

# Estrella Squadron

## Newsletter



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

Volume X Number 7

Paso Robles, California

July 1999

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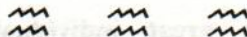
### July Meeting

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

Our program for the evening will be provided by our Museum Curator/Director, Warren Bailey, who will discuss what is going on at the Museum at the present time and what our future overall plans will be. There are a great many things in the mill at the moment all of which have the potential of getting the Museum side of our operation really cranked up. Please try to be there. It will be a nice change after the frenetic business of the Air Show and will provide some stimulating thoughts about our future.

Our dinner for the evening will either be like a French Dip or barbecued beef sliced. Our Chef wasn't exactly sure just what he was going to do but it will be beef in some form with the usual sides.

AGAIN, reservations are requested. Please call the Hangar number 227-0440 and leave a brief message. The answering machine will be closely monitored and should be in good working order if those who don't know how to handle it will leave their grubby little paws off it. Comprendes?

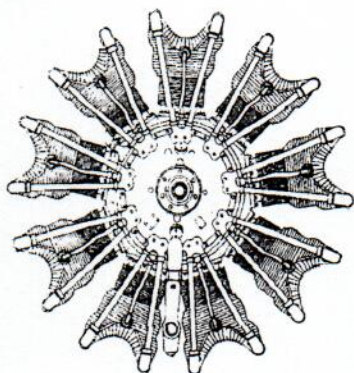


### Membership Stunned By Tragic Death of Gary Morrison and Son

Those of us who heard the news of a terrible auto accident on Templeton Road, which began to trickle over the TV and radio on June 19, were a little edgy because it was so close to home. Little did we realize just how close to us it was. Later that evening we were all aware of the mind-numbing facts when it was disclosed that one of our most revered and respected colonels, Gary Morrison and his son, Rick, were killed in a one car accident. Evidently the car was traveling at a high rate of speed and went out of control hitting a telephone pole and catching on fire.

This whole cruel episode comes as a terrific shock to all of us. Gary was well known to everyone in the group. He was always on hand to help with everything from barbecuing to dismantling the last of the almond plant buildings with only one other helper. He helped in so many ways that it would read like a book if all were accounted for.

The funeral was attended by hundreds of his friends including many from the CAF and we were able to arrange for a fly-over of at least two of our small planes with an additional final pass by Glen Thomson in the T-28 which was beautifully done and very well received.



### 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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We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and we will miss him terribly.

Godspeed good friend and Happy Landings Forevermore.

## 1999 Air Show An Unqualified Success!

Although absolute final figures are not all in yet it can safely be said that the Show was a monetary success as well as an excellent event.

Many, many thanks are due to many, many individual volunteers from the 35 or so who make up the Air Show Committee to all those members who contribute in so many ways.

It should be remembered that 17 or so on the Air Show Committee are not even members but simply those who have offered Chuck and Betty Miller their help, which is considerable, to say the least. The Committee has been meeting for months, which is what it takes to put on something of this magnitude. A Committee organization chart was included in a recent newsletter and it might be well to review it to see the names of those who have given so much of their time.

As usual, the troops mustered on the day of the show and many members appeared, whom we haven't seen for a time, and they pitched right in wherever they were needed.

The acts were great and well paced and everyone seemed to enjoy them. Things ran smoothly on all fronts with a few minor screw-ups but all in all it was a well received show.

There were many great individual efforts, Obbie Atkinson in the CAF and Membership booth signing up people, our new PX Champ, Marty Wright who

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sold over \$1,000 worth of stuff in one day, Dori Foxworthy at the Pilot check-in desk, Judy Crownover at the Volunteer check-in desk, all the Dinner/Dance organizers, decorators, set-up gals and guys, servers, cooks, clean-up helpers, people hanging from ceilings and other precarious perches to put up flags, parachutes etc., sweepers, errand runners, floor washers. . . well, it goes on and on. VOLUNTEERS!!!! YOU DID A GREAT JOB ON ALL FRONTS AND EVERYBODY KNOWS IT!!!

And now comes the time when I get to thank my own perennial volunteer crew of Dave Geiger, Dewey Killion and Ron Thompson who always show up to move the tied-out aircraft to the North ramp without even being called. Also my fellow trash handlers Arnold and Kevin Hermansen who worked like dogs trying to stay ahead of the trash and the vendors who insist on throwing their boxes into the containers meant for the crowd instead of the dumpster we provide for them.

