

# Estrella Squadron

## Newsletter



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

Volume VIII Number 12

Paso Robles, California

December 1997

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### December Meeting

The December Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 1997 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

This will be our annual Christmas Dinner so there will be no formal meeting and no speaker.

Chef John Himes and crew will provide us with a full ham dinner with all the good stuff that goes with it so it will be excellent as usual. He said that he wanted to do turkeys but that he simply didn't have the time to spend all day at the Hangar cooking. In view of the fact that John works full time at his own business and has plenty of other responsibilities as well I think we are darn lucky to have someone with his culinary ability providing for us as often as he does!!

### CAF Staff Elections

During the month of December, ballots will be mailed out to all CAF Colonels for the election of the CAF Staff officers for the following year. As you know, only colonels are allowed to vote for the CAF Staff positions. The results of the election will be announced at the January Meeting at which time the new officers will begin their tour of duty.

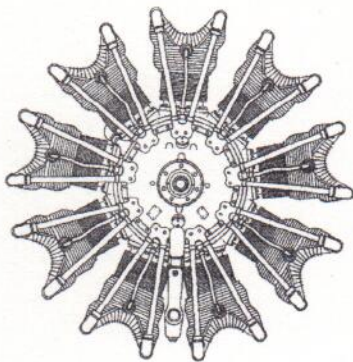
The Nominating Committee, composed of Col. Al Schade, Col. Obbie Atkinson and Col. John Cromwell have been working very hard to submit a slate of officers. These individuals were chosen after due deliberation and after

consulting with them as to whether or not they would be willing to accept the nomination. Those selected are shown below:

Commanding Officer	Gary Corippo
Executive Officer	Ron Mullisen
Finance Officer	John Himes
Adjutant	John Davis
Operations	Glen Thomson
Maintenance	Al Schade
Safety	John Cromwell

Any CAF Colonel may apply for any one of the seven voting Staff positions and any colonel can nominate any other colonel. Please remember, however, that many individuals have been considered and approached, most of whom, for personal or other reasons, declined to accept appointment as candidates for Staff positions. All of the above named candidates were interviewed and questioned and have agreed to accept the responsibilities of the office and to provide the amount of time and effort that the position requires.

It is strongly requested that there be no nominations from the floor during the January Meeting. Many of these floor nominations have been made in the past merely to honor an individual who may have contributed a great deal to the Squadron. This can be accomplished more appropriately in many other ways and an off-hand nomination could easily cause the named individual some discomfort or embarrassment if he or she had not been consulted in advance.



## 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.

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Toomey Racing USA  
3019 Propeller Drive  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

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



A good deal of time has been expended by the Nominating Committee in preparing this slate of prospective officers. Colonels have been canvassed with regard to their choices and suggestions and many individuals have been considered and contacted. It is believed that these nominees will best serve the interests of the Squadron during the exciting months ahead

## Col. Ron Mullisen

A Brief Biographical Sketch of Our XO Nominee.

It is an honor for me to accept the nomination from the Nominating Committee for the position of Executive Officer for the coming year. Accordingly, I have been asked to provide a brief biographical sketch for the newsletter and I am happy to do so.

My association with the Estrella Squadron started two years ago when this unit invited me to give a talk on the A-6 parked out on the apron. A check with my Aviator Log Book revealed that I had flown this particular A-6 twenty-five years ago while I was a First Lieutenant attached to Marine Corps Attack Squadron 242 at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Orange County, California. After my talk I was received very warmly so I joined the CAF.

My aviation experience spanned a brief but intense 4.5 year period in the Marines. However, I still love flying and I still love airplanes and I intend to get back in the business. But, back to my biographical sketch which is the object of this column. In June 1969 I graduated from Cal Poly with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marines the same day. I reported directly to Navy Flight School, earned my gold wings and was selected to fly the A-6. During 1972-1973 I was stationed in Thailand with Marine attack Squadron 533, the "Hawks." During the day we were flying into

South Vietnam and at night we were going into North Vietnam. Our Squadron lost three out of 12 airplanes. Five aircrew members were lost and one was repatriated after 7 months as a P.O.W. I flew 83 missions and earned 5 air Medals. It was the most exciting and dangerous year in my life.

