-Birds it may not amount to a whole lot but it is still an expense and over time it can amount to quite a bit. In the case of Chuck and the Corsair, however, the fuel and oil costs for that big thirsty old bird amount to plenty and it's about time Chuck received some acknowledgment and sincere thanks for the many times he has represented or flown for us in either the Corsair or the Avenger. It's pretty darn impressive to have all this hardware representing us and I am sure that everyone is grateful to both the big guys and the little guys for their help. They deserve it.

Some Additional Thanks For Some Substantial Help

We would like to bring to the attention of the membership. two instances of very meaningful donations.

American Eagle, a division of American Airlines is providing free round trip transportation for Marge

Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer
Col. Gary Corippo
Executive Officer
Col. George Marrett
Finance
Col. Rosemary Netto
Adjutant
Col. John Davis
Operations
Col. Glen Thomson
Maintenance
Col. Al Schade
Safety
Col. John Cromwell

Staff Appointments

At Large
OPEN
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

Bong Drucker on her flight from Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo to attend our November meeting as our speaker.

In addition to the above, the Paso Robles Inn is providing

their best suite without charge for Mrs. Drucker's use during her visit.

We are sincerely grateful for the recognition of our status as part of the community by the Inn and we are deeply appreciative of the generous offer by an international organization.

We trust the membership will keep the above in mind when considering transportation as well as accommodations for visiting relatives, friends and other functions.

Flight Program News

Each member of the Squadron is assigned to a Flight under the direction of a Flight Leader. Because of conflicts with vacation, work, etc., I am working with the Flight Leaders to establish a second in command for each Flight called the "Wingman." The two Leaders can divide up effort to recruit flight members and to carry out the flight's assigned activities.

This sounds complicated but it isn't. There are two activities for which the Flight is responsible per year; being the HOST FLIGHT for one dinner meeting in the duty month; serving as HOST (docent) for the MUSEUM in the duty month. These two activities are two months apart.

The effort during the dinner meeting requires about two hours of work per person once a year. The Museum is open Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm, Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and Sundays from 12noon to 2pm. The Museum, therefore, is open about 13 days during the duty month. Each Flight member is needed one or two days during the duty month, about 5 hours per person once a year. Seven hours in a year per member keeps the Museum open. For the dinner meeting it gets the hangar and kitchen cleaned up and the tables and chairs in place. So

please step up to the plate when your Flight Leader or Wingman calls for help.

All docents need to be trained. If you haven't been trained, talk to your Flight Leader. We will continue to conduct training sessions at each dinner meeting from 6:30 to 7:00pm.

Many thanks to the volunteers

Bob Singleton,
Flight Coordinator

**Squadron
Maintenance Activities****T-33**

Wing tanks have been located and will be donated for installation on the T-33.

Navion

The Navion fuselage has been inspected and a number of anomalies have been discovered. At the present time 15 squawk sheets detailing major work have been placed in the work book. Volunteers are needed to accomplish this work.

Titan Missile

The lower section of the missile (the section with the rocket motors) has been mated with a nose section. Volunteers are needed to install a splice ring permanently joining these sections.

Al Schade
Aircraft Restoration
Projects

**More Welcome
Donations**

Relatively new member, Phil Dolim, formerly the head of Benbow Aviation in Torrance, recently offered to donate a number of items left over

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

George Marrett
466-7640

Dinners

OPEN

Membership

Obbie Atkinson
238-9212

Hangar/Grounds

OPEN
John Kendall

Air Show

OPEN

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

Elaine Borden
Linda Hermansen
Maria Goldman

Photo

Ralph Grasso
237-2813

JOINT CAF/EWM

Joint Site Improvements
Glen Thomson

Joint Community Events
Committee
Gary Corippo

from his business if someone could help with the transportation from Torrance. Being a driving nut, Bruce Toomey offered to go down and retrieve the stuff and was most pleasantly surprised at the number of goodies available.

