



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter - December 2013 Wrap-Up

Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond

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WING TIPS

HOT NEWS: The North Central Region, Civil Air Patrol ARGUS system will be taken permanently offline as of January 1, 2014. As of November 30, 2013, the system will no longer allow new registrations, nor will users be able to add new missions/sorties. “Read Only” access will be the only access available to any user during the period from November 30, 2013 through December 31, 2013. A backup of ARGUS's image store was made as 06:00 on November 30, 2013. Copies of individual Wing's imagery will become available after January 1, 2014 and can be requested by the Wing Commander until January 31, 2014. The images will be permanently deleted at midnight central time January 31, 2014. While there is no network enabled replacement product available, the ARGUS author recommends a product called "Phyllis – CAP Mission Photo Assistant" in use by the Minnesota Wing. It is compatible with the goals of ARGUS and at one time was considered for being the ARGUS "front end" when internet connectivity was not available. More about Phyllis can be found at <http://www.mncap.org/es/imaging/>.

- CAP Pamphlet 211, Operations Officer Specialty Track Study Guide, has been updated and is ready for use. The guide prepares one for the responsibilities of an Operations Officer. It applies to all levels; squadron, group, wing & region. CAPP-211 is on "Forms, Publications and Regulations" on www.capmembers.com or go directly to www.capmembers.com/media/cms/P211_62F4269290B38.pdf.

- Lt. Col. Don Barbalace, SDWG Inspector General for over 4½ years, has transferred to the NHQ-999 squadron and been appointed to CAP's National Inspector General Staff as an "Assistant National IG". In an email, Lt. Col. Barbalace wrote, “My job there has been greatly expanded this year and I can no longer do justice to both positions. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you.” Col Seten is expected to announce his replacement as Wing Inspector General in the near future.

- The latest issue of “CAP Vector” is now at: www.capmembers.com/cap_national_hq/capvector/. “CAP Vector” is a quarterly, online news and information tool designed to "get the word out" about CAP initiatives, events and programs.



South Dakota Wing Administrator, 2nd Lt. Rachel Kuecker, received a joint gift from the squadron commanders to thank her for her hard work on their behalf throughout the year.

The scenario for “Operation Rachel’s Gift” was like the plot of a 007 movie. Col. Seten (M) requested Capt. Moad (007) contact the squadron commanders (Qs) for support. At the suggestion of her husband (the Mole) a “fun and frivolous gift” was obtained in great secrecy. A clandestine meeting was then arranged with the target in an innocuous public location on the pretext of handing over an urgent document (a gift certificate to her favorite spa where she could have a massage, facial, manicure, and pedicure). The drop was made and this covertly obtained photo says it all.

- The latest digital version of the Civil Air Patrol Volunteer, the 40th edition published since the magazine was launched in 2006, is now available at http://www.capvolunteernow.com/cap_volunteer/. In addition to the cover story about Civil Air Patrol’s inclusion in a new, permanent display at 1st Air Force at Tyndall AFB, Fla., there is a feature about CAP’s recurring role in helping train Department of Defense and other Federal agency personnel to defend America. CAP’s new NCO program is also featured in the January issue, along with reports about two of the organization’s disaster relief missions in 2013 – the response to historic flooding in Colorado and an unexpected blizzard in South Dakota.

- Cadets and senior members seeking financial aid for higher education should check out this website with categorized lists of scholarships offered to those with a military or military-related background including CAP. Many of the scholarships have restrictions (location limited) or specific caveats (must be a veteran). However, there are enough categories offering scholarships that one or more may fit you. Most can be applied for online. Check out: <http://colleges.niche.com/scholarships/military/civil-air-patrol/>

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP, SDWG/CC

- Commanders, Wing Staffers, senior members and cadets - I hope you all had an enjoyable, safe holiday season. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! 2013 was a good year for the Wing in many aspects and we are pushing into 2014 fast and hard. I’m confident 2014 will be even better. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

- Congratulations to C/1st Lt Silas Busch and C/Col William Small for having been selected for the SD Wing flight scholarships for 2014. Each \$1000 scholarship is to be used for aeronautical instruction leading towards earning your private pilot certificate.

- Please review DRAFT CAPR 39-1, *Civil Air Patrol Uniform Manual*, and share with your members. The required photos and images in the draft manual are not complete in several places. Work on this will continue while this document is out for a 30 day comment period from the field. There is an area for constructive comments in eServices.



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Capt. William Collister, CAP, SDWG/DC

Submitted by 2nd Lt. James Schimelfening, Assistant Wing Director of Communications. Can you hear me now? One of the lesser known capabilities within CAP is its nationwide High Frequency (HF) communications system. You may have heard about CAP's HF comms but what many don't know that in the morning and in the evening Monday through Friday there is a national net call on standardized HF frequencies for check-in for all Wings. The stations that check in are logged by the Net Control Station (NCS); many can be heard by others but not the NCS and are then relayed to the NCS. Others can hear everyone but can't make contact due to a variety of circumstances especially atmospheric conditions.

