

# Estrella Squadron

## Newsletter



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

Volume IX Number 5

Paso Robles, California

May 1998

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### May Meeting

The May Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 1998 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Chef John Himes is preparing a ham casserole and other goodies which will be as tasty as all of his meals.

We intended to have a regular program for the Meeting but our chosen speaker had to decline at the last moment. As an alternative we are requesting that CAF HQ send us by Fed Ex the most recent video tape entitled "The Ghost Squadron." This is an excellent tape and is a great way to introduce some of our newer members as to what the CAF is all about and what it stands for.

The May Meeting will also be the occasion for celebrating a birthday! Dorothy Renton McBain, the mother of Betty Miller and the widow of the late member, Don McBain, will be 89 years old on the day of the Meeting. Betty and Col. Catherine Davis will stage this affair in her honor and all are welcome to participate.

Most of you will remember that Chuck Miller and Don McBain joined the Squadron on the same date. Don had a life-long record and interest in aviation having been a United pilot for 30 years and we were looking forward to having him with us. Tragically, Don passed away shortly after joining our group and few of us had a chance to get to know him. Dorothy has attended nearly

every meeting since Don joined and we welcome her and wish her a most Happy Birthday.

### The Titan is on the Pad!

After all the labor of a number of members, particularly Gary Corippo, and in spite of a horrendous set-back when the missile had an unscheduled partial lift-off, the second stage is on its stand!

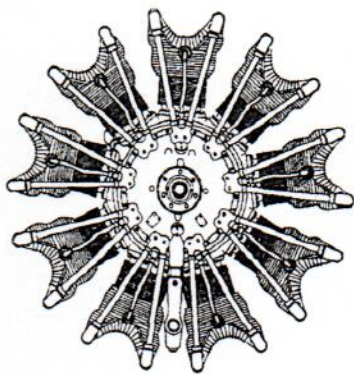
As most of you know, the missile was being erected two weeks ago when the rigging slipped and the entire thing fell to the ground, impaling itself on the newly build cradle for the first stage! A large gash resulted as well as a deep dent on the side. With the help of many, the gash was patched and the dent professionally pushed out by a vigorous thump of John Dolan's foot! It was again painted and last week it made it to an upright position.

The first stage is on its cradle just to the east of the upright second stage and the whole set-up looks pretty good.

With the addition of proper lighting it will be able to be seen from Rte. 46 both day and night and will attract a good deal of attention.

Well done troops!





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



## Colonels and Uniforms

Again, another plea for CAF Colonels to wear their uniforms at the monthly meetings.

A few evenings ago I was rummaging around in the Air Show stuff at the Hangar when one of the members of the Civil Air Patrol group came in to set up for their meeting. Sadly enough I can't remember his name but he was a tall chap with a military bearing and he looked like a million bucks in his CAP uniform which was nothing more than a light blue military style shirt, dark pants and black shoes. He looked neat, business-like and gave off an aura of competence and efficiency.

Now there are only about 40 colonels in our Squadron but they are the ones who make it possible for us to have a CAF unit here in Paso Robles. If we weren't proud of what we are doing and trying to accomplish, we wouldn't be here.

Since we are involved and since Headquarters has asked that we wear one of three choices of uniform styles when engaged in CAF affairs, it seems to me that we should be no less obligated than any other similar group to do the same. There are several colonels who are properly dressed at every meeting and every CAF function. They set the tone for the group and I think they should be supported.

We are a quasi-military organization and our uniforms are not just a costume that a bunch of good 'ol boys wear on occasion. The uniform represents our past and it represents our belief and interest in honoring the sacrifices of others who have, for generations, given their lives to make peace and democracy possible.

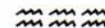
I for one, have been very remiss with regard to wearing a uniform and I usually manage to come up with one excuse or another but there is just no reason not to conform. I'll try harder, will you?

## Stuff Missing

We have been informed by John Himes that a number of items are missing from our kitchen area. Several very handy types of containers have taken feet, obviously attractive to others too. There are other items missing as well.

