



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for August 2014

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

Publishers: Wing Commander Colonel John Seten / Wing Vice Commander Lieutenant Colonel Richard Larson
Editor: Major Bruce Kipp • Wing Public Affairs Officer • (605) 261-4507 • paa.sdwg@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP and Like us on Twitter at [@SDWingCAP](https://twitter.com/SDWingCAP)

WING TIPS

- **WING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** SDWG members like to know what’s happening in the wing in any given month. Please list your squadron’s upcoming events on the calendar on the Wing Website homepage.
- **REMINDER:** The SDWG exhibit at the South Dakota Air National Guard Museum in Pierre is still up and will remain so until about 3 October. If you happen to be heading to or through Pierre stop in at the museum and check out our exhibit. It’s well worth the visit.

- **AUGUST SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE:** Dismal weather conditions on 22-23 August bedeviled South Dakota Wing’s Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX). Originally to be held at the Pierre Composite Squadron, the weather outlook for the weekend there was so poor that it was decided to rebase the SAREX



between Rushmore Composite Squadron and Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. An Incident Command Post was set up at both locations to conduct the training activities. Over the course of the two days, nine mission air sorties were flown. The sorties practiced aerial search techniques for a grid, route, and creeping line search. The object of these searches was a simulated small aircraft’s emergency locator transmitter (ELT). Once the search aircraft’s on-board sensors detected the ELT it flew to the location and orbited. At the same time the search aircraft were airborne, ground search teams were sent to the general search area and used hand-held radio-direction finding equipment to search for the ELT. After a search aircraft locked on to an ELT signal it communicated with the ground team to direct them to the simulated crash site to render aid and assistance. In addition to the aircrews and the ground search teams a number of personnel were busy at the two Incident Command Posts providing support in command and control, communications, logistics, public affairs, and general administration. *SDWG

demonstrated its capability to quickly adapt to changing conditions on short notice and conducted effective training for the over 40 personnel involved. In the photo, taken by Lt. Ron Lenz, Col. Mike Beason turns onto final approach to the Rapid City Airport during the SAREX.



was accompanied by Mr. Brandon Tycz from SDSU.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on five days in August in support of the Department of Game, Fish & Parks and the South Dakota State University. GF&P surveyed deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveyed elk and bobcats. The surveys resulted in 9.9 flight hours for GF&P and 8.9 flight hours for SDSU and for a total of 18.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot on the 4th, 14th and 27th was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. He was accompanied by Ms. Paige Mueggenberg of GF&P. The pilot on the 12th and 25th was Maj. Craig Goodrich. He

- **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS:** Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing requests South Dakota Wing conduct Low Level-Route Surveys (LLRS) of military air training routes (MTR) and aerial Military Operations Areas (MOA). These MTRs cover southeastern South Dakota, northwest Iowa, and northeast Nebraska leading to/from the O'Neill MOA in northeast Nebraska. Sioux Falls' Joe Foss Field is an Air Combat Command (ACC) F-16 base and this airspace is used by active and reserve ACC units.



The purpose of these surveys is to ensure obstruction clearance at the minimum altitude usable for training. The CAP aircrews note potential hazards and obstacles not listed on current charts, assess possible air traffic conflicts from public use airports, airways and airstrips, and assess other potential flight safety hazards. In addition, they note the locations of noise sensitive areas such as stock pens and feedlots.

During the month of August, SDWG flew 12 sorties for a total of 35.6 flight hours that covered approximately 3,886 nautical miles. For 2014 SDWG flew a total of 19 LLRS sorties for just under 53 hours of flight time that covered 6,051 nautical miles. The activity involved two Cessna-172 and two Cessna-182 aircraft. The aircrews were comprised of 18 members from Sioux Falls, Brookings, Pierre and Rapid City. SDWG's unique uses for its aircraft put it in the Top 20 wings in the continental U.S. for aircraft utilization.

- When SDWG flies a LLRS, a command post is set up to support the aircraft. SDWG Lt. Col. Larson serves as Incident Commander. Capt. Neil Schmid of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron is Project Officer and Lead Planner for SDWG's LLRS missions. Lt. Scott Kuznicki was an aircrew member during the LLRS sorties flown in July. His name was inadvertently omitted from the July Skychaser article.