Shortly after leaving the Marines, a buddy and I purchased a 24 foot sail boat and sailed down to Guadeloupe Island in Mexico. After returning, it was time to get serious about a career so I continued with my education and received a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. I have been at Cal Poly ever since and am a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department where my specialty is in heat transfer, thermodynamics and fluid mechanics.

My wife, Claire, is a dental hygienist and an excellent artist (she did a water color painting of our hangar which appears on our web page). We have two great kids. Luke is a sophomore biology major at Poly. Emily is a high school senior studying in Salerno, Italy.

## F-86 On The Lot!

As you will all see, the long promised F-86 is on the property, well at least pieces of one. Suffice it to say that it's arrival is the result of the usual Herculean efforts of a dedicated few.

The arrangements for obtaining the aircraft in the first place were made by our ace aircraft procurer, Col. Wayne King who has spent a lot of time and effort on this whole operation. Again, we owe him our sincere thanks for a great job.

Commander Charles L. Mosely who is the AIMD Officer at NAS Fallon, NV made the whole thing possible and we are indebted to him. As you may remember, Commander Mosely was to be our speaker at the October Meeting

**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

but was unable to make it. In view of his background, which was summarized in the October newsletter, we were most interested in hearing from Commander Mosely and we

sincerely hope that he can find the time to visit us at some future date.

Al Schade and Glen Thomson went to China Lake on Sunday, the 15th, and Wayne and a friend, Chuck Lane, arrived the same day in a different truck. From then until Wednesday, the 19th, this dedicated crew dug through and brought together enough stuff to make up a complete F-86 from the bits and pieces available. They were even able to procure a J-47 jet engine!

Gary Corippo and John Kendall arrived on Wednesday with a flat bed big enough to carry the works. Everything was loaded with the considerable help of Mr. Bob Coffland who is in charge of that portion of the China Lake area and the rest is history. There was one terror stricken moment when the whole fuselage nearly fell off the fork lift as it was being unloaded but that is another story.

A lot of work and a damn fine job by a few people to provide us with a terrific piece of aviation history!

**Marge Bong Books Still Available**

George Marrett has informed us that he still has a few of the books that Marge Bong wrote about her life with Richard Bong and the activities at the time.

This was written by Marge herself and is quite well done. Its an interesting small history of certain events and the proceeds of the book go towards the Museum that she is building and maintaining in Richard's memory. This would make a very nice addition to a history buff's collection. Christmas is coming!!!

Call George at 466-7640.



Should vegetarians eat animal crackers?

**"Challenge of Flight" Video Donation**

Col. Frank Lane has donated the entire 16 volume video set called "The Challenge of Flight" to the Museum. This is a production of *Fighter Squadrons, Inc.* of Miami, FL and they cover a tremendous range of interesting subjects from simply flying to military, aerobatics and much, much more.

(Frank and his wife Dianne will be leaving the area next month to move to North Fork, CA to be near family. Frank has been a great member, a wonderful volunteer for any type job will be sorely missed as a member and good friend.)

These tapes will be available at the Museum as soon as sufficient secure space is ready. They may then be checked out like library books. In the meantime Bruce Toomey is holding them and will be more than willing to check them out to any member who asks. 238-9266

**Letter of Thanks Regarding Frenchy**

We received a letter of thanks from the California National Guard for the fly-over at Frenchy Amundson's funeral. It's quite nice so I will devote some space to the entire letter on page five,

**Thanks to Obbie**

In last month's newsletter we were busily handing out thanks to different people for their participation in our fly-overs at various functions and neglected to mention the one person who is responsible for putting them all together. None other than our good friend and fellow member, Col. Obbie Atkinson.

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

George Marrett  
466-7640

**Dinners**

OPEN

**Membership**

Obbie Atkinson  
238-9212

**Hangar/Grounds**

OPEN

John Kendall

**Air Show**

Chuck Miller

**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

These flyovers are a very visible reminder of our Squadron to all who see them and as such create a great deal of interest and good will.

Quiet Obbie is a classic example of the best of our membership through volunteering and support. He handles the flyovers, he is on the current Nominating Committee and he is the Membership Committee Chairman and as such is our informal host at the monthly meetings and other functions. And maybe best of all, wife Doris is always on hand selling tickets at every meeting, keeping track of the money and exuding her usual good nature!

