

ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM

ESTRELLA SQUADRON NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII NUMBER 12 PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 2001

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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>

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

The December Dinner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2001 at Thomson Hall beginning with a 6:00 pm Social Hour and Dinner at 7:00 pm.

Chef **John Himes** says ya'all should bring your appetites, 'cause we are having our popular **Prime Rib Christmas Dinner** with all the fixin's - Baked Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Dinner Rolls, and a special Desert, plus coffee!

Always a sold out event, you need to make reservations. 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!

Dinner Price will be \$10.00 per person. (You can't even go to Denny's and get a dinner like this for this low price!)

PROGRAM

Our December Program will be the delightful choral group, "**Silver Belles**". The Silver Belles began in 1987 when a group of Paso Robles Women's Club members got together to practice Christmas Carols for the club's December meeting that year. Sue Haley, a local musician and pianist, asked the ladies if they would consider becoming a permanent choral group. It proved so much fun for those involved that they gave themselves a name, held regular rehearsals, bought matching outfits, and sang often for local clubs and nursing homes.

In 1992 Sue Haley remarried and moved away from the area which left the Belles floundering. They convinced Liz Jenstad, a retired public school music teacher, to take over. Liz got her friend Nancy Kinsell to be the pianist for the group.

Nancy was married to EWM Member Bob Kinsell, and had performed as a pianist and accordion player for many exceptional star-studded USO tours during World War II. When Nancy passed away suddenly in 1997, the "Belles" were once again without accompaniment and faced the prospect of disbanding. Enter Kathy Garrett, an accomplished pianist who had just moved to Paso Robles. Kathy heard about the plight of the Silver Belles, walked in and said she would be happy to accompany the group!

Back on the musical track, the Silver Belles established the **Silver Belles Memorial Music Scholarship** to be awarded to a Paso Robles High School graduate planning a career in Music. All donations received for performing, plus proceeds from their Annual Fund Raising Concert, go to this scholarship.

Two members of the Belles have ties to the Estrella Warbird Museum. Airport Manager Roger Oxborrow's mother, Carol Oxborrow is a Silver Belles member and Dick Blomquist's wife, Shirley Blomquist is also a member!

This group is really great and will provide some extra special Christmas music for the holidays. Don't miss this event to get your Christmas Spirit started!

DOCENT NEWS

Al Smith, "Just Plain AL", has stepped forward to handle Docent Coordination. He has worked out a three month schedule, which our docents will have mailed to them. Because of space requirements, we are only including the December schedule in this newsletter. Thank you Al!

All Docents - If you find that you cannot make the date and time scheduled, please contact another docent to trade, before calling Al.

SATURDAY NEWS

Its hard to keep up with all our active members that help out on Saturdays. The Museum can't function without folks volunteering to get things done. Sometimes it is just taking out the trash from the Meeting Hall to the dumpster, other times it is hoeing weeds, mopping the entire hangar floor, moving and relocating heavy desks and file cabinets in the Museum office, or doing an extra thorough cleaning of the museum display cases! Our thanks go to **Ron Thompson, Al Smith, Gary Corippo, Ron Brooks, Dave Geiger, Ruth Dickey, Marty Martin!**

Museum Research Librarian, **K. O. Ecklund** has gotten all of our books and periodicals catagorized and into the computer. A complete listing can be found on the Estrella Warbird Museum Website at www.ewarbirds.org. K.O. is the webmaster for the site and has done a fantastic job. For those of you with access to the "net", be sure you access our official website and take time to check out all the information available to the entire world about our Museum and Organization. Great Job K.O. !!!!

BITS 'N PIECES

We will be featuring some of our Museum membership in the new "**Who's Who**" column. This will be a column devoted to help all of us to get to know Museum Members on an individual basis. Be sure to read about our Program Chairman, George Marrett in this month's column!

NEWSLETTER

Gene Hartley has come up with a solution for the position of Newsletter Editor. He has proposed that we have three or four Newsletter Editors. That way each Editor only has to compile, write, print, stamp and mail our newsletter once every three or four months! So far he has recruited **Ed Morrison**, and himself. We need two more folks to climb aboard! Please call Gene at **226-8646** today if you would like to help out.

NEWS FLASH!

NEW DISPLAYS COMING TO THE NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT AREA

Carol Weiss and **Betty Miller** announce the opening of a new exhibit and invite you to take a tour through the Museum Hangar before you have dinner on December 5th. Some of our members haven't been through the Museum for over two years, so take time and visit it and see all the changes!

