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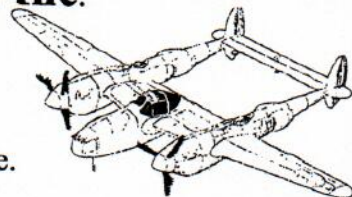
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Can also be used to reach personnel at  
Museum

**Hours**  
Saturday 10am to 4pm  
Sunday 12n to 3pm

**Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.**  
**Newsletter**



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

VOL XIV - 10

Volume ~~XVI~~ ~~Number 10~~ Paso Robles California

~~OCT~~  
September 2003

**October Meeting**

The October Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2003 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm. Chef John and crew will offer good old American Pot Roast which should be delicious.

Our Speaker for the evening will be None other than our good friend Frank Rezych of San Miguel. Frank is currently flying on the National Air Tour 2003, sponsored by Ford Motor Company and the Aviation Foundation of America but should be back in time to speak with us. We are including an article from the Tribune which gives a biography of Frank and discusses the Air Tour. This is a fascinating and informative article which will be reprinted on page 4. Frank is a legend in aviation and this should be a most interesting program.

**Dismantling of Hangars in SLO Almost Completed**

The large hangar donated to the Museum by Wayne King and his partner is very nearly down and delivered, thanks to our stalwart crew. Chuck Miller says that there are probably only two days work left before we have it all on our site.

This has been an incredible effort by a number of people who have been working daily for over two weeks on this project. Our special thanks go to Chuck Miller, Ron Brooks, Gary Woodall, Dave Geiger, Frank Ragland,

Fred Hahn, Forrest Johnson (and grandson, August Gaw, a dynamo!) and Bob Chambers. Also, Marty Wright, Glen Thomson Bob Kendall, Ron Thompson and Kenny Finch. If we have forgotten anyone please forgive us.

Many of the above worked every day while others donated at least a day or two depending on their availability. All in all it has been a wonderful example of volunteer work and the hangar will be a most valuable addition to our site. Our sincere thanks to Wayne King for making this possible.

**Airport Day - Paso Robles!**

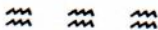
Airport Day, held on September 13th and sponsored by the North County Cloud Clipper RC Club, was a great success, thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Estrella Warbird Museum. It is estimated that at least 1500 to 2000 people were in attendance over the whole period.

The Museum members brought over a wonderful static display consisting of the L-5, the L-16, the Vampire Jet (under its own power, very noisy and exciting), the A-4, the A-6, the newer T-33, the F-86 and the F-4 cockpit.

Ron Mullisen conducted tours of the A-6 for a whole group of interested people since he had flown this very aircraft in the Navy!

**The Estrella Squadron Newsletter**  
is published monthly as an  
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of the Editor, Bruce Mac E.  
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Submissions for inclusion are not  
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including display and classified ads,  
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Please send all submissions to the  
Editor at P.O. Box 3065, Paso  
Robles, CA 93447 or FAX to  
238-9516 or e-mail to  
bruce@toomey.com



Final folding, sealing and stamping  
of the newsletter, as well as the cost  
of mailing is being paid for as a  
donation from Pete Johnston and  
his great crew at  
Pete Johnston  
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Marty Martin conducted free flights  
under the Experimental Aircraft  
Association Golden Eagles  
Program for young people and  
Wally Engle took pictures of those  
who entered the F-4 cockpit. All in  
all, a most successful day thanks to  
volunteers Obbie Atkinson, Jim  
Moody, Jackie & Ron Brooks,  
Dewey & Willa Killion, Frank  
Ragland, Karl Gage, Chuck &  
Betty Miller, Ron Thompson, Dave  
Geiger, Fred Hahn and Doug Miner  
who was also part of the Kiwanis  
group and George Marrett who  
taxied the L-5 over from the  
Museum.

Chuck Wentworth brought over his  
Grumman Avenger which was also a  
hit.

We are indebted to Joe Benson of  
KPRL for his coverage of the show  
and his kind words about the Museum.  
KPRL has really gone out of its way to  
support the Museum and this is much  
appreciated.  
Many, many thanks to all.

### Sunshine Chairman

We have a need for a Sunshine  
Chairman, one who will be  
responsible for keeping track of  
those members who become ill or  
suffer some other trauma or who  
need a sympathy card or flowers  
from the Board for the members as  
a whole. This is not for birthdays  
because that would be a little much  
but just for those who might  
appreciate a kind thought.

In the past we had someone who  
took this on and who was quite  
successful in extending the best  
wishes of the Museum membership  
to whomever was in need.

