

Estrella Warbird Museum

Estrella Squadron Newsletter



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

Volume XII Number 6 Paso Robles, California

June 2001

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USMC Ret.
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Will Irwin, MD

Museum Information

Phone (805) 227-0440
(Machine Answered)

(FAX 238-9317)

Can also be used to reach
personnel at the Museum)

Museum Hours

Friday 2-6
Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-3

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 570
Paso Robles, CA 93447
Web Site
<http://www.tcsn.net/ewm>

June Meeting

The June Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2001 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

John Himes along with his ever faithful crew has indicated that we will be having Barbecued Beef or Roast Beef depending on the heat and which way the wind is blowing!!

Reservations please 227-0440

Our program for the evening will be provided by our own Karl Haeuser whose picture appeared on the front page of the Living Section of the Sunday, May 27th Tribune along with that of Dave Rowe, another long time member. Both were shot down during W.W.II, Karl by the Germans and Dave Rowe by "friendly fire" from the Russians! Karl spent nine months in a Nazi prison camp in Poland and endured a 500 mile "Death March" back to Germany from Poland as the Allied troops were closing in.

Karl is a dedicated model builder and has a fantastic display at the Pioneer Museum. All of his models are laboriously researched as to markings and art work on the planes as flown by local Paso Robles pilots or crewmen.

This will be a most interesting evening and all are encouraged to be there. A short statement from Karl appears on page 5.

New Officers and Board Members Elected

At the Annual Board Meeting of May 16, 2001, member Wally Engle was elected to the Board as President of the Board of Directors. Also elected were Paul Clark as Vice President and Will Irwin as Secretary of the Board as well as Conrad Martin as Treasurer.

Other new Board members elected were Brian Webster, Rosemary Netto and Catherine Paine to replace Chuck and Betty Miller whose one year term was expiring and Gary Corippo, who had resigned a month earlier.

Wally Engle has been a very busy member for a number of years having done everything from being a Docent to becoming our official photographer (for which we have been most grateful!) as well as a constant volunteer for numerous endeavors. He comes under the Unsung Heroes Department because he does all of this with little fanfare so we are enclosing a brief biography of Wally just to give everyone an idea as to his past history which will be noted as being of extreme value to our organization.

Brian Webster is well-known as our Aviation Insurance expert and has been a Life Member, along with his wife Marilyn, for several years. Both

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program

George Marrett
466-7640

Dinners

John Himes
466-6680

Membership

Obbie Atkinson
238-9212

Grounds

John Kendall
239-8029

Airshow

Chuck Miller
466-1212

Ground Equipment

Dave Geiger
239-1598

Insurance

Brian Webster
237-0222

Public Relations & Media

Catherine Paine
239-2274

Refreshments

Tom Gabele
237-1567

Site Improvements

Glen Thomson
238-4858

Research Librarian

K.O. Eckland
466-5373

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Toomey
238-9266

have been working members since they first joined.

Rosemary Netto needs no introduction to anyone who has been a member for more than a couple of years. As our original first combination secretary, record keeper, correspondent, financial officer, CAF Colonel, chief cook, occasional newsletter writer and just about every other job that needed attention, Rosemary has handled the task. We most pleased that she has agreed to become a Board Member.

Catherine Paine and her husband, David, joined the Squadron over a year ago and being instantly recognized as a real "get it done" type Catherine was inveigled into becoming our PIO (public information officer) and general media contact person. She is doing an excellent job and our media exposure has never been better. She is a most welcome new Member of the Board.

So that's it troops for the new members of the Board for the coming year. We have some really competent and dedicated people on the Board and I think every member can expect to see a resurgence of a positive attitude with regard to our upcoming projects.

Don't forget, although the Board runs the Museum, for all intents and purposes, all of the meetings and information are completely open to the membership. They would LIKE your input, either in person at a meeting or by correspondence if you prefer.

The Board is NOT a little clique running things like a private club. No one knows better than the Board members that the Squadron members are the volunteers and life's blood of the Museum. Those of you, however, who think that the Board members just sit

around and pontificate have to remember one thing: of all the members one sees at the Museum day after day doing all kinds of jobs, chances are that they are members of the Board, with a number of notable exceptions.

