

# Estrella Squadron

## Newsletter



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

Volume IX Number 10

Paso Robles, California

October 1998

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### NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR THE HANGAR 227-0440

### October Meeting

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

Chef John Himes, with his usual flair for coming up with something different and tasty, has said that we will have "Chinese" that evening which will, no doubt, be excellent as always.

As of this writing we do not know whether or not we will have a speaker for the evening nor do we know if there will be any other sort of program. It's being worked on so we may be pleasantly surprised.

This will be our Halloween meeting and the Hangar will be decorated in a befitting manner according to Raffle Committee Chair, Col. Betty Miller and our Raffle Committee Ladies will also be in appropriate costume. Now if this isn't reason enough to attend all by itself I don't know what is!!

### New Phone Number

Please note the fact that we have a new phone number for the Hangar (Squadron and Museum). When we first obtained a phone some years ago, Glen Thomson made the arrangements and put it in his name so that we could avoid having to pay commercial rates

until we were sure of what we were doing. It was a bit of a problem because it wasn't listed under the CAF name or the Museum.

As of the last Staff meeting it was decided to get a new and easier to remember number and have it listed in the phone book under both the Squadron as well as the Museum. It will also be listed in the Yellow Pages. So, as of Thursday, September 22, the new number will be 227-0440. **WRITE IT DOWN!**

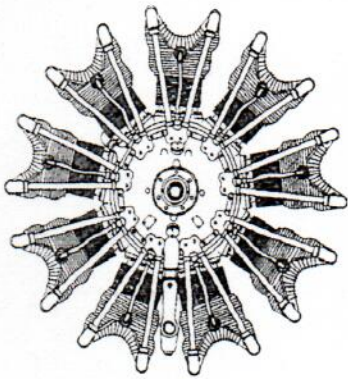
Thanks to John Himes for making the arrangements.

### Air Show Committees Up & Running

Again giving evidence of their proven organizational abilities and "up and at 'em" attitude, Col. Chuck and Col. Betty Miller already have the Air Show group on line and working. As a matter of fact this has been going on since the first 1999 Air Show meeting on July 16, 1998!

It is most important that much of the preparation work be done well in advance of the new year and Chuck is out there contacting performers and those who require long lead times, while other good people are working in their own areas of expertise. It was a very rewarding sight to see so many long-suffering souls who worked on last year's project showing up again for the first two meetings this year!!





**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 or Fax to 238-9516 or e-mail to [bruce@toomey.com](mailto:bruce@toomey.com)

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The 1999 Show should be a good one. There are many new as well as proven ideas being considered which will add stature and interest, particularly in the area of attracting a more diverse group of people to the Show. In other words, offering perhaps a greater variety of things to appeal to a broader group who may not be dedicated aviation buffs but who would come out if we had other attractions as well.

It is apparent that there is a much more organized approach to things this year and we are receiving a considerable amount of assistance from several well placed military people as well as professionals from various fields. The whole program is taking on the appearance of a truly first rate proficient machine.

As usual, however, it is the volunteer system that provides the grease for the machine. Consequently, we are starting earlier this year to line up people for the various jobs on the Show day itself as well as other areas that require some effort several days to several weeks in advance. Most Squadron members are pretty well aware of what is needed as far as helping out is concerned.

Again, this year, Judy Crowover will be coordinating the volunteers as far as keeping track of those who do volunteer as well as developing volunteer expertise and interest in the various jobs. Judy's number is 238-3426 and her e-mail is: [lolalu@tcsn.net](mailto:lolalu@tcsn.net). Call her and say, "Yes I will help and here's what I would like to do or here's what expertise I have in a certain area."

This year we hope to organize a few semi-formal training programs with regard to some of the jobs. For instance, manning a tug for towing airplanes doesn't sound too difficult but if an airplane is handled improperly it can sustain a tremendous amount of severe damage. We have people bringing in some pretty high dollar aircraft for our benefit and they definitely don't

appreciate some untrained tug driver twisting their nose gear beyond limits or ramming them into someone else because he doesn't know how to handle a tug. We hope to have a tug school and perhaps a ground handlers school (proper hand and/or flag movements) for positioning aircraft and a few things like that. This sort of training is definitely worthwhile and interesting as well. It will go a long way towards establishing the fact that our Show is becoming a professionally

**Air Show Volunteer  
Coordinator  
Judy Crowover  
238-3426  
e-mail: [lolalu@tcsn.net](mailto:lolalu@tcsn.net)**

conducted event.

Anyway troops, we all know what we have to do and we sincerely hope that for the '99 Show we will have some increased participation by more of the members. This will give you a little time to think about it.

**Projects, Buildings,  
Restorations, Missiles,  
Plantings, etc., etc.,  
etc.!!!!!!**

Man!! Do we have a lot of stuff going on or what!!?

Last month's newsletter mentioned that we had the second building up and the roof on and that the third building slab had been poured. Well folks, we now have the third building up, the roof is on it and we have our L-19 in it along with a few more items and we are rollin'!!

