

Estrella Squadron

Newsletter



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

Volume IX Number 8

Paso Robles, California

August 1998

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August Meeting

The August Meeting will be held on August 5, 1998 at the Hangar with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Chef John Himes may be away but has asked Al Davis to substitute for him and Al has said he would probably come up with a dinner of beef and gravy over noodles. Sounds great and Al is well known for putting out some great meals.

Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Bill Russell, one of the donors of the CASA Sieta Spanish training jet which is now owned by the Museum. He will fill us in as to what it takes to operate this aircraft and this will be a most interesting meeting.

A brief biography of Dr. Russell's aviation background will appear on page 3.

This whole project should prove to be most beneficial to our organization so please try to attend this meeting. There will be something of interest for everyone!

So What's Happenin'!

More than you would believe!

If you have been out to the site in the last couple of weeks you will, no doubt, have noticed that the concrete is in place for our next building. If you have been out in the last few days you will

have noticed that the area has been graded for the third building. If you get there for the next meeting you will probably see concrete poured for the third building as well as red iron up and in place on the second building and, quite possibly, a roof as well!!

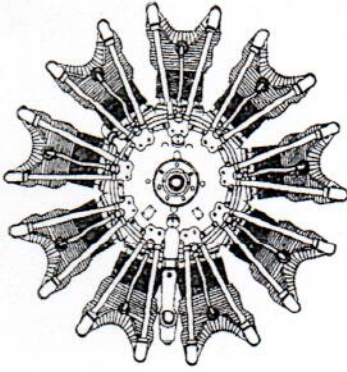
Troops, we are really moving. We have more going on right now than we have had in the last three years!!

This is a great time to be a member and a great time and opportunity to get your friends and acquaintances interested in what we are doing. We are very interested in obtaining good new members and we have a heck of a lot more to show people than just a lone metal building sticking up from the ground. This is a really exciting time and this excitement can rub off on some prospective new members so look around at some of your contacts and help us grow.

Museum Advisory Board

The establishment of an Advisory Board for the Museum has been something that has been under consideration for some. It has long been felt that the advice and council that could be made available to us by some exceptional individuals could be of immense help in our efforts to develop our small but first class memorial Aviation Museum on the Central Coast.

We are delighted to be able to report that we have received the consent of



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three individuals, whose credentials go far beyond anything we had hoped for to be the initial members of our Board; The Honorable William P. Clark, Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC, and Thirty-third District Assemblyman, Tom J. Bordonaro, Jr.

We are truly indebted to these three prominent public figures for agreeing to be of council to us and we hope to add perhaps two more to the Board in the very near future.

A-7 Corsair On Site!

With the tremendous efforts of our crack retrieval crew, and with more than just a few glitches during the process, the China Lake A-7 is not only on hand but partially reassembled as well!

Al Shade's group, composed of Glen Thomson, Dave Geiger, Walt Martin, Mat Garrison, Jim McCall, Wayne King and, of course, Al himself, arrived at China Lake on Thursday the 16th and didn't get home until late Sunday the 19th! China Lake is not exactly a prime vacation spot, especially with the type of weather we have been having lately, so these guys deserve one whole hell of a lot of credit for their efforts!!

To show you what kind of a group they are, the Navy told them that it would take four days to get just the wing off alone. Our guys did it in one day!

Anyway, after a series of problems with trailers not showing and trailers that did show being not big enough, our guys stuck it out until they obtained the proper equipment and arrived home with one nifty looking aircraft that will be a great asset to the organization!

A heartfelt "Well Done" to everyone involved!

BT-13 Acquisition Probably a Bust

Our hoped-for acquisition of the BT-13 sitting atop a gas station on Rte 41 may not come to fruition after all. It is still on the station, nose down, but the station has been repainted and refurbished as a mini-mart so it seems that the owner may keep it as he said he wanted to do in the first place.

Our CO isn't about to give up on the deal, however, so we may hear more later. We'll keep our fingers crossed!