The Wing has a new, recently activated HF radio station in Custer in southwest South Dakota. This station uses the portable MICOM-3 HF/ALE radio that can easily be transported then set up pretty much anywhere. This station is not on-the-air all the time but checks in on the nationwide CAP HF net when it can. Contacts have not been always successful but most of the time SDWG has been on the map at the national level for check-in and even surprised the NCS operator in Iowa on first contact.

The HF's station's operator (Callsign: Grasslands-42) has been a CAP member since 2009 but his experience with long range communications dates to 1973 when assigned to the U.S. Army Rangers where he first received formal training in the operation of long range communications.

Any cadet or senior member interested in the Communications Specialty Track please contact your chain of command for further guidance.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)

(Items by 2nd Lt. Rust appear in the Promotions section, CyberPatriot item by Maj. Kipp)

- The squadron's cadet cyber-forensics team taking part in the "CyberPatriot-VI" has qualified to advance to Round 3 (Semifinals) in the "All Services Division", according to the CyberPatriot Program Office's website. Like the first two rounds of competition, the Semifinals are held in each team's local area. The top teams in the Semifinals receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the CyberPatriot National Finals Competition in Washington, DC in March, 2014. They will compete face-to-face and defended their virtual networks against simulated cyber-attacks from a professional aggressor team.

Last year, the squadron's computer forensics team finished first in the newly established Cisco Networking Event, during which the teams were timed and scored on their ability to operate and secure a basic network.

The annual CyberPatriot competition, created by the Air Force Association, is the premier national high school cyber-defense competition to inspire high school students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. The annual competition is presented by the Northrop Grumman Foundation, with founding partners Science Applications International Corporation and the Center for Information Assurance and Security at the University of Texas-San Antonio. CyberPatriot is also a member of the U.S. Cyber Challenge, a national coalition of public-private sector entities collaborating to enhance the workforce with the next generation of cyber security professionals.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items and photos submitted by: 2nd Lt. Bierwirth)

• It seems like our squadron has been everywhere busily promoting Civil Air Patrol and honoring our veterans. We started out with setting up a Christmas tree for the Custer YMCA festival of trees display (Photo 3). We moved on to deciding how we should decorate our float for the Custer Parade of Lights. Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to the freezing temperatures. The weather did cooperate on 14 December for our participation in the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at the Hot Springs National Cemetery and the Cold Springs Cemetery. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to our co-participants; the Hot Springs VFW and American Legion, the Custer VFW and American Legion, the Custer VFW Ladies Auxiliary, the Black Hills National Cemetery personnel, and Jasmine Cisneros. Together we made this event a success. (Photos 1 & 2)



PHOTO1: CADET STIFFARM, CADET PARRY, LT. V. BIERWIRTH, LT. K. BIERWIRTH, MS. CARRIE ALM (CONDUCTRESS, VFW LADIES AUXILIARY), MAJ. MIKE DUFFY.

PHOTO2: CADET THOMAS DILLON AND CADET KYLE STIFFARM. BOTH PHOTOS TAKEN BY MARIA LEDUC.

PHOTO3: KYLE STIFFARM, BREANNA DILLON, K. BIERWIRTH, THOMAS DILLON, TONY DILLON, PARRY, V. BIERWIRTH. TAKEN BY CAPT. MOAD

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Item submitted by Chap. (Lt. Col.) Rae appears in the Kudos section)

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Item and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Larson)



The squadron's Cessna-172 aircraft was returned to service this month after an upgrade to its control panel! On 17 December, Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson and 1st Lt Neil Schmid ferried the refurbished aircraft from the maintenance facility in Sioux Falls to Pierre. The Pierre Composite Squadron is looking for more aircrew to operate this advanced version of the Skyhawk aircraft.

The upgrade consisted of installation of a Garmin G400 GPS unit that provides navigation and approach capabilities for CAP aircrews. The G400 GPS unit in Pierre's aircraft features Wide Area Augmentation System features, and is up to 5 times more accurate than regular GPS units, aiding in search effectiveness and efficiency. The Sioux Falls composite Squadron also has a Cessna-172 equipped with a G400 GPS.



Wing Commander Col. John Seten flew CAP's Sioux Falls-based Cessna-182T out to Pierre to pick up the ferry crew and return them to Sioux Falls.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Items and photos submitted by: Maj. Goodrich)

The Squadron obtained sponsorships for some 80 wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program. On 14 December we placed the decorative commemorative wreaths on the headstones of deceased veterans and took part in the ceremony at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.