The other group of regulars are the Docents who give of their time on a regular basis to enable us to present a good image to the visiting public.

There are a lot of good people working to create what we envisioned in our original Mission statement and they all deserve your support. If you have suggestions for improvement the Board will be more than pleased to hear from you.

Summer Hours Now In Effect for Museum

As of Memorial Day we add Friday from 2pm to 6pm to our other regular days of 10am to 4pm Saturdays and 12 noon to 3pm Sundays. This will be in effect until Labor Day.

It seems that our original third day, which was Wednesday, was notable for being totally without visitors almost every week. So... acting upon the advice of our Docents we will again try the Friday shift as we did toward the end of last year's summer season. Our worthy Docents should check the schedule on page 7(?)

Change Of Date For July Meeting

Since our July Meeting date falls on July 4 it has been decided to move the meeting date to July 11. Please mark your calendars accordingly and we will try to inform you again in the next newsletter.

The Estrella Squadron Newsletter is published monthly as an unofficial and voluntary contribution. Content and opinions, other than by-line columns are the sole responsibility of the Editor, Bruce MacE. Toomey unless otherwise noted. Submissions for inclusion are welcomed and requested

Photocopying, paper and supplies are the contribution of Stuart Toomey and Toomey Racing, USA of Paso Robles

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

Brief Bio of Wally Engle

Wallis C. Engle

Date of Birth: May 10, 1935

Date of Marriage: January 3, 1983

- Wife: Sandra

Established residency in Paso Robles, California - 1997

Established membership with Estrella Warbird Museum - 1998

Staff Engineer for the Xerox Corporation 1969 to 1994; early retirement.

One of the Principal Members of the Quality Team that won the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 1990

One of the Principal Members of the Facilitation Team aiding in achieving cultural change required within the Xerox Corporation to achieve this prestigious Award, and to improve Customer Satisfaction.

Served in the military with the California National Guard - 1953 to 1961 - in various units, finishing in the 40th Division, 143rd Evacuation Hospital.

During the rest of the nearly forty years in the design and engineering discipline. Wally worked for the Farr Company, National Cash Register, Computer Division, and the Aerospace Corporation. These varied endeavors allowed Wally to work on air filtration systems for locomotives, main frame computers, the packaging of physics experiments for earth and satellite environments, and finally, Laser Color and Black/White Printers. Wally's last role in 'Corporate America' involved guiding combined groups of engineers, marketing, service and sales personnel to achieve customer satisfaction for the product in design.

Years before retiring, Wally attended photography school to acquire knowledge necessary to own and operate *Keepsake Images Photography* which is his current vocation and avocation.

Restoration News

Our Restoration Chief, Al Schade, has come up with a plan to take advantage of all those who say they would like to work on airplanes but who either don't show up or if they do there is so much else going on that its hard to take the time to get them organized.

Al has made up half a dozen different organizational charts and plans for restoration work, over the years, none of which have attracted the attention they warranted. Granted, we do have several excellent volunteers who have shouldered most of the work of restoration but we still need more.

Al has decided to break down some of the

Al has decided to break down some of the overall jobs into smaller tasks which could be handled by those with various talents and abilities.

So, as a consequence we are listing three tasks that we need accomplished in order to get the Navion and other projects moving along.

1. We need someone to spray zinc chromate inside the cockpit area.

2. We need a tailpipe cover for the A-7. This can be plywood or something better if you can think of something. This is an item that could be made in one's garage by any good home craftsman.

3. We need someone who can rivet the nose section of the F-86.

Now, if you have some knowledge in these areas, give Al a call and see what he needs. Talk about it in advance so things can be set up to do the job or so you will know what to do at home. Al is so busy when he is at the Museum that it's very difficult for him to break away and spend a lot of time with each person performing every task so find out in advance what is called for.

We will run these three items in the newsletter until they are done. After that we will add one or more to the list every month and see if we can't get some of this work organized.

Al comes all the way from Cambria on weekdays and weekends, week after week and month after month. Please show your support of his efforts by making a commitment. After all, this is for everyone not just a few. The Museum belongs to

the members. so lets not leave everything to those few who come out every weekend do ALL the work.

