

ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM

ESTRELLA SQUADRON NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 4 PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA APRIL 2002



April 3, 2002

Dinner Meeting

April Menu

The Spring Bar-B-Que Special for the evening will be Top Block Beef BBQ, Salad, Beans, French Bread, Salsa, Desert and complimentary Coffee, all for only \$8.00 per person!!! This is a \$12.50 meal, but we wanted to give you a great kick-off into Spring!

Reservations Please!

Call 227-0440

April Guest Speaker

Retired American Airlines Captain **Ralph Davis**, is our featured speaker at the April 3rd Dinner Meeting. Ralph is also a member of the Estrella Warbird Museum.

Ralph grew up in Kirkwood, Mo., a suburb of St Louis and graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He entered Naval Flight Training in October of 1955 as an Aviation Cadet. Ralph soloed in a T-34B and received his commission and "wings of gold" in March of 1957. Ralph served in an Attack Sqdn. aboard carriers USS Intrepid and USS Ranger flying AD-6 Skyraiders.

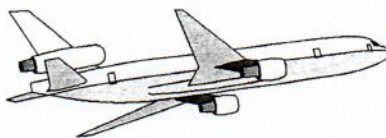
During this period Ralph also completed a Mediterranean cruise aboard the USS Forrestal with Carrier Air Group 10.

From 1960 to 1963 Ralph served a tour in Pensacola as a Formation Flight Instructor in the T-28.

After receiving his Regular Commission Ralph went to the USS Oriskany as a Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer. Ralph served a total of 10 years in the Navy and finished up his Naval career in May of 1965.

In June of 1965 Ralph started flying with American Airlines as a Flight Engineer on the DC-6 and DC-7 for three months, then Co-Pilot on the DC-6, DC-7, 727, 707, 747 and DC-10. Ralph made Captain in 1968, and for the next 14 years flew the 727, 707, 767, MD-80 and the DC-10. Ralph retired from American Airlines with over 7200 hours in the DC-10 and he was just 3 weeks shy of 27 years with the company. Ralph says "It all went by far too quickly!"

This should be an interesting evening and we urge you to mark your calendars and attend.



Dinner Reservations Please!

Call 227-0440

Please leave your name and the number in your party who will attend

Tractor Needed!



Do you have a tractor with a front bucket and/or a rear blade that you would be willing to bring out to the museum for a day's work? We need some lawn removal work done and some minor leveling. We need you and your tractor unless you would let one of our authorized tractor operator members use it in your presence. If you don't have a trailer, we can find a 16' to haul your tractor to the Museum. Please call Board Member Cathy Paine at 238-9011.

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ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Address

4251-A Dry Creek Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Office Answering Machine

805-227-0440

Hangar Phone (Sat & Sun only)

805-238-9317

Web Site

<http://www.ewarbirds.org>

ESTRELLA WARBIRO MUSEUM

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The Estrella Squadron Newsletter is published monthly for distribution to members and friends. The Squadron is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of aircraft and memorabilia and to those who flew and worked on them. The goal is not to glorify conflict but rather to assist in making future generations aware of the fact our way of life does not come without sacrifice.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President & CEO	Paul Clark
Vice President (Interim)	Betty Miller
Secretary (Interim)	Cathy Paine
Treasurer	Rosemary Netto

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Airshow	Chuck Miller	466-1212
Artifact Coordinator	Carol Weiss	239-2637
Dinner Preparation	John Himes	466-6102
Dinner Dance	Betty Miller	466-1212
Docents	Al Smith	239-9433
Facility Use	Betty Miller	466-1212
Gift Shop	Marty Wright	466-7707
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Grounds	John Kendall	239-8029
Insurance	Brian Webster	237-0288
Membership	Obbie Atkinson	238-9212
Program	George Marrett	466-7640
Public Relations	Cathy Paine	238-9011
Refreshments	Tom Gabele	237-1567
Research Librarian	K.O. Eckland	466-5373
Restoration	Al Schade	927-8303
Site Improvements	Glen Thomson	238-4858
Webmaster	K.O. Eckland	466-5373

