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FAX 238-9317

Can also be used to reach
personnel at Museum

Hours

Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday 12n to 3pm

In reality, whenever the gate is
open!

Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.

Estrella Warbird Museum Newsletter



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

Volume XIV Number 12

Paso Robles, California

December 2003

December Meeting

The December Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2003 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm. As this will be our annual Christmas Dinner, Chef John Himes and crew will be offering "Prime Rib" with baked potatoes and other goodies. This will be a real celebration.

In view of the catastrophic rise in the price of meat we will be charging \$15.00 for this meal instead of our usual price. It's still a bargain when you compare it with what the restaurants are currently charging for the same meal.

RESERVATIONS WILL BE AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY! We must have an accurate count in view of the cost of the meal if we intend to break even and maybe make a few bucks. We have seating for only 125 people so we will have a reservation list at the door. If you are not on it you will be placed on a waiting list until regular reservations are filled.

Call 227-0440 and leave a message!

Now, as to the evenings program!

We will again be treated to a joyful evening of music, slightly skewed Christmas carols and other great tunes and running commentary as offered by our own Master Banjo Player and

Entertainer, Gary Ryan. (To say nothing about jazz guitar and piano!)

In view of the fact that we have so many new members we are including a short article on Gary that appeared in a local Morro Bay paper. This will be a great evening. BE THERE!

Restoration News

And this is big news! After weeks of incredible and sustained effort the F-4 Phantom is on it's gear! The wings have been reattached, the gear has been positioned and the big gnarly bird has been moved, at least temporarily, to the concrete pad near the rear of the Meeting Hall. Those of you who have visited the Museum during the past many weeks may have just shaken your heads when you saw the amount of work that had to be done to accomplish the above. There were parts and pieces everywhere and the cutting of the wings from the fuselage to get it here made the reattachment look like an insurmountable problem to most of us.

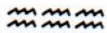
Our indefatigable restoration crew just dug in and began to tackle the problem and their efforts have resulted in a real bonus for the Museum. The F-4 is one tough, mean looking aircraft and is a wonderful addition to our fleet.

As a tribute to Al Schade's engineering skills a little story is in order. As you know, the wings on the F4 had to be

The Estrella Squadron Newsletter

is published monthly as an unofficial and voluntary contribution. Contents and opinions, other than by-line columns, are the sole responsibility of the Editor,
Bruce MacE. Toomey, unless otherwise noted

Submissions for inclusion are not only welcomed but solicited, including articles, display and classified ads, etc. 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
btoomey805@charter.net.



Final hand 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 helpful crew at Pete Johnston Chevrolet Cadillac.

cut off with a plasma torch right at the fuselage for transportation. On arrival, the fuselage was raised up on supports and the wings were placed alongside on stacks of 50 gallon drums. Attaching the cut off wings was a real engineering nightmare but Al came up with the plan to utilize heavy metal plates **inside** the attaching point to join the two pieces together. There was some consternation and doubt as to the strength of this plan but but the work went ahead .

When the wings were to be attached some holes had to be dug so that the extended wheels could allow the wing halves to match. After the attachment was completed the crane was brought in to lift the whole thing out of the holes so it could be towed out of the dirt onto the concrete pad. The crane started to lift on one of the wings and there was some metal screeching and groaning which didn't sound too great. When the first wheel was lifted clear on the ground and the aircraft was at quite an angle it was discovered that the weight placed upon the **other** wing had completely collapsed the 50 gallon drums and the wing was sitting on its tip!! With this tremendous weight supported on one wing it was immediately thought that the new attachments would give way and the wing or wings would collapse.

Well, nothing of the kind happened at all. Al's superior engineering worked out just fine and ther wings held as though they were just out of the factory and the bird was towed away!! Nothing more has to be said except that we have one hell of a great Restoration Engineer!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Al Schade, Glen Thomson, John Dolan, Jim Moody, Chuck Miller, Paul Sacks, Forrest Johnson, Gary Corippo, Fred

Hahn and Conrad Martin and anyone else we may have overlooked.

This is just pure volunteerism. The only reward is in knowing you did a great job along with the sincere gratitude of all of us

Clean-up Commences

In accordance with the stated wishes of the City of Paso Robles we have started our clean-up of the premises A tremendous amount of work has been done on the east side of the Restoration Building and tons of junk has been hauled away or otherwise disposed of thanks to the efforts of Gary Corippo, Paul Clark, Fred Hahn, Ron Brooks and others.

We still have a long way to go.

The City has specifically mentioned derelict vehicles and other items by the Museum as well as near the east-west taxiway.

