

Estrella Squadron Newsletter



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

Volume X Number 11

Paso Robles, California

November 1999

Inside:

November Meeting Page 1

Building Progress Page 1

Library Stairs Page 2

Museum Additions Page 2

"Ground School Plus"
Program in the Works
Page 2

Some More Interesting
Possibilities Page 3

Brief Biography of
Roy T. Passon Page 3

"One More Time" Page 4

Annual Christmas Party
Page 4

Still Looking Page 4

November Meeting

The November Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 1999 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm.

Our dinner for the evening will be barbecued chicken which should be enjoyed by all.

Our program for the evening will be special, provided by new member, Ray Passon, who was a member of the famous Lockheed "Skunk Works" during some of the most interesting and exotic years of this incredible group.

A brief biography of Ray's career appears on page 3.

Note!!

We are continuing to require that reservations be made for the dinner meetings. This is going to go on forever, we hope, so get used to it. We've had some complaints about some of the meals and part of the reason for it is because we don't have a decent count on the number of people coming and we have had to buy more meat, for instance, than we can use. Since a good part of the reason for having meals is to make some money we feel we have to freeze the extra meat and other stuff and maybe it isn't quite as good the next time around because it has been held too long.

Soooo, if we know how much to buy we can provide much better meals and if we

know what the count is going to be we can buy smarter. Many, many other groups require reservations and some of them don't even have volunteer cooks and food prep help. Since we do all this "in house" with the members it seems to me that the least we can do is to try to cooperate to make the food preparation as efficient and economical as possible.

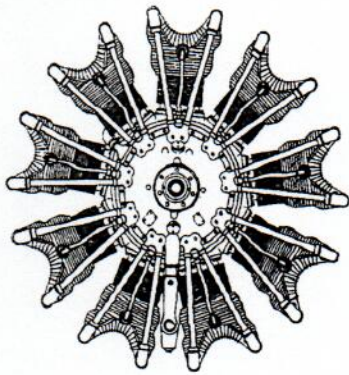
So, please call the Hangar, primarily, 227-0440 and leave a message, or Betty Miller 466-1212 or Bruce Toomey 238-9266 (after 9:00am) and just let us know who and how many.

(We acknowledge the fact that many of you have been doing so all along and we appreciate it!)

Thank you!!

Building Progress

As usual, every time one turns around something new is happening at the site. We now have a finished, more or less, office above the restrooms in the Museum hangar for our Curator. Carpeting is in place and furniture moved in, how I don't know, because the steel stairs are a bit steep and narrow and it must have been a real chore to get desks and file cabinets up there. It's so nice to have young strong members aboard! What! you say it was the same old geezer patrol who moved all that stuff? Oh, a combination of the two, OK! Anyway it's done and not only provides the Museum with an office but gives us some badly needed storage space in



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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

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Paso Robles, CA 93446

(Bruce Toomey has no business connection with or financial interest in Toomey Racing).



the meeting room. We even have the huge Xerox machine moved from the men's room so one does not have to sit on the pot to copy stuff! Just kidding, but the additional room does help.

We also have a new quiet compressor on the freezer in the kitchen so we don't have to strain to hear the speakers over the gut wrenching thrashing of the old compressor.

A good used Wolfe (brand) stove was found in Modesto a couple of weeks ago by Gary Corippo but it was mostly grill with only two burners and the Chefs wanted more burners. During a visit to the same store while in Modesto on my regular Tuesday trip for son Stuart's business, I just happened to be there when a six burner Wolfe stove arrived on consignment. It seemed to be exactly what we needed so after a couple of quick phone calls I snapped it up and will bring it down NEXT Tuesday. We will then have just about everything we need in the way of cooking ranges and stoves.

Our thanks to Gary for finding this used equipment store in the first place.

Library Stairs

In addition to all of the goodies above you will all be amazed at the sight of new stairs leading to what will be our reference and research library over the kitchen, bar and storage area in the meeting hall! These stairs will open up a huge area which can be a protected area for all of the books we received from the John Davis estate as well as others that are arriving weekly. The concept of a true research and resource area that was sort of loosely planned for years ago is about to become a reality.

So...everywhere you look there is progress!

Museum Additions

The Museum continues to look better and better with new items being added weekly. We have now obtained a working simulator from the Kyodo group which is presently sort of hidden behind some big display boards. This is a temporary situation because the machine is pretty delicate and we don't need untrained people hauling and yanking on the controls without COMPLETE supervision. The plan is that we will eventually have it set up either to use as a true training tool or for hands on supervised display or both.

It was not a gift but as a working machine it was considered a really great buy and something that would be of real value to us in the immediate future.

