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Gleim USN Ret.

Martin Wright

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Tom Bordonero

### Museum Info

Phone 227-0440

Answered by Machine

www.ewarbirds.org

\*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 XV Number 3

Paso Robles, California

March 2004

### March Meeting

The March Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2004 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Since St. Patrick's Day falls in the middle of the month this will be our annual celebration of this important event. Our Decorating Committee, composed of Rosemary Netto and Judy Corippo will probably come up with a "foyn rendition of the green" so take a look and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Chef John Himes and crew will provide us with a corned beef and cabbage feast so bring an appetite and join the fun.

### **RESERVATIONS WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!**

Call the Museum at 227-0440 or Betty Miller at 466-1212

Our speaker for the evening will be retired Navy Commander Gordon Boles, a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor a veteran of both Korea and Vietnam with a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars and 24 battle stars. As is often the case, your Editor starts to write a resume regarding our speaker and then, after reading his brief biography or an article about him, realizes that what has to be said

requires more than just a few notes. So it is with Gordon Boles. We have, therefore, received permission to quote from an article written by columnist Silas Lyons as it appeared in The Tribune. Please read it on page four

### Cleanup Continues With Great Results

Last Saturday saw the return of our cleanup crew, some new and some who have been coming out regularly, on many recent Saturdays. This has been a classic example of the volunteer attitude of many members.

Much has been accomplished and many trips have been made to the dump and the recyclers. You will note that the ratty looking guard shack no longer stands as an eyesore at the front gate, having been reduced to ashes during the cleanup. There has been a tremendous amount of work done in the Restoration Building and much storage space has been made available "upstairs" over the shop area for useful parts and items needed for restoration that have been just sort of kicking around for years.

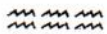
It has become sort of a recent tradition that a simple lunch has been offered the Saturday workers which may account, in part, for the increased turnout of workers. It can be a long day without a lunch break and it is a small payback for those who do show



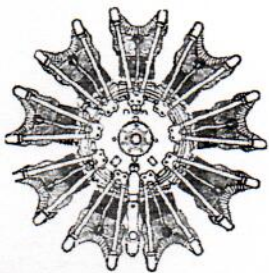
## The Estrella Squadron Newsletter

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](mailto: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.



up and a time to relax a bit and enjoy each other's company.

Many thanks to all of you who are really making a difference.

### About The Saturday Lunch Lunches!!

What we need is a "Chef du Jour" for these lunch breaks. Well, maybe the title is a bit much because what we really need is a person or a few people who will volunteer to prepare just a simple offering such as hot dogs or chili or some sort of one dish meal that will take very little preparation but will be much appreciated by the working crew. If just four people would volunteer to come out one Saturday a month each and just heat up some hot dogs and buns or a batch of chili or buy a good lasagna from one of the markets it wouldn't take much effort and would be much appreciated. I'm sure there are a good many people who have a simple one dish item, like a good stew, that they could share with us. We can take a few bucks out of the Museum funds so no one will be expected to pay personally on top of preparing the food and just a small expenditure can go a long way. We only have to prepare food for between 15 to 20 people so it's not like we have to feed an army.

So far, over the past few weeks, Gary Corippo and Ed Chidlaw have been taking this on themselves but it's about time that some others pitch in. This is not something that should be dumped on any members of the regular dinner crew so let's have a few guys or gals take on a Saturday a month for a couple of hours or a day every other month and make this a real contribution. Contact Bruce Toomey

at 238-9266 to volunteer or Betty Miller at 466-1212.

### Adopt-A-Poll Volunteers

As another worthy example of volunteerism, 17 Museum members have entered the above program which will provide a staff of workers for a particular voting precinct for the upcoming elections on March 2. We will be in charge of Precinct 109 at the Baptist Church on Creston Road.

For taking on this service the Museum will receive \$575 from the County for providing the worker staff.

This isn't as simple as it sounds because there is a lot to learn about the whole process of setting up a precinct and how to handle all the requirements for seeing that the voting is handled in a proper manner. There has already been one informal meeting at the Museum on Saturday, the 22nd and another was held on Wednesday the 25th at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Templeton which was attended by several hundred workers (in the pouring rain) who will be manning all the precincts.

Most of our volunteers will be working three hour shifts except for the two in charge, (guess who!) namely Betty Miller and Jackie Brooks who will spend a delightful day at the polls starting at 6:00AM and ending at 9PM or later after everything is wrapped up and sent to the Regional/Central Collection Center!! This is called Extreme Volunteerism!



