

## Museum Board

### Executive Committee

President & CEO  
Chuck Miller

1st Vice President  
Fred Hahn

2nd Vice President  
Ed Chidlaw

Secretary  
Jackie Brooks

Treasurer  
Rosemary Netto

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Gary Corippo  
John Cromwell  
Dave Highland  
Conrad Martin  
Elizabeth Renton Miller  
Al Schade  
Glen Thomson  
Brian Webster  
Tom Weiss

Advisory Board  
RADM James M. (Mac) Gleim USN  
Ret.  
Martin Wright

Honorary Advisory Board  
The Hon. William P. Clark  
Tom Bordonero

### Museum Info

Phone 227-0440

Answered by Machine

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

Phone 238-9317

Can be used to reach personnel at  
Museum on  
Saturday and Sunday Only

### 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 XVI Number 2 Paso Robles, California February 2005

### February Meeting

The February Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour beginning at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm

Chef John and the Museum Gourmet Group will prepare baked chicken and maybe some special desserts for Valentine's Day!

Reservations will be necessary, as usual. Call the Museum at 227-0440 or Betty Miller at 466-1212.

Our program for the evening will be a wonderful video of the arrival ceremony of the F-14 including flyovers all the way through to the de-mil of the aircraft. This was assembled by Ron Brooks and Wally Engle and is really a spectacular presentation. Those of us who missed the ceremony will be able to see all the festivities so try to make the meeting if at all possible. A once in a lifetime event.

Don't forget to read Obbie's "Eagle Flight" history on page 7 and Airplane Identification on page 9



*A Note from  
the Prez....*

Dear Friends,

The New Year is off to a fine start. With all our rainfall to date, the water rationing problem seems to be lessening. The Museum Board of Directors has established some priorities for future Museum development during the next two to three years.

As many of you know our first priority is to build a 40' x 120' (4800 sq. ft.) metal building for the storage and maintenance of our historical jeeps, trucks, tugs, tools, as well as a place to store some of the large items, odds and ends, that are currently outside of the Aircraft Restoration Hangar.

This project will start as soon as the City of Paso Robles gives the Museum the OK on the additional property we have requested to be added to our existing lease site.

Obviously such projects take funding. The Vehicle Restoration Hangar has some money set aside and thanks to the generosity of two of our members, **Ron and Jackie Brooks**, a major portion of that funding has been donated by them. Thank you so much Ron and Jackie!

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  
467-2158  
Bob Miller  
434-1594

Decorating

Rosemary Netto  
Judy Corippo  
238-2090

PIO

Fred Hahn  
464-0863

Photo

Wally Engle  
227-0245

Site Maintenance

Glen Thomson  
238-4858

Aircraft Acquisitions

Gary Corippo  
238-2090

Our second priority will be the construction of a new Museum Building. The current Museum Hangar was constructed for aircraft display and maintenance. As we collected memorabilia and artifacts, these were displayed there as well. If you have been into the hangar lately you know that we have outgrown the space. Carol Weiss and Betty Miller have been rotating items, but are running out of storage area to house things not currently on display. In addition, an aircraft hangar can not be climate controlled or totally bird and insect proofed. We have many wonderful one-of-a-kind items that need protection to ensure their continued ability to be displayed.

I am also sure some of you who would like to be docents, but can't take the cold of winter and the heat of summer, will enjoy working in a new climate-controlled building, either as a docent or Gift Shop volunteer.

The Museum Building Fund will be set up to take donations that will be used solely for the engineering, architectural plans and construction of a new Museum Building. A major fund raising effort will be taking place shortly.

Our "Unsung Heros"--

**Ron and Jackie Brooks** do so much for the Estrella Warbird Museum and yet many of you don't know them because they are so quiet.

Jackie is the Secretary for the Board of Directors and takes the minutes, answers correspondence and maintains our files. In her "spare" time Jackie is the Gift Shop Manager and is busy ordering new items and setting up the merchandise displays.

Ron is "Mr. Fix-it". He can be found working on electrical projects, water lines, tearing down old buildings, hauling display cabinets, or taking the other end of a board that looks too heavy.

It is with extreme pleasure that I salute Ron and Jackie Brooks as our "Unsung Heros" for February 2005.



On a more somber note I would like to ask you to extend your sympathy to the families of **Tom Cameron** and **Ken Grubb**.