You will also note than Col. Wayne King has brought the F-4 cockpit back to the Museum complete with hand build trailer and access ladder. This restoration was an enormous effort on the part of Wayne and friends and we are delighted to have it on the premises now that most of the California airshows are over for the year.

Wayne has hauled this around for a year and a half to airshows and other events and has spread the name of the Museum far and wide. Many more people have been exposed to it than would have been if it had just sat here on the site. It is to be hoped that it will again be on the airshow trail for next year's season if Wayne wants to take on the chore again or maybe someone else can be talked into doing so. It's a real eye catcher in any event and we owe a great deal to Wayne for this wonderful restoration.

"Ground School Plus"

Program In The Works

Thanks to the efforts of Col. Marty Martin and others there is a move afoot to start up a real aviation

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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 & Museum
Phone
227-0440**

FAX 238-9317

Museum Hours

- Wednesday 2pm - 4pm
- Saturday 10am - 2pm
- Sunday 12 noon - 2pm

In reality, whenever the gate is open!

ground school operation within the Museum organization which could eventually lead to flight instruction and pilot licensing. This would be available to members only and would utilize the new simulator mentioned earlier and could lead to actual flight time in the L-16 and perhaps other aircraft.

This would be a wonderfully fortuitous dual development both for the Museum as well as for those who would like to learn to fly or renew their ticket.

Marty Marty has worked for years with the EAA's Young Eagles program of introducing young people to aviation by arranging for them to have free rides in EAA member's aircraft to stimulate their interest. This has been a highly successful endeavor and literally thousands of young people have been able to avail themselves of this program. Marty is also interested in a true Cadet Program that would really work. We have tried to do something like this in the past but it takes people who are truly dedicated to making it work to bring it to fruition and keep it going.

The planning for all of this is in the early stages but we will be hearing more about it from Marty as time goes by. In the meantime, if you are interested in any aspect of the above programs please contact Marty and let him know of your interest. If we could build a strong cadre of younger people within the organization we would be helping them as well as providing for the longevity of the Museum. Two very worthwhile programs!! Marty's number is 226-9058.

Some More Interesting Possibilities

When some of us went to Cal Poly to get the Titan Missile and components a year ago or so we couldn't help but notice a beautiful F104 Starfighter on static display sort of tucked up behind

the former Aero Hangar on the college grounds. This is one strikingly beautiful aircraft and we looked at it wistfully thinking how great it would look at the Museum.

We are thrilled to say that one of our good members, Col. Ron Mullisen, former Squadron Exec. Officer and current Cal Poly Professor is making a serious attempt to get this for us. At this point we understand that he has the tentative agreement of the Cal Poly people and we are all just waiting to hear from NASA, the entity that actually controls the aircraft.

We may be a little out of line in talking about this before there is an actual commitment but this is such a class aircraft that we just can't contain ourselves.

In addition to the above, Col. Mullisen is making an additional effort to interest the Aero Faculty in the Museum itself by informing them of our progress with a research library and reminding them of the availability of historical aircraft and artifacts all of which he has mentioned as a possible asset for the Aeronautical Engineering Department.

Whatever happens, we wish to thank Col. Mullisen for his efforts and we'll keep our fingers crossed.

Brief Biography of Roy T. Passon

Roy retired from Lockheed Burbank in 1988 after 36 years with the company, 32 in the famous "Skunk Works" where his career spanned the period from the early days of the U-2 to the operational deployment of the F-117A Stealth Fighter.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA he grew up in the western suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio where he learned to fly while still

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

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Toomey

JOINT CAF/EWM

Joint Site Improvements

Glen Thomson

Joint Community Events

Committee
Gary Corippo

in high school. He worked briefly for NACA before enlisting in the Navy, too late to qualify for WWII flight training. During the late forties and early fifties Ray divided his time between attending UCLA and working as a flight instructor, charter pilot and mechanic at small airports in northern Ohio.

With a growing family he finally settled down in Southern California and took a "temporary" job at Lockheed which was during the midst of the Korean War buildup. After four years of mockup and flightline work on the F-94C and Constellation and with a short stint in Engineering, Ray was asked if he would like to work in the Skunk Works. His affirmative response was a momentous career decision. The Lockheed job was no longer temporary.

Over the next 32 years as a "beancounter" Ray was involved in every Skunk Works program and worked his way up to become Assistant General Manager and number two man under Ben Rich during the development and production of the F-117A. Ray's close association with Kelly Johnson and the men who followed him as heads of the Skunk Works provided an unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

"One More Time" A Walk

Down Memory Lane

Pushing another local organization just for fun, don't forget the upcoming play by the Pioneer Players which opens November 4 and then 5th, 6th & 7th and then again on the 11th, 12th & 13th. Reservations at 239-1638. It sounds like a lot of fun and the best part is that two of our own are featured, Betty Miller and Dorothy McBain!!

