

# Estrella Squadron

## Newsletter



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

Volume X Number 5

Paso Robles, California

May 1999

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### May Meeting

The May Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 1999 at the Meeting Building with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Our program for the evening will be a truly special one. We will hear from Frederick W. "Rick" Sturckow, (Major, USMC) and NASA Astronaut. Major Sturckow was the pilot astronaut on the STS-88, the first Space Shuttle mission to carry hardware to space for the assembly of the international Space Station on December 3, 1998.

Major Sturckow was an engineering student at Cal Poly and studied under our own former CAF Executive Officer, Col. Ron Mullisen, who arranged for Major Sturckow to be with us for this meeting. A brief biography of Major Sturckow appears on page 3 and we only wish we could include some of the stories of his mission, which are fantastic and which we hope he will elaborate on when he speaks with us.

Please remember that reservations will again be required for this meeting and dinner. We realize that this is mildly inconvenient but it certainly helps on our end as far as food quantity purchases are concerned. Call Betty Miller at 466-1212 or Bruce Toomey at 238-9266.

### Continuing Progress at the Building Site

So much is being accomplished on Dry Creek Road that it is old news almost as

### Air Show '99

## A Sentimental Journey

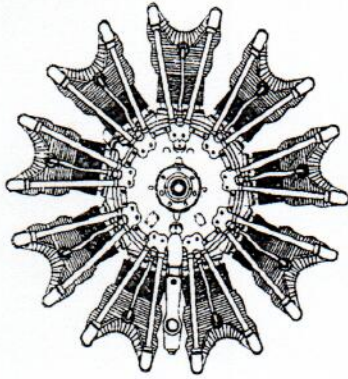
### June 13, 1999

Voice Mail # for Air Show Info  
805 227-2142

oon as it is reported. All kinds of lighting has been installed in the kitchen and hallway, huge plastic ducts have been hoisted in place in the ceiling area for air conditioning and heating and the lowered ceiling is about to be installed. All the wires and grip work are in and we are just waiting for an inspection before we place the ceiling tiles in the grid. As of this writing the floor was being installed in the kitchen. Gary Corippo has been doing his usual evening painting stint and as a good Marine he has painted everything that doesn't move. (Only kidding, Gary.)

As usual, many hands have been involved in these endeavors and the place really is coming together. It may even begin to look like a finished product by the next meeting. Glen Thomson, ignoring his cracked ribs, has been up on ladders again stringing wire and hooking up electrical stuff; our new Museum Director, Warren Bailey, was last seen balancing himself on a scaffold tying up ducting which, for a guy who is not too tall, was a bit of a shaky job. John Dolan on the other hand, just reaches





## 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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all the way around the duct, tapes them up and hangs them up without even standing on his toes.

Kitchen stoves, air extractors, grills and grates and other items are headed for the steam cleaners and will be installed before we know it.

A lot of effort going into this job by a lot of people!!

## In Memorium

### Lydia Schweich

The members of the Squadron were deeply grieved to hear of the death of Lydia Schweich, beloved wife of member Paul Schweich, who died suddenly on April 8, 1999 in Atascadero.

Mrs. Schweich was known to many as an accomplished artist and musician and spent much of her time involved in an enormous number of volunteer civic and philanthropic organizations in the Atascadero area.

She will be deeply missed by her family and a great number of friends and our entire membership extends our sincere sympathy to member and good friend, Paul Schweich.

### Col. John Paul Davis

Our entire Squadron was greatly saddened to hear of the death of our fellow member and Squadron Adjutant, John P. Davis, 63, who died on April 19, 1999 after having had a series of strokes during the past several months.

Col. John was a long time member of our group and devoted much time to his duties of being our Adjutant as well as our Historian. John was born in Ohio and attended grammar school there. His family moved to San Luis Obispo in 1947 and he graduated from San Luis Obispo High School seventh in his 154

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**Air Show Volunteer  
Coordinator**  
**Judy Crownover**  
**238-3426**  
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member class. He then attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and graduated in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering.

He worked for many years for the County of San Luis Obispo as a data processor, computer operator and programmer. His last position was as a communications aide in which he researched and developed a bilingual translation unit for the supervisor's chambers so that a number of people could listen to multiple translations without disturbing the proceedings. John was also a Civil Air Patrol member for 40 years and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in that organization.

We will best remember John as a very quiet, unassuming individual who put in a lot of time working for the Squadron without a lot of recognition except from those who knew how much effort he put into his work. He was a nifty little guy and will be sorely missed by all of us.

## Air Show News

Air Show plans are progressing nicely thanks to the efforts of Director Chuck Miller and Staff.