- **NATIONAL BLUE BERET – OSHKOSH, WI:** Imagine an air show with over 500,000 visitors and 10,000 aircraft. This is National Blue Beret (NBB), a two week long experience like no other that CAP offers every year in conjunction with the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) "AirVenture" airshow in Oshkosh, WI.

This year, four cadets had the honor of representing South Dakota Wing. Our NBB cadets were First Lieutenant Sullivan Busch and Chief Master Sergeant Christopher Dinnel, of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, and Captain Nicole Schneider and Major Brandon West, of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. As a result of their participation the cadets are authorized to wear the coveted blue beret with its prized St. Alban's pin.



The most important mission of the NBB program is to assist the EAA with flight line operations. Cadets are posted along taxiways during the operational hours of the air show directing pilots to their destinations. The second mission is crowd control at the ultra-light and military aircraft areas. The third mission is emergency services - locating lost or overdue aircraft by tracking its emergency locator beacon (ELT). Cadets also staff two station towers to observe aircraft landing on each runway to help keep track of which aircraft are on the ground.

NBB Operations are based out of “the compound,” as it is called. This compound includes a hangar for sleeping, an open field for formations, a communications building and, most important to every teenage cadet, a mess hall. The compound is run entirely by CAP personnel. Daily responsibilities include everything from kitchen duty to cleaning bathrooms and doing laundry for the 140 cadets and 42 senior members. *Article from information and photos by Capt. Karla West, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron*



- **AEROSPACE EDUCATION - EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKSHOP IN PIERRE:** Twenty eight SDWG members took part in a joint Aerospace Education (AE) – Emergency Services (ES) workshop held in Pierre from Thursday, 7 August to Saturday, 9 August.

Maj. David Small supervised nine cadets in CAP’s Model Rocketry Program at the Pierre airport. Four cadets, C/TSgt Austin Rauscher, C/Amn Nick Kochutin, C/2nd Lt Jared Doyle and C/MSgt Josiah Huntington, completed all three rocketry phases to earn the coveted CAP rocketry badge. The rockets were launched near the airport on Saturday with a single stage rocket constructed and flown by C/MSgt Josiah Huntington reaching a measured altitude of 383.98 feet.

C/1st Lt Sullivan Busch, under supervision of Wing Director of Operations Maj. Nick Gengler, led 16 Cadets and one Senior Member in a field training exercise focused on the skills employed by CAP ground search and rescue teams. Search and rescue teams were formed and deployed for realistic training scenarios.

We had special guests fly in from the North Dakota Wing in a FLIR-equipped CAP Cessna-182. The Forward Looking Infrared Radar is excellent for locating the heat signature of individuals at night or in heavy cover. NDWG pilots Capt. Dan Villas and Lt. Graham Frost and FLIR operator Capt. Daryl Billick set up a static display of the FLIR Cessna-182 at the Pierre airport and several cadets got to operate the sensors.

On Friday and Saturday Capt. Gary Dettman taught the intricacies of flight fundamentals and control to a group of eight cadets. Utilizing STEM kits sent by CAP National HQ the group built rubber band powered balsa wood aircraft and tested changing various aspects of flight dynamics and flight configurations. Capt. Dettman also supervised the cadets as they assembled and, after training on a remote control aircraft simulator, flew a remote controlled powered glider with a six foot wingspan. The model operated at a range of nearly a quarter mile and performed loops and other acrobatic maneuvers.

Also on Friday, cadets and seniors toured the South Dakota National Guard Museum where Wing Historian Maj. Todd Epp had just opened the new SDWG exhibit. 17 Cadets, 11 Senior Members and over 60 local children, parents and teachers attended the Open House at the museum. CAP provided tables for recruiting, airplane building, model rocketry and parachuting.

17 cadets pitched tents by the shelter at Farm Island State Recreation Area. A special thanks to Lt. Col. Myra Christiansen and Capt. Sylvia Small for providing three great meals per day. Lt. Col. DeWeese showed grill skills and Col. Mary Donley made sure everything ran smoothly. [Maj. David Small and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese contributed to this article]



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

- 1 - MODEL ROCKETRY BADGE RECIPIENTS: CADETS JOSIAH HUNTINGTON, JARED DOYLE, AUSTIN RAUSCHER, NICK KOCHUTIN**
- 2 - GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM TRAINING**
- 3 - FLIR-EQUIPPED CESSNA-182 STATIC DISPLAY**
- 4 - BALSA WOOD AND POWERED GLIDER PILOTS**

- **AIR FORCE ACADEMY CREATES CYBERSECURITY MAJOR:** [Edited] The US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., has created an academic major focused on cybersecurity. The new major, dubbed “Computer Network Security”, is designed to help cadets understand what the cyberspace domain is and how the Air Force will establish cyberspace superiority in future conflicts. The computer network security track will

teach cadets how to reverse engineer software to analyze viruses and other malware to figure out how it operates. Other classes deal with computer forensics, strategy, political science, and law.

