



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for December 2014

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

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WING TIPS



CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION: On 10 December, at a ceremony in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol a Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) was presented to collectively honor World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol whose valor and dedication during the war helped thwart the enemy submarine attacks against our vital shipping lines, saved lives, secured our nation’s borders, conducted missions to support the war effort, and helped train members of the armed forces.

Presided over by House Speaker Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Republican Leader McConnell, and House Democratic Leader Pelosi, the CGM was accepted by Col. Lester Wolff, a WWII CAP subchaser and former U.S. representative from New York and by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez. The gold medal will be placed on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution.

Later that evening at a gala dinner celebration was held for surviving veterans, families of deceased members, CAP members and distinguished guests in nearby Crystal City. Maj. Gen. Vazquez personally presented a bronze replica medal to each CAP WWII veteran or to a member of the family of a deceased veteran.



South Dakota has four who will receive the bronze replica medal; Mrs. Sylvia Henkin, a resident of Sioux Falls, and three deceased individuals – Luverne “Vern” Kraemer, Vernon Jeffries, and Earl Wilkinson. Mrs. Henkin and a member of Jeffries and Wilkinson families will receive the bronze replica medal at ceremonies to be held in South Dakota. Mrs. Norma Kraemer, widow of Vern Kraemer, travelled to Washington, D.C. for the ceremony and was presented her husband’s bronze replica medal by Gen. Vazquez.

In the photo Mrs. Norma Kraemer is presented with her husband’s medal by CAP National Commander Gen. Vazquez at the evening dinner celebration. North Central Region Commander Col. Robert Todd is in the foreground.



THE CIVIL AIR PATROL CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

- **2015 JOINT DAKOTAS ENCAMPMENT**: Encampment Commander Maj. Nick Gengler sends: “I am pleased to announce that C/Maj. Joshua Klosterman has accepted the role of Cadet Commander for the 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment. I know Joshua is as excited as I am and together we will strive for excellence at the encampment at Camp Rapid. He will be reviewing applications for cadet executive staff in the coming days. After cadet executive staff positions are filled applications will be opened up for Line and Support Staff. I am still looking for Seniors to join me at this Encampment so if any Seniors would like to participate please email me.”

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on the 3rd, 5th, 10th, 19th, 30th and 31st of December in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveyed deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveyed elk and bobcats. The result was 18.5 hours for GF&P and 7.2 hours for SDSU for a total of 25.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. CAP pilot for the flights was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by Ms. Lauren Wiechman from GF&P or Mr. Brandon Tycz of SDSU.

- **SPLIT SAREX 23-25 JANUARY**: Director of Operations Maj. Nicholas Gengler reminds everyone that there will be another Split SAREX on 23-25 January. Mission bases will be at Big Sioux Composite Squadron HQ in Brookings and Rushmore Composite Squadron HQ in Rapid City.

- **WEST RIVER CHRISTMAS PARTY**: Nearly fifty CAP members and family gathered in Piedmont for a Christmas party on Saturday, 20 December. Though most in attendance came from the Black Hills squadrons, Capt. Marsha Sumpter and Maj. Lee Vaughan came all the way from Philip. Maj. Craig Goodrich started things off by playing familiar holiday tunes on the piano. Later Col. Mike Beason and 2nd Lt. Jack Jensen added to the festive spirit with a hand-bell serenade. SM Melissa Weller and C/2nd Lt Jared Doyle kept the piano music going throughout the evening. Food was abundant and fellowship spirited. Lt. Col. Gary Hewett challenged C/Col William Small to a game of pool and succeeded in pulling off a narrow win. Cadets enjoyed the warm outdoor weather. All in all it was a relaxing evening renewing friendships and celebrating the holidays.

STAFF NOTES



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Richard Larson, CAP

Ideas For Your 2015 Civil Air Patrol Resolutions...