**Tom Cameron** was "Mr BBQ" and headed up the December 15<sup>th</sup> BBQ to honor the F-14 demilitarization team. Tom passed away from complications of a stroke on January 18 at the age of 74. Services were held at the Shrine Club on Thursday January 27<sup>th</sup>. Tom and member **Mike Wing** put out many a great BBQ for our Air shows and USO Shows. We will miss these fine men.

Long time member **Ken Grubb** passed away Sunday January 23 after a brief illness. Services are pending at this writing. Ken was active in aircraft maintenance and always enjoyed coming out to our meetings. Ken was 80 years old and had been in ill health for the past few months.

We will miss all these folks, but they will live on in our memories. We wish them well on their final flight west.

*Chuck*

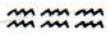


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## The Estrella Squadron Newsletter

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 [btomey805@charter.net](mailto:btomey805@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.

### New Exhibits in Museum

by Betty Miller

Be sure to check out our new exhibits in the Museum Hangar.

We now have an F-14 exhibit with some great photos from Hughes Aircraft of F-14 flight testing of the Phoenix weapons system, thanks to George Marrett, former Hughes test pilot on the F-14. We also have some stats on the F-14 as well as some photos of the F-14 arrival and retirement Ceremony on December 11, 2004.

There is a new wall exhibit (by the Link Trainer) of **Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose"** that many of you will find interesting. With George Marrett's new book about Howard Hughes and the new movie about Hughes, it is wonderful to have some of our own artifacts up to add information about this aviation legend.

You will note some new display cases as well. These were donated by the Rios Caledonia Adobe Museum in San Miguel. They also donated some great tool storage cases which are now residing in the Aircraft Restoration Hangar.

On this same note, Betty Miller reports that she and five other representatives from the other five North County Historical Museums, (Pioneer Museum, Camp Roberts Museum, Paso Robles Historical Society, Templeton Historical Museum and Rios Caledonia Adobe Museum) will be meeting shortly to discuss ways that we can all work together to get more visibility and visitors. It will benefit all of the North County Historical Museums to work together on this goal. You will be getting some information about each of these museums in this newsletter during the next few months.

### A Couple of Welcome Visitors

On Sunday, January 16 the Museum had a great visit from Richard Gearhart and his 9 year old son, Hayden. Betty Miller was there and opened up the APC and the Huey which Hayden especially enjoyed. They came back into the Museum after visiting all the large airplanes so that they could

compare their size with the BD-5 and Richard read every written placard on every exhibit! They really enjoyed their hour+ visit and the following morning at the end of the KSBY news segment (right at 7am) Richard really gave the Museum some great PR coverage! We had a considerable number of call-ins from members and non-members alike.

Thank you Richard, hurry back and we'll be watching you!

### Awards for 2004

During the January Meeting of the EWM Board of Directors, museum members names were submitted by Board members for the 2004 EWM Recognition Awards. It was a difficult task considering the great number of members who had contributed so much to the success and growth of the museum in 2004. It was obvious that our success was largely a result of a team effort and cooperation from a large number of talented members. An additional Recognition Award was created for 2004 to be called the Founders Award.

The characteristics considered for the Awards are based on the individuals contribution in many areas including leadership, character, vision, wisdom and contribution to growth among others.

The 2004 recipients are:  
Top Gun - Ron Brooks  
Directors Choice - Rosemary Netto  
Grunt of the Year - John Kendall  
Extra Mile - Betty Miller  
Member of the Year -  
John Whitworth  
Founder's Award - George Taylor

Awards will be presented at our February Meeting so plan to be present to honor these great members for their service to each of us, the Museum, Our City, Our State and Our Country.

In addition to the above, the Board would like to make Honorable Mention of the following members:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jackie Brooks   | Gary Corippo |
| Judy Corippo    | Ed Chidlaw   |
| John Everett    | John Dolan   |
| Forrest Johnson | Bob Kelly    |
| George Marrett  | Chuck Miller |
| Fred Thacker    | Ron Thomson  |
| Bruce Toomey    | Paul Sacks   |
| Al Schade       | Carol Weiss  |
| Tom Weiss       |              |

### More on Those Who Have Left Us

In addition to members Tom Cameron and Ken Grubb who passed away so very recently, both in January, as noted in Chuck Miller's column, I wanted to remind the membership as a whole that we also lost Mike Wing in November and Jack Compere in December as well as Roger Moulin in July.