We have had a wonderful relationship with the City fathers and it is extremely important that we do our part by acting promptly to correct any problems that are of concern to them.

You will note that the current minutes of the last Board Meeting call for a massive clean-up day on Saturday, January 10. This event will be supervised by Fred Hahn.

This is going to be an event that **everyone** can participate in for the good of the Museum. We will have a lunch for the participating volunteer members in the Meeting Hall. This will be the **only** event scheduled for that day so don't worry about having to do something that you're not comfortable doing. We will **all** be working our buns off just to clean up.

Between now and January 10 a

Committee Chairpersons

Program

George Marrett
466-7640

Dinners

John Himes
466-6680

Membership

Obbie Atkinson
238-9212

Gift Shop

Jackie Brooks
462-8141

Grounds

John Kendall
239-8029

City Liaison

Chuck Miller
466-1212

Ground Equipment

Dave Geiger
238-1598

Insurance

Brian Webster
237-0222

Refreshments

Rosemary Netto
467-3521
Cathy Neitz

Activities

OPEN

Photo

Wally Engle
227-0245

Site Maintenance

Glen Thomson
238-4858

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Toomey
238-9266

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concerted effort will be made to deliniate material of value from junk all around the Museum. The junk will be hauled off, sold or disposed of in the best way possible. Other plans are being considered to contain the good material in an area that would be either **nicely** fenced off or otherwise placed in such a way as to avoid the appearance of being an automobile wrecking yard!

You will be hearing more about this as time goes on but, please, put the date down on your calendar and make every effort come out for a very worthwhile and necessary **Clean-up Day!!**

### On A More Somber Note

by Obbie Atkinson

One of our founding members, Don Leedom, passed away on November 20th after succuming to Alzheimer's disease. Don and Nancy Leedom made their home in beautiful Beaufort, NC by the sea.

Don will be remembered by his unselfish gifts of time, talent and resources in the foundation and development of our Museum until his departure for the East Coast in 1995. Don, a WWII veteran was a member of the U.S. ground forces and was captured during the invasion of Germany, remaining a P.O.W. until the end of the war.

Among many of our early projects that Don was involved in was supervising our first restoration project, the rebuilding of a derelect Aeronca to become a flying L-16. Repair expenses were charged to Don's credit cards and these were later paid off with the formation of the present "Bug Smashers" group. After that project, Don, a pilot, teamed up with Obbie Atkinson in acquiring a 1943 Military L-2 and

participated in many early Museum fly-bys.

"Don, you will be missed and affectionally remembered by all who knew you." Our condolences go out to Nancy Leedom.

### "Credit Accepted!!"

Yes dear friends, by the time you receive this we will be in a position to accept a number of different credit and debit cards for use at the Gift Shop as well as for dinners at the monthly meeting and even donations!

Arrangements have been made with a credit card group so that we will finally be able to say yes to the many people who ask about charging when they buy things for their kids or themselves at the Gift Shop. We have even lost sales because we have not been able to accommodate them in the past. So... come early, spend lots!

### Security Concerns

We are again having problems regarding the fact that buildings and gates at the Museum are being left unlocked over night. While we seriously deplore the thought of restricting the use of the Museum premises by the members it should be obviously apparent that by leaving the premises open we are just inviting theft and/or vandalism and more. We have already had a few instances of various items that are apparently missing and since they were specifically aviation related it appears obvious that someone cased the place and had a pretty good idea as to where certain things were kept.

Our Docents and regular volunteers are pretty well trained and aware of

what must be done when they are through for the day as far as securing the place.

Since so many members have access to the Museum it is up to them to make sure that they lock up after themselves whenever they make solo visits with friends or any other visits. It is also up to those who are working around the place, on whatever projects, to make sure that the place is secured. This means establishing who is going to be the last to go so that people don't just walk off and expect someone else to lock up.

We must improve this situation and NOW. The only other alternative is to have all the locks changed and limit the access to the Museum. This would be expensive and restrictive and just not what we want to do but if some individuals won't take responsibility for protecting the property some drastic measures will have to be instituted.

Please give this a lot of thought and make sure that you do your part or make sure that someone else on the premises is aware of what he or she has to do if they are the last to leave.

### **More Concrete Work To Be Done**

We are planning to pour new concrete in much of the area in front of the Restoration building which will be a godsend for those who have been working in mud and packed asphalt. It will also facilitate getting stuff in and out of the building, especially during wet weather.

This will be a much needed improvement and is a Golden Opportunity for members to have their names inscribed for posterity in cast ceramic plaques and molded into the new concrete pad.