**Toomey Tangles With Tillie, Tillie Triumphs!**

(Sorry folks, I just couldn't resist it!)

Tillie, as you shipboard types know, is the informal name often given to the large mobile hoist or crane used on carriers for a variety of jobs such as lifting damaged aircraft from the flight deck and the like.

Along with our other acquisitions we were recently able to obtain a large and very heavily built hoist from Cal Poly which, as of this writing, is sitting out on the concrete apron. It was brought back by Glen Thomson, Dave Geiger, Don Hilston and Bruce Toomey and had to be somewhat disassembled to fit on the trailer.

Upon returning to the Hangar, three of the crew decided to try to raise the hoist with our pipe "A" frame and reassemble it. Dave Geiger, exercising his usual good judgment, left before this great engineering feat was attempted.

To make a long story mercifully short, while trying to raise it, the out-of-balance hoist sort of went up and over top dead center and continued on down to the ground again bringing the "A" frame with it. Using no sense

whatsoever, Toomey was trying to hold it up from the downward movement and was rewarded by being knocked to the ground, cracking a rib and then was smacked on the head by the "A" frame. Being Irish it didn't hurt his head very much because it was a glancing blow but it bled a lot which scared everyone.

Anyway, all is well and we have a nifty new engine hoist and Toomey has been instructed to stay away from anything heavier than a light bulb and everyone is asked not to mention the new point on the top of his head!

**Squadron Maintenance Activities**

The restoration of the Navion and conversion to L-17 configuration has progressed to the extent of completing the removal of all damaged structures and the removal of obsolete assemblies. A new instrument panel is being designed and a canopy conversion back to original configuration, which will also be an L-17 configuration, is also in progress. The horizontal stabilizer and vertical fin installation is the next scheduled event.

Col. Al Schade,  
Aircraft Restoration  
Projects

**A Great New Year Coming!**

I was looking over some recent newsletters while preparing this one and I ran across the October '97 issue where I rambled on more than necessary about how great things were going.

Well, here we are only two months later and what do we have? 1)Trees planted, 2)the grass looking great, 3)rototilling along the outside of the fence, 4)much of the place raked up and cleaned up, 5)a terrific M-60

Tank Turret, 6)a complete F-86 and a J-47 engine, 7)a heavy duty engine hoist or crane, 8)forms and steel for the Titan base, 9)"new" vintage vehicles. All of this in TWO MONTHS!!!

What's next? We are almost positive that very soon an F-14 will fly in and be assigned to us much like the A-6! An F-14!!!

Seriously troops, we are most definitely alive and kicking. The biggest news is that we now believe that we have the money available to begin construction on the new Meeting facility and kitchen. There will be more about this later but this would be the most positive boost imaginable to our whole plan.

Like I said before, scare a Team Leader to death and volunteer for something without being asked. We will try to publish Bob Singleton's Volunteer / Team Leader list again in this issue. Cut it out and save it along with the Flight Duty list.

SO. . . those of you who don't think much is going on, c'mon out and see what's happ'nin'!!!

Sorry this is so short but it is being written on Thanksgiving Day and the turkey is calling me!