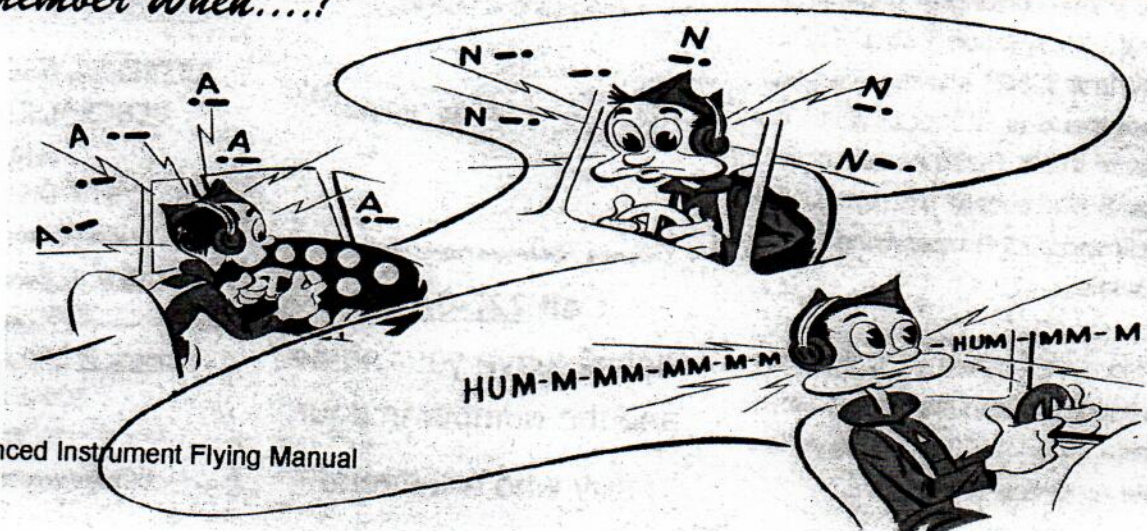
BOARD MEMBERS

Obbie Atkinson	Betty Miller
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Paul Clark	Catherine Paine
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Al Davis	Glen Thomson
Wally Engle	Brian Webster
George Marrett	Marty Wright
Conrad Martin	

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Bordonero
 The Honorable William P. Clark
 R Adm James "Mac" Gleim
 LTC Oliver North

Do You Remember When....?



From the AAF Advanced Instrument Flying Manual
 March 15, 1944

Groups scheduled to Visit Museum in April

If you wonder if we are getting any groups visiting the Museum, the answer is YES! In March we hosted 46 preschool children, in April we will host a Cub Scout troop, three Pre-school groups plus a Mom's Club group, with more calling every day. On the audit level we have several car clubs scheduled. If you would like to have a really interesting hour, meeting some super folks, give Betty Miller a call at 466-1212 and sit in as she gives a Group Tour at our Museum.

Organizations such as ours depend on the interest and time invested by our membership as well as financial donations.

Small Jobs for Big Hearts

There are many small jobs that will take a total of one or two people a total of an hour. If any of you can help out with 1 hour out of the 160 hours of "work time" a month, we really would appreciate it. Call 227-0440 if you can help out.

Some of these type of jobs include:

1. Touching up the red paint on the nacelle covers for three of our aircraft.
2. Attaching double stick tape or velcro on the nacelle and exhaust covers of the F-104. The wind keeps blowing them out!
3. Polishing the brasswork on the 1913 "Pie Wagon" which is soon to become our WW I ambulance.



Co-Editors still needed.

Thanks to Gene Hartley for a great job on the March Newsletter, we all enjoyed the format, humor and cartoons and we're happy to know he will be back to do our June newsletter. Betty Miller is doing this Newsletter and we hope to have Ed Morrison as our May Editor. We do need one more person to take on the July newsletter. Come on, its fun and you get to really know your fellow members. Call Betty Miller at 466-1212 if you can help out.