T-33

Our almost airworthy-looking gate guard is ready for it's new spot on the front lawn. The holes have been dug for the supports and the forms are in. All that has to be done is to pour the concrete which will be done when the pour is made for the floor of the next building. After that, some rerouting of the sprinkler system will have to be done and when that's over we can put the old bird in place.

The acquisition, transporting and restoration of this aircraft has been a labor of love involving a great many people. It was our first major project and we can be darn proud of what has been accomplished.

F-86

Speaking of looking good, the F-86 looks better and better every time one sees it. Just in passing this morning I sort of glanced at it out of the corner of my eye and I was struck by the look of completeness of it. I simply had to stop and take a good look. Obviously there is some more to do but in general it looks lean and mean with all kinds of first class repairs replacing old damaged areas and good looking contours and hard to make curves

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

where there were some serious dents and holes.
Another case of a great job by some dedicated people.

Some Dues Still in Arrears

Drastic Measures To Be Taken!

We are saddened to have to report that there are still about 25 Squadron members who have not paid their annual dues of \$40.00 which were supposed to be paid in May.

Every member has been billed and many have received one or more monthly statements. As an organization we feel that we are unable to carry those delinquent individuals any longer so, as of August, these members will be dropped from our membership list. To make this decision even more disastrous, this will be the last of these incredibly marvelous newsletters that these individuals will receive! (Do I hear sighs of relief?)

Anyway, you get the picture guys and gals. We need the bucks but most of all we need all of you great and dear friends and members to stay with us. **This is going to be one hell of a wonderful year! Be here for it!!**

News From The CAF
Flight Teams

by Col. Bob Singleton, Flight Coordinator

There are 12 teams covering 12 months of the year. Each team serves two important functions: Organizes the hangar and serves as Master of Ceremonies for the monthly Dinner Meeting., and provides and trains Docents for the Museum one month a year. These two events are six months apart. The team Leaders recruit volunteers from within their Flights for these important functions. These events have a fixed schedule which is published in the newsletter.

I am recruiting volunteers to serve as Co-Flight Leaders for each flight so we have a team of two to recruit, train and

schedule the members of their Flight. This is only about one third complete but so far members are stepping up to the plate and taking on these important tasks. A number of new members have joined the Squadron and they will be assigned to Flights--everyone participates.

Lastly, I wish to report that some members have volunteered to take on Docent assignments in addition to the duty month of their flight, time permitting. We owe them a vote of thanks and we encourage this kind of volunteerism. Our Squadron exists on volunteers. If you are interested in this or are a new member who has not been assigned to a Flight, please call me at 239-2084.

Dr. Bill Russell

Dr. Bill Russell (a radiologist practicing in San Luis Obispo) and his two doctor partners have donated their CASA Sieta Spanish training jet to the Estrella Warbirds Museum. Bill learned to fly in 1977 and flew about a thousand hours before he purchased the jet in 1990. Since then he has flown the jet to airshows as far North as Portland, Oregon, East to Salt Lake City, Utah and Southeast to Tucson, Arizona accumulating just over 530 hours flying time. The jet has been shown at NAS Lemoore, NAS Pt. Mugu, NAS Miramar and NAS El Toro..

Other jets that Bill has flown are the T-33, Vampire, Marchetti S-211 trainer, L-39, Soko Galeb, Fouga Magister and Grumman Cougar. He has also purchased another jet, a British Hawker Hunter in which he has flown about 30 hours and which he keeps at the Mojave, California airport.

For the last two years he has worked with the USAF Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California training

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

student test pilots in qualitative test procedures. During his time with the school he has been given the opportunity to fly in the Northrop T-38, McDonnell Douglas F-15 and Lockheed F-16.

Bill is on the Board of Directors of the Classic Jets Association, an organization of about 600 members who fly around 400 ex-military and foreign manufactured jets.

Living in Templeton, Bill is married with a one year old child.

