

# Estrella Squadron

## Newsletter



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

Volume IX Number 7

Paso Robles, California

July 1998

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### July Meeting

The July Meeting will be held on July 1, 1998 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

The evening meal will be a barbecue as a "thank you" for the efforts of all those members and outside volunteers participating in the Show, whether on the Show Day itself or during the preceding weeks and months of preparation. There will be no charge for the barbecue. We hope to have some representation by members of the City Council and others who were involved in one way or another.

Our speaker for the evening will be, hopefully, our own Frank Rezich whose background in aviation is almost legendary.

This will be a relaxed post Air Show evening where we can all get together and enjoy the fact that the Show was a great success.

### Air Show!!!!!!

Yes, that's right!! It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to announce to the membership that the Show was a Huge Success!!!

Not only were the spectators enthusiastic but the City Fathers were as well and the best part of all is that we MADE MONEY. Yessir troops, even though the

final accounting is not quite finished it is apparent that we made between \$10,000 and 12,000!! For us, and in view of some of the other past catastrophes, this is a real plus and all of those responsible deserve a real pat on the back.

The success of the Show is especially sweet in view of the weather at the time which prevented a number of expected aircraft from even leaving their own airports and which certainly cut down on the number of spectators in attendance.

Our little triumph will go a long way toward overcoming some of the feelings of "why do we bother" and will give all of us a rebirth of enthusiasm for putting on future shows. Chairman Chuck Miller and his staff of members and volunteers deserve all of the credit they have richly earned.

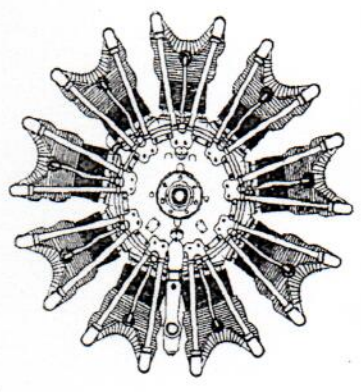
### Other Stuff

In the meantime. . .things have been churning along quite well, thank you!

### New Building

All of the trucks and the portable "office" have been moved to the back of the lot so that we can begin to get the area ready for the cement for the new building. The plans are out of the planning committee and ready to be turned into reality. This should start in the next few weeks.





**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).



**Acquisitions**

Those of you who travel to Fresno on Rte 41 frequently have probably noticed the airframe (a BT-13) that has been sitting, nose down, on top of an old gas station at the Carothers intersection for years. Many have probably wondered what it was and may have thought, "What an ignominious ending for a perfectly good airplane." A few others, I'm sure, might have casually thought that it might be better off somewhere else.

Well, one of those latter individuals is our own world champion aircraft scrounger, Gary Corippo, who has been bothered by it for years. So . . . on a recent trip to Fresno he stopped, and finding the building locked and the business apparently defunct, went across the street to a little store and inquired as to the owner and his whereabouts. Within minutes he was pounding down a country road to the residence of the owner. Apparently he was an East Indian, turban and all, and welcomed Gary into the house where they discussed the airplane and what was to become of it.

Evidently the owner is going to tear down the dilapidated building and Exxon is going to erect a new station on the site. It was his thought that Exxon would allow him to re-erect the plane on the new building but Gary went to some lengths to explain that with no fabric left on the control surfaces and no glass in the canopy Exxon would not be too keen on placing this ratty looking structure atop their new station.

Gary then went on about that fact that there was a group of individuals who would be most happy to take the aircraft down, disassemble the wings and take it to a place where it would receive a lot of TLC as a static display. Evidently our Indian friend got a little cagey and said that there had been much interest in the aircraft for a

number of years and several individuals had tried to get it. To make a long story short, Gary spent a good deal of time with the gentleman and finally obtained a tentative commitment on behalf of the Museum.

Where it stands at the moment is somewhat up in the air but it is entirely possible that we could obtain this old bird and with the addition of an old junked R985 engine and a LOT of polishing and some gear work we could have a pretty nice static display with some interesting history. For that matter, we could probably trace its history from birth, so to speak. Could be a nice addition!!