These gals have taken it upon themselves to clean, organize, paint walls, move display cases and create a monthly Special Exhibit area.

For December the exhibit features **Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941**. The exhibit is featuring memorabilia from members **Al Smith** (who was a signalman aboard the Ralph Talbot coming back to Pearl Harbor as the Japanese were dropping bombs) **John Kendall** and **Gary Corippo**. You will see some interesting photos, books, maps, and memorabilia.

Starting in **January**, the special exhibit will feature "**WW II - 1942 to 1945**" and will have pictures, histories, and models of actual aircraft flown by many of our membership. For those of you not already contacted by Carol or Betty, they are looking for your story and related memorabilia. **Call Carol Weiss 239-2637 and Betty Miller 466-1212**

The Museum will be getting a new exhibit area located on the west wall (the wall towards the Meeting Hall) The wall will be completed with paneling and hung with glass fronted display cases which will feature uniforms, histories of Military events from our Nations' past, aircraft models, etc. The items that are currently "stored" on that wall will be finding new locations, some permanently. This new space will enable us to have framed photos and artwork displayed with models from the same periods and will move the visiting public from area to area. This is an exciting period in the Museum and we welcome your input as well as any memorabilia you would like to donate or loan.

It is hoped that we can find volunteers to help erect a storage shed on the side of

the restoration hangar where our jeeps could be protected from the weather and secured from vandalism. This will open up more area for Museum Display. If you can help us out on helping to get such an area erected, please call **President Wall Engle** at 227-0245 to offer your servi

WHO'S WHO at the MUSEUM

Our featured member for December is our Program Chairman and Member of the Board of Directors, **George Marrett**. George graduated from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa with a BS in chemistry and entered the USAF as a Second Lieutenant After completing pilot training and Advanced Flying School, George was assigned to the 84th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Hamilton AFB flying the McDonnell F-101B Voodoo. After four years at Hamilton, George was selected to attend the USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School flying the T-38 Talon, Lockheed F-104 Starfighter and the F-106 Delta Dart. Upon graduation, he was transferred to the Fighter Test Branch of Flight Test Ops at Edwards AFB and completed three years flight testing of the F-4C Phantom, the F-5A Freedom Fighter and the F-111A Aardvark. In 1968-1969 George flew Douglas A-1 Skyraider as a **SANDY** rescue pilot in Southeast Asia. George completed 188 combat missions, 600 combat hours and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters.

Upon his return from Viet Nam, George joined Hughes Aircraft as an experimental test pilot. Upon his retirement from Hughes twenty years later, George had flown over 40 types of military aircraft and logged over 8,000 hours of flying time.

George is a published author of several aviation articles and is currently working on a book about test pilots. George lives in Atascadero with his wife of 43 years, Jan, and has two sons and four grandchildren.

**SEE YOU AT DINNER ON
DECEMBER 5TH
RESERVATIONS PLEASE
227-0440**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

DOCENT SHIFT ASSIGNMENTS DECEMBER 2001

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DOCENT NAME</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>
SAT DEC 1	10am - 1pm	Dick Blomquist	227-0362
	1pm - 4pm	Al Smith	239-9433
SUN DEC 2	12pm - 3pm	Doug Miner	239-1054
SAT DEC 8	10am - 1pm	Rosemary Netto	467-3521
	1pm - 4pm	Arnold Hermansen	467-3343
SUN DEC 9	12pm - 3pm	Betty Miller	466-1212
SAT DEC 15	10am - 1pm	Ruth Dickey	239-8242
	1pm - 4pm	Bob Kinsell	237-2586
SUN DEC 16	12pm - 3pm	Al Smith	239-9433
SAT DEC 22	10am - 1pm	Tom & Carol Weiss	239-2637
	1pm - 4pm	Hugh Early	239-2353
SUN DEC 23	12pm - 3pm	Ray Passon	466-7234
SAT DEC 29	10am - 1pm	Mary Baiamonte	237-8186
	1pm - 4pm	Al Smith	239-9433
SUN DEC 30	12pm - 3pm	Dick Blomquist	227-0362

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 assigned date/time is not workable with your schedule, please try calling another Docent on the list to trade before calling Al Smith at 239-9433. Thanks

*** Corporate Sponsors : Those who contributed over \$1,000.00 to sponsor the Air Show**

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PASO ROBLES, CA 93446