And this year, at the end of the show, without the late help of the boy's school or the Grizzlies, at about six o'clock I looked at a long line of stanchions and 55 gallon drums on the flight line and started off by myself to get them off the ramp. All of a sudden who comes running up but Ron Thompson and son, Mike who pushed me back in my truck and then the two of them cleared the entire ramp of stanchions and drums as I drove the truck and trailer. Let me tell you folks, by the end of the evening those two guys were pooped but if it hadn't been for them I would have probably decorated the ramp with my prone cold form!!

And then on bleak Monday, when you come out alone and see everything that still has to be done and put away, all of a sudden who arrives?... Davy Geiger, Dewey Killion and this year,

Estrella Squadron Staff

- Commanding Officer  
Col. Bruce M. Toomey
- Executive Officer  
Col. Elizabeth R. Miller
- Finance  
Col. John Himes
- Adjutant  
Col. Conrad L. "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

Andy Henry, and before you know it the place is beginning to shape up. Ron and Mike came later and put other airplanes back.

Pretty soon a good sized bunch shows up and things start to hum but I certainly appreciate my early crew who always seem to get there when things look insurmountable.

Anyway, it was a damn good show and we can all be proud of it.

To our Director, Chuck Miller and to Betty, our XO, we all owe you a huge debt of gratitude for a whole year's hard work on the Show. It couldn't have been done without you!!!

Dues Due Dudes!!

(Sorry about that! I just can't help myself every year!)

This is it guys and gals. We bill you in May. We give you May and June to pay and then the ax falls. Well, actually we give you a little longer but we really do want your dues in by mid-July. We need the money and we would like to update our member lists so that we can send one out to all of you. We are getting MANY new members so don't get left out. Be counted. Send money. MANY new GREAT things happening. Be a part of it.

Membership

Courtesy of Col. Obbie Atkinson

Congratulations Recruiters!!

Welcome 14 new Recruits!!

- Will Irwin 3/1/99
- Oz Vigiani 4/7/99
- Jon R. Jones 4/7/99
- Bill Russell 5/10/99
- 5/15/99 Skip Stagg
- 5/23/99 Lloyd McAfee
- 5/25/99 Mark Thompson
- 6/9/99 Robert Chambers
- 6/6/99 Nicholas Adamo
- 6/20/99 Ron Lear
- 6/25/99 Jim Moody

- 6/12/99 Robert Stambovsky
- 6/12/99 Donna Knighton
- 6/22/99 Jerry Vanderpool

Welcome All! We are delighted to welcome you into our organization and hope you will enjoy your association as much as we look forward to getting to know you.

Life Members

We are also pleased to announce our first Life Members:

- Glen Thomson
- Gary Corippo
- Obbie Atkinson
- Al Schade
- Allen Smith
- William Sima
- Marty Martin

Congratulations to you all for your dedication and your contribution to, and your belief in, the longevity of the Squadron.

Recruiter of the Month

Also by Col. Obbie Atkinson

Congratulation to our busy Col. Gary Corippo!! Recruiting three new members in June, Gary has been awarded 3 Estrella Squadron Mess Passes and has a head start on the recruiter of the year award.

Remember, a drawing will be held at the July meeting for the new recruits. One of them will receive a thrilling ride with a thrilling pilot in an authentic warbird!

Recruiters, be sure to tell your recruit prospects that a monthly drawing is held for new recruits, awarding one of them a free ride even greater than Disneyland!!

(Editor's Note. Col. Atkinson, doing his usual superb job, is making the membership drive a huge success to say nothing of the Life Member

## 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

OPEN

#### Photo

Wally Engle

### JOINT CAF/EWM

#### Joint Site Improvements

Glen Thomson

#### Joint Community Events

Committee  
Gary Corippo

Program!!) Remember all, be sure that the new member puts YOUR name on the application as a sponsor so you will be given the proper credit. Thanks Obbie for your constant efforts.

## Flight Leader Program

Despite the Herculean efforts of Col. Bob Singleton the Flight Leader program seems to be drifting somewhat aimlessly instead of being one of the unifying groups of the organization.

One of our main problems is being able to come up with Docents for the three days a week that the Museum is open. The following was received from Col. Singleton this week.

"For your information, these Squadron members volunteered the following to me: 'If you are short of Docents for the Museum, give me a call and I will help out if I possibly can.