Source: Air Force Magazine Online for Thursday, 14 August 2014.

- ***BIRDBATH:*** A KC-135 Stratotanker taxis through the wash rack, also known as the “bird bath”, after a mission on 18 August 2014. The KC-135 is assigned to the Tennessee Air National Guard's 134th Air Refueling Wing. (*Air National Guard photo by TSgt. Jonathan Young*).

Source: Air Force Magazine Online for Monday, 25 August 2014.



STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. John Seten, CAP

LET'S FLY ALL AIRCRAFT: This September 11th marks the Thirteenth Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the north and south towers of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, on the Pentagon in Washington, DC and the tragic event near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. To commemorate the anniversary I challenge all SDWG pilots to fly all six of our aircraft on 11 September. Let our red, white and blue aircraft be seen in the skies all over South Dakota. When South Dakotans hear our aircraft's motor they will look up and see our national colors in the sky above them.

If you were going to do some proficiency flying, choose to do it on the 11th. Take other members, particularly new members, up with you. Wear your flight suits and tell people the story of CAP. I also ask that you take aloft with you an American flag, any American flag. The flag is a symbol of our freedom and our resolve as

Americans. Lastly, take photos of those participating in our 9/11 flights, both in the air and on the ground for display at wing conference. We'll likely still have some O-Flight money available so we can fly cadets when they get out of school.

Together, let's honor those that died on September 11th and those that have died in our War on Terror by flying our aircraft and demonstrating what it is to be free.



WING ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Rachel Kuecker

END OF THE FISCAL YEAR: October 1st marks the beginning of the new Fiscal Year and each Squadron has paperwork that is required to be turned in for FY14. Please try to get that done and submitted on time. Please let Capt. Sylvia Small or me know if you have any questions.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. David Small, Jr.

SD 2014 ANNUAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME EVENT: On Saturday, 6 September, the South Dakota FAA Safety Team will hold a Hall of Fame Event at Black Hills Aero at Black Hills Airport/Clyde Ice Field in Spearfish. The theme of the event is "Critical Thinking at Critical Moments". The day will start with a Sunrise Breakfast at 0700 followed by activities throughout the day. It will be a great time to meet fellow aviators from all backgrounds. Come and attend this all-day venture. Coincidentally, Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron is having an open house at the same location at the same time.



WING HISTORIAN

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

SDWG EXHIBIT AT SDNG MUSEUM: On 8 August, the SDWG exhibit opened at the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre. The exhibit will probably run through October or so.

The exhibit celebrates the SDWG/SDNG assistance to each other in the accomplishment of their missions. For example, the SDWG performs low level route surveys for the SDANG; the SDANG has allowed the SDWG to use its mobile emergency operations center for SAREXs and communications training.

The exhibit features current and decommissioned CAP uniforms such as the "Smurf Suit," the Corporate Dress Uniform, current and past flight jackets and a battle dress uniform. It also includes current and past equipment such as an aircraft radio, a ground radio, a GPS unit and pilot kneeboard. It also includes CAP insignia, the SDWG Roundup magazines, various awards, patches, a chart with LLRS routes highlighted, etc. A PowerPoint presentation showcases photos of SDWG and SDNG members and activities. All of the items are identified

with descriptions, with the history of the CAP, cooperation between the SDWG and the SDNG and other notable and interesting facts about the SDWG and CAP and SDNG on placards. The SDWG items are in two large cases, three mannequins, and two easels.

Thank you to SDNG Maj. Anthony Deiss for finding photos of Major General Tim Reisch at some of our joint events such as Falcon Keynote. Thanks to Capt. Jerry Foy, Capt. Jason Erickson, Capt. Jerry Gabert and Capt. Karla West in helping locate items for display; to Lt. Col. Myra Christensen for loaning her "Smurf Suit"; to the late Lt. Col. Dick Forman and his family for the donation of items to the SFCS that are on loan at the exhibit; to Lt. David Stockinger for providing outstanding photos for the PowerPoint presentation and to Capt. Foy and Lt. Col. Rick Larson for donating photos of them in the Guard and CAP activities for the PowerPoint. Also, thanks to Maj. David Small for taking photos of the exhibit. SDNG Museum Director Sonja Johnson made the exhibit possible through her enthusiasm, hard work and support.