1. Be More Active In Your Squadron
2. Keep Up With Training
3. Bring A Potential Recruit
4. Seek A Promotion Or Skill Level Advancement
5. Bring More Value To The Team
6. Fly Fly Fly

...as evidenced by our numerous taskings in 2014, SD Civil Air Patrol is a valued part of both the AF team and local emergency responders. Whether we are searching for a missing aircraft, tracking a bobcat, presenting the colors, serving our communities or on a training mission, you are our most important asset! Be ready for the call. Thanks for a record setting 2014. Col Seten and I expect great things in 2015! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Attached as the last page is SD OEM's list of training courses for 1st Quarter 2015.



WING RECRUITING/RETENTION OFFICER

Col. Mike Mouw, CAP

I am Col. Mike Mouw. I just transferred back to SDWG from IAWG and have been assigned as the SDWG Wing Recruiting/Retention Officer. I wanted to let you all know who I am, what my background is, and share some insight into my role.

Here is a little about me. I have been in CAP since March of 1991. I joined while stationed at Sheppard AFB in Texas. I have been a member of many wings over the years, but this area is my home and it is great to be back. I have served as a Squadron, Group, and Wing commander.

I am very passionate about CAP and what this organization offers the membership and the communities we serve. We are unlike any other volunteer organization! There is a high level of expectation from our leadership and the organizations we support in our three missions. Because we have such expectations and need to be mission ready, thus we require a strong workforce in order to perform. That's where I come in. I am responsible for attracting and retaining the most valuable resource CAP has, our people! We typically are the first person new members interact with and sometimes, the last. Our jobs are never done and we span the responsibility from the individual level to the large efforts in recruiting. With all that said, we have the opportunity to meet new people and share the CAP story with them, what else can you ask for?! My role is to assist you in recruiting and retention.

I have worked all these types of activities and have many ideas that are yours to use. However, geographical areas can be different and may require a local awareness of what works and what may not. Together we work to ensure that every opportunity we get, we make the most of. Any questions, ideas, or concerns, please let me know. You can reach me on my cell at 712-324-1624.



WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP

- I am pleased to announce that SM Travis Woodard of the Rushmore Composite Squadron has joined the Wing Public Affairs staff as an Assistant Public Affairs Officer. His primary area of responsibility will be to manage the Wing's public affairs social media program.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-058, BROOKINGS)

(Items by Maj. Gengler, Capt. Hofer)



- **CYBERPATRIOT-VII**: The Big Sioux cyber-security team placed 6th overall in the All Services Division and 2nd in CAP teams in the 3rd Round of Cyber Patriot-VII competition held from 5-7 December. This means our crew of ace cyber-sleuths will move on to the 4th Round (Semi-Finals) to be held 16-18 January. If they continue to do as well as they have done so far they will qualify for the all-expenses-paid trip to Maryland where they will compete in the Nationals for the final round.
- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: Five members of the squadron took part in laying decorative holiday wreaths on veterans' graves at the Greenwood Cemetery in Brookings. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars and the local American Legion were also in attendance and participated in the ceremony and the laying of wreaths. The squadron's color guard, albeit a diminished one, presented and retired the colors adding an additional note of solemnity to the occasion.



CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items and photos by Lts. K. and V. Bierwirth)

- This was the first year that we had an entry in Custer's Parade of Lights. We may have be small but it was good publicity for the squadron, for SDWG and for CAP.
- The squadron hosted a Christmas pot luck party and friends and family joined us for some awesome food and entertainment.



- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: We were all ready for the big day but much to our dismay our wreaths got lost in transit. Fortunately, we were able to locate seven wreaths for the ceremony and it went beautifully. Better late than never, we finally received our shipment of wreaths on 13 December. The squadron, the Hot Springs American Legion and people from the Custer and Hot Springs communities helped to place the wreaths at the Hot Springs National Cemetery. In the photo, taken by Lt. V. Bierwirth, C/Amn Antony Dillon, C/MSgt Thomas Dillon, and C/CMSgt Jason Parry salute honor our fallen veterans.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Item by Lt. Col. Hopewell, Maj D. Small Jr., photos by Capt. Collister)