Dear Editor.....

Hi, I visited the Museum with my friends last week. We thought it was cool. We really liked the Blue Angels jet and the Army helicopter. How come there is all that bird nest stuff on the floor? It is really Gross!

Billy, age 10

Dear Billy,
We are glad you and your friends had a good time at the Museum. We have lots of people who work very hard to make it a place where you can have fun and learn about airplanes at the same time. We are having a problem with the birds trying to build nests in the hangar. They must think airplanes are fun to be around too! We are trying to find a way to keep them away, so if you know of a good way to do that, let us know.

Editor

If anyone out there has a suggestion, call us, SOON!



Birds are Great, but NOT in the Hangar!!!

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Humor. USMC style:

A large group of Taliban soldiers are moving down a dusty road when they hear a voice calling them from behind a large rock outcropping. "One Marine is better than ten Taliban!" The Taliban commander quickly sends 10 of his best soldiers over the rocks, where a fierce gun battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, and then there is complete silence.

The voice calls out again " One Marine is better than one hundred Taliban " Furious, the Taliban commander sends out his next best 100 troops into the rocks and instantly a huge gunfight commences. After 10 minutes of battle, again....silence. The Marine calls out again, "One Marine is better than one thousand Taliban!"

The now enraged Taliban commander musters one thousand fighters and sends them into the rocky area. Cannon, rocket and machine gun fire ring out as a huge battle is fought. Then.....silence. Eventually one wounded Taliban fighter crawls back over the rocks and with his dying words tells his commander, "Don't send any more men, its a trap. There's TWO of them."



*New Uniforms and Pictures
on Display*



Carol Weiss and Betty Miller, Artifact Coordinators, have some newly framed artwork, memorabilia and uniforms on display. There is a new, large B-17 poster showing all the components of the inner framework of a B-17 with the companion information about the many units that flew these and the areas where they were used. This was donated by Judy and Gary Corippo and framed by Carol Weiss. Bob and Carol Werling, long-time local north county residents donated documents from WW II that were issued to some of the local ranchers designating them as Official Flight Watchers. A Flight Watcher pin was donated to this exhibit by Phil Gould, formerly of Salinas.

There are four new uniforms now displayed, a WW I uniform from a private collection, US Army Greens from the Viet Nam era from Chuck Miller, US Army Dress Mess from John Cromwell, and a Korean era US Air Force uniform ("Ike" Jacket style) from Phil Gould. We also have some new related Memorabilia which you will want to check out as well. Be sure to visit each time you are out to the Museum. Our Artifact Coordinators will be rotating these uniform displays, since they have several new additions that are well worth seeing.

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"The Difficult We Do Daily, The Impossible Is Our Specialty!"

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*May 15 Elections
for Board of Directors*

Per the approved By-Laws of the Estrella Warbird Museum, Annual Elections to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, May 15. There are six vacancies to be filled. Nine candidates will be presented at the April 3 Dinner.

Nominees are:

- Ron Brooks
- Gary Corippo
- Dave Highland
- Conrad Martin (Incumbent)
- Betty Miller (Incumbent)
- Rosemary Netto (Incumbent)
- Dave Rowe
- Tom Weiss
- Marty Wright (Incumbent)

All the Nominees names will be on printed ballots and election will be by secret ballot during the May 15th Board of Directors Meeting. Members of the current Board of Directors will be voting.

Once the new members of the Board of Directors have been elected, Elections will be held for Officers of the Board; President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

"Tales From the South Pacific"

Betty Miller, has announced that we will be transforming our hangar into a tropical paradise for the annual Dinner Dance and USO-style Show. The dates will be Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21. Since our hangar is smaller than the North American Jet Hangar where we held the function last year, we will run the show TWO nights so that everyone will have a chance to attend. The theme is from the South Seas, with music and entertainment based on the Troop Shows offered to our men and women of the Military during WW II. There will be a served dinner, a Costume Contest, Troop Show and dancing to the Main Street Big Band.

