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Can also be used to reach
personnel at the Museum

Museum Hours
Saturday 10am - 4pm
Sunday 12n - 3pm
or whenever the gate is
open!

Estrella Warbird Museum
Estrella Squadron Newsletter



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

Volume XII Number 1 Paso Robles, California January 2001

January Meeting

The January Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2001 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6pm and Dinner at 7pm.

Chef John Himes has indicated that the meal for the evening will be a chicken dinner. If it is half as good as the Christmas dinner it will be superb.

Reservations are a Must.
Call 227-0440

Our speaker for the meeting will be Jack Olson who recently celebrated his 72nd birthday by jumping out of a perfectly good airplane at 13,000 feet in tandem with Dave Hughes, an experienced jumper and jump instructor out of Lopmoc Airport. They made a 5,000 foot free fall before opening their chute at about 8,000 feet for a soft landing on the Lompoc Valley floor.

Olson said he got some inspiration from a bumper sticker which read, "take risks not to escape life but to prevent life from escaping!!"

Born in Rockford, Ill in the '20s Jack and Cherri Olson were childhood sweethearts and were married in Rockford on October 21, 1950 in the Third Presbyterian

Church They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given in their honor at the Danish Care Center in Atascadero They had moved to Santa Barbara in 1959 and to Paso Robles in 1995.

Mrs. Olson worked for many years as an office manager and bookkeeper in the insurance and property development industries and was active in the Republican Women's Club, Kiwanis Auxiliary and Masonic Eastern Star. She is also an ordained elder and deacon in the Presbyterian Church, and served actively as both Treasurer and Financial Secretary of the Church Mrs. Olson was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 1996.

Jack Olson worked as a manager and salesman in the paint and wallpaper and art supply business in Santa Barbara. He served honorably in the U.S. Army medical corps as a staff sergeant. He is also an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church, a 32nd degree Mason, Shriner, former member of Kiwanis and a junior high Sunday school teacher and caregiver. He volunteers his time at the Danish Care Center and has become a strong supporter of the Atascadero High School Chamber Choir.

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Committee Chairs

Program

George Marrett
466-7640

Dinners

John Himes
466-6680

Membership
Obbie Atkinson
238-9212

Grounds
John Kendall

Air Show
Chuck Miller
466-1212

Ground Equipment
Dave Geiger
239-1598

Insurance
Brian Webster
237-0222

Public Relations & Media
Catherine Paine

Refreshments
Tom Gabele 237-1567

Photo
Wally Engle
227-0245

Site Improvements
Glen Thomson
238-4858

Newsletter Editor
Bruce Toomey
238-9266

Activities
OPEN

We welcome Jack as our speaker and hope there will be a good turnout to hear him.

December Board Meeting

In view of the fact that we could not come up with a quorum the December Board Meeting was

called off. A number of things were informally discussed among those in attendance but no decisions were forthcoming.

Some Pleas Are Being Answered!!

If you have been thinking that the front of Thomson Hall would continue to look like a horticultural disaster forever, take another look!! Our grounds and landscaping Committee Chairman, John "Green Thumb" Kendall has done it again!! At last look (a few days ago) the entire right front side of the area had been rototilled, cleaned out, raked and the poor plants that were still struggling for existence have been given some kind attention, some water and they look GOOD.

Thank you John and also thanks to Ron Thompson who originally bought the plants out of his own pocket and put them in place.. It must have been somewhat disheartening for Ron to see the hot summer sun bake these plants since we didn't have the irrigation system set up to do the front of the building until almost too late. There was some desultory hand watering by a few but it just wasn't enough.

The place looks a heck of a lot better! And we do need some new planting whether it be the same type of plant or something more hardy.

Aviation Seminar To Discuss Charts

All pilots, either VFR or Instrument Rated, new or tenured, are urged to attend the SLO-FAA Aviation Safety Seminar Program

on Tuesday, January 6, 2001. The free program will be held at the SLO Veterans Hall from 6:30 to 9:00 pm.

The seminar is a non-profit, public service organization that conducts free bi-monthly. The program on January 9 is called "All You Want To Know About Jeppesen and FAA Airway Charts". Jim Terpstra, vice president of Airway Charting for Jeppesen-Sanderson will make a presentation on the full understanding and effective use of the Jeppesen and FAA air navigation charting system. Included will be a review of many recent changes and improvements designed to simplify use and enhance access of commonly used aeronautical charting data.

Reservations are not required and refreshments will be served. For more information call Patrick Duncan at 466-9725.

Kitchen Progress

The upper ductwork has been completed for the stove area all the way through the roof. We are now waiting for the contractor to do the rest of the work above and below the library floor level to connect the actual ducting to the hood. It is coming along and while it probably won't be done by the January meeting it should be finished up soon thereafter.

This will make a big difference and with some additional fire extinguisher installation we should have an operating and approved cooking area! At that point we will be able to utilize the whole of Thomson Hall as it was meant to be used and begin to make some real money for the benefit of the

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Estrella Squadron Newsletter

is published monthly as an unofficial and voluntary contribution. Contents and opinions, other than byline columns and Letters to the Editor, are the sole responsibility of the Editor. Bruce MacE. Toomey, unless otherwise noted.