- **PUBLIC OUTREACH**: Capt. Sylvia Small gave a brief presentation about Civil Air Patrol at the Seventh Day Adventist church in Spearfish on 6 December.
- **GROUND TEAM TRAINING**: On Monday, 22 December, six cadets and two senior members took advantage of the Holiday break to hone their ground team skills. Cadets Austin and Keyvin Rauscher, Justin and Ryan Harris, Jared Doyle and William Small filled in needed items for their ground team SQTR qualifications. Cadets practiced extinguishing small fires to counting paces and map topography reading. Instruction was by Maj. David Small Jr.
- **HOLIDAZZLE**: Saturday, 6 December, was the night of the annual winter Spearfish parade down Main Street. The Spearfish Holidazzle Light Parade, with its theme of the seasonal holidays, followed the two mile route, was led by the Color Guard and cadets of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron. Carrying and

guarding the colors in their blues were Cadet Squadron Commander C/SMSgt Justin Harris, C/MSgt Ryan Harris, C/Lt Jared Doyle, and C/TSgt Keyvin Rauscher. C/CMSgt Connor Caneva, C/AB Katie Spruill, C/TSgt Austin Rauscher directly followed the Color Guard wearing BDU's and safety vests. They handed out candy to the crowd lining the sidewalks and distributed recruiting pamphlets to spectators that appeared to be of eligible age for joining CAP. Squadron Commander Capt. Bill Collister and Lt. Col. James Hopewell provided ballast for the CAP van that closely followed the cadet contingent. The impressive, disciplined, and precise display by the squadron at the head of the procession elicited attention and applause from parade-goers along the route.



PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38, PIERRE)

(Item by Lt. Col. Gatje)



- **PIERRE SQUADRON CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS AT THE CAPITOL:** The annual Capitol Christmas Tree display ended at the capitol the weekend after Christmas. This was the 34th anniversary for “Christmas at the Capitol” and included almost 100 decorated trees throughout the building. As the number of trees allowed is limited a group has to apply for and be selected for one of the coveted spots. To be included in the capitol display is an honor. Pierre Squadron applied and was selected to display a tree. The squadron tree was located on the second floor. Thousands of people tour the Capitol Christmas Trees each year. Many come just to view the trees. CAP received excellent visibility.

Ms. Barb Bjerneberg, who co-chairs the display, says there were about 30,000 signatures in this year's guest book. Many visitors do not bother to sign the guest book so there were likely many more visitors. She says it's estimated that at least 47 states were represented in the guest book. She says out-of-state visitors are always wowed with the display.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item by Capt. Josh Hall)



- **IT'S NOT TOO COLD TO FLY**: Rushmore cadets took to the sky over Christmas break. Near-zero temperature, clear skies, and low winds were a perfect formula for a great day to fly. C/Amn Samuel Lawrence, C/A1C Tyler Eberle, C/Amn Isaak Weller, and C/TSgt Joe Jagodzinski each had the opportunity to sit at the aircraft's controls. The flights departed Rapid City and headed west over the city and then over the northern Black Hills. Cadet Lawrence was first in the front seat as it was his first o-flight. The cadets had opportunity to see the entire Black Hills. The first stop was Spearfish then, flying IFR (I Follow Roads), to Lead following Hwy 385 south to Pactola Reservoir and Sheridan Lake. This was followed by a quick jaunt to the Mount Rushmore area, around Harney Peak, Crazy Horse, again stopping at Custer County Airport. Sadly, a local favorite burger place did not deliver to the airport and was closed for the holiday season. From Custer we flew south to Hot Springs for a view of the southern hills before returning to Rapid City. Capt. Hall stated, "I'm still just as excited to go on an orientation flight today as I was many years ago as a 12 year old cadet sitting on two phone books to look over the dashboard." In the photo, front left is C/Amn Samuel Lawrence, front right is Capt. Josh Hall.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Although not a promotion *per se*, congratulations to C/CMSgt Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who earned his Neil Armstrong Award!



Congratulations to Thomas Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Lindbergh Award!