Due to many request from those who want more dancing, the 2002 event schedule will offer a full hour of dancing to the Main Street Big Band from 6pm to 7pm during the social hour.

Betty says we will have some super performers once again and short bios will appear in the next newsletter!

The schedule of events for "Tales from the South Pacific" will be as follows:

Friday & Saturday

6 pm to 7 pm Social Hour and dancing to the Main Street Big Band

7 pm Costume Contest

7:15 pm Dinner will be served

7:30 pm Troop Show

8:45 pm Dancing to the Main Street Big Band

Cost will be \$45.00 per person, including tax and tip. A portion of the ticket will go toward a scholarship and is tax deductible.

Since there will not be an Airshow this year, this will be our major fundraiser. Be sure you plan on attending and tell all your friends to come as well.

Stay Observant!



Lets all keep our eyes open for strangers "cruising" our Museum area. If you are working by yourself, keep the front gates shut. If you spot folks driving into the back work areas, stop them and ask if you can help them. We have had some unauthorized vehicles cruising through, and a fire in our dumpster so lets all pay more attention!

Mark your Calendar!
ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE
no later than MAY 1, 2002

*A Lifetime Opportunity
with Lifetime Savings!*

By Obbie Atkinson, Membership Chairman
805-238-9212

Annual Membership Dues are due and payable on May 1, 2002. As an added Bonus, we are offering Lifetime Memberships at a discounted fee.

The Museum now has 44 Lifetime Members. Twenty of these Lifetime Members joined last year alone! We are offering a 2002 special. Life Memberships will be available for a limited time for a \$500.00 tax deductible donation. Any currently paid up member from 2001 will be credited for their 2001 \$50.00 Single Membership against the \$500.00 donation. If you paid out \$50.00 for your 2001 Single Membership Dues, a Lifetime Membership will only cost you \$450.00 and you never have to pay further annual dues!

Should you wish to budget the \$500.00 over a twelve month period that option is also available. The cost will be \$40.00 a month for 12 months for a total of \$480.00! This is a savings of \$20.00!

Just complete the Application for Lifetime Membership below and return by mail. If you have further questions please call Membership Chair Obbie Atkinson at 238-9212 today.



*Our Gift Shop Needs
a Manager*

Wanted: A self starter who will manage the Museum Gift Shop. Pay is the gratitude of the Board of Directors and the Visitors who come out on weekends. The main requirement of the job is to check the inventory in the cabinet and display case against the printed inventory every 3 or 4 weeks. The ordering will be handled by present Gift Shop Manager, Marty Wright. All you have to do is take inventory and keep the display looking neat and free of cobwebs! This isn't a physically demanding job, but you do need to come out at least once a month (perhaps before a Dinner Meeting) and check it out. Marty Wright will walk you through the process. We need you and we need you NOW! Please help out your organization and volunteer TODAY! Call Marty at 466-7707 after 6 pm or Cathy Paine at 238-9011. Thank You.

APPLICATION FOR ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

PAYMENT OPTION (Circle Choice)

1. \$450.00 for Regular LIFE Membership 2. \$40.00/per month for 12 months (\$480.00 total)

Signature: _____ Date _____

Please mail to: Treasurer, Estrella Warbird Museum
4251-A Dry Creek Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Museum on the Move to Complete Membership Hall

As you are aware, our Meeting Hall cannot be rented out for use by outside groups until we meet Commercial Use requirements. Since this will be our major source of income, it is essential that we get everything completed and signed off by the City of Paso Robles. With this in mind we requested bids from three commercial companies for a sprinkler system for the Meeting Hall. Bids were received from two companies. They both were in the \$20,000.00 range and that did not include the cost of trenching and 6" water line coming in from the City Water lines.