I deeply regret that I do not have the room to include Mike Wing's complete obituary since it was 4 pages long as given at the Memorial Service. Mike was a treasured member, a veteran of WWII, a local businessman in Paso Robles for many years, a pilot taught by Archie Dean, a Sunday School teacher and a warm, helpful and steadfast friend.

Roger Moulin, while not well known to some of us, had been a member for some time. He was a busy man having been an FBO in San Luis Obispo and Chief pilot for

the Vandenberg Air Force Base Aero Club. For 20 years he served as an Air Attack pilot, most recently with a corporation contracted to fly for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection which is where many of us got to know him. He was also recently building a Harmon Rocket homebuilt airplane.

Jack Compere we all knew as that big tall guy who got around on a pair of canes and later a wheel chair but who never stopped flying his little yellow Aircoupe until almost the very end. Jack had contracted polio as a 16 year old high school basketball athlete and lost the use of both legs. Jack never gave up, worked for years in several businesses, raised three wonderful kids with wife, Marie and was a warm and wonderful human being.

All of these people were good friends, especially to a guy who had just moved here from the East. I was very fortunate to have been able to join the Museum where I met them. I would like to assemble some more personal information about all of them and present it at a later date to the members because they, like a number of good friends and members who have left us, each added a great deal to our organization through their talents and friendship.

### Upcoming Events

To keep you up to date on what events are coming up, here is our current Museum calendar.

### Museum Tours

Wednesday, February 23, 18 people from the Danish Care Home (pg 4)

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday March 22, 24, and 25, 150 kids from Templeton Elementary divided into the the three groups noted above.

Wednesday, April 27, Special Ed kids from Paso Robles High School.

Thursday, May 5, Private School Group

Saturday, June 4, Sacramento Valley Flying Club with 20 aircraft flying in. We will provide a Salad Lunch for them at 11:30 am followed by a Tour

Betty Miller needs volunteers for all events. Please contact her at 466-1212 with the day and time you are available

This is part of what we do and who we are. Don't leave this all up to someone else. Betty gives hours of her time to these event, often with the help of the regulars like Carol Weiss, Judy Corippo and Jackie Brooks and others but she also often has to scrounge for help. Step forward and lend a hand! Call her at the above number.

### Additional Information Meetings

Estrella Warbird Museum monthly Dinner Meeting

1st Wednesday of every month.

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting

4th Thursday of each month.

Paso Robles City Council Meetings  
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month

Experimental Aircraft Association  
(EAA) Chapter 465 Meetings 1st  
Thursday of each month.

### A Little Airline Humor

On landing, the flight attendant said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything please make sure it's something we'd like to have".

Another Flight Attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing. "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal".



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**Estrella Wardbird Museum  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
Wednesday -- January 19, 2005 -- 5 p.m.  
Thomson Hall**

Meeting opened at 5:10 pm. By President Chuck Miller.

Other directors present included: O. Atkinson; R. & J. Brooks; P. Clark; G. Corippo; J. Cromwell; F. Hahn; D. Highland; C. Martin; B. Miller; R. Netto; A. Schade; G. Thomson; T. Weiss. Advisory Board: Mac Gleim. Guests-- Jim Cone; John Dolan; Jim Moody; Clark Scott; George Taylor; John Whitworth.

Minutes of December 15, 2004 were corrected to read: "Treasurer reported we will begin quarterly reports to the Franchise Tax Board in 2005."

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we accept the Minutes of December 15, 2004 as corrected. Second: Betty Miller. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** Conrad Martin moved to accept the Treasurer report as presented and reviewed. Second: Al Schade CARRIED.  
Conrad Martin announced EAA Chapter 465 donated \$200.00 to EWM.

#### **COMMITTEE Reports:**

1. Chuck Miller reported a special Board Meeting will be called in the near future, to review the City of Paso Robles proposal regarding the acquisition of additional property to the East of our parcel.
2. Gift Shop reported \$1083.00 has been received from the sale of F-14 T-shirts. All sales are clear profit, thanks to John Whitworth who donated them.
3. Aircraft -- Gary Corippo reported we will be getting several cosmetic items back for the F-14. ALSO- possibly new seats.  
Regarding the T-37,- The Board authorized funds to allow Al Schade fuel and lodging expenses for a round trip to Shepard AFB, near Dallas, Texas. The pick up date is February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
4. Restoration Al Schade reported the Dodge truck is nearing completion. Next is the A-7 Corsair which is sitting on the cement ramp.