Submitted by George Marrett

CAF Staff Meeting Minutes, July 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; Tom Gabele, Supply; John Davis Adjutant; Bruce Toomey, Newsletter; John Himes, Finance; George Marrett, Programs; John Dolan, Museum Board Member; Visitor, Tom Dueck, Contractor.

Adjutants Report:

Minutes of last Staff Meeting approved with changes.

Finance Officer's Report:

Approved provisionally as presented.

Old Business:

- 1) The Airshow had about \$10,000 profit it was decided that about 80% of the profits would be used for lease-hold improvements.
- 2) The city planners want 3,000 lb. reinforced concrete for the floors of the two new buildings. The 3,000 lb. concrete is already in for the second building and the floor of the third building will be poured next week.

3) Aircraft acquisitions - The Vultee BT-13 mounted on the service station on Rte 41 will probably not be available.

4) Because of the Avila UNOCL clean-up project, the Navy League and the Tailhook Association may request to hold their meetings at the Museum Hangar. No news on this item.

5) 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.

6) There is no news on the acquisition of the Douglas A-3 from Hughes Aircraft.

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

8) For all practical purposes the CASA jet belongs to the Museum and now liability insurance (costing approx. \$2,000) must be purchased and a definite plan for operating the aircraft must be developed.

New Business:


- 1) Mr. Tom Dueck, a local contractor, presented a bid for a contract to erect the steel, put on the roof and install the ceiling insulation on the first of the new buildings. Davis moved to accept the bid and Himes seconded. After some discussion the motion passed.
- 2) The Casa jet must be put in the hangar and additional supplies donated with it must be put on site.
- 3) It was suggested that Dr. Russell be sounded out to see if he would be a member of the Museum Advisory Board.

4) Membership cards for those who are not Colonels will be called Squadron Sponsor Cards. No action has been taken.

5) We still do not have a firm PX officer.

6) Temporary Refreshment Chairman and Bar Manager, Col. Tom Gabele is in the process of restocking the soft drinks, wine and beer.

Adjourned 2155 hours.




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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 LDR: DON HILSTON 239-8809 * WINGMAN:	BRAVO	HOTEL	JULIETT
FEBRUARY	BRAVO LDR: KEITH BOWERS 239-3358 * WINGMAN:	ALPHA	JULIETT	HOTEL
MARCH	DELTA LDR: JOHN KENDALL 239-8029 * WINGMAN:	ECHO	KILO	LIMA
APRIL	ECHO LDR: RON MULLISEN 528-4686 * WINGMAN: BILL CARLSON 595-7935	DELTA	LIMA	KILO
MAY	FOXTROT LDR: TOM WEISS 239-2637 * WINGMAN:	GOLF	MIKE	NOVEMBER
JUNE	GOLF LDR: DOUG MINER 239-1054 * WINGMAN:	FOXTROT	NOVEMBER	MIKE
JULY	HOTEL LDR: DIRK HALE 237-0819 * WINGMAN:	JULIETT	ALPHA	BRAVO
AUGUST	JULIETT LDR: EDWIN VINCIG 466-3758 * WINGMAN:	HOTEL	BRAVO	ALPHA
SEPT	KILO LDR: LARRY CAMPO 238-7702 * WINGMAN:	LIMA	DELTA	ECHO
OCTOBER	LIMA LDR: BOB SINGLETON 239-2084 * WINGMAN:	KILO	ECHO	DELTA
NOVEMBER	MIKE LDR: KENNY FINCH 238-1199 * WINGMAN: GARY MORRISON 434-1673	NOVEMBER	FOXTROT	GOLF
DECEMBER	NOVEMBER LDR: BRIAN WEBSTER 237-0222 * WINGMAN: RICHARD MATTSO 238-6910	MIKE	GOLF	FOXTROT
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
A. VEHICLE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE		
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. HANGAR ACTIVITIES		
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
C. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES		
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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