Yes, we are talking about the Buy-a-Block program which was so successful in the past for raising money for the initial pads in front of the Museum sliding doors as well as areas between Meeting Hall and the Museum building.

Check out the areas mentioned to see what the plaques look like. For the small price of \$100 you can have a plaque with your name on it embedded in concrete for all eternity. These are very attractive and well made ceramic plaques that Gary Corippo procures from a firm in the valley. To place an order, however, we must have a minimum of 25 names.

Please folks, look at the many who have already made our concrete area possible and send a check to Rosemary Netto, our Treasurer, or bring a check to the next monthly meeting. We have had the concrete contractor out there and will be getting a bid in the very new future. Make payment to the Estrella Warbird Museum, 4251 Dry Creek Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446.

### **A Bit About Gary Ryan**

From "Westways" in 1998 by Diane Lundin

With a high-pitched toot of the horn, Captain Gary Ryan eases *Tiger's Folly II* from its dock at Morro Bay's Embarcadero. The day is warm and sunny and passengers have gathered on the top deck of the double deck paddle wheeler for an hour-long tour of the harbor.

Ryan stands in the pilot house on the fore of the ship. His nautical uniform includes a navy-blue sweater with gold epaulets and a captain's hat set at a jaunty angle atop his brown hair. His eyes appear to be perpetually ready to share a joke, even when his voice is serious.

"It was the old *Tiger's Folly* that brought me to Morro Bay for keeps in 1980," says Ryan smoothly guiding its successor, *Tiger's Folly II* toward the mouth of the harbor. "George Leage asked me to play music on his tour boat for the summer. I found Morro Bay to be like Monterey in the early 60's. I liked its small town aspects."

Ryan plays jazz guitar, banjo and piano in a style he calls, "kind of a jazzy bebop." Leage had first heard him play at the Warehouse on Monterey's Cannery Row in the 1960's. After spending 20 years on the road with the likes of Bing Crosby, Dean Martin and Rosemary Clooney, Ryan was ready for a permanent home.

Today he performs at several well-known jazz festivals, including those in Mammoth, Monterey and Palm Springs. He also plays for special parties on the *Tiger's Folly II*, sharing his captain's duties on those and other occasions with another skipper.

Soon there is little time to talk as the captain with the elfish personality, begins entertaining his passengers over the boat's loudspeaker. He intermingles jokes with facts about the harbor and the waterfront as he pilots the 94-ton vessel toward the rolling Pacific and

then returns to the quiet of the back bay.

"Gary has brought a lot of fun to a lot of people's lives," says Leage of the multi-talented crowd pleaser. "He's witty, always happy; nothing ever seems to get him down."

But, how did a jazz player become a boat captain?. The 59 year old Ryan has been a licensed airplane pilot since high school, so he says he simply "transferred" his skills and knowledge to boating and earned a license to pilot 100-ton watercraft..

Not just a captain and a musician, Ryan is a businessman too; he owns Goofy Graphics, a sign business on Morro Bay's Main Street. In his free time he likes to bike around town with his 10-year old twin grandsons. His life might not have followed the course he expected when he earned his degree in architecture from U.C. Berkeley in 1960, but it suits him just fine!

*For a cruise aboard Tiger's FollyII, which is docked behind the Harbor Hut Restaurant at 1205 Embarcadero in Morro Bay, call (805) 772-2257. Tours depart on Saturday at 12:30 and 1:44 pm, on Sundays at 11:00am and 1:30 pm.*

### Changing Of The The Guard

Our good friend and Past President, Wally Engle, has submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors as well as his position of 1st Vice President for personal reasons, primarily from a lack of time due to other commitments. He has also stated that he will continue to remain a member and will be as involved as possible and for this we are grateful.

At the November Board Meeting, Chuck Miller was unanimously voted in as a Director and 1st Vice President. This isn't exactly a reward in Chuck's case since he already spends about 110% of his free time with Museum business anyway but we are delighted that he agreed to take on the post in view of everything else he already does for us.

### Docent Schedule for December

Saturday 6th: Webster 10 - 1  
Smith 1 - 4  
Sunday 7th: Brooks/Holzer 12 - 3  
Saturday 13th: Weiss 10 - 1  
Bloomquist 1 - 4  
Sunday 14th: Smith 12 - 3  
Saturday 20th: Clark Scott 10 - 1  
Canpo 1 - 4  
Sunday 21st Passon 12 - 3  
Saturday 27th: xxxx  
Closed for Christmas  
Sunday 28th: xxxx

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Estrella Wardbird Museum  
Minutes of Board Meeting

November 19, 2003

The meeting opened at 5:15 p.m. by President Paul Clark.  
Other Directors present were: O. Atkinson, J. & R. Brooks, E. Chidlaw, C. Martin, J. Cromwell, Betty Miller, R. Netto, A. Schade, G. Thomson, T. Weiss. City Liaison- Chuck Miller. Guest: B. Toomey, Editor.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of October 15, November 1st & 5th -- were E-mailed and reviewed individually by Board members.