I think the price is \$10.00 on opening night and then \$14.00 after that for adults. Give it a try and support another group that has been around for at least 35 years!

Annual Christmas Party

Not to take anything away from our November Meeting's Dinner which should be great, we just wanted you to be informed in advance that we have prevailed upon Bob Miller and Rosemary Netto and crew to provide us with another Christmas Dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. This has become a real ritual and everyone enjoys it. We are indebted to Rosemary and Bob for agreeing to do this again.

We are also assured that Gary Ryan will be our speaker and may talk about his experiences in owning a Grumman Bearcat as well as providing us with some real professional music! We have tried to get him on several occasions in the past but he is usually tied up on some big time gig some place and we have never had a chance, as a group, to hear him.

Sounds like a good party so keep it in mind!

Still Looking

for a new newsletter Editor. We need some new blood and a new slant. It's fun so someone, give it a thought or two and give me a call 238-9266! BT

~~~~~

Short newsletter troops but many important things coming up including some serious decisions so stay tuned.

We will be in touch with the membership by special letters as the need arises.

Have a Great Thanksgiving!

5

**CAF VOLUNTEERS**

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:

**CAF FLIGHTS—MASTER SCHEDULE**

3/9/99

| MONTH                                                          | *****# DINNER MEETING *****                 |          | ** DOCENT PROGRAM ** |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
|                                                                | BACKUP                                      | DUTY     | BACKUP               |          |
| DUTY FLIGHTS & FLIGHT LEADERS                                  |                                             | FLIGHTS  | FLIGHTS              | FLIGHTS  |
| JAN                                                            | ALPHA                                       | BRAVO    | HOTEL                | JULIETT  |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR:                              | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR:                              | *        | *                    | *        |
| FEB                                                            | BRAVO                                       | ALPHA    | JULIETT              | HOTEL    |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR:                              | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR:                              | *        | *                    | *        |
| MAR                                                            | DELTA                                       | ECHO     | KILO                 | LIMA     |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: ART BRITTON 226-9627         | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR:                              | *        | *                    | *        |
| APR                                                            | ECHO                                        | DELTA    | LIMA                 | KILO     |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: COL RON MULLISEN 528-4686    | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: BILL CARLSON 595-7935        | *        | *                    | *        |
| MAY                                                            | FOXTROT                                     | GOLF     | MIKE                 | NOVEMBER |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: TOM WEISS 239-2637           | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: COL CONRAD MARTIN 226-9058   | *        | *                    | *        |
| JUNE                                                           | GOLF                                        | FOXTROT  | NOVEMBER             | MIKE     |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: COL DOUG MINER 239-1054      | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LEADER: AL DAVIS 238-3732         | *        | *                    | *        |
| JULY                                                           | HOTEL                                       | JULIETT  | ALPHA                | BRAVO    |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: DIRK HALE 237-0819           | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: ANDREW HENRY 237-2740        | *        | *                    | *        |
| AUG                                                            | JULIETT                                     | HOTEL    | BRAVO                | ALPHA    |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: EDWIN VINCIC 466-3758        | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: RON THOMPSON 237-2904        | *        | *                    | *        |
| SEPT                                                           | KILO                                        | LIMA     | DELTA                | ECHO     |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: LARRY CAMPO 238-7702         | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: COL CATHERINE DAVIS 466-2666 | *        | *                    | *        |
| OCT                                                            | LIMA                                        | KILO     | ECHO                 | DELTA    |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: COL BOB SINGLETON 239-2084   | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: ARNOLD HERMANSEN 467-3343    | *        | *                    | *        |
| NOV                                                            | MIKE                                        | NOVEMBER | FOXTROT              | GOLF     |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: COL KENNY FINCH 238-1199     | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR:                              | *        | *                    | *        |
| DEC                                                            | NOVEMBER                                    | MIKE     | GOLF                 | FOXTROT  |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: RICHARD MATTSON 434-0360     | *        | *                    | *        |
|                                                                | Co FLIGHT LDR: WALLY ENGLE 227-0245         | *        | *                    | *        |
| * These two flights work as a team                             |                                             |          |                      |          |
| ANY QUESTIONS? CALL BOB SINGLETON, FLIGHT COORDINATOR 239-2084 |                                             |          |                      |          |
| (flight master sched)                                          |                                             |          |                      |          |

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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To:

6