Bug Smashers Score Again!

At the request of several communities and organizations the Bug Smashers rallied again on this past Memorial Day and flew several sorties over various cities, parades, cemeteries and other gatherings around the Central Coast.

Included were Obbie Atkinson and son Dr. Obbie Atkinson in the brand new (to us) Aeronca Medic airplane, George Marrett and a friend in the L-5 and Bob Foote in his Varga.

Starting at 11:00am over Paso Robles, the flights were as follows:

11:03 over Templeton
11:06 over Atascadero
11:25 over Cambria
11:35 over Cayucos
11:45 over Los Osos

All of these were asked for by various groups and they really appreciate them. This is a great boon for the Museum and really gets our name out.

It might also be remembered that all of these flights are made at no expense to the Museum. Each of those pilot members mentioned above pay for their own gas and oil.

Hats Off to our intrepid Bug Smashers!!

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Estrella Warbird Museum.

May 16, 2001

Meeting called to order by Chairman. Glen Thomson.

Board members present, Atkinson. Clark. Davis. (Al). Engle. Irwin. Martin. Netto. Paine. Schade. Thomson. Toomey and Webster.

1. Minutes as printed in the monthly Newsletter were submitted. Will Irwin moved they be accepted. Al Schade seconded. Motion passed.

2. Conrad Martin gave the Treasurers Report

3. Chuck Miller gave the Airshow report. Chuck recently toured the new terminal building and reported that while they will not make their original target date, construction of the building should be complete well before the airshow. Chuck now has all civilian acts for the airshow confirmed. Numerous military acts are also confirmed and more are still in the works. The City has approached Chuck to get increased insurance coverage for the airshow. Chuck and Betty have approached different commercial airshow organizers. We will be receiving proposals shortly.

4. Bruce Toomey gave the Docents Report. The Docents are doing a tremendous job. Their help was especially appreciated

during the B-17 visit. The new Docent Handbook is presently being assembled.

5. Obbie Atkinson gave the membership report. Marty Wright is approaching wineries and Bruce Toomey is approaching airport tenants. Obbie then discussed the possibility of the Museum approaching the Red Cross and assisting them and possibly involving them in the airshow.

6. Although absent, Marty Wright reported to the Board that the Museum Gift Shop grossed \$208.

7. Although absent, George Marrett reported to the Board that Karl Haeuser, a former POW, would be the speaker at our next dinner meeting.

8. Al Schade gave the Restoration Report. Al first suggested that the Newsletter start listing specific tasks to be completed in order to inform the membership what needs to be completed and, hopefully, to create interest and get more of the members involved. Al then reported that the L-17 has one wing and the fuselage complete. Once the other wing is completed the wings and fuselage can be mated and the plane rest on its landing gear.

9. Betty Miller gave the Facilities Use Report. Dave Highland will be using the facility on June 16 and DP Industries will be using it on November 3. Betty then reported that the Museum had over 700 visitors for the B-17 weekend and many donations were given to the Museum. It was discussed that a fence was needed to control crowds

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and direct them through the Museum.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Glen Thomson nominated Wally Engle to the Board of Directors. The Board unanimously elected him to the Board.

2. Bruce Toomey gave the Nominating Committee Report. The Committee recommended the following slate of officers. President, Wally Engle; Vice President, Paul Clark; Secretary, Will Irwin; Treasurer, Conrad Martin. No other nominations were made. The slate of officers was unanimously elected by the Board.

3. Glen Thomson seated the 2001-2002 Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Museum hours will match what has been printed in the Brochure/Membership Application.

2. Glen Thomson stated that the Museum needs to establish its priorities. As an example, Glen discussed the nature and extent of the Museum's next building and whether it should be a hangar or a Museum. Al Schade moved that Glen write both a short range plan and a long range plan for the Museum. Al Davis seconded. Motion passed

3. Al Schade reported that the Casa Jet annual is due. Al will perform the annual but planes within the museum need to be moved around to accommodate the inspection.