I now begin work on the SDWG/CAP exhibit at the SD Air and Space Museum at Ellsworth AFB.



LEFT: MS. SONJA JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF THE S.D. NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM, POSES IN FRONT OF THE MUSEUM

RIGHT: MAJ. TODD EPP, SDWG HISTORIAN, AND MS. SONJA JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF THE S.D. NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM, POSE WITH PAST AND PRESENT CAP UNIFORMS AT THE SDWG EXHIBIT

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Item submitted by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING:** H(otel) E(cho) L(ima) L(ima) O(scar) South Dakota Wing THIS IS Crazy Horse Composite Squadron. BREAK. We have been working on our communications skills. Sometimes things come out GARBLED and we need to SAY AGAIN that we WILCO to the directives given. Sometimes we just have to WAIT while someone needs to STAND BY. So far the training has been pretty CHARLIE OSCAR OSCAR LIMA and we say AFFIRMATIVE to that! So until next month we are OUT.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Items submitted by Maj. D. Small, Jr.)

- **SQUADRON OPEN HOUSE:** We are having an open house Saturday, 6 September, at our headquarters building. Our open house coincides with the FAA Hall of Fame Event also at the Black Hills Airport/Clyde Ice Field in Spearfish so we are hoping for a somewhat higher number of visitors.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item submitted by Lt. Kuecker, photo by Lt. Lenz)



- **FIRST CAP FLIGHT**: Lt. Rachel Kuecker had a wonderful first flight experience as she zoomed into the overcast skies over the West River area on 23 August during the recent SAREX. Although she admitted to being a bit apprehensive, the photo bears out her claim that she wasn't nervous, and is proud of the fact that she did not get airsick. The front seaters were Lt. Ron Lenz and Capt. Josh Hall, who took the photo.

- **ELLSWORTH AFB OPEN HOUSE**: On 16 August, Ellsworth AFB held an open house as part of its Black Hills Community Appreciation Day to show its appreciation to its neighbors. The squadron was present to support the event. A CAP Cessna aircraft was on static display with Col. Mike Beason on hand to answer questions from the public and to hoist younger visitors in and out of the aircraft. A crew of cadets and senior members were inside the hanger at a table with various CAP materials and to answer question.



COL. BEASON ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT THE STATIC DISPLAY



CAP TABLE IN THE MAIN EVENT HANGER

- **CADET ORIENTATION RIDES**: On 18 August, C/AB Jonathan Busch and C/A1C Nicholas Kochutin took off on a cadet orientation flight. Command pilot, Maj. Craig Goodrich, piloted the Cessna-182 to Custer County Airport, with aerial tours of the Shrine of Democracy (Mount Rushmore) and Crazy Horse Memorial on the way. The plan was to land at Custer County Airport and swap seats. However, although the stated crosswind on the Automated Surface Observing System was just 5 knots, the actual wind was significant and gusty. The aircraft received a significant gust just as it was touching down and ballooned considerably, so Maj. Goodrich rejected the landing. Valuing safety over mission, he decided to return to Rapid City for a full stop. As it was a bumpy day to fly, Cadet Busch wanted Maj. Goodrich to do 95% of the flying that day – it took a lot of work to keep the wings level and for everyone to feel OK. The moderate turbulence on the way home took away the desire to fly any more that day. But the cadets were heroes – they didn't get sick! Cadet Kochutin didn't get to have another O-ride that day as planned, but he got a ride in the back seat.



CADET BUSCH



CADET KOCHUTIN

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

(Items by Lt. Espeland and Capt. Schmid, photo submitted by Lt. Espeland)

- **SDANG WINGS 'N WHEELS**: Capt. Matt Meert represented the squadron at the SD Air National Guard's annual "Wings 'n Wheels" gala on 2 August. The event, a display of Air Guard member's cars and aircraft, was well attended by Air Guard personnel and their families. The squadron displayed two CAP aircraft, our Cessna-172 and our G1000 "glass cockpit" Cessna-182. The G1000 display was activated using the ground power unit and Capt. Meert explained some of the capabilities to Air Guard members and their children. This display made for an impressive show and wowed many who viewed cockpit display and moving maps. In addition, our CAP van, affectionately known as the "Ghost Buster's Van" was on display. Several individuals expressed interest in joining CAP as potential Senior Members and potential Cadets.