I found an aerial photograph the other day showing the Hangar as it was just barely finished, a couple of years ago. It was a strange sight to see this bare structure just sticking up out of the



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**

ground without another stick or stone around it and then compare it to what we have now.

We now have all the windows and doors installed on the second building and the glass

has also been installed thanks to Cols. Gary Corippo and Betty Miller. Betty casually asked what she could do to help the other day and Gary promptly came back with, "You bet, you can tape off all the windows so I can paint them!" So up comes Betty from Atascadero, tools in hand, and she tapes all the windows. As soon as that was done they were painted and glass was installed on Friday the 25th! In case you wondered, this is what I call volunteerism! In any event, this is how things get done.

In addition to the above you will note that the intermediate section of the missile has been attached to the power section and it no longer looks as though it was just dumped. Credit Al Schade, as usual, with seeing this through with a great group of assistants including John Dolan, Andy Henry, Gary Corippo and John Kendall.

We also have two engine container halves alongside the front door of the Hangar which have been planted and we also have a number of succulents spaced along the length of the rest of the wall which go a long way towards improving the frontal area. Even the poor old grass in this area is perking up! Here again, the efforts of some volunteers, in this case our "Green Thumb" grounds keeper, John Kendall, along with Walt Martin and Arnold Hermansen. It's amazing what a little attention will do!

If you want to have kind of an eerie experience, as well as a rewarding one, go out to the Hangar just before the sun sets some evening and just stand in the parking lot and look around. It's quiet then, and when standing near the buildings one feels a strange sense of strength and permanence along with the feeling that there is an underlying dynamicism that is just ready to burst out. This may sound a little hokey to some but it was very real to me this afternoon. We are on the verge of something great. 'Nuff said.

Frank Rezich Receives FAA Award

Fellow member Frank Rezich is being honored on October 10th by the FAA as the recipient of the "Charlie Taylor Master Mechanic Award". This award is given to those with at least 50 years service as Licensed Aircraft and Engine Mechanics who have received national acclaim and recognition for their contribution to aviation.

Getting personal information from Frank was like pulling teeth because he was most reluctant to blow his own horn about his accomplishments. From personal knowledge, however, I have know of Frank since the 50's through the Experimental Aircraft Association, and his abilities, knowledge and accomplishments are legendary throughout the aviation world.

The award will be presented under the auspices of the Fresno FSDO at the time of the 50th Anniversary of Reedley College. FAA Administrator Jane Garvey will also be in attendance so this is no small deal.

We all join in offering our congratulations and respect to our good friend, Frank Rezich.

A Quiet Call For Help

Speaking of volunteerism, one of our more dedicated members, Carol Weiss, ( a member in her own right) has, in her quiet way, asked for a bit of relief.

Two years ago, Carol took on the job of being responsible for desserts at the monthly meeting. Over the years many of our good wives have pitched in and helped her many times but, as is often the case, on numerous occasions she has had to come up with the whole batch herself or at least the majority of it.



**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

**Activiti**

**Linda Hermansen  
Maria Goldman**

**Photo**

**OPEN**

**JOINT CAF/EWM**

**Joint Site Improvements  
Glen Thomson**

**Joint Community Events  
Committee  
Gary Corippo**

As we all know, in a position such as this one has to call on others for help and those who will help get asked again and again and obviously this can get kind of old. On the other hand, it's not easy to call on people one does not know and ask for help especially if one has no idea as to their circumstances or their interest or capabilities or lack thereof.

In any event, Carol has asked to either be relieved of this duty or be assured that she can expect adequate help or some other arrangement that would substantially lessen the whole burden of this responsibility.

She has agreed to hang in there for another month or two until some sort of arrangement can be made. There are several things that could be done and they will be discussed at the next Staff meeting. In the meantime it is respectfully suggested that some of our wives or others who can help, call Carol (239-2637) and ask how they can be of assistance, not only for her but to help continue to make our unique and enjoyable monthly dinners as pleasing as they always have been.

**Gary Ryan Named Festival President**

Our own Gary Ryan has been named as Morro Bay's 1998 Festival President. Known to all of us as the head of Goofy Graphics, the graphic arts firm that provides us with all of our signs, at cost I might add, for the Air Show as well as other events, Gary is also a highly talented profession musician who has worked with the likes of Bing Crosby, Dizzy Gillispie, Phil Harris, Dean Martin, Bob Newhart and Thelonius Monk among others.

Named Festival Commodore in 1993 for exemplifying humor and entertainment on the waterfront, Gary is also well known as the Captain of the Tiger's Folly showboat which plies the waters of Morro Bay and environs.

Our congratulations to Gary Ryan!

(And thanks to Col. Wayne King for this info!)

**Election Of New Officers**

Rather than wait until the last minute for elections, as happened last year, the Squadron Staff will appoint a Nominating Committee at the October Staff meeting to accept applications and make recommendations for the seven CAF Squadron Officers positions for the coming year. As you know, since this is strictly a CAF function only colonels may vote for CAF Staff positions.