As the Editor of this rag I hope to be able to run a list of Air Show Staff members in this issue to give the membership an idea of just who is making the effort to get this project off the ground. I believe that most of us have absolutely no idea as to the number of "outside" people who are deeply involved. By outside I mean



### Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer  
Col. Bruce M. Toomey  
Executive Officer  
Col. Betty Miller  
Finance  
Col. John Himes  
Adjutant  
Col. Marty Martin  
Operations  
Col. Glen Thomson  
Maintenance  
Col. Al Schade  
Safety  
Col. John Cromwell

### Staff Appointments

PIO  
Blake Wideman  
PX Officer  
Marty Wright  
Aircraft Restoration Projects  
Col. Al Schade  
Historian  
Rosemary Netto  
Flight Coordinator  
Col. Bob Singleton



**CAF Hangar**  
**Phone**  
**227-0440**

those who are not members of the Squadron. Of the approximately 37 people on the Air Show Staff, 17 of them have no real connection with the CAF or the Museum other than having been recruited by Chuck Miller!!

These people have been working for months, and I mean months, on all of the aspects of the Show. Someone has to be responsible for parking, programs, ticket sales, safety, communications, and on and on, the whole list of stuff that it takes to make the Show a success..

I am truly amazed at the number of outside people who will help and I am just as often upset over the fact that there are those of us who really could do something but don't.

I realize that there are many who support us in other ways, either monetarily by dues or donations or whatever, and there are those who are simply social members, and that's okay too, but it just seems sort of unfair for some to take, without some return, and here we have a whole group of outsiders working their tails off.

So let's give it some thought troops. If you get a call to help in some way, either before or during the Show, please think about giving up a little time to make the Show better by doing something yourself. You'll be glad you did.

### A Brief Biography of Major Frederick W. Sturckow, USMC, NASA Astronaut

(This is a reprint of a profile made prior to the 1998 STS-88 mission)

Born August 11, 1961, in La Mesa, California but considers Lakeside, California to be his hometown.

Education:  
Major Sturckow graduated from Grossmont High School, La Mesa,

California in 1978. Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from California Polytechnic State University, 1984.

#### Organizations:

Member of Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP), Marine Corps Association (MCA).

#### Special Honors:

Single Mission Air Medal with Combat "V", Strike/ Flight Air Medals (4), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

#### Experience:

Sturckow was commissioned in December, 1984. An Honor Graduate of The Basic School, he earned his wings in April, 1987. Following initial F/A-18 training at VFA-125, he reported to VMFA-333, MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina. While assigned to VMFA-333 he made an overseas deployment to Japan, Korea and the Philippines and was then selected to attend the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) in March 1990. In August of 1990 he deployed to Sheik Isa Air Base, Bahrain for a period of 8 months. Sturckow flew a total of forty-one combat missions during Operation Desert Storm and served as overall mission commander for 30-plane airstrikes into Iraq and Kuwait. In January, 1992 he attended the United States Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California. In 1993 he reported to the Naval Air Warfare Center - Aircraft Division, Patuxent River, Maryland for duty as the F/A-18 E/F Project Pilot. Sturckow also flew a wide variety of projects and classified programs as an F/A-18 test pilot.

He has logged approximately 2,500 flight hours and has flown over 40 different aircraft.

#### NASA Experience:

Selected by NASA in December 1994, Sturckow reported to the Johnson Space Center in March 1995. He



**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

**Supplies & Refreshments**

Tom Gabele

237-1567

**Activities**

Linda Hermansen

Maria Goldman

**Photo**

OPEN

**JOINT CAF/EWM****Joint Site Improvements**

Glen Thomson

**Joint Community Events**

Committee

Gary Corippo

completed a year of training and Systems and Operations Branch of the Astronaut Office.

**Current Assignment:**

Sturckow will serve as pilot on the crew of STS-88, the first Space Shuttle mission to carry hardware to space for the assembly of the International Space Station

**PX Volunteers Needed for Air Show**

Speaking of volunteering, our new PX chief, Marty Wright (who is doing a super job, by the way) has asked for a special request for people to man the PX booth at the Air Show. He would like to have enough people so he could have two people on at a time for two hour shifts. This is an important job. We make money. We get a chance to contact a great many people and we get a chance to really enhance the Squadron and Museum image. You get to be right in the thick of things and see what's going on so it's a lot of fun. If we can get enough people no one will get burned out.

Call Marty at 239-1759 and sign up for a couple of hours. You'll enjoy it!!

**Really Important News!**

We have our own dumpster!!!

Now, if you don't think this important news just put yourself in the shoes of the guy who for the past 8 years could be seen at night skulking around local dumpsters with a red pickup truck trying to get rid of Squadron junk!! It was especially embarrassing when he got caught!!

Seriously, son Stuart has allowed us to use his dumpster at the airport for the past, I don't know how many years, but since there were times when it became so full of our junk that he couldn't put his own stuff in, I thought it was about time we obtained our own. After all, we

even provided a nice block wall area to enclose it!

So now that its in and I've heard all the moaning about the expense and not needing it, I notice it's usually jammed full.