Have a Nice Thanksgiving!!

~~~~~

What should you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?



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October 22, 1997

Office of the Facility Manager

The Confederate Air Force Estrella Squadron  
Mr. George Marrett, Executive Officer  
Post Office Box 570  
Paso Robles, CA 93447

Dear Mr. Marrett:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the support provided during services for Frenchy Amundson. I know the immediate family was very grateful of all who participated and I'm sure Frenchy would have been pleased.

Our intent was to ensure participation from all organizations that were near and dear to Frenchy. The fly-over by the Confederate Air Force Estrella Squadron made this event all the more professional. You have every right to be proud of your organization.

Thank you once again for all the support.

Lawrence W. Kimmel  
Lieutenant Colonel  
California Army  
National Guard  
Facility Manager

**1998 CAF FLIGHTS-- MASTER SCHEDULE**

11/10/97

| MONTH OF THE YEAR                                              | DINNER MEETING                    |               | DOCENT PROGRAM |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                                                | DUTY FLIGHT                       | BACKUP FLIGHT | DUTY FLIGHT    | BACKUP FLIGHT |
| JANUARY                                                        | ALPHA                             | BRAVO         | HOTEL          | JULIETT       |
| *                                                              | LDR: DON HILSTON 239-8809         |               | *              |               |
| *                                                              | WINGMAN:                          |               | *              |               |
| FEBRUARY                                                       | BRAVO                             | ALPHA         | JULIETT        | HOTEL         |
|                                                                | LDR: KEITH BOWERS 239-3358        |               |                |               |
|                                                                | WINGMAN:                          |               |                |               |
| MARCH                                                          | DELTA                             | ECHO          | KILO           | LIMA          |
| *                                                              | LDR: JOHN KENDALL 239-8029        |               | *              |               |
| *                                                              | WINGMAN:                          |               | *              |               |
| APRIL                                                          | ECHO                              | DELTA         | LIMA           | KILO          |
|                                                                | LDR: RON MULLISEN 528-4686        |               |                |               |
|                                                                | WINGMAN: BILL CARLSON 595-7935    |               |                |               |
| MAY                                                            | FOXTROT                           | GOLF          | MIKE           | NOVEMBER      |
| *                                                              | LDR: TOM WEISS 239-2637           |               | *              |               |
| *                                                              | WINGMAN:                          |               | *              |               |
| JUNE                                                           | GOLF                              | FOXTROT       | NOVEMBER       | MIKE          |
|                                                                | LDR: DOUG MINER 239-1054          |               |                |               |
|                                                                | WINGMAN:                          |               |                |               |
| JULY                                                           | HOTEL                             | JULIETT       | ALPHA          | BRAVO         |
| *                                                              | LDR: DIRK HALE 237-0819           |               | *              | *             |
| *                                                              | WINGMAN:                          |               | *              | *             |
| AUGUST                                                         | JULIETT                           | HOTEL         | BRAVO          | ALPHA         |
|                                                                | LDR: EDWIN VINCIK 466-3758        |               |                |               |
|                                                                | WINGMAN:                          |               |                |               |
| SEPT                                                           | KILO                              | LIMA          | DELTA          | ECHO          |
| *                                                              | LDR: LARRY CAMPO 238-7702         |               | *              |               |
| *                                                              | WINGMAN:                          |               | *              |               |
| OCTOBER                                                        | LIMA                              | KILO          | ECHO           | DELTA         |
|                                                                | LDR: BOB SINGLETON 239-2084       |               |                |               |
|                                                                | WINGMAN:                          |               |                |               |
| NOVEMBER                                                       | MIKE                              | NOVEMBER      | FOXTROT        | GOLF          |
| *                                                              | LDR: KENNY FINCH 238-1199         |               | *              |               |
| *                                                              | WINGMAN: GARY MORRISON 434-1673   |               | *              |               |
| DECEMBER                                                       | NOVEMBER                          | MIKE          | GOLF           | FOXTROT       |
|                                                                | LDR: BRIAN WEBSTER 237-0222       |               |                |               |
|                                                                | WINGMAN: RICHARD MATTSON 238-6910 |               |                |               |
| ANY QUESTIONS? CALL BOB SINGLETON, FLIGHT COORDINATOR 239-2084 |                                   |               |                |               |
| (flight master sched) * These two flights work as a team       |                                   |               |                |               |

**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                       |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>A. VEHICLE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE</b> |                |                             |
| <b>AIRCRAFT &amp; MISSILES</b>                |                |                             |
| 1. T33                                        |                |                             |
| 2. Navion/L17                                 |                |                             |
| 3. A6                                         |                |                             |
| 4. Titan missile                              |                |                             |
| MILITARY GROUND EQUIPMENT                     |                |                             |
| 1. Trucks and Jeeps                           |                |                             |
| 2. Tanks and Cannon                           |                |                             |
| AIRCRAFT GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT             |                |                             |
| 1. Tugs                                       |                |                             |
| 2. Compressors, Battery Chargers, etc.        |                |                             |
| <b>B. HANGAR ACTIVITIES</b>                   |                |                             |
| 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 |
| <b>C. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES</b>                  |                |                             |
| 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)                         |                |                             |
| (ORGANIZED AND SUBMITTED BY BOB SINGLETON)    |                |                             |

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