Please give this some thought. It  
can be a rewarding task and one  
that would certainly let our  
members know how much we  
appreciate them. Jackie Brooks has  
taken this on just to get it started  
but since she has two full time jobs  
at the Museum already it would be  
nice to give her a break!! Call her at  
462-8141

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### Docents

We are still looking for those who  
would take on some Docent duties.  
Our sign-up sheet seems to have

gone over like a lead balloon so we  
are again pleading.

It seems as though many people are  
somewhat afraid to do this because  
they are not well acquainted with  
aviation lore or technology and feel  
embarrassed about fielding  
questions that they can't answer.

There are several ways to look at  
being a Docent. You can sit at the  
counter and concentrate on selling  
gift shop items to those interested  
or you can just BE there to keep an  
eye on things. You can walk around  
with them, whether a group or just  
singles, or just let them wander  
around outside or inside.

There is a reference book you can  
refer to if you wish and we make an  
effort to keep it up to date. We also  
conduct occasional Docent classes  
which are very informal but worth  
while. Just walk around with  
someone who is pretty well  
informed and you will hear stories  
and fun facts that you can easily  
pass on to visitors.

Come out on a Saturday or Sunday  
and hang out with a regular Docent  
and you will see that, not only is it  
an easy job but it can be a lot of  
fun. We get some amazingly  
interesting people coming through  
the door on occasion and it's fun to  
listen to them. Give it a try!!

### Knowledgeable Aviation Type Needed to Assist Gift Shop Buying

Jackie Brooks, who is currently in  
charge of the Gift Shop, when she  
isn't doing something else for the  
Museum, is asking for help from  
some person or persons who are  
well acquainted with aviation and  
who might be able to suggest what

## Committee Chairpersons

### **Program**

George Marrett  
466-7649

### **Dinners**

John Himes  
466-6680

### **Membership**

Obbie Atkinson  
238-9212  
CoChair Pam Morrison  
239-2330

### **Gift Shop**

Jackie Brooks  
462-8141

### **Grounds**

John Kendall  
239-8029

### **City Liaison**

Chuck Miller  
466-1212

### **Ground Equipment**

Dave Geiger  
239-1598

### **Insurance**

Brian Webster  
237-0222

### **Refreshments**

Rosemary Netto  
467-3521  
Kathy Neitz  
Bob Miller  
434-1594

### **Activities**

OPEN

### **Photo**

Wally Engle  
227-0245

### **Site Maintenance**

Glen Thomson  
238-4858

type of items we should purchase for resale. Jackie has a ton of catalogs and brochures to pick from and this would be a matter of going through them from time to time and choosing resalable item. We have had very good luck with the Gift Shop ever since Jackie took over but she would like to make it even better by buying more things for resale that people and kids would like to see and have. Give Jackie a call at 462-8141 if you can be of assistance.



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## Docent Schedule for October

Sat 4 C. Weiss  
Hermansen  
Sun 5 Miner

Sat 11 Weiss  
Blomquist  
Sun 12 Campo

Sat 18 Corippo  
Hermansen  
Sun 19 Passon

Sat 25 Miner  
Weiss  
Sun 26 Blomquist

Call B. Toomey 238-9266 to fill in on any shift if you are unable to make yours.

## Thanks To The Tribune

I would like to express my personal thanks to Emily Fox and Laura Dickenson from the SLO Tribune for the picture of Frank Rezich. The

only copy I had was a muddy Xerox print of the news story and I asked Emily in the Paso office if she could help. She in turn requested a copy from Laura in SLO and I received a beautifully clear copy by e-mail early on Thursday morning. This was done at no charge to the Museum

I also received permission from the Tribune editorial staff to copy their whole article which appears herein. It doesn't get better than that!!!

**SORRY** for the short newsletter but I've had a rough couple of weeks spending several days on a beautiful lake in Idaho and then my oldest son took me to Hawaii where I spent several days looking for old haunts on Oahu and at Pearl Harbor where I was on duty 60 YEARS AGO!!! Yikes!!


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# MR. AVIATION OF SAN MIGUEL BARNSTORMS ONCE MORE

By ADAM JARMAN  
THE TRIBUNE

As a boy in the 1920s, Frank Rezich grew up with a budding Illinois air strip as his playground. His fascination with aircraft helped him land his first job as a mechanic's helper when he was just 14.

Now — almost seven decades later — Rezich will leave his San Miguel home to prepare for the 16-day National Air Tour that will take 26 vintage aircraft around the Midwest and East Coast.

