

# ESTRELLA WAR BIRD MUSEUM

## ESTRELLA SQUADRON NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII NUMBER 11 PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 2001

### MUSEUM BOARD

#### Executive Committee

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#### Advisory Board

The Honorable Wm P Clark  
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### MUSEUM INFORMATION

#### Office Phone

(805) 227-0440  
(Answering Machine)

#### Hangar Phone

Saturday & Sunday Only  
(805) 238-9317

### MUSEUM WINTER HOURS

Saturday 10-4  
Sunday 12-3

#### Mailing Address

4251A Dry Creek Rd  
Paso Robles, Ca 93446

#### Web Site

<http://www.ewarbirds.org>

### NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

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

Chef **John Himes** and his able crew will prepare our Annual Thanksgiving feast for all of us. This year the menu will offer both Ham and Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, salad, dinner rolls, a special desert and coffee. A truly delicious dinner for \$10.00

Because this is always a popular event, reservations will be required. Please do your part by calling **227-0440** and leaving your name and the total number in your party that will attend. The cooking crew thanks you in advance!

Our program will be our own **Bob Gay**, former B-17 and B-24 pilot. Bob was born in Rockwood, Michigan. His family raised horses at Lakeside Farms and Bob was an avid Polo player and was on the Intercollegiate Show Team, participating in equestrian events. Bob was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Horse Calvary and was on the Army Equestrian Team training for the Olympics. When the Army decided to not use horses, Bob was offered a chance to transfer to the US Army Air Force in 1941, where he traded in his spurs (but not his cowboy boots!) for a helmet and flight jacket.

Bob was assigned to the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in Spokane, Washington just in time for World War II. The 34<sup>th</sup> jumped from 2,000 people to 10,000 as new air crews, mechanics, radio operators, clerks and cooks poured in. Their mission was to create a new group every 30 days. B-17 and B-24 units were formed and in the summer of 1943, the 34<sup>th</sup> was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in Mendelshem, England, where Bob

arrived as a Captain. The 34<sup>th</sup> held a record in the 8<sup>th</sup> for never losing a bomber to German fighter aircraft. Bob holds numerous medals and citations including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and Air Medal among others. Bob says his best award was staying alive. Bob got out of the service at the end of the war with the rank of Colonel and was one of the youngest members of the US Air Force holding that rank.

Active in agriculture and national equestrian competitions, Bob also found time to set up his own insurance business, founded a bank, a mortgage company and a financial company. In 1989 Bob and his wife Phyllis purchased "Rancho de Robles" where they continue to breed purebred Arabian horses. Bob is Chairman of the Board and CEO of Landlords Inc, President of North American Mortgage and Red Rock Financial. He and Phyllis are celebrating their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary on November 7<sup>th</sup>. *Happy Anniversary Bob and Phyllis!*

### TIGER'S FOLLY TRIP An Enjoyable Success!

Sixty five Museum members and their guests enjoyed a delightful lunch and harbor cruise on Sunday, October 14 aboard the paddle-wheeler, Tiger's Folly of Morro Bay. The event was chaired by **Jackie Brooks** and **Cathy Paine**. These gals really worked hard to put on our first Museum outing and it was an unqualified success!!! It is always a treat to get together as a group and this was a well organized event that everyone enjoyed. **Jackie** called everyone that had indicated interest in the trip and deserves an extra big *thank you* for her perseverance. We would like to offer more outings like this, so if you have any ideas for future trips, please contact one of the Board Members and pass the idea to them.

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**MUSEUM BOARD MEETING**

The monthly Museum Board meeting was called to order on Wednesday, October 17, 2001 at 7pm. Due to many members of the Board being on trips, etc., there was not a quorum present, and the Board was unable to take any action. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 21 at 7 pm** in Thomson Hall. Remember, the Board of Directors meetings are open to the membership, so please feel free to attend.

**DOCENT NEWS**

We are looking for a **Docent Coordinator**. If any one is interested, please contact **Betty Miller at 466-1212** or **Bruce Toomey at 238-9266**.

Please check the Docent Schedule at the back of this newsletter. Docent **Larry Campo** is out of town for the month of November and some shuffling of docents occurred to pickup the slack. If you find that you cannot make the date and time scheduled, please contact another docent to trade.

**VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Our Bug Smashers are scheduled to participate in the many Veterans Day Ceremonies around the County. They will perform fly overs at the Paso Robles Cemetery, Templeton and Los Osos.

**NEW BASE MATERIAL LAID**

If you look outside the Museum Hangar you will notice an enlarged parking area for aircraft with newly laid asphalt base material. Thank you **John Miller**.

**MUSEUM AWARDED FIRST!**

Our rolling stock participated in the Paso Robles Pioneer Day Parade and the Atascadero Colony Days Parade in October. Special Kudos go to Jeep Drivers, **Kevin Craig, Tommy Cameron, Wally Nissen, John Cromwell, Gary Corippo** with observer **Monty Miller**, and **Dave Gieger**, towing the F4 Phantom.