Submissions for inclusion are not only welcomed but solicited, including articles, display and classified ads, etc.

Please send all submissions to the Editor at Box 3065, Paso Robles, CA 93447 or FAX to (805) 238-9516 or email to bruce@toomey.com

Graphics, computer layout, design and use of copier as well as paper and other supplies are the contribution of Stuart Toomey and

Toomey Racing USA
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Bruce Toomey has no business connection with or financial interest in

entire Museum It has been a lot of work by a lot of people and we owe them a great many thanks.

Donations

This is as good a time as any to mention the fact that Gene White of White's Drywall in San Luis Obispo donated all the dry wall for the west side of the new library. Not only that, when it got to be a little too much for our own crew to install he sent a couple of his staff to erect all the rest of what he had already donated! This is what's known as real help and is truly appreciated. As a token of our esteem we would like to make Gene a Museum Member for a year with all the wonderful(?) benefits thereof and would like to see him for a few dinner meetings when he gets a chance.

When you have your next dry wall project in mind, please remember Gene and all those other contractors who have been so generous with material and help.



President's Corner

I hope you have all recovered from the Holiday Rush of too much food and shopping, so that you are ready for New Years! Happy 2001!!

Our Thanks to...

All of you who called in and made a reservation for the Christmas Dinner. **Chef John Himes** outdid himself with a marvelous Prime Rib Dinner! We will continue to have these great meals if you will all keep up the good work and call in for reservations.

January Tasks

Volunteers to help prepare some movable wall panels for the Hangar Museum. (These can be assembled in sections at your home and then reassembled at the museum) Call me at 466-1212 if you can help out.

Airshow Update

The 2001 Paso Robles Airshow, sponsored by the Estrella Warbird Museum and the City of Paso Robles, is scheduled for **Sunday, September 9, 2001**. This year's theme is, "**Aviation through the Ages- Past, Present and Future**" The show will be preceded by a parade with military, civic organizations, a band and antique cars.

We hope to not only offer the ever-popular pre-show Dinner Dance, but a "Meet the Performers" cocktail party for Sponsors and Airshow enthusiasts as well. The setting will

be set in the tropics and cover the 1940-1950-1960 time period.

Airshow Director Chuck Miller and I attended the ICAS (International Council of Air Shows) Conference in Las Vegas December 3-7. We were able to split up and attend most of the seminars offered as well as sign up some of the acts for the 2001 Paso Robles Air Show. The US Navy Blue Angels announced their 2001 Air Show schedule the second day of the conference. Unfortunately they are only doing 3 shows in California in 2001 and we are not one of them. The emphasis is on 2 day air shows for 2001, mostly at military bases (Lemoor, Fleet Week in Alameda and El Centro made the California cut) We will hear if the US Navy Leapfrogs will be in attendance at our Paso Robles show around the middle of January.

On the plus side, firm commitments so far are a newly designed act from the "Silver Wings" with wing-walker, Margi Stivers performing on a Stearman aircraft; the Military heritage "Salute to Veterans" with **John Colver** and his AT-6G/SNJ aircraft and **Steve Stavrakakis** and his 'Wild Thing', an all new Zlin 50 LS (all-metal, low wing monoplane) built in the Czech Republic for extreme aerobatics.

The 2001 Airshow will feature the US Military; with participation from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine. A Air Show Military Subcommittee consisting of Rear Admiral Mac Gleim, USN; Brig. Gen. Rick Thomas, USA; LT Col. Larry Kimmel, USANG; LT Col. Designate Karen Mastantuono, USANG; Col Ed Blomgren, USAF; LT Col. "Bear" Handshy, USAF, will be meeting in early January to set up the pre-show parade and military portion of the 2001 Airshow.

The first regular 2001 Airshow Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2001 at 1900 hours in Thomson Hall. Anyone interested in participating on one of the many committees is welcome to attend.

Facility Use

You will notice a calendar above the Volunteer Hour sheet. This shows dates of Regularly scheduled meetings that are held in Thomson Hall. All meetings must be scheduled in advance and with permission from the Board of Directors. Please contact me if you have questions or requests. (466-1212)

Betty Miller
President

DINNER RESERVATIONS PLEASE!!!

227-0440 227-0440 227-0440

Safety! Safety!

by John Cromwell, Safety Officer

Safety only works when everyone is involved.

We had our first official safety meeting on the 6th of December at 1745 Hr. That is just before the happy hour for the December Meeting. By the way, how about that meal and entertainment!!

The meeting was short of participants but maybe some of you didn't get the word. Perhaps we will do better next time.

We started forming the Safety Committee with Al Schade representing maintenance and Fred Thacker taking vehicles. We still need a representative for Outdoor

Displays and Signage (No parking, fire extinguishers, etc.)

Areas that were discussed included Flammable storage, child safety on outside displays, smoking in the hangar and signage.