We have assembled these utensils laboriously over a long period of time, some as gifts and donations and some as outright purchases when needed. We **NEED** these things to operate and they are not for individuals to borrow for their own use or for anyone else to use as oil pans or whatever.

Therefore, if you don't have specific business behind the food counter, **STAY OUT.**



Unfortunately, this goes for the PX as well. The Docents are the only ones who should be behind the PX counter other than at Meeting times.

Willa and Dewey Killion have worked extremely hard to make the PX as successful as it is. Unbeknownst to most this isn't just standing behind a counter at Meetings and selling a few trinkets. This involves packing up the whole shebang and stuffing it in the S-2 for every show that Glen goes to, setting up in the hot sun,, selling the items and then packing it all up again when they leave and then unpacking it again when they get home and then taking inventory again! Plus working our own air show and whatever local events they have the strength to go to when they get through with the air shows!!

SO. . .Please refrain from going behind the counter to get a hat for good old Uncle Fudd or a T-shirt or model airplane for your nephew Ebenezer thinking that "they" will never miss just one.

The PX is a pretty good money maker for the Squadron, but only if things get paid for!!



**Estrella Squadron Staff**

- Commanding Officer  
Col. Gary Corippo
- Executive Officer  
Col. Ron Mullisen
- Finance  
John Himes
- 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

**40's Era Pictures**

The request for pictures as part of the decoration for the Dinner Dance was not sufficiently clear and that is my fault alone. What Betty Miller and Col. Catherine Davis had

in mind was that you take the photographs to a simple copy place such as Poor Richard's and have them enlarged to approximately 8 x 10's. Their professional equipment is geared to providing better copies than home or lower end business copiers.

I had said that they could be taken to a studio implying a photo studio and this would be expensive, troublesome, unnecessary and a pain. A good blown up copy would more than fill the bill.

So look through your stuff and get these pictures to Betty Miller as soon as you can. We thank you.

**CAF Staff Meeting  
Minutes, April 22, 1998**

Submitted by Adjutant Col. John Davis  
Edited and paraphrased for length by Ed.

**Staff Present**

Cols. Gary Corippo, CO; Glen Thomson, Operations; John Cromwell, Safety; John Davis, Adjutant; Bob Singleton. Flights Director; Chuck Miller, Air Show Chairman; Bruce Toomey, Newsletter; as well as John Himes, Finance and Tom Gabele, Supply.

**Adjutants Report**

Minutes of the last meeting approved as amended.

Minutes of the last general membership meeting approved as amended.

**Finance Officers Report**

Approved with a total of \$7,670.93 in total cash on hand.

**Old Business**

1) There was further discussion on the need for assistance from the membership for the Rotary Club Barbecue on May 21, 1998 and the cost will be \$10 a plate.

2) There was discussion about how to get the best results in putting the names in the concrete blocks of people who purchased blocks for \$100.

3) Saturday, 04/25/98 will be a work party to set the missile in a vertical position and paint it.

4) The Airshow to be held on June 7, 1998 was discussed. Tentative military participation will be an F-18 flight demo, H-65 helicopter static aircraft, A-10 Warthog static aircraft (as a second choice). Other aircraft that are tentative are a DC-3, the CAF C-46, a Martin 404, forty-one warbirds including a Spitfire from Santa Monica, Hawker Hunter and a Casa jet. Five Cities will have DARE Vehicles and the Jet Car will be there.

5) The General Membership Meeting to be held on June 3, 1998 will be a dinner meeting without a guest speaker. The meeting will cover the last minute job assignments for the Air Show.

**New Business**

1) The new membership plan called "Code Alpha" from CAF Headquarters was discussed. The plan calls for the recruiting of younger colonels since the average age of current colonels is approaching 65-75 years old.

2) An agreement between the City of Paso Robles and the Estrella Squadron regarding the Air Show has been reached.