**More Acquisitions**

Speaking of . . . The Staff has been approached by Doctors, Russell, Singer and Penn (?) the current owners of the Spanish (Casa) Jet Trainer, that can be seen, on occasion, flying to and from and around the Paso Airport. The gist of the discussion is that the Doctors would like to donate the airplane to the Museum, with no conditions, for tax purposes (write-off). They would like to join our group and would form the nucleus of a group of members, similar to the L-16 group, who could be checked out in the aircraft and have access to it etc. The aircraft would, obviously, have to pay for itself and this announcement is just the bare bones statement about the whole deal.

This does, however, open a whole new area of interest. There are many, like some members of the Tailhook group ( who would like to hold meetings at our facility) who are current jet jockeys and there are others for whom this would hold a great deal of interest. It needs some clarification but this could be a highly attractive addition to the Museum and our efforts to get others interested in what



## 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  
OPEN  
Aircraft Restoration Projects  
Col. Al Schade

Historian  
Col. John Davis

Flight Coordinator  
Col. Bob Singleton

CAF Hangar Phone  
238-9317

we are doing and what we have to offer.

## T-33

The T-33 is about to get mounted on it's own stand as

our Gate Guard similar to those at Castle Air Force Base. It will be set so that the aircraft is supported in such a way that the tires will just touch the ground and won't wind up flat like some old derelict. This will be a good looking addition to our grounds and all of those, and there were many, who have been part of Al Schade's team have every right to be proud of themselves. The old bird looks absolutely airworthy and is a far cry from the pile of stuff we brought back from Madera.

## PX Officer Needed

As we have mentioned in the past two newsletters, we are still looking for someone to take over the job of PX Officer from Willa and Dewey Killion who have been doing it forever and would like to do something else for a change. We already have a couple of volunteers who are willing to help but they don't want to have complete charge of the PX. So, we have built in help already and Willa and Dewey will help to get the right person get started off on the right foot.

This is a great way to help the Squadron and the Museum and it needn't be overwhelming. The Killions have done a great job with this and all of the original organizational work has been done. Please, someone give this a try.

## Bar Manager Needed

We also need a new Bar Manager and Soft Drink provider for the Hangar. Doug Miner is retiring after who knows how many years of devoted and excellent service. He has really made this operation an asset to the group, not just monetarily but by providing a touch of class as well. Wine glasses instead of paper cups like some places, constantly stocked dispensing machines and all around great service like pretty barmaids and the like.

Tom Gabele has offered to take over on a temporary basis but since he is the Supply Officer already as well as being pressed into being general aircraft and surplus hauler he has enough on his plate.

So here is another opportunity for someone to step up and be a real help to the whole group. You might even get free wine but I can't vouch for that! In any event, please think about this and relieve someone who has been doing it for years.

## CAF Staff Meeting Minutes June 17, 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; Al Schade, Maintenance. Tom Gabele, Supply; John Himes, Finance; Chuck Miller, Air Show; George Marrett, Programs; Bruce Toomey, Newsletter.  
Visitor: Dr. Singer.

### Adjutant's Report:

Minutes of last Staff Meeting approved as read. Moved by Al Schade and Glen Thomson, seconded.

Minutes of last General Meeting approved as read. Moved by Glen Thomson and Al Schade seconded.

Finance Officer's Report. Approved with about \$8,000 profit from Air Show (Tentative).

### Old Business

1) The Air Show had about \$8,000 profit. There have been many good comments and the City Council seems to be happy with the outcome of the show.. Glen Thomson moved and John Davis seconded that Chuck Miller should contact the Paso Robles



**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****Tom Gabele**  
237-1567**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****Estrella Squadron****Stars of the Month**

The **Stars of the Month** for July are Col. Chuck Miller, Betty Miller and Col. Catherine Davis who have been selected for their efforts to make this year's Air Show a success. Their hard work and attention to detail was evident in every aspect of the Show and has paid big dividends. Not only was this Show successful but it paves the way for the 1999 Show. Col. Miller has laid an excellent foundation to insure that the next one can be even better. Betty Miller and Col. Davis spent uncountable hours in preparation for the Dinner Dance and most other facets of the Show including all the work for our first class printed Program.

I know that many people, both Squadron and outside volunteers worked hard to help these three in many ways but the fact remains their hard work and leadership provided the nucleus for our success. The only dampener on the show was the unseasonable weather which most likely hurt us at the gate but that is the only thing that was beyond their control.