Dori Foxworthy - Alpha Flight  
Harry Hines - Golf Flight  
Lloyd Needham - Golf Flight'

We used these members outside of their regular Flight a number of times in the past years. They have been more than willing to step up to the plate when needed. We can use more volunteers as backup to make sure that our facilities are open to the public as advertised.

There are only two regular, scheduled CAF events - the Museum open about 13 days a month and the Dinner Meeting open one day a month. The Flights provide the members that are needed for these events. The Squadron depends on the personnel from the Flights to make sure that our doors are open and that we are hosts to the public as well as our own membership."

By fulfilling the need for Docents we are helping to retain our status as a Museum approved at the State and

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Federal level and also our hoped for approval by other Museum entities. Obviously there are those who cannot contribute their time because of business or other understandable reasons. There are those, however, who perhaps feel that standing Docent duty is a little beneath thier dignity or status. Please dissuade yourselves from this idea because those who take on this task are universally appreciated and respected for their help.

Your present administration is of the opinion that the reasons for the existence of the Program have become somewhat obscured because of misinterpretation and a lack of clear and concise instructions and requirements, however modest.

In a sincere effort to clarify some of the questions with regard to the Flight Leader Program, Cols. Toomey and Miller will sponsor an informal meeting of all Flight Leaders on Saturday Noon, August 7, 1999 at the Meeting Hall. Hot dogs and associated condiments will be available to the F/Ls and issues regarding the program will be up for discussion. This will not be a dragged out meeting because it is believed that most issues can be solved quite readily if an understanding of what is required is openly discussed. This is August 7, NOT July 7 since July already seems to have a number of meetings on the books.

## The Water Cooler is Pure and Wholesome Again

Those of you who have hesitantly peered into the open reservoir of the water cooler lately will be pleased and relieved to know that the green penicillin-like experiment on the bottom has been discontinued courtesy

organization needs to be better structured and organized if only because we have grown in so many ways and because we have so much going on.

This is no longer a one hangar, small group operation and, quite frankly, certain procedures need to be considered and installed to make it function more like the business it is.

Over the next few months we intend to hold some open and informal meetings in order to tap some of the thoughts of the membership with regard to our future. We have long believed that quite a few members have the feeling that only a few people have a voice in the administration of the organization. We are also well aware of the fact that there are a number of individuals within the membership with vast executive and managerial expertise who could be called upon to offer proven and effective advice regarding improved methods of operation. These people have to be asked, however, and they have to be assured that their interest will be considered and not just passed over in a headlong rush toward some undefined and nebulous goal.

Bear with us folks. We are strong believers in what we are all about and we want nothing short of a strong and healthy organization that will be an asset to the community and a reflection of our principles.

## CAF Staff Meeting Minutes 16 June 1999

Submitted by Col. Marty Martin, Adjutant  
Paraphrased for length by Editor

Meeting called to order by Col. Toomey. Roll call of Staff officers present: Cols. Betty Miller, Thomson, Himes, Martin, Cromwell, Schade and Toomey. Other members present: George Marrett, Tom Gabele, Mike Sauter, and Marty Wright, PX Chair, Cols. Corippo, Atkinson and Chuck Miller.

Copies of the minutes of the May 19, 1999 meeting were passed out to each attendee and a motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was passed.

Col. Himes gave a financial report on receipts and disbursements for the month of June 1999. Col. Himes reported that we still have a few bills outstanding from the Air Show but the overall picture looks very good. A motion was made to accept the financial report as read. Motion passed. A copy of the financial report is attached to the minutes.

### Old Business

Col. Toomey reported that the committee is still working on the agreement letter to the CAF

Col. Toomey reported on the new signs in front of the buildings.

Col. Thomson reported on the work that needs to be done on the web page. A motion was made and seconded to pay \$120.00 to TCSN for the start up of our web page and the motion passed.

Col. Atkinson reported on how new members could pay their Lifetime Membership in minimum payments and the total of \$400. be paid in 12 months from start date.

### New Business

Col. Corippo reported on the availability of a used commercial grade video projection system. The motion was made to and seconded to buy the system for \$2,400. The motion was passed.

Congratulations are also in order to Betty and Chuck Miller for their hard work in putting on a great Air Show.

Congratulations are also in order to all the Air Show Committee persons who worked so hard to put on the Show. Thank you all, each and every one.

Col. Conrad L. Martin, Adjutant

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Col. Conrad L. Martin, Adjutant

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To:

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