3) A discussion was held as to whether or not the Museum facilities are ready for school groups to tour. It was pointed out that there is very little set up for children to have a hands-on experience until we get the tools and restoration equipment and parts out of the Museum Hangar. We need to go ahead with both of the other buildings as soon as possible.

4) The "Buy-a-Block" program was discussed and EACH member should find a sponsor to purchase a block of concrete.

5) DRMO has a systems trainer set for the FA-18. It is not known what the acquisition cost will be.

6) Additional signs along Highway 46 and Airport Road were discussed.



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

George Marrett  
466-7640

**Dinners**

John Himes  
466-6680

**Membership**

Obbie Atkinson  
238-9212

**Hangar/Grounds**

OPEN/  
John Kendall

**Air Show**

Chuck Miller  
466-1212

**Ground Equipment**

Dave Geiger  
239-1598

**Project Manager**

Gary Corippo  
238-2090  
237-2090

**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

7) The acquisition of a somewhat broken up F-86D from up in Gilroy was discussed. Enough of the aircraft and parts are available to make a good static display.

8) There will be an Air Show meeting at the Fire House on April 30, 1998.

9) Some items have disappeared from the PX and the kitchen area. Unless you are a docent selling an item or a member of the cooking crew on General Membership night, PLEASE STAY OUT OF THOSE AREAS.

Adjourned: 2049 hours.

**Air Show Sponsorship**

In last months newsletter we included information and forms about the costs of Air Show sponsorship and the benefits accruing to a sponsor. It was suggested, nay, asked that each member do his or her best to sign up at least one sponsor.

I regret to report that Chuck Miller has told me that NOT ONE sheet has been returned. I haven't turned up a sponsor either but I'm working on it and hope to have some success this next week. I hated doing it but when I asked, the request was just accepted as a fact of business life and I felt like an idiot for all the stress I had put myself through.

Chuck himself has been out pounding on doors for weeks and has raised most of what money has been received. He has successfully called on people you wouldn't believe would give a dime and has even had considerable success with firms right here on the airport who have totally ignored us in the past. ( This is not to ignore Blake Wideman's efforts but he works in a different way by getting the big trade off deals with the TV stations, Longs Drugs, radio stations, etc. which are extremely important.)

Let's not make this a one or two man job, guys and gals. There are 150 of us and if each member brought in even a \$100. card ad it would amount to \$15,000.!!!

For your information, a sponsor can STILL get into the official program up to May 15 instead of May 1 as was mentioned previously so read your instructions and get out there and do the best you can.

Remember, we're not simply begging for money. If you read your instructions you will see that we are offering the sponsors not only the contact with 5,000 to 7,000 people by loudspeakers at the show and ads in the program but we are also offering free tickets to the Dinner Dance. the Show itself, free parking and mention on radio and TV programs and free entrance to a special Performer and Sponsor area with free snacks, beverages and lunch during the Show. Not exactly a bad deal!!

**Rotary Barbecue,  
Thursday, May 21**

Please keep in mind that we are hosting a barbecue on Thursday, May 21, 1998 at the Hangar for the Rotary Club. They like to have their meetings at different places on occasion and asked about having one at our facility. This is a chance to make a nice bit of change for the Squadron but it takes some effort on the part of the membership. Mike Wing and Tom Cameron will do the cooking but we need help setting up, serving, cleaning up and whatever else comes up.

Please keep this date in mind and ask how you can help for just a few hours to make this a success. After all, this is fulfilling one of our obligations to the City to make the facility available to the community and in this case we make some money as well. Besides its a great way to showcase our whole setup and a good showing of volunteers will help with the image of the entire Squadron.

**Organizational Chart**

Please note the inclusion of the Air Show Organizational Chart. This is simply to let the members know who



is responsible for what and who to call to offer their services. Pick out the job you want to help with and CALL the person in charge of that function OR call Judy Crownover, Airshow Volunteer Coordinator at 238-3426.