Items ranged from office chairs, a work bench, a filing cabinet, a rolling work table, tools, hoses and much more including gazillions of cans and boxes full of aircraft nuts, bolts fixtures rivets and other hardware including an L-19 gas tank!

We totally filled up the pickup and delivered everything to Al Schade's temporary restoration area.

Thanks Phil. These will go a long way in our efforts to restore the Navion and to other aircraft projects in general.

CAF Staff Meeting Minutes

Submitted by John Himes
Condensed and paraphrased for length

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

Attending

Voting Staff members present: Gary Corippo, CO; George Marrett, XO; Rosemary Netto, Finance Officer; John Himes, Adjutant; Al Schade, Maint. Officer; John Cromwell, Safety Officer.

Staff Members and Chairmen Present

Bob Singleton, Flight Coordinator; Bruce Toomey, Newsletter; Keith Bowers, Dave Geiger, John Kendall, Gary Ryan, Chuck Miller, Gary May and K.O. Eckland,

Minutes

The Minutes of the 9/17/97 Staff Meeting were reviewed without correction. Motion to accept: Rosemary; Second; Gary C. Approved.

Treasurers Report

Cash balance is \$9628.96 as of 10/13/97. Rosemary presented a year to date financial summary showing a net loss of \$1748.83. Motion to accept; John H. Second; Gary C. Approved

Old Business

Old trucks: They were not moved as agreed. John Cromwell will move them within the next two weeks. (Editor's Note. This was accomplished within one week thanks to John!!!) John Himes stated that they are the property of the CAF and cannot be disposed of or given away without approval of the Staff.

Flight Leader: Bob presented a written report (copy on file) which was discussed and accepted with compliments of a good job.

Dinners: John Himes reported that he was happy with the current system of providing meals. Rather than changing the system what is needed are a few more team leaders to do the cooking. John Himes and Gary Corippo will work on new team leaders.

Grounds: Gary thanked John K for the good job. John K said that we need a new ride-on mower to replace the loaner that we have been using.

Potential Donation:

The donation mentioned at the last Staff meeting still seems to be a strong possibility but no official information is available as to the amount, intended use or date of receipt.

Job Descriptions:

Al Schade presented written job descriptions as promised covering duties for; Supply Officer, Flight Director and Maintenance Officer. (copy on file) He will continue until all Staff positions have been completed. Gary C thanked Al for his accomplishment.

CAF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the CAF Squadron. There are a number of tasks that need help. The variety of the tasks means that most everyone will find a task that matches his or her **interest and experience**. We need you to get involved so please contact the following team leaders:


TASK	TEAM LEADER	PHONE
<u>A. VEHICLE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE</u>		
AIRCRAFT & MISSILES	Al Schade	927-8303
1. T33		
2. Navion/L17		
3. A6		
4. Titan missile		
MILITARY GROUND EQUIPMENT	Gary Corippo	238-2090
1. Trucks and Jeeps		
2. Tanks and Cannon		
AIRCRAFT GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT	Dave Geiger	239-1598
1. Tugs		
2. Compressors, Battery Chargers, etc.		
<u>B. HANGAR ACTIVITIES</u>		
1. Hangar maintenance and repair	Kevin Craig	238-4643
2. Grounds and landscape	John Kendall	239-8029
3. Dinner-Food preparation & serving	John Himes	466-6102
4. Museum-Provisioning & Operating	Gary May	466-9807
5. Flight duties (Host, dinner meetings *)	Bob Singleton	239-2084
(Host/docent, museum)	*includes setup and cleanup	
<u>C. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</u>		
1. Program Chairman	George Marrett	466-7640
2. Publicity Chairman (PIO)		
3. Treasurer		
4. Newsletter	Bruce Toomey	238-9266
5. New building construction	Glen Thomson	238-4858
6. Activities chairman		
7. Air show	Charles Miller	466-1212
8. Safety officer	John Cromwell	237-0605
9. Explorer air scouts liaison		
10. Obtain military hardware	Gary Corippo	238-2090
11. Membership chairman	Obbie Atkinson	238-9212

(caf volunteer teams)

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