- **SIoux EMPIRE FAIR SAFETY EXPOSITION**: Lt. Karen Espeland, the squadron Drug Demand Reduction Officer, was at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls in August promoting Civil Air Patrol and CAP's Drug Demand Reduction program. The squadron had been asked to participate in the fair's safety exposition. Lt. Espeland was at the CAP table on the 2nd, 3rd and 7th of August while Lt. Vinnie Brown manned the table on the 6th of August.

- **SUPPORT TO LIFELIGHT FESTIVAL**: Lt. Col. Rick Larson, Capt. Neil Schmid and Maj. Todd Epp flew a sortie Saturday evening, 30 August, in support of the LifeLight Festival taking place east of Worthing. The main mission was support for the event, monitoring area vehicular traffic and testing radio interoperability with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. In addition a number of training tasks were accomplished; surveying, aerial photography, and four different search pattern techniques; line, parallel, expanding and sector. Experience was gained using Spidertracks, an in-flight, near-real-time aircraft tracking system. Aerial support had originally been scheduled for the three days of the festival. However, poor weather on Friday, 29 August, did not permit the flight to take place. On Sunday, 31 August, Lt. Kurt Johnson, Capt. Karla West and Lt. Jerald Hayden flew a sortie in support of LifeLight during which much of the same activity took place.



PHOTO CAPTIONS:

LEFT – AIRCRAFT NAVIGATION DISPLAY SHOWS THE CITY TOWN OF WORTHING, THE LIFELIGHT FESTIVAL GROUNDS AND THE PLOT OF AN EXPANDING SQUARE SEARCH PATTERN

RIGHT – THE LIFELIGHT FESTIVAL GROUNDS NEAR WORTHING



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★



Senior Member Promotions



 Congratulations to David Small III of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant! David received accelerated promotion to this grade on the merit of his Earhart Award earned as a cadet

 Congratulations to Justin Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



 Congratulations to Levi Woodard of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Josiah Huntington of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Justin Harris of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!


 Congratulations to Joseph Jagodzinski of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!


 Congratulations to Ivan Kreger, to Kyle Kreger, and to Julia Lair, all of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Peter Iverson of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!


Cadet Airman Promotions

 Congratulations to Nicholas Kochutin of Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Kyle Clement of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Nathaniel Fleet of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!


 Congratulations to Noah Misselt of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award! Amazingly, within a week of getting his membership, he completed his Curry Award and GES so he could participate in the August SAREX.


★ ★ CAP TRIBUTE ★ ★



By Jean P. Moore, blog for the Greenwich Library Oral History Project [Edited]: In February 2012, Oral History Project volunteer Suzanne M. Seton sat down with Molly Cook (1917-) for an interview about her and her mother, Marian Cummings, (1891-1984).

When Marian Cummings was as a young girl, she was such a challenge to her parents that she was sent east from her home in Seattle to a finishing school in Middlebury, Conn. After graduating with honors and returning to Seattle for her coming-out party, she met Wilbur Cummings, a young New York lawyer out west on assignment. It was love at first sight. Their romance culminated in marriage, and a few years later, with two young children in tow, the couple returned to New York where Mr. Cummings resumed his career, finally settling in Greenwich and buying an old farmhouse.

Life in Greenwich proved too uneventful for Mrs. Cummings, who began taking flying lessons at North Beach, now LaGuardia Airport. After earning her pilot's license, she went on to become the first woman to hold a commercial license.

Cook describes one maneuver involving a roll of toilet paper being thrown out of the plane at three or four thousand feet creating a streamer effect. "The trick was how long it took you to cut that strip twice," with your plane. She also describes an event called a spot landing, having to land your plane neatly and precisely within a circle made of flour.

In 1942, with the advent of war, the fun and games ended. During this time, Molly Cook and her mother Marian Cummings joined the Civil Air Patrol.



RIGHT: MARIAN CUMMINGS BEGAN TAKING FLYING LESSONS AT NEW YORK'S NORTH BEACH, NOW LAGUARDIA AIRPORT

Source: www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/The-Flying-Family-of-Greenwich-5571292.php, accessed 22 June 2014