At the same time the bids were received, Paul Clark, Betty Miller and Chuck Miller met with the City Building Department to go over completion needs on the Membership Building. First, there have been major changes in Commercial Uses since we started the construction on this building five years ago. As long as we are under 5,000 sq. feet we no longer are required to have a fire sprinkler system! However since our Meeting Hall and the Main Hangar are less than 40' apart we DO need a two hour fire wall on the hangar building. Bids are currently out to three drywall firms to get a price on doing this job. This should be much less expensive than a fire system.

Hard wired emergency lights need to be installed in the Meeting Hall, plus self closing devices on the men's and women's restroom doors. The Reference Library needs to have a full ceiling installed to make it a separate area from the rest of the attic. We also need to limit the occupancy to 9 persons at any one time in that area.

A new set of stairs to the Reference Library needs to be built which will entail more landings and wider stairs to meet City requirements. We will be installing a grab bar in the Main Hangar Men's restroom and we will be hanging the large WW II "No Smoking" sign in the Main Hangar to comply with the City requirements as well.



We are scheduling a kitchen scrubbing party for Saturday April 6th at 9 am, so if you would like to lend a hand, please show up. Bring a pair of rubber gloves and some old rags that you don't mind throwing away. We will be serving a light lunch to all those who turn out

Saturday Work Party Lunch

We will serve beans, french bread, salad and cookies to the folks who are working at the museum on Saturday, April 6th. We are going to try to do this one Saturday per month as a "thank you" for you folks that turn out to help on Saturdays. Spouses are welcome as well.



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Board Meeting Highlights

Wednesday, March 21, 2002
 Meeting called to order by President Paul Clark at 7 pm with 13 Board Members and 2 visitors present. Secretary Will Irwin submitted his resignation as Secretary and as a Board member due to a family emergency. Motion was made to accept his resignation with regret and appoint Cathy Paine as Interim Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

Obbie Atkinson announced a new membership drive for Life Members. (See page 4) and shared the need to get new brochures put together for printing. We only have 800 left of our original 10,000. Bids went out and the low bid was Color Craft Printing of Atascadero. Obbie and Betty Miller will get together to get this under way.

Reports received from Programs, Grounds, Gift Shop, Facilities, Media, Insurance, Site Improvement(see Page 5) were given.

OLD BUSINESS:

Facility Charges: Marty Wright presented a list of use charges made for local facilities that are similar in size as our Meeting Hall. There will be further research on security requirements, etc. and a full presentation will be done at a later date.

Museum Lease Modification: There will be a review of our existing lease by an Ad Hoc committee made up of City Councilmen. We have presented a proposed revision to eliminate the requirement to put on an Annual Air Show, with the addition of several fly-ins and the Annual Dinner Dance. We will have more news in the coming month.

Key Control: Due to security and insurance issues, there was much discussion on more control of key use. A motion was made and passed to issue a lock box key to individuals that normally have a need to access certain areas.

Elimination of Position: Motion was made to combine the position of Chairman of the Board and President into a single position of President. After discussion, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charge Accounts: Request was made to review all charge accounts at local hardware stores and approved signatories to control spending. Motion to close accounts for the present was made. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Budgets: Discussion on need for committees such as Site Improvements, Artifacts, Restoration, Newsletter, etc. to put together a budget and stay within that budget. Rosemary Netto will have a updated Cash Flow chart for review in April. No motion.

Nominating Committee:

Obbie Atkinson and Betty Miller have contacted members in the General Membership about running for positions on the Board of Directors. There will be five 3 year openings on May 15th and a two year slot as a result of the resignation of Will Irwin to be filled.

The following members will be on the ballot for the May 15th Election:


- Ron Brooks
- Gary Corippo
- Dave Highland
- Conrad martin (Incumbent)
- Betty Miller (Incumbent)
- Rosemary Netto (Incumbent)
- Dave Rowe
- Tom Weiss
- Marty Wright (Incumbent)

Secret Ballots will be prepared and passed out at that meeting. Overseeing the election will be Board Members, George Marrett, Al Schade and John Cromwell.

Meeting Adjourned at 10 pm.

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