Well, I'll quit here and save some stuff for the next newsletter We will have another meeting prior to the dinner on January 3, 2001 and Happy New Year to All!!

(Ed. Note. All Board members, BE THERE. Let's support this effort)

Letters to the Editor Column

(We have longed hoped to be able to have this column but have never received permission to publish the few letters we have received.)

This column represents the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the Museum Board or Squadron Members.

To the Estrella Squadron Newsletter:

Our speaker at the 4 October meeting described himself as a former Lockheed production test pilot and a U-2 pilot who flew 27 missions over the USSR for the CIA. He was an interesting and amusing speaker. He was also dead wrong about most of the things he told us. I worked at the Skunk Works from early 1956 (6 months after the first flight of the U-2 and four months before it was first deployed in England) until I retired in 1988. I was involved with the U-2 Program just about every day of my working life at Lockheed. I have firsthand knowledge to refute many of Mr. Layman's misstatements. In addition, I have consulted with out former

Lockheed managers in both Turkey and Japan as well as former CIA U-2 pilot, Marty Knutson. They have never heard of him.. Also, the most current and authoritative source for the history of the U-2 program from inception to the early 1960's is the newly published book, "The U-2 Spyplane - Toward The Unknown" by Chris Pocock, Schiffer Military History Books. (I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the complete history of this amazing aircraft and it's place in history.) This book refutes practically everything the man said.

All the evidence says that Mr. Layman was not a U-2 pilot for Lockheed or the CIA. I am personally very disturbed about his attack on Francis Gary Powers. Frank Powers (as he was known to those who really knew him) was shot down by a SA-2 missile at 70,000 feet. After his trial the U.S. State Department determined that he had not violated his contract with the CIA. He was unequivocally cleared by an independent Board of Inquiry as endorsed by President Kennedy, awarded the CIA Intelligence Medal and a posthumous Distinguished Flying Cross from the USAF. Today he is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.

I don't know what motivates Mr. Layman to make speeches like this, but I believe he tarnishes the reputation and memory of the many fine people and brave pilots at Lockheed and in the Government who participated in the U-2 program. The list of his incorrect statements is too long to enumerate here. I just want the members of the Estrella Squadron

to be aware that they did not hear the true facts about the U-2 and it's role in the Cold War at our October Meeting.

Ray Passon

31 October, 2000

Ed. Note Ray is a Member of the Squadron and a voluntary Docent at the Museum)

Ed. Notes

As we start our 12th year of existence as an organization I would like to extend my personal Best Wishes for the coming year to all of you. I especially want to welcome new or fairly new members and hope that you will have as much fun in the future as we have had in the past.

We have created something to be proud of for ourselves and our community and we are helping to educate coming generations to the fact that what we enjoy in our country and our way of life does not come without sacrifice and effort.

We have a great thing going and with improvements soon to be realized we will be in a position to carry out moat of the dreams that many of us have had since our inception. I hope everyone will continue to "hang in there" and contribute of their time, money and energy toward the success of our Museum .

I would also like to make known my special thanks to our dear hardworking Docents; Larry Campo who has volunteered for every Sarturday AM shift. Dick Blomquist who mops out the restrooms and looks for all kinds

of grunt work that most of us would rather overlook, the Weiss's who work together and apart as needed and are always filling shift holes, Art Britton who always asks for more shifts, Gary Corippo who volunteers for Sunday shifts on short notice and who always has a project going, Mary Chambers for being so helpful and who overlooks my mistakes in assignments, Bob Singleton who still takes odd shifts on short or no notice; Mary Baiamonte for working nights as a CHP Dispatcher and Saturdays at the Museum; Ray Passon for Sunday shifts when most of us are home. Without these volunteers we would not be a Mueum!!

**A Happy and Prosperous
New Year to You All!!!!**

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Docent Shift Assignments

As of 12/29/00

January 2001

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Docent Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Sat 06		OPEN	
Sat 06	1 - 4	R. Blomquist	227-0362
Sun 07	12 - 3	R. Passon	466-7234
Sat.13	10 - 1	L. Campo	238-7702
Sat 13	1 - 4	M. Chambers	239-2888
Sun 14	12 - 3	A. Britton	239-2637
Sat 20	10 - 1	L. Campo	238-7702
Sat 20	1 - 4	T. Weiss	239-2637
Sun 21	12 - 3	G. Corippo	238-2020
Sat 27	10 - 1	L. Campo	238-7702
Sat 27	1 - 4	R Blomquist	227-0362
Sun 28	12 - 3	A. Britton	239-2637

Please call Bruce Toomey 238-9266 if you can fill in on one of the open shifts.

Larry Campo may or may not be back from vacation for the Saturday January 6 shift.
Could we get a possible volunteer??

DOCENTFM

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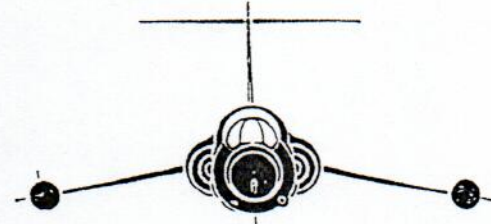
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