4. Bruce Toomey will begin working on special name tags for life members.

There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul E. Clark, Secretary

More From Karl Haeuser

In 1942, at the age of 21 Karl Haeuser had seen soldiers "walking, walking, walking" at Camp Roberts near his Paso Robles home. "Walking was not for me", he decided. Flying fascinated him so he joined the Air Corps.

Waiting in the chow line on August 4, 1944 he heard on the loud speaker, "Need a volunteer turret gunner."

Haeuser was soon heading across the English Channel in *Mopsy* a twin-engine Douglas A-20 Havoc, a light attack bomber. This would be his eleventh combat mission.

Near Rouen, France, the A-20's tail was shot off and Haeuser made his first parachute jump. He was captured and transported to a Prisoner-of-War camp, Stalag Luft IV in Poland.

On January 31, 1945, the Germans opened the camp's gate and herded out the first of 8,000 allied airmen. Sgt. Haeuser and others would walk 500 miles in the next three months with their German guards evading the Russians who were closing in on Berlin.

About his war time experience, Haeuser says, "You wouldn't give a dime to do it over but you wouldn't take a million for the experience.

(PG 5)

Curator Office Habitable Again

No kidding! The jumble of stuff that had made it's way into the office in the Hangar has been cleaned out and the place sanitized by our two master cleanup, painting and reconstruction people, Betty Miller and Carol Weiss. Now they are tackling the back wall in the old kitchen area for more and better displays.

The newer computer is also up and running and the printer has been turned around from being jammed into the wall so that, miraculously, paper can be fed in and printed material taken out!

Carol has rounded up a whole slew of picture frames and is revitalizing them for the Museum etc. She is also doing the framing *at no cost to the Museum* and if you have had pictures framed you well know what generous offer this is especially in view of the fact that Carol is a professional framer!

The weird wooden divider is also in line for painting which will make it somewhat less of an eyesore.

This is called taking on the tasks that are necessary around the place, in case you wondered. Things DO happen, troops. Be a part of it!!

Some Landscape Help Needed

John Kendall, our devoted landscape chief used to have some help in cutting the lawns etc. Unfortunately the helper moved away so John has been doing all the work by himself and could really use some assistance. (cont'd).

John usually goes out on Thursdays, fairly early in the morning in the summer to avoid the heat, and later in the afternoon in the winter months. As he says the hours are flexible for anyone who would volunteer to help. John has been keeping care of our grounds for several years in his usual quiet and thorough way and the place always looks great.

Could someone call John at 239-8029 and offer some help? It would be much appreciated by everyone.

Air Show Tug Drivers Needed.

Our Registrar and Volunteer Assignment Director for the Air Show, Judy Crownover (not even a member and she does a tremendous amount of work for us!) has said that she has a need for tug drivers for everything from aircraft placement to passenger moving. This year the Show Management is taking a bit of a different approach to this problem.. John Cromwell, our Safety Chairman, has a video tape made by the Ground Marshaller Group at the Confederate Air Force. This a short but informative presentation as to how to properly handle ground operations during a show. Tug drivers will be given the opportunity to see and study this tape which should abate some of the apprehension with regard to handling the equipment and learning the sign language for proper marshaling of aircraft. A couple of short but fun TUG Schools will be offered for all those willing to help.

Therefore, prospective tug drivers, please contact Judy at 238-3426 and talk with her about volunteering. It's a great job and definitely an important one so get rid of some of the consternation by watching the tape and taking on the tug job.

F-4 Cockpit To Be Shown At St. Rose Annual BBQ!

On June 3rd, St. Rose Church will hold their annual BBQ which is always a lot of fun. This year they requested that we bring the F-4 cockpit to the BBQ as an interesting crowd pleaser. We are happy to do so and could use 2 - 4 volunteers to help kids in and out of the cockpit and take pictures for the kids to take home. We have not concluded our arrangements with the Church as yet but in any event, the BBQ is a great time and you can get some delicious food.

Give Betty Miller a call at 466-1212 if you can put in some time on June 3.