- (P96)
5. **Membership** - Obbie Atkinson passed ballots for the Board to vote tonight, for the special 2004 Awards to be given in February. Committee to evaluate "ballots" from tonight's voting consisting of: John Cromwell, Ron Brooks, Al Schade.
  6. Up coming **Tours** were reported by Betty Miller.
    - 1) Wed. 2/23 we will have 18 people from Danish Care Home.
    - 2) 150 Kids from Templeton Elementary 3/22--3/24-- 3/25 divided into groups.
    - 3) Special Ed. From P.R. High on April 27. May 5 private school group.
    - 4) Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> Sacramento Valley Flying Club with 20 aircraft flying in.  
We will provide a Salad lunch for them at 11:30 a.m. followed by a Tour.
- Betty needs volunteers for all events. Please contact Betty at 466-1212 with the day and time you are available.**

#### **Old Business**

Information was presented for the 2 buildings available to be used for Vehicle Restoration & Storage. Following a written ballot, President Chuck announced the 40' x 120' building will be used in the proposed area. On the **SECOND** part of the ballot, the Board voted that we should **build a new Museum building.**

#### **New Business**

George Taylor gave a video to Safety Chairman John Cromwell, to be shared with EWM Saturday workers.

Al Schade shared some good fund raiser ideas from George Kennedy.

PIO Fred Hahn will be asked to check with Betty Miller to help implement some of these ideas.

Safety Chairman John Cromwell reported the kitchen is not Fire Certified.

Materials have been purchased to correct the problem. John will see that the Certification gets done.

Al Schade was appointed to be EWM Safety Representative for the first 6 months of this year. He will report needed Safety corrections to John Cromwell. George Taylor will work with him.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Reconvene February 16, 2005 at 5 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Jackie Brooks  
Recording Secretary

## "Eagle Flight"

by Obbie Atkinson with editing by Bruce Toomey. Any mistakes are Toomey's!

The Museum's new, active, talented P.I.O, Fred Hahn, is requesting long time Museum members to write and record for history memories and accounts of our early beginnings.

My earliest memory of any activity goes back to some time in 1989. I learned there was to be a meeting of interested individuals at "Amelia's", then the Paso Robles Airport Restaurant, to discuss the forming a Central California unit of the Confederate Air Force. In attendance, while I can't remember all, were Glen Thomson, Gary Corippo, Bill Kitchen, Paul Tardiff, Don Leedom, Dirk Hale, Keith Bowers and others. It was decided to organize a unit and join the C.A.F.

Early meetings were held on the second floor of the now "Jet Center" hangar and later we moved to our own quarters in the old Nunno hangar. We began holding monthly meetings with dinner and entertainment and began accepting C.A.F. Colonel memberships for an initial fee of \$200. to the C.A.F.

It was soon apparent that others wanted to be a part of the operation but did not choose to become a C.A.F. Colonel. We decided to form a "Squadron Membership" with dues at \$25.00 annually. This eventually led to the formal formation of the Estrella Warbird Museum composed of non- C.A.F. "Squadron" members as well as Colonels. Part of the reason for considering the thought of a Museum was because so many local people had artifacts that they wanted to give us but did not want

them to be owned by the C.A.F. which was one requirement of the C.A.F. Charter

The Museum was started in 1993 and we limped along with a dual membership until the C.A.F. began to insist that they were a Museum in themselves and that we were operating at cross purposes with their organization.

In 2001 it was decided by both entities to part amicably and the Estrella Warbird Museum struck out on it's own and happily teamed up with the City of Paso Robles as a local Museum. In the beginning, the Museum formally signed up about 90 members including 43 Colonels, some of whom still belong to the C.A.F. on their own and others who have let their membership expire. Today we are nearly approximately twice that number in membership as her Museum continues to grow and expand.

My interest and support has largely focused on finding leaders, membership and flying activities, hence "Eagle Flight". Referring to my flight logbook,, I show our early air activity as flying with Gary Corippo on 6-21-91 in some T-28 activity and Glen Thomson in the Grumman S-2 representing the C.A.F. on 7-5-91 at the Point Mugu Air Show.

I began flying the L-5 that Gary and a partner had procured in Canada on 7-27-91 and the L-2 that Don Leedom and I procured on 7-2-92 and the L-16 by our Museum team led by Paul Tardiff.