In the mean time, colonels are asked to consider possible nominees or are asked to offer themselves as nominees if they so desire. Call Col. Obbie Atkinson (238-9212), who has either chaired or has been on the last half dozen Nominating Committees, for further information until a formal Committee in appointed. (Obbie will be polling members for suggestions as to committee appointees.)

**CAF Staff Meeting Minutes. September 16,1998**

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

**Staff Present:**

Col. Gary Corippo, CO; Col. Ron Mullisen, XO; Col. John Davis, Adjutant; Col. Glen Thomson, Operations Officer; Col. John Cromwell, Safety Officer; Col. Al Schade, Maintenance Officer; Col. Bob Singleton, Director of Flights; John Himes, Finance Officer, Col. Chuck Miller, Air Show Chairman; Col. Tom Gabele, Supply Officer; Col. Obbie Atkinson, Membership Chairman; Col. Bruce Toomey, Newsletter Editor.

**Adjutant's Report:**



Minutes of last Staff Meeting:  
Approved  
Minutes of last General  
Membership Meeting:  
Approved.

Finance Officer's Report:  
Report Approved

### OLD BUSINESS

1. There will be an Air Show meeting on Thursday, September 17, 1998. Also, a refund in the amount of \$1100. to one of the vendors must be made.

2. An M-60 tank and an armored personnel carrier are possible acquisitions from Camp Roberts. Col. Gong is working on cutting through the National Guard red tape.

3. So the L-Bird crews can get to their planes, the Casa jet will be put into the Museum with the tail pointing to the main doors, as close to the cooking area and display cases as possible. The L-Birds will be carefully put into the Hangar with the engines near the big doors and the tails alongside the Casa Jet.

4. The second building is ready to have doors installed. The third building is ready to be sand blasted and painted and is about 90% complete.

5. A Douglas TA-4 may be on its way to the Museum.

6. Staff Job Descriptions were discussed. It was decided to accept the descriptions developed by Al Schade as written. Moved by Cromwell, seconded by Thomson. Passed

7. The Estrella Squadron will appear in the Pioneer Day and Colony Days parades.

8. A new phone with hookups to the Museum Hangar and the second building would cost about \$75 and the number would have two listings, Estrella Warbird Museum and Estrella Squadron of the Confederate Air Force.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. A "parasol" type hangar was mentioned to protect the aircraft that are stored outside from sun and rain.

2. The restoration hangar should have steel studs for holding up the loft for storage.

3. Obbie Atkinson commented on increasing membership, evaluating membership activities and increasing community awareness of the Estrella Squadron. An active PIO is necessary.

4. Last month's speaker, Art Duvall, is working on a plan to put the A-6 into flying shape for Navy pilots to demonstrate to French, Thai and other countries air crews. The A-6 would then be returned to the Museum in airworthy condition.

(EdNote) This proposal evidently is not being actively considered by the Navy at this time.

Adjourned 2145 hours

## Member Working To Get Museum Listed Internationally

In response to a request for information from an Englishman, Mr. Bob Ogden, an historian, who publishes "Aircraft Museums and Collections of the World" our member, Bob Kinsell, has spent a great deal of time compiling an accurate list of our aircraft, engines artifacts and historical information for Mr. Ogden to include in his publication.

Mr. Ogden visited our site some weeks ago and was given a tour by Bob and was very interested in including our facility. Mr. Ogden publishes 12 different volumes of information covering museums located throughout the world. The current edition of "U.S.A. - The Western States" has been sold out so a new one is presently under development.

We wish to thank Bob Kinsell for his interest in the project and helping us to "get on the map" so to speak.

## Want Ad

Sort of!

We are still in need of a 20 foot flat bed for the yellow truck that we acquired when we bought it for the storage box that was on it originally. If you have one in repairable shape or know of someone who does, please let us know.

Its possible that we will be able to sell the truck for enough money to pay for it and the box if we can offer it with a usable bed.

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## Estrella Squadron

### Star of the Month

by Col. Gary Corippo CO

A relatively new member, Walt Martin, has been chosen as the Estrella Squadron's "Star of the Month". Although Walt has been with us for only six or seven months he sort of jumped into a number of activities with both feet.

To start with he wire brushed about 80% of the Titan missile to get it ready for painting, a chore that took more than a few hours. He has gone to the China Lake Weapons Center on recovery missions on several occasions. When we had to go back to China Lake to return the wooden framework that the wing of the A-7 was transported on, he went along on that mission also, to help reassemble the frame so the Navy could use it again. On that occasion he nearly left part of his hand with frame as the result of an unfortunate accident but several stitches at the Navy Sick Bay put him back in fair to good shape!

In addition to the above Walt has been helping John Kendall with the landscaping of the grounds around the site and has donated many hours of his time in this endeavor.

Walt has a long history in aviation as a Station Manager at both Denver, Colorado and at LAX in Los Angeles. We're hoping we can call on him as a speaker for one of our monthly meetings as I am sure he has some great stories to tell.

We heartily welcome Walt and are most happy to acknowledge his significant help in so many areas by choosing him as our "Star of the Month".

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