Our aerial flyover team of **Bob Foote, George Marrett, Obbie Atkinson, and Glen Thomson** participated in the Pioneer Day Parade to the delight of all

those on the ground. We were awarded **FIRST Place** in the Colony Days Parade with a very impressive trophy - **Congrats!**

**SATURDAY NEWS**

There is always a lot of activity on Saturdays at your museum. This past Saturday was no exception as **Ron Brooks** cleaned out the Airshow Storage Area and reorganized it. Great job Ron!

While Ron was working on the Airshow Storage Area, **Al Schade** and **Bob Singleton** were at work on the Navion. Member **Fred Thacker** got one of our fork lifts running again-thanks Fred-we know you are already up to your eyeballs working on heavy equipment at your own business! **Dave Geiger, Ron Thompson, and Glen Thomson**, were hard at work picking up and reorganizing the aircraft and hangar area, while **Gary Corippo** cleaned and mopped the Museum Hangar floor (much needed) **Chuck Miller** finished up three display cases for the newly painted display corner that **Carol & Tom Weiss** and **Betty Miller** have been working on. **Al Smith** was weeding the area around Thomson Hall, while **Ruth Dickey** completed her first solo tour as a Docent. Many other members stopped by and worked on tasks as well, and to all of you - *Thanks from all of us!*

**BITS 'N PIECES**

Happy Birthday to **Cathy Paine** (she's 39!!)

Get Well wishes to **Dorie Foxworthy**, who's been under the weather lately. We are looking forward to seeing her back with us soon.

Welcome back to **John Himes** from his trip to eastern Europe. We know he had a great time and we hope to have him cover it December's newsletter.

**December Program: The Silver Belles**  
**December Dinner: Prime Rib/ \$10.00**

**NEWSLETTER**

We are still looking for a NEWSLETTER EDITOR for the monthly newsletter. I am sure that some of you have some experience with newsletters, so don't be shy-volunteer! You should have a computer (makes life a lot easier!) but other than that, just bring your ideas and the membership can provide you with news stories.

**LADIES AUXILIARY GROUP**

We were hoping to get some of our female members and wives of members interested in starting up a "Ladies Only" group at the Warbird Museum. This would be a "for fun" group to do lunch or brunch once a month and visit things in the county such as IMAX at Hearst Castle, the Natural History Museum at Morro Bay, etc. We haven't had a response, so we aren't sure if you all are just overly committed to other clubs and organizations or if the October 27th date was not a convenient one. Let us hear from you-call **Jackie Brooks** at 462-8141, **Cathy Paine** at 238-9011 or **Betty Miller** at 466-1212.

Honor Our Veterans and Our Men & Women Currently in Uniform, Nov 11th, Show Them You Care.

**NEW DISPLAYS COMING TO THE MUSEUM**

With the completion of the three glass display cases, **Carol Weiss** and **Betty Miller** will be putting together some new exhibits featuring aircraft and the men from our museum who flew them. We need some copies of pictures of any of our members in flight gear, standing by their airplane, or in uniform along with the type of aircraft you flew. Please give us a call at **466-1212**. It is important to preserve this history, as well as making a contribution to our museum displays.

**SEE YOU AT DINNER ON NOVEMBER 7TH!**  
**RESERVATIONS PLEASE**  
**227-0440**

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Airshow	- Chuck Miller 466-1212	Membership Program	-Obbie Atkinson 238-9212 - George Marrett 466-7640
Dinners	- John Himes 466-6102	Public Relations & Media	- Cathy Paine 238-9011
Facility Coordinator	- Betty Miller 466-1212	Supply & Refreshments	- Tom Gabele 237-1567
Ground Equipment	- Dave Geiger 239-1598	Site Improvements	- Glen Thomson 238-4858
Grounds	- John Kendall 239-8029	Research Librarian	- K.O. Eckland 466-5373
Insurance	-Brian Webster 237-0222	Restoration	- Al Schade 927-8303

### DOCENT SHIFT ASSIGNMENTS NOVEMBER 2001

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DOCENT NAME</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>
SAT NOV 3	10am - 1pm 1pm - 4pm	Bruce Toomey Dick Bloomquist	238-9266 227-0362
SUN NOV 4	12pm - 3pm	Doug Miner	239-1054
SAT NOV 10	10am - 1pm 1pm - 4pm	Rosemary Netto Arnold Hermansen	467-3521 467-3343
SUN NOV 11	12pm - 3pm	Tom & Carol Weiss	239-2637
SAT NOV 17	10am - 1pm 1pm - 4pm	Bob Kinsell Al Smith	237-2586 239-9433
SUN NOV 18	12pm - 3pm	Hugh Early	239-2353
SAT NOV 24	10am - 1pm 1pm - 4pm	Ruth Dickey Betty Miller	239-8242 466-1212
SUN NOV 25	12pm - 3pm	Ray Passon	466-7234

**DOCENTS: PLEASE REMEMBER, ONLY DONATIONS GO INTO THE RED METAL LOCK BOX ON THE WALL. ALL GIFT SHOP SALES GO INTO GREY METAL BOX WITH ORANGE SLIPS.**

**If your date/time is not workable with your schedule, please call another Docent to trade before calling Betty Miller at 466-1212. Thanks**

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS WHO ARE SUPPORTING THE ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM

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*[Handwritten signatures and scribbles]*