A Little Extra Air Show Stuff

Members of the Museum are reminded that tickets to the August 25th Dinner Dance and Show are limited to 350. In response to the complaints from some members that they were unable to get tickets because so many were given to sponsors, we are limiting the sponsor tickets somewhat to accommodate our own Members. **HOWEVER** you had better call for them very soon because they are going fast. Contact Betty Miller at 466-1212 for details.

Also

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Chuck and Betty Miller have been working like dogs, calling on prospective sponsors. They have done a super job but we STILL NEED MORE. Most of you out there know someone in business in the area you could call of for a donation. It's hard for some as I know only too well but it's for a good cause, the City is a co-sponsor with the Museum which also carries some weight. We realize that most of the local businesses are constantly tapped for funds for something or other but that's all part of being in a small town with a strong community spirit. The Museum is a local entity, a tourist destination, a patriotic organization and designed for local people and to memorialize those local people who fought for their country in ALL wars. It's a worthwhile addition to the town and you can be proud to represent it to your friends and acquaintances

Calendar of Coming Events June 2001

June 6, Wednesday Estrella Warbird Museum Dinner Meeting and Speaker 6:00pm, Thomson Hall.

June 20, Wednesday EWM Board of Directors Meeting 7:00pm. Thomson Hall. Open to all members.

June 21, Thursday Air Show Committee Meeting 7:00pm Thomson Hall

June 28, Thursday, Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:00pm, Thomson Hall

August 25, Saturday. Dinner Dance and Show. A Night in the Tropics, at the Museum. Social Hour at 6:00pm, Dinner 7:00pm and Show at 7:45pm. Dancing 9:00pm to ??.

August 26, Sunday 2:00pm Air Show Volunteers lunch and Show prep (T shirts, badges etc.) To be a volunteer one must call the Volunteer Coordinator, Judy Crownover at 238-3426.

September 8, Saturday Sponsor's Reception 6:00pm to 9:00pm for those sponsor packages of \$200.00 and above. This reception is not open to the public.

September 9, Sunday "28th Annual Paso Robles Air Show". Rollie Gates Entrance. Gates open at 8:00am. Parade at 11:00am to 12:30 pm Show at 12:30pm to .00pm.

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January 9, Wednesday. Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce "Mixer" at the Museum.

Look What We Have!!

43 Life Members, 23 New Ones Since the First of May!!



Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.

Life Members

- 1. Glen Thomson ✓
- 2. Obbie Atkinson ✓
- 3. Allen Smith ✓
- 4. Conrad Martin ✓
- 5. Gary Corippo ✓
- 6. Al Schade ✓
- 7 John Cromwell ✓
- 8. Ed Chidlaw ✓
- 9. Ken Grubb ✓
- 10. William Sima, MD ✓
- 11. Gerald Taylor ✓
- 12. Marty Wright ✓
- 13. Marilyn Webster ✓
- 14. Brian Webster ✓
- 15. Jim Pickens ✓
- 16. Arnold Hermansen ✓
- 17. Greg Sudderth ✓
- 18. Bob Kinsell ✓
- 19. James Bryant ✓
- 20. Bruce Toomey ✓
- 21. Kenny Finch ✓
- 22. Marie Kinsell ✓
- 23. Ron Brooks ✓
- 24. Jackie Brooks ✓
- 26. Mary Baiamonte ✓
- 27. Bob Singletyon ✓
- 28. George Marrett ✓
- 29. Larry Campo ✓
- 30. Al Davis ✓
- 31. Bob Weiss ✓
- 32. Chuck Miller ✓
- 33. Dirk Hale ✓
- 34. Dick Umphrey ✓
- 35. Gerald Grady ✓
- 36 Dieter Eckert, MD ✓
- 37. Art Britton ✓
- 38. John Kendall ✓
- 39. Will Irwin, MD ✓
- 40. Tom Gabele ✓
- 41. Stuart Toomey ✓
- 42. Bob Miller ✓
- 43. Dave Highland ✓
- 44. Steve Forsman ✓

Last But Far From Least!!

Dues are Due!! There are still quite a few of you who have not sent in your payments. You have all had 30 days. In view of the fact that we have added 23NEW LIFE MEMBERS since May 1 please let this spur you on to pay your small annual dues. THANK YOU!!

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To:

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~~San Miguel CA 93451~~