## 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  
Bob Miller

### Decorating

Rosemary Netto  
Judy Corippo

### PIO..

Jim Pickens  
783-2334

(e-mail) [jpickens57@yahoo.com](mailto:jpickens57@yahoo.com)

### Photo

Wally Engle  
227-0245

### Site Maintenance

Glen Thomson  
238-4858

### Newsletter Editor

Bruce Toomey  
238-9266

## Gordon O. Boles

(A Column by Silas Lyons as appeared in the Tribune)

### At Pearl Harbor, In Vietnam, He Lived Close To History

SLO's Gordon Boles was wounded in Japanese Attack

The bullets, twin lines of strafing from a Japanese plane must have tore across the teakwood deck of the USS Pyro with remarkable speed.

But in a twist typical of such important, Gordon O. Boles remembers them approaching slowly. Crack. Spray of splinters. Crack. It was about 8:20 am.

Like today, that December 7 now 62 years past was a Sunday.

The Pyro, an ammunition ship had arrived in Pearl Harbor only the night before. At 17, Boles was illegally enlisted and a long way from Bakersfield.

The joke (maybe it was a joke) on the Pyro went that they didn't bother giving the crew lifejackets in case of an explosion on board.

They gave them parachutes.

Crack. Spray.

While his crewmates dove for safety, Boles sat terrified.

A shred of teak hit his left arm, tearing it open to the bone.

The bullets finally arrived. They bit into both arms, demolishing nerves and shattering bone.

A move either way and they would have found a lethal mark.

Then it was over.

That's how Gordon Boles experienced Pearl Harbor and how he received his first of five Purple Hearts.

Talking to Boles in the den of his modest mobile home in San Luis Obispo last week, and reflecting on Pearl Harbor and the struggle that

followed, has left me feeling very humble.

Modern America - my America - was in many ways born that morning that Boles stood on the deck of the Pyro.

The test that he faced in the following weeks, months and years was the test of the entire nation.. Boles body is tattooed with scars and his military awards include the Silver Star, America's third highest honor for combat heroics.

He has two Bronze Stars and 24 battle stars.

But although he spent nearly half of his 79 years in the Navy, Boles story is not just about the fighting.. In fact, from his mouth at least, it's not much about the fighting at all

"I try to remember the funny things that happened and I try to forget - and I do pretty well at it - the battles and such." he tells me, right after repeating a story about a drunken radioman who worked in his underwear.

Like America Boles moved on from Pearl Harbor with remarkable determination and optimism.

Four days later he entered the sick bay aboard the USS Tangier. He spent a couple of weeks recovering, then got back to work.

During his years in the Navy, Boles earned bachelor's and master's degrees in math and physics, than an advanced law degree and started a family with his wife, Carol.

While the country endured the new struggles of Korea and Vietnam, Boles was in the fight.

In Vietnam he commanded a construction crew of 565 men and brought every last one back.

Both before and after his official retirement as a commander in 1979, he worked for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



His and Carol's children all earned doctoral degrees: Brian is a lawyer, Mark is a doctor (and running for Congress in Pennsylvania) and Shelley is a pharmacologist.

Boles' has truly been an American life, lived much closer to history than many others.

I asked what sustained him, particularly through the threats he faced, and discovered another strong American trait; belief in invincibility

"I'm convinced that I'm not going to be hurt," he says, and I stare at the long scars on his right arm. "I've always had that attitude. I may get banged up. but I can't be bothered with wounds and things like that."



**Docents Needed**

Okay, here we are again folks. Our Docent Program is one of the most important aspects of the Museum. Granted, it's not out there restoring aircraft or making massive improvements but **IT IS OUR MAIN ON SITE PERSONAL LINK WITH THE PUBLIC** and as such is a vital part of our overall effort. If we don't have people for visitors to talk with and to help guide them a bit we're just a big barn with some items that some people may or may not relate to. It's important and it certainly isn't a whole lot of work. The only physical work is putting up the flag, opening the big doors, weather permitting, uncovering the exhibits as we start the day and doing it in reverse as we end the day. There are those who always go beyond the base requirements and take on other tasks but keeping the place open and being available is the **MAIN THING.**

You don't have to be particularly knowledgeable about much of anything and there is a great book available on the counter made up by a number of members who *are* knowledgeable with 99% of the information you might need.