MOTION: Conrad Martin moved to accept the October 15 minutes as published on the e-mail. SECOND by Betty Miller. CARRIED

MOTION: Conrad Martin moved to accept the minutes of November 1st Executive Committee Emergency meeting as presented. SECOND by John Cromwell. CARRIED.

MOTION: Ed Chidlaw moved to accept the November 5 Special Board meeting minutes, as presented. SECOND by Conrad Martin. CARRIED.

**Treasurer Report** was handed out and reviewed.

After discussion, it was decided to arrange for the collection of meal tickets at each dinner meeting.

MOTION: Ed Chidlaw moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. SECOND by Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

**Committee Reports**

**FACILITY Rental & Usage:** Betty Miller reported we have received checks from Quota Club and Crawford/Riley Caters.

**Job Descriptions** -- were received via e-mail and reviewed in advance. MOTION: Ed Chidlaw moved we approve both job descriptions with the insertion of \$200 per month allowance for Supply Officer expenses. SECOND by Al Schade. CARRIED.

Rosemary reported this completes the job descriptions. Approval was given for her to make final copies for our records.

**Premises Clean-up/burning party:** MOTION: Ed Chidlaw moved the clean-up work party date be Saturday, January 10th. Fred Hahn to be general Chairman in charge of organizing.

Lunch will be served to the workers. SECOND by Al Schade. CARRIED.

Al Schade reported: the surplus Navion Tip Tanks are sold for \$400.00.

**Old Business:**

Donation/Sale of Cessna 340-- Paul reported paperwork is not yet complete.

\*\*\* Credit Card Machine Ed Chidlaw reported the Credit Card machine will be installed the first part of next week. Upon receiving a time from Dave Holton he will contact Doug Miner, Betty Miller, Rosemary Netto and Jackie Brooks to be at the meeting.

The editor was requested to put a notice in the newsletter stating "we now accept credit cards".

Lease Proposal with City--Chuck Miller reported we should be getting a letter from the city in the near future. It sounds positive.

\*\*\* New Class of Membership--Obbie Atkinson recommends we have a membership category for Veterans of all wars. Discussion followed. One idea was to Create a slide presentation and go to different service organizations promoting our group.  
MOTION: Al Schade moved we have transparencies made for the presentations.  
SECOND by Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

\*\*\* Signage on Hanger-- Glen Thomson will be in charge of contacting Mary Kalvans for signage and report back to the board.

San Miguel Christmas Parade: Jackie reported a letter will be forth-coming from Mary Kalvans, has invited EWM to participate in the December 20 San Miguel Christmas Parade. Jackie was given authority to contact members to participate.

NOTE: President Paul was excused from the meeting. 2nd. Vice President, Ed Chidlaw was left in charge

#### New Business

MOTION: Glen Thomson moved we elect Chuck Miller to fill the Board of Director vacancy . SECOND by John Cromwell. CARRIED

MOTION: Glen Thomson moved to Amend the motion. John Cromwell Second the motion to amend -- Motion CARRIED.

\*\*\* Amended MOTION : Glen Thomson Moved To include that we also elect Chuck Miller to the position of First Vice President. Second John Cromwell. CARRIED.

Parking Lot Striping was addressed by John Cromwell. Discussion followed.

He will follow up with CCC Parking Lot Striping Company.

John Cromwell reported the possibility of someone to restore the 42 Ford Fire Truck. He will keep us informed.

Padlock Security addressed by Ron Brooks. Two times in 3 days gate and museum building padlocks were unlocked and no one here. One solution is to have a sign in/out sheet for all who enter and leave the building.

It is noted we need an updated contact list for the alarm company. Jackie will contact Paul regarding a new list.

2nd. Vice President Ed Chidlaw turned the meeting over to the 1st President Chuck Miller. Call for question.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by, Jackie Brooks  
Recording Secretary

*Jon Jones*

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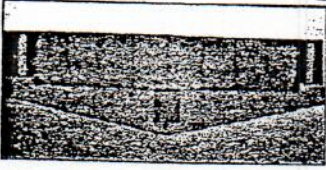
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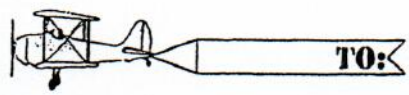
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