Squadron Commander Maj. Craig Goodrich and Lt. Rachel Kuecker supervised and assisted the cadets in emplacing the wreaths.

Left to Right: Cadets Nicholas Kochutin, Travis Woodard, Travis Tenold, Levi Woodard, Tyler Eberle, Silas Bush, Malia Goodrich, and Bruce Hack.

- Welcome aboard to our squadron's newest senior members, Jeffrey Dill, Kevin Tenold and Ronald Lenz. We are pleased you have decided to join CAP and honored that you have chosen our squadron.

- First Flight Ever in an Aircraft: Cadet Nicholas Kochutin flew his first ride in a powered aircraft with pilot Capt. Joshua Hall at the controls on 14 December.

SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)

(Items submitted by: 1st Lt. Schmid, GMT photos by 1st Lt. Schmid)

- Cadet orientation flights (O-Rides) have been challenging to complete this month, especially with the marginal weather conditions; lots of clouds, snow, bitter cold temperatures and otherwise unpleasant weather in the month of December for flying. However, Cadet Technical Sergeant Nicholas Nash and Mission Pilot 1st Lt. Neil Schmid found the perfect window of flying opportunity on Friday, 27 December to complete two flights. This completes Cadet Nash's powered flight syllabus Sections 8 and 9 that cover Advanced Flight Maneuvers and Use of Instruments in flight. Cadet Nash has one more flight to complete the powered flight orientation ride program, and is looking forward to flying and possibly getting his private pilot's license in the future.



LT. NEIL SCHMID (LEFT), C/TSGT NICHOLAS NASH (RIGHT)

- On 12 December, C/Capt Brandon West conducted a safety training session for a dozen SFCS senior members. Many safety topics were covered, including Preventing and Treating Hot and Cold Weather Injuries, Preventing Fatigue, and Identification of Natural Hazards. In addition Cadet West displayed and explained his personal survival gear, which resulted in a lively discussion by the participating members. Most of the attendees received credit toward Ground Team Level Three certification.



C/CAPT BRANDON WEST PRESENTS SAFETY TRAINING SESSION TO SFCS SENIOR MEMBERS

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotions

 Congratulations to Ryan Jones of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his re-promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant! Lt. Jones was a former member of CAP and we welcome him back to the fold.

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions

 Congratulations to Mathias Kowang of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Goddard Award!

 Congratulations to Christopher Dinnel and to Laura Rudnik, both of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and their receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!

 Congratulations to Josiah Huntington of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Eddie Rickenbacker Award!

Cadet Airman Promotions

 Congratulations to Zachary Hollick of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Ryan Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and to Bronson Lynn and Zebadiah Nelson, both of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Malia Goodrich of Rushmore Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and their receipt of the General Curry Award!



★ ★ HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 ★ ★

The SDWG Public Affairs staff issued twenty five news releases during 2013. You can view them by clicking on the item below or go to the Public Affairs page on the new Wing Website (<http://sdcap.us/>) and click on “Media Releases” - 2013. You can also review all the activity of the Wing and Squadrons for the year on the same page. Click on “SD Wing Newsletter – “The Skychaser” - 2013.

2013 – Media Releases

- [3 SDWG Cadets To Attend CAP Civil Leadership Academy](#)
- [Washington Defense Cuts Threaten SD CAP](#)
- [SDWG On Stand-By For North Dakota Flooding](#)
- [SDWG Searches For Roaming Mountain Lion](#)
- [Mickelson Trail Marathon](#)
- [Joint Dakota Emergency Services Encampment](#)
- [General Recruitment Fall 2013](#)
- [ELT Search 1 September 2013](#)
- [Update to ELT Search 1 September 2013](#)
- [Final Update to ELT Search 1 September 2013](#)
- [SDWG Reaches out To JROTC- ON HOLD](#)
- [SDWG Searches For Stranded Hunters In Black Hills](#)
- [FU2 SDWG Search For Stranded Hunters In Black Hills](#)
- [DPS Request For Dead Livestock Survey](#)
- [DPS Highway Livestock Carcass Survey](#)
- [State and County Livestock Carcass Survey](#)
- [2013 Dead Livestock Search Update](#)
- [Meade County Waterways Dead Livestock Survey](#)
- [Dead Livestock Survey Wrap-Up Report](#)
- [County Livestock Survey Resumes](#)
- [Wreaths Across America 2013](#)
- [SD CAP 72nd Anniversary](#)
- [SD Cadets Nab Top Spots in Cybersecurity Competition](#)
- [SD Cadets Awarded Flight Scholarships](#)
- [SD Cadets in CyberPatriot Semifinals](#)