For Rezich, now 80, it's a way to celebrate both his lifelong love of aeronautics and the centennial anniversary of flight.

"There is nothing like the freedom of flight," Rezich said. "You're up there, and you look down, and it's exhilarating."

From Sept. 8 to 24, the aviation veteran will co-pilot a 1929

## On the Web:

[www.NationalAirTour.org](http://www.NationalAirTour.org)

five-passenger biplane in an air tour sponsored by the Aviation Foundation of America and Ford Motor Co.

As air travel grew in the 1920s, Ford Motor Co. sponsored air tours from 1925 to 1931 to advertise the advances of air travel in a time when the nation had no coast-to-coast highway.

This year's air tour is one of the events planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Orville and Wilbur Wright's first sustained flights near Kitty Hawk, N.C. It will follow the 4,000-mile route planned for a 1932 tour that was canceled because of the Great Depression.

Please see AVIATION, B6

## Aviation

From Page B1

A young Rezich built models of those original airplanes crafted by the Wrights.

Growing up outside Chicago, Rezich's family lived just across the street from an airport. He and his two older brothers — all mesmerized by the aircraft that surrounded them — often took a shortcut to school through the hangars, stopping to admire pilots and mechanics on the way.

Rezich learned to fly at 16. At 19, he was a foreman for a local airplane manufacturing company.

"At one time we had five airplanes in our front yard," he recalls. "We must have built a half a dozen Lindbergh airplanes. Lindbergh (to my oldest brother) was God."

His childhood home has been swallowed by Chicago's Midway Airport. His grammar school was replaced by a busy terminal building.

Rezich served in the Illinois Air National Guard during World War II, delivering aircraft to troops in all corners of the world. Later he worked for North American Aviation, overseeing the production of the first aircraft to travel three times the speed of sound. He also managed the assembly of parts for Apollo 11, 12 and 13.

With experience as both a pilot and air mechanic, Rezich said he prefers fixing the planes to flying them.

Though he's officially retired,

Rezich still does consulting and repair work for "a select group of special clients." One of those is a Florida man who owns the biplane Rezich will co-pilot on the tour.

And today, when parts aren't available for 1920s and '30s aircraft, he said making repairs is a challenge he enjoys. Many of the planes he repairs are some of the last of their models.

"These are all orphans," he said. "We have to make all our own parts."

He spends many of his days in Hangar 113 at the Paso Robles Municipal Airport repairing a 1928 Travel Air three-passenger airplane that hasn't been flown in about 25 years.

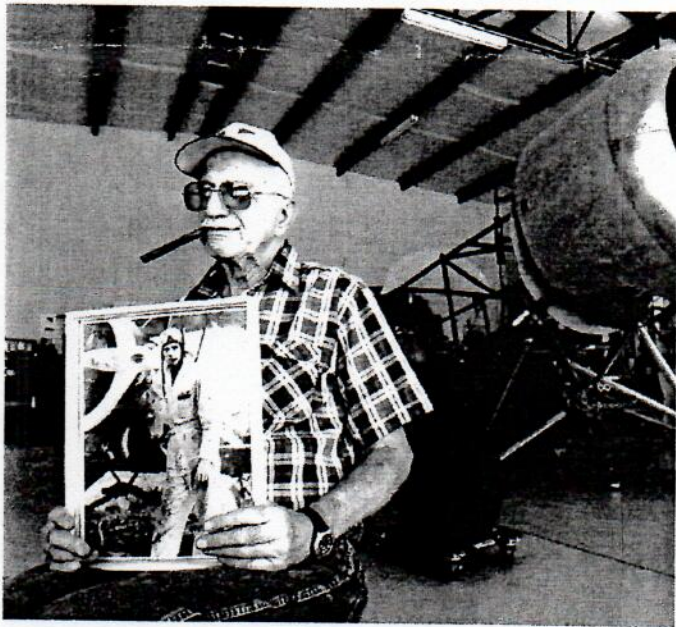
He bought it for \$340 in 1940, including a spare engine and propeller. Today it stands proudly in the hangar, despite being wingless and stripped to the bare metal frame.

"We overhaul it every 25 years, whether it needs it or not," he said.

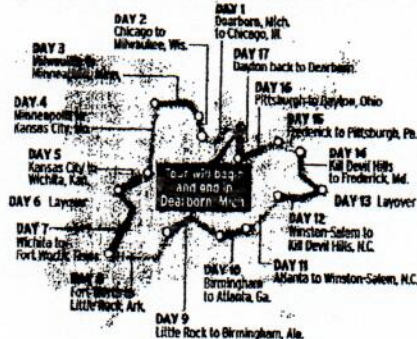
Around the plane, the hangar's walls are covered in photographs of the 29 planes his family has owned.