We need people who will work the Saturday afternoon shifts from 1pm to 4pm and we need people for the Sunday shift from 12noon to 3pm. At this point the morning shifts are pretty well covered.

We currently have 14 docents, 10 men and 4 ladies. Two ladies stand shifts as a team, another works with her husband and another works alone so we have 12 watch standers

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in all. We have 12 to 15 shifts a month depending on how many weekends in the month. Some can only work certain shifts so we can't

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just arbitrarily assign people. We need additional volunteers who are willing to give up just one three hour part of a day just once a month. It just isn't right that those who are presently serving should be asked to take on multiple shifts when there are others who could be available. There will be a sign-up board at the next meeting.. Please look at it and just make a simple commitment.



**Estrella Wardbird Museum  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
February 18, 2004**

Meeting opened at 5 p.m. by President Paul Clark. Others Directors present were: Obbie Atkinson, Ron Brooks, Ed Chidlaw, John Cromwell, Fred Hahn, Dave Highland, Betty Miller, Chuck Miller, Rosemary Netto, Al Schade, Glen Thomson. Editor, Bruce Toomey and PIO- Jim Pickens

**Minutes --MOTION:** John Cromwell moved to accept the January 21 minutes as received on e-mail. Second by: Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

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

**MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved to accept the Treasurer report. Second by: Betty Miller. CARRIED.

**Committee Reports**

**Facility** Betty Miller reported several groups have requested Saturday tours of the Museum. **MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved we set \$50.00 aside from each kitchen use rental, to be used to replace worn or missing items. Second by: Dave Highland. CARRIED

**Premises Clean-up** (burning party) Fred Hahn reported there is real progress. Many thanks to the crews of workers who have volunteered several Saturdays.

**Restoration:** Al Schade reported the F-4 is near completion. The Dodge truck is in the process of being "re-manufactured". Other Kitchen--Ed Chidlaw reported there are new cabinets installed in the kitchen. There is a need for a water softener and a larger water heater.

**Old Business**

**Signage:** Glen Thompson reported the sign for the North side of the hanger, is in the process of being made by Bob Berg owner of Ellis Sign Company.

Discussion on other locations for Signs followed.

**Adopt-A-poll --** Betty Miller reported there will be two training classes to help our 15 Precinct worker volunteers, prior to the March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Election Day.

We will man #109 at Grace Baptist Church, Paso Robles.

**ADHOC/Lease Proposal with City** reported by Chuck Miller and Ed Chidlaw.

They want us to submit to the City, a Business plan showing proposed income. Discussion followed regarding what type of business we could go into.

**Project Planning Report** Ed Chidlaw The completed written plan was given to each member, and reviewed. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** Fred Hahn moved we study the feasibility of extending the existing museum hanger and adding a Gift Shop building to the front.. Second by: Chuck Miller. CARRIED

The planning committee will be in charge of researching and will report back.

**Alarm update:** Ron Brooks reported meeting with the Representative of Great Western Alarm Co. regarding alarming additional buildings. Item Tabled until insurance information can be looked into.

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**New Business:**

**MOTION:** Al Schade moved we ask Judy Corippo to try setting up Smithsonian trip in October. Second by: Ed Chidlaw. CARRIED.

By consensus we will tell Judy we do not plan to use our Credit Card Machine.

**Parking Lot Striping** John Cromwell reported no new information at this time.

Betty Miller reported the need for EWM Flyers or Rack Cards. Bids to do Rack Cards were presented. **MOTION:** Al Schade moved to have Betty Miller produce and print the black & white flyers to use for now. Second by: Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** Betty Miller moved to include ordering the Rack Cards when the glossy four fold membership brochures are made. Second by: Dave Highland. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we offer dinner for two and a guided tour at the EWM as an Opportunity Drawing prize to the Hard Hat Benefit Golf Tournament, for the Paso Robles Emergency Relief Fund. Second by: Dave Highland. CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Jackie Brooks, Secretary





A beautiful *Water Color* by our own mega multi-talented K.O. Eckland.

When I saw my first Air Show on my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1936 in Helena, Montana, two of these showed up as the only two military aircraft in the show. I never forgot it and I was thrilled when I saw K.O.'s rendition on a post card in Amelia's Restaurant in the old Paso Robles Terminal Building. This was a REAL Warbird!!!!