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



Congratulations to Nathaniel Fleet of the Big Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Tyler Eberle of Rushmore Composite Squadron and to Andrew Toft of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to C/2nd Lt Bradley Blansett of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron who completed his Ground Team Leader requirements on this mission. In addition, Lt. David Small III also of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron renewed his Emergency Services qualification as GTL. In addition he also recertified as UDF.



Wing Director of Emergency Services Lt. Col. Daryl Miles sends a big Kudo to Wing Director of Communications Capt. Jerry Gabert for getting the Big Sioux Composite Squadron base radios up and running again. He spent several hours making sure we are mission ready.



Congratulations to Capt. Patrick Nowlin, the wing's newest Mission Pilot! During his second flight of the REDCAP mission on 30 November, Capt. Nowlin, Vice Squadron Commander and the Assistant Communications Officer for the Rushmore Composite Squadron passed his Form 91 Check Ride.



Congratulations to Lt. Justin Bierwirth and to Lt. Kris Bierwirth, both of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who earned the Yeager Award!



Former commander of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, Lt. Col. Robert "Keith" Collins, 91, passed away on 8 December in Billings. He had moved to Billings from Spearfish, in July 2012 with his wife to be near family. He graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 1941, served in U.S. Army Engineers in North Africa and India in World War II, and graduated from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1949.

Keith enjoyed a long career as a mining engineer in Wyoming, the Dakotas and also worked in many countries (Chile, Thailand, Malaysia, India). In 1981, he became director of mineral resource procurement for the Eastern Hemisphere. Stationed in London he supervised mining operations in Europe, North Africa and Turkey.

He moved to Houston in 1985, retired in 1986, and moved to Spearfish Canyon in the Black Hills.

He married Lorraine Hill in 1958 and the couple had three children. He also had four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Cremation has taken place. The family plans a service in The Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis, SD, at a later date. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.cfgbillings.com through "Our Families."

According to Maj. Daryl Hayes of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, "Just off hand, I do know Keith was one of the charter members of the squadron in August of 1987. I joined one month later. I know he was a

Mission Coordinator, Mission Pilot, Squadron Commander, Wing Safety Officer, Operations Director, Ground Team Ops, Ground Team Leader, Air Ops, Supply Officer and many other offices. He did indeed get Senior Member of the Year but I don't know which year. While he was Squadron Commander the squadron got Squadron of the Year at least twice times if not three times. He almost single handedly arranged to get the current squadron building moved in from Ellsworth and made the arrangements to get the septic system, electrical service and water for the building. ... He coordinated at least two wing conferences that were held in Spearfish. He put out targets and made up scenarios for practice missions and coordinated with Air Force Liaison during the missions. He flew on many REDCAPS but I can't tell the names of them without looking at the records. I know there was one that went down just south of McIntosh, one just north of Isabel, one that went down north of Deadwood and two southeast of Rapid City. I'm sure there were more but without records I can't say how many or which ones.”

HAPPY 2015!
FROM THE EDITOR OF THE SKYCHASER



2015

Homeland Security/Emergency Management			
Date	Course Title	Location	Seats Available
January 10-11, 2015	ICS 300 <u>Registration</u>	Rapid City	30
January 15-16, 2015	G 265 Instructional Delivery Skills <u>Registration</u>	Pierre	30
January 17-18, 2015	ICS 400 <u>Registration</u>	Rapid City	30
January 21-22, 2015	EM101 <u>Registration</u>	Pierre	30
January 24-25, 2015	ICS 300 <u>Registration</u>	Tyndall	30
February 20-21, 2015	ICS 300 <u>Registration</u>	Watertown	30
February 28-March 1, 2015	ICS 400 <u>Registration</u>	Armour	30
March 13-14, 2015	ICS 400 <u>Registration</u>	Watertown	30
March 16-17, 2015	Recovery from Disaster the Local Government Role <u>Registration</u>	Deadwood	25

https://dps.sd.gov/emergency_services/emergency_management/training_schedule.aspx