**State Of The Squadron**

**As Of December 31, 2015**

It has been a good year for the Squadron. We continue to add new members at a slow steady pace. Along with that comes the gradual attrition to our ranks as members non-renew because of age, health, moving, or even inability to be involved reasons.

We continue to meet regularly, usually on the last Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m., which is our scheduled day and time. We now go to lunch at a local restaurant chosen that day for those interested in joining. Members who fly in get rides with other local members. We have found this is working better than periodically having cook outs. We do still have periodic cook outs and intend to continue, but the every meeting lunch has been well attended and seems to be looked forward to as part of the gathering experience.

We continue to get requests for flyovers once in a while. The Squadron receives donations for these activities which are placed in a fund for sponsors supporting our annual Warbird Weekend fundraiser for veteran’s organizations. Two of the annual flyovers are the Gasparilla Kid’s Fishing Tournament flyover at Boca Grande Pass and the annual Punta Gorda Memorial Day Run. Gasparilla Kid’s Fishing Tournament is a fundraiser for the Moffett Cancer Center. The Punta Gorda Memorial Day Run includes a salute to veterans during their opening ceremony.

During the flying season, we support, attend and participate in the flying activities for:

1. The TICO Warbird Airshow put on by the Valiant Air Command in Titusville

2. Formation clinics put on by the respective Trainer groups

3. Wings Over Flagler – Rocking the Runways

4. SUN ‘n FUN Fly-in in Lakeland

5. Stuart Airshow

6. When Pigs Fly South – A Salute To Veteran’s (our annual Squadron veteran’s fundraiser formerly known as Warbird Weekend) in Lakeland at SUN ‘n FUN

Speaking of our annual veteran’s fundraiser, “Warbird Weekend”, we have successfully partnered with SUN ‘n FUN to create a Win Win situation for both parties. We combine our event with a SUN ‘n FUN event The event takes place on the SNF campus and significant economies to scale are accomplished. The SNF grounds already have water, waste facilities, security, people traffic control, aircraft ground control and predetermined aircraft use areas. They are already spending specified funds for their event. We add our additional expense and our sponsor money and we end up with a mutually beneficial project. When the dust settles, our agreement specifies that we will not lose any money and we share in the after expense net proceeds. We got a check from SNF for the 2014 event and will be getting another one soon for the 2015 event. The pilots and owners who support this event are very happy to support this veteran’s fundraiser. They provide their own fuel expenses and have a real good time at the event. Many of the pilots say that this is one of the “fun” events they attend annually. It gives them a friendly, down home, family feeling while getting first class treatment, not too busy, and not too complicated. They get to do a little flying, and have the opportunity to “tell” some stories, see old friends and get some entertainment.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and wish you and yours a Happy New Year. Lynn and I are thrilled to be associated with such a class group of people.

Fair Winds and Blue Skies,

Zack