Even with all the experience evident in his hanger-turned-museum, life at an airport still gives Rezich a thrill. He regularly pokes his head out to see what's flying overhead.

This past June, Rezich, a member of the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame, gave his last operable plane to his 21-year-old grandson. To him, he passed on more than a plane — he was handing down his family's legacy.



## Proposed route for National Air Tour 2003



**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday -- September 17, 2003 -- 6 p.m.**

The meeting opened at 6:10 p.m. by President Paul Clark. Others Directors present were: Obbie Atkinson, J. Brooks, Ron Brooks, Ed Chidlaw, Gary Corippo Wally Engle, Fred Hahn, Dave Highland, Betty Miller, Rosemary Netto, Glen Thomson, Brian Webster. Guest: Chuck Miller, City Liaison.  
**By consensus the next meeting, October 15 will be at 5 p.m..**

**Minutes:**

The minutes of August 20 were e-mailed ahead of time. **MOTION:** moved to accept the August 20 minutes received on e-mail. Second by Dave Highland. **CARRIED.**

**Treasurer Report** was handed out and reviewed. The Treasurer presented the bills. Gary Corippo has received approval from DRMO to pay for the T-33 quarterly. **MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we begin making quarterly payments to the DRMO for T-33. Second by: Dave Highland **CARRIED.**  
**MOTION:** Gary Corippo moved to pay the \$186.00 embroidery charge for the kitchen staff new personalized Aprons. Second by: Betty Miller. **CARRIED**  
**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we pay the bill of \$320.88 for Hanger Removal project expenses. Second by: Ed Chidlaw. **CARRIED.**  
The personalized Stationery is here and was circulated for the board to see.  
**MOTION:** Gary Corippo moved we purchase 1000 personalized envelopes at the cost of \$118.53. Second by: Dave Highland. **CARRIED**  
**MOTION:** Conrad Martin moved to accept the Treasures report. Second and Carried

**Committee Reports**

**Facility Betty Miller reported:**

Quota Club rental date is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. Rental amount is \$500.00.

Docent shortage Thank you to Board members who have already signed up to work. Secretary will E-mail copies of proposed Docent Duties to all Board members. Docent Training class will be scheduled later.

Sock Hop Committee met. Decoration plans are moving along well. Tickets will be on sale at Chamber of Commerce Paso Robles and Atascadero this week. Board approved placing an ad in the Car Buff Newspaper. No expense to EWM Job Descriptions were e-mailed in advance to Board members.

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we approve the First Four Job Descriptions presented, including the corrected verbiage. Second by: Ed Chidlaw **CARRIED.**

**Old Business**

Hanger Removal—Chuck Miller reported he has the signed agreement from the owners. The meeting moved to the TV screen to view a video college of the hanger dismantling project.

Collings Foundation : Wally Engle reported receiving communication from them stating they are not interested in working with us at this time.

Airport Day: Betty Miller reported we had a good representation of workers. F-4 Cockpit photos brought in \$145.00. Gift Shop sales were \$315.00.

Executive Committee Guidelines: **MOTION:** Gary Corippo moved we accept the Guidelines as presented with inclusion of a \$1000.00 monetary limit. Second by: Glen Thomson. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION:** Obbie Atkinson moved that we spend \$300 for a new 4 x 6 sign to be installed at Dry Creek & Airport Rd. Second by Ed Chidlaw. **CARRIED.**

**New Business**

Pioneer Days: We need drivers and vehicles for Parade, October 11 ~~Parade~~. By consensus the rolling stock will be inventoried and recommendations for disposal brought to the board.

Board gave Approval to purchase the needed gasoline for our equipment. Gary Corippo reported we are in line to get an F-14, it could arrive at anytime. It was recommended we appoint a Sunshine person. Jackie will serve in the interim.

**MOTION** by Gary Corippo to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Jackie Brooks, Secretary.

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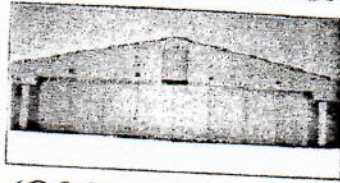
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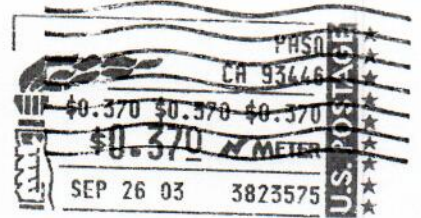



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