On Veterans Day, 11-1-92, "Bird Flight" was born with a local Cemetery formation flyby

representing the Museum. These three "L Birds" with pilots, Don Leedom, Dick Griffith and Obbie Atkinson made the inaugural flight. In our formation training flights I asked Don to lead since had no military or formal formation training. We experienced some early problems with Don as he would nearly always turn the opposite direction from my instructions to guide us over our targets. This was readily corrected by printing the letters "L" and "R" on the back of his hands on subsequent flights. Don will always be remembered for his unselfish service to the Museum and his survival as a P.O.W. in Germany in WWII.

Not long after "Bird Flight" went into service supporting Museum activities, I began looking for more pilots and airplanes to fill our numbers. By a stroke of luck, some reporters wrote an account of one of our flybys and referred to our formation as "Eagle Flight" from the Warbird Museum. Now we were not just mere "Birds", we were "Eagles" and that name stuck and sounded more attractive to prospective pilots.

So, during the passing years, "Eagle Flight" has been a visual, off the airport, appearance for the Museum in support of Coastal

Ceremonies during Memorial Day, 4th of July,, Pioneer Day, Veterans Day, various Air Shows from Point Mugu, the Valley and Watsonville. It has provided a military aerial presence during the funerals of Museum members and other notables on request

I wish to thank all the pilots who gave unselfishly of their time,

expertise, money fuel and aircraft that makes "Eagle Flight" possible. Now remembering Don Leedom, Dick Griffith, Glen Thomson, Gary Corippo,, Jeff Welles, George Marrett, Douglas Erway, Bob Foote, Steve Cerveny, Bill Clark, Jim Moody, son, Dr. Obbie, Al Schade, Bob Singleton, and all our ground support teams

And thanks to all for supporting "Eagle Flight". It has been a pleasant journey

**Docent Schedule February - March 2005**

Feb 5 10 - 4 Miner  
1 - 4 Hermansen

Feb 6 12 - 3 Brooks

Feb 12 10 - 1 Blomquist  
1 - 4 Toomey

Feb 13 12-3 Corippo

Feb 13 12 - 3 Corippo

Feb 19 10 - 1 Dickey  
1 - 4 Weiss

Feb 20 12 - 3 Passon

Feb 26 10 - 1 Dickey  
1 - 2 OPEN

Feb 27 12 - 3 Miller

**MARCH**

March 5 10 - 1 Miner  
1 - 4 OPEN

March 6 12 - 3 Brooks

Mar 12 10 - 1 Dickey  
1 - 4 Toomey

Mar 13 12 - 3 Corippo

Mar 19 10 - 1 Blomquist  
1 - 4 Hermansen

Mar 20 12 - 3 Passon

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Mar 26 10 - 1 Dickey  
1 - 4 Weiss

Mar 27 12 - 3 OPEN

**Docents and phone numbers:**

Dick Blomquist 227-0362  
Gary Corippo 238-2090  
Ruth Dickey 239-8242  
Jackie Brooks 462-8141  
Norma Holzer 461-5186  
Linda & Arnold Hermansen  
467-5186  
Doug Miner 239-1054  
Ray Passon 466-7234  
Bruce Toomey 238-9266  
Tom & Carol Weiss 239-2637  
John Whitworth 772-0847

Our **Gift Shop** has:

- 1) **Cozy Hooded Sweat shirts w/zipper. \$40.00**  
Shop soon to get your choice of size.  
Purchase at the Museum or –  
Phone Jackie to reserve yours. 462-8141.

\*\*\*\*\*

- 2) Vandenberg A. F. Base has: **LEATHER FLIGHT JACKETS** for sale.  
\$199.00 for ONE – less 50% off. = \$99.50 ea.. or \$199.00 for 2.

**Buy 2 and get #3 FREE!! actual cost 3 for \$66.33 ea**

**Contact Conrad Martin 929-6152 for information and to order.**



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### Can You Identify This Aircraft?

Last month Kenny Finch was able to correctly identify the Douglas Dolphin as it sat on the turntable at Hamilton Cove, Catalina Island in 1931. Kenny won two free drinks of his choice as his prize.

This month we have a very different aircraft for you to try to identify. Call Betty at 466-1212 if you can ID it. First caller with the correct answer wins! Good Luck.