For all their hard work and dedicated effort we are making them the "Stars of the Month". Well Done!!.

Col. Gary Corippo. CO

City Council for more participation in the Airshow.

2) There was discussion about mounting the T-33 Gate Guardian in the same manner as those at Castle Museum (formerly, Castle Air Force Base), A committee composed of Glen Thomson, Al Schade, John Cromwell and John Davis (grass killer) will take care of it.

3) The City Planners want 3,000 pound reinforced concrete for the floor of the two new buildings. Al Schade moved to use the heavier concrete and the motion was seconded by Tom Gabele. Motion passed.

4) Aircraft acquisitions - The Vultee BT-13 that was mounted on the service station on Highway 41 may be available to become a static display.

5) Because of the Avila UNOCAL clean-up, the Navy League and the Tailhook Association may request to

hold their meetings at the Museum Hangar.

6) Several new members have been added to the Estrella Warbirds Museum Advisory Board. Former National Security Advisor, Judge William Clark, former Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North and State Assemblyman, Tom Bordonaro have indicated they will serve as Advisors.

7) The acquisition of a gunship helicopter has been put on hold due to military red tape.

8) We are still in conversation with Jim Manley about the acquisition of the Douglas A-3 at Hughes Aircraft.

**New Business**

1) Doctors Penn, Singer and Russell want to donate a completely airworthy CASA Spanish jet trainer to the Museum. Because of the stringent



requirements and the performance of the aircraft, it must pay for itself. John Himes moved to accept the donation. John Cromwell seconded pending acceptance of the final paper work. Motion passed.

2) A PX Officer is still needed. Several names were suggested.

3) A new Bar Manager is also needed. Tom Gabele accepted the position on a temporary basis.

4) Member cards for those who are not Colonels will be called Squadron Sponsor Cards.

5) Staff Duty and Job Position sheets should be turned in to Al Schade. A motion to that effect was made by Al Schade and seconded by John Davis.

ADJOURNED 2145 hours.

## Advertisers

As most of you will recognize, most of our advertisers have been in the newsletter since its inception. These faithful few have contributed to the cost of mailing; i.e. stamps, for all of these years which helps make up for the cost of paper and Xerox time donated by Toomey Racing.

Several advertisers are leaving us for one reason or another so we not only have space for new ones but definitely need the income. The present cost of a card size ad is \$35.00 per YEAR which isn't much. We do hope to up this in the near future..

So, this is a request for those of you who are business owners

and can write it off to think about helping out by taking out an ad in our publication. Our present circulation is about 150 and we hope to double that in the next few months by including other categories of those who would have an interest in the CAF and EWM or who would at least let us put the newsletter on their reception tables etc.

Give it some thought and try to help us with the cost of mailing.

Many thanks.

## Wal-Mart Helps

Our poor old ride-on lawnmower has finally given up the ghost but the management at Wal-mart has helped to provide us with a new one at a very substantial discount.

This is a very nice gesture on the part of their organization so think good thoughts when you are next in the store and buy lots of stuff.

You might even mention it to someone on the management staff. They love to know that the word has been spread among those who care.

## June 14 was Flag Day

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who gives us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who gives us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier who salutes the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag

Anonymous

From the 1st Marine Division Association Evergreen Chapter's March '97 Newsletter. (Given to me by Col. John Cromwell)

(Ed. Note. I remember Flag Day as a kid in school and I remember that it meant something important. Whatever happened to this and so many similar things that used to have real meaning for us? Have we failed ourselves?)

## Dues Still Due

There are still some who have not sent in their Squadron dues. C'mon guys, these dues are one of the few steady sources of income that the Squadron can count on for operational expense. We NEED the money and we want you to continue to be members. The cutoff date is fast approaching when this wonderful opus will cease to be delivered to your mailbox and you are no longer considered as a member of this noteworthy group.

Don't let this happen!!!



**CAF VOLUNTEERS**

**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 |                |               |

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>                       |                |                             |
| 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.                              |                |                             |
| <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 *)<br>(Host/docent, museum) | Bob Singleton  | 239-2084                    |
|   |                | *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)

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