## Dues Due

By now you have all received your invoice for annual dues. The Squadron dues are the main source of income for the organization so please, don't put these invoices in the later pile or the sometime pile. With the Air Show coming up we need every dime we can get. Grab a pen as soon as you read this and shoot us a check. And thanks to the MANY who have done so already!!

## Seeking a New Membership Committee Chairperson.

After more years than he probably wants to think about, our esteemed Chairman, Col. Obbie Atkinson would like to step down as the head of the Membership Committee. Obbie has said that he would like to see someone, perhaps from the group of younger members, who would take over and come up with some new and fresh ideas for increasing our membership, especially colonels.

Obbie has done a fantastic job. He started the Flight Program, he designed and set up, by himself, the Member Flight board where we store our name tags and was responsible for having every one printed and

assembled. He has kept a guest list so that every guest receives a letter thanking him for coming and suggesting that he join up.

As far as salesmanship is concerned, there are none better. I personally have seen Obbie sign up 5 members as colonels in one evening!! On top of all this he is one of the world's most delightful people and awfully hard to say no to!

So think about this, friends. This is an opportunity for anyone who has an eye and a flair for detail, and while there is only one Obbie, there are many sincere people out there who could do a great job of recruiting new members and keeping highly important records.

As a group we are already growing and attracting more and more interest in what we do. We need reorganization and better internal management in many areas, now more than ever before.

This is a rewarding job, you get to know everyone and you know that you are doing something vital for the group. Lets see someone step up and accept the responsibility for this very meaningful position.

## PX Officer Needed

For unaccountable years, Willa and Dewey Killion have been the backbone of our whole PX, selling, buying and keeping a tight inventory control of stock in spite of less than a little cooperation from many of us.

I realize that I sort of overloaded earlier in the newsletter in the "Stuff Missing" column about the effort it takes to handle the PX, but it is true that both Willa and Dewey have worked with incredible patience and fortitude to bring the PX up from just a pile of unrelated stuff to a money making operation.

Well, like a lot of us, they would like to retire also. Willa has had serious back

trouble for years and has had a fairly recent heavy duty medical operation as most of you know. In spite of all she and Dewey have attended dozens of "away" air shows and other events for the past, I don't know how many years.

So there it is. We would like to have someone, maybe with a little retail experience, take over this operation and run with it. Dewey and Willa will be more than happy to work with anyone who would show an interest in this endeavor and this would make the new person or persons' life much easier.

It could be a fun job and it certainly is one that shows just how valuable it can be by the monetary returns that we see.

Here again is an opportunity to help our group grow and become more prosperous as well as adding to the stature of the organization in the eyes of many.

Besides, you get to go to as many air shows as you can handle as a participant, right there on the field in the middle of everything instead of just being an onlooker. You can really begin to feel like you are a part of something good.

**FLASH!!!**

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**WE HAVE EXTENDED THE  
DEADLINE TO MAY 15!!  
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PHONE: 466-2666**