Now keep in mind kids, this is for the CAF and Museum junk. Don't clean out Aunt Tillie's apartment and come running out here like the guy in the red pickup truck has done all these years!! We only get service twice a month to keep expenses down so let's use it properly. "Nuff said.

**Col. Conrad L. (Marty) Martin Is New Adjutant**

The Staff was very grateful to accept the offer of Marty Martin to take over as Adjutant. Col. Betty Miller has been substituting as Adjutant since January when Col. John Davis told us he wouldn't be able to come back, but since she is our XO and a major force behind the Air Show staff she has more than a plate full of other duties. Thanks Marty, we'll try not to work you to death!

**New Historian!**

We are delighted to announce that Rosemary Netto has agreed to become our active Historian. This is a real break because Rosemary has been with us since the founding of the Squadron and is very knowledgeable as to everything that has transpired over the years.

Again, our good friend John Davis was sort of doubling as historian but not on a formal basis so Rosemary's offer to make this a real position is sincerely welcome.

Rosemary will be assembling all kinds of information so if you see something of interest or if you have something



put away or know of something that has been just sort of kicking around the Hangar please let her know or see that she gets it. Factual information and records are most important.

## CAF Staff Meeting Minutes, 21 April, 1999

Submitted by Col. Betty Miller, Acting Adjutant

Paraphrased for length by Editor

Staff Present: Cols. Toomey, Miller, Thomson, Himes & Cromwell

Also in attendance were: Col. Gary Corippo, Group Commander, Col. Chuck Miller, Air Show Director, Marty Wright, PX, Tom Gabele, Beverage & Supply Chairman, Warren Bailey, Museum Director and Dr. Bill Russell

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurers Report: Col. Himes reported that the March and April reports would be submitted at the May 19 Staff Meeting.

### Old Business:

1. Web Page. Marty Wright reported that Goeff Daley will be in touch with K.O. Eckland and they will work together to get the Web page developed. The Squadron will pay for the Web site. Marty Wright will write up what needs to be included on the site.

2. Adjutant Post - Has been filled by Col. Marty Martin who will assume duties May 19.

3. Names on Cement Apron. Col. Corippo and Toomey are still researching the best methods and prices to install these. They will report at the next meeting.

4. Warren Bailey passed around some rough sketches of the proposed wind deflection wall for the area between the Meeting Hall and the Hangar. A set of offset glass block walls would allow passage but would act as a wind break and also serve as a place to honor major donors. This wall could be lighted at night to provide additional safety. More study as to construction costs will be done by Mr. Bailey.

5. March PX Sales: Marty Wright reported \$50.00 in sales at the PX for the month of March. Col. Himes reported that credit card access for the PX has been applied for and should arrive shortly.

6. Culinary Arts School Food Service: Col. Betty Miller reported that we are serving more people at our dinner meetings each month. The cooking crew has reported that they have not been able to get Flights to volunteer to clean up the pots and pans after the meal. This means that the cooking crew arrives around 2PM, preps, cooks and serves the meal, and then has to clean up all the pots and pans and the kitchen while the program is going on. The cooking crew is doing double duty month after month.

Col. Miller looked into the possibility of having the new Culinary Arts school do the entire meal in their new kitchens, transport it in their new refrigerated and heated vans, serve the meal and take all the dirty pots and pans back to their facility. Col. Miller reported that the NET prices had been obtained for several types of meals - a 6 oz Prime Rib dinner for \$10.00 per person, chicken for 9.00, Lasagna, turkey tetrazzini,

baked ham etc. would be 8.00. Individual main courses are also available to be picked up at the school and would cost much less.

Col. Himes submitted a breakdown of prices for in-house meals per person which would enable us to stay at our normal \$8.00 to \$10.00 per person per meal, which allows us to have a small portion turned back as a donation for operating costs. It was decided to continue with our in-house meal service and ask that the Flight Leaders make a renewed effort to see that clean-up includes the kitchen.

### New Business:

1. 1962 Cadillac. Marty Wright reported that we have been offered a 1962 Cadillac by a private party. Col. Himes moved, Col. Thomson seconded to have Marty Wright inspect the vehicle and make a recommendation to accept or reject based upon the condition of the vehicle. Suggestions were made as to ways to use the car to generate some revenue.

2. June 2 Monthly Meeting. Because the proposed speaker (Ollie North) will generate a "full house", Col. Betty Miller was asked to contact several groups such as Bearcat Boosters, Atascadero Cheerleaders, NCI Industries, etc. to get prices for serving and cleaning up. This would entail 6 persons for serving and 6 persons for clean-up. Col. Thomson moved to have Col. Miller be authorized a price range of \$65.00 to \$100.00 to offer these groups for an evenings' work and to advise them that a "hold harmless" clause in their insurance must be issued to our group as an additional named insured. Seconded by Col. Cromwell. Passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted.  
Col. Elizabeth Miller, Acting Adjutant



**AIR SHOW 1999  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
Contact List**

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AIR SHOW 1999  
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To:

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