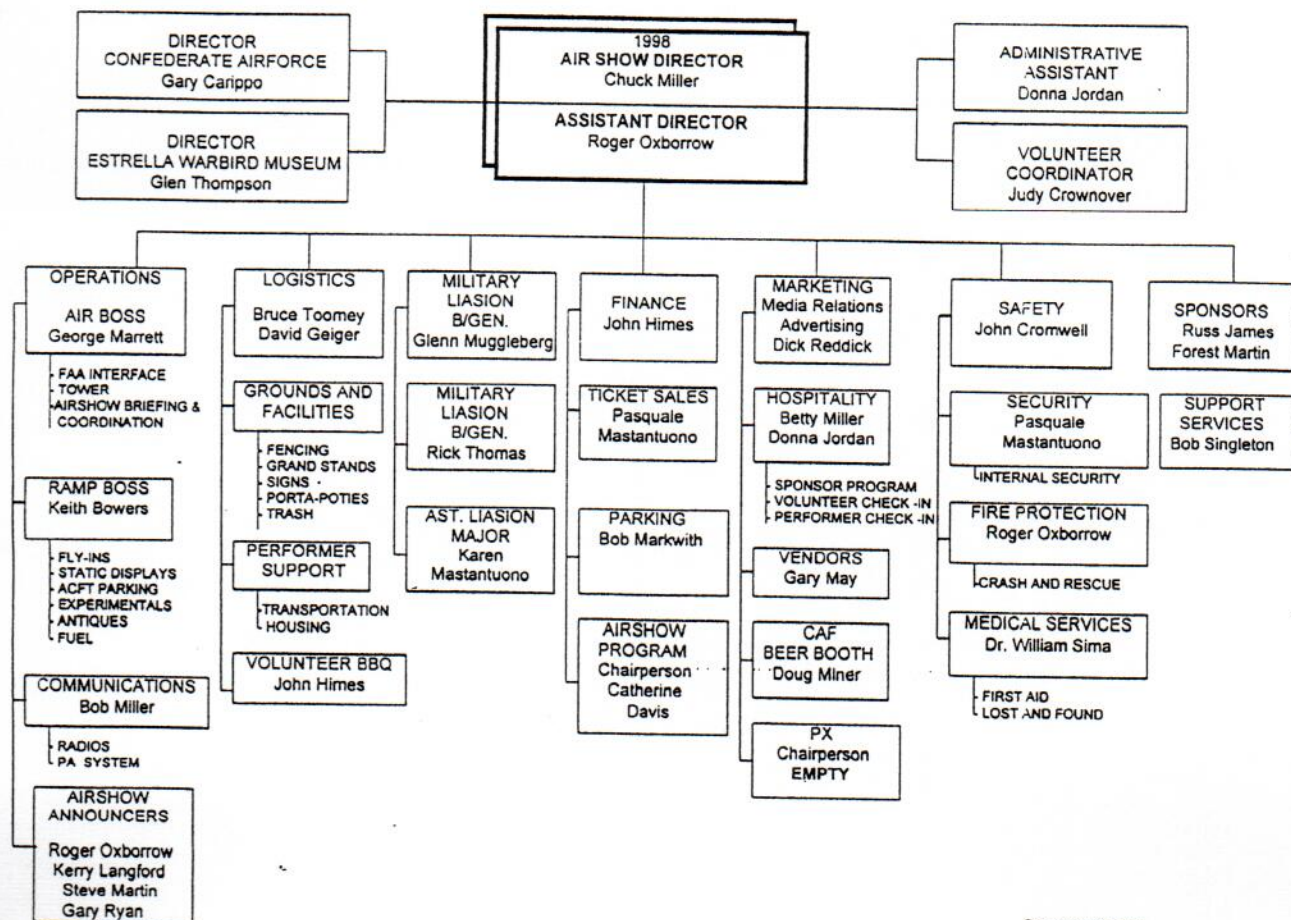
# Estrella Squadron

## "Star of the Month"

The **Star of the Month** for the month of May is John Dolan. John joined us some time ago because of his long and interesting career in aviation as well as his love of airplanes. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, flying many different kinds of aircraft and doing his duty in Vietnam as a Spad driver, (thats an A-1E Skyraider) John joined United Airlines and put his talents to use flying a Boeing 747. In addition to all of this he has a love affair with a Stinson V-77 (or a UC-81) that he is trying to get back into the air.

John has been a very active member of the squadron, doing every job that has been thrown his way. And, believe me, there have been a wide assortment of jobs, from helping retrieve equipment at the ARCO station to pulling the truck bed off of our recently purchased Rider box and then setting the missile! Whenever we call, he is "Johnny on the Spot" and he never fails us when we need hands to further our projects. This is most appreciated by all of us when we are trying to make the Museum a reality. For his efforts to help in "any way, at any time" and his positive attitude, we have selected John Dolan as the "Star of the Month".

Col. Gary Corippo, CO






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