



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for September 2015

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

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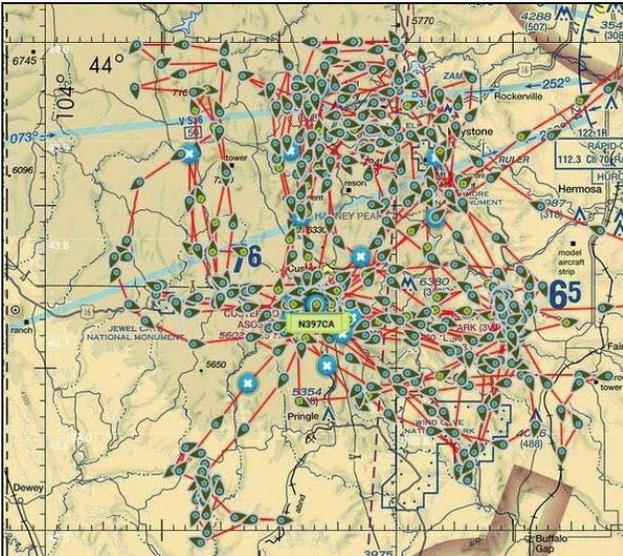
WING TIPS

- ***MOUNTAIN FURY***: From 11 to 13 September, eleven Civil Air Patrol pilots from across the South Dakota Wing participated in “Mountain Fury”, CAP’s Mountain Search Pilot Course. The purpose of the course was to train CAP Mission Pilots to be mountain-qualified CAP Mission Pilots. The activity was directed by Maj. Craig Goodrich, Commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City. Day one and part of day two were spent in classes on the physics, skills, techniques and perils of mountain flying. The classroom training was at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Headquarters in Custer. The blocks of classroom instruction were held on high altitude flying (Capt. Josh Hall), mountain weather (Maj. Craig Goodrich), mountain flying (Col. Mike Beason) and mountain searching (Capt. Matt Meert).

The rest of day two and day three were spent flying training sorties. Flight operations were at the Custer County Airport at Custer. Each mission pilot flew four mission training sorties. Although the elevation of the Black Hills of South Dakota do not provide the kind of mountainous terrain that other mountain states can provide, many of the sorties were flown up around 10,000 feet MSL, and reduced power settings simulated “real” mountain flying. Plus, Custer County Airport and Custer State Park Airport are no walk-in-the-park. A pilot must be thinking about mountain flying to operate in and out of these challenging airports. A total of 25 sorties were flown during the training with seven of the pilots earning or renewing their Mountain Flying Certification.

Capt. Kurt Johnson of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, one of the mission pilots that went through the training said, "I personally gained a great deal of experience and respect for operating safely in "hot and high" environments. Our aircraft take on a whole new set of flight characteristics under these conditions. As pilots, we all read about this...but, the practical experience provided in this clinic was priceless! I feel no mission pilot should exercise their ratings in mountainous terrain without this training or similar practical experience!"

Maj. Goodrich remarked, “Everyone stepped in to help with meals, cleanup, sortie management, and watching over safety. I especially want to thank the First Baptist Church of Custer, who operates Camp Victory, across the road from the airport, for their hospitality in allowing us to use their facilities for lodging and meals. The nearly perfect weather, camaraderie, and storytelling around the campfire each night helped make this weekend a great event.”



LEFT – SPIDERTRACKS SHOWING THE TRAINING MISSION SORTIES FLOWN IN AD AROUND CUSTER DURING MOUNTAIN FURY
 RIGHT – LT. RYAN JONES AND CAPT. JOSH HALL, BOTH OF RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON, PREPARE FOR THEIR FLIGHT

- FIRST GLASSHAWK MISSION:** From 4 – 6 September, pilot proficiency training and familiarization with our new glass panel Cessna-172 (N97947) took place. By coincidence the LifeLight Music Festival, held annually over the Labor Day weekend on the Pederson Farm just east of Worthing was taking place. It provided the aircrew an excellent opportunity to practice mission skills such as aerial observation, aerial photography and a chance to test radio interoperability with the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office. Experience was gained using Spidertracks, the in-flight, near-real-time aircraft tracking system. Personnel involved with the activity on 4 September were Capt. Kurt Johnson (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and SM Kevin Kayser (MS); on 5 September they were Lt. Jerry Hayden (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and Lt. Shane Warne; and on 6 September they were Maj. Justin Johnson (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and Lt. Melanie Schuppan (MS).





- **SHE'S BACK-GONE-BACK:** Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney of Onida, and a member of the Wing Staff, deployed to assist the Red Cross in Browning Montana from late August to early September. Home barely long enough to catch her breath she deployed to California from late September to early October to assist in disaster relief/shelter operations. The Red Cross provided assistance to just about everyone; responders and victims of the wildfires plaguing the western states. Lt. Col. McKenney is now home again, safe and sound.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew 13 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over eight days in



September in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 30.1 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for one of the sorties was Maj. Craig Goodrich; one sortie was flown by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and 11 sorties were flown by Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **B-1 TRANSITIONS TO GLOBAL STRIKE:** By Amy McCullough. [Edited] The 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB, Texas, and the 28th BW at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., will hold realignment ceremonies on 28 September, marking transition of the B-1 fleet from Air Combat Command to Air Force Global Strike Command. The move means the Air Force's entire bomber fleet - B-52, B-2, and B-1 - will be consolidated under the command of 8th Air Force. The transition should be relatively seamless for the roughly 7,000 airmen involved. 8th AF Commander Maj. Gen. Richard Clark told *Air Force Magazine*, "They will wear a different patch, but aside from that it won't be a significant change". Even though all three of the service's bombers are "unique weapon systems," Clark said "the core competency of long-range strike is something common to all" and the B-1 transition will help "build synergy" within the bomber community.

Source: Air Force Magazine, Daily Report for Monday, September 28, 2015.



- **3-D METAL CESSNA-172 MODEL:** Amazon is advertising a 3-D metal model Cessna-172 (Skyhawk) in CAP livery. The model is marked down from \$22 to \$6.62 for Prime members. Supposedly there are only 20 left in stock. Might be a nice item to add to your CAP collection or to use as a squadron gift or award. The link is: <http://www.amazon.com/Metal-Earth-3D-Model-Skyhawk/dp/B009UZ7CCK>

STAFF NOTES



WING HISTORIAN

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

I am pleased to announce that the new "Wing History" section of the wing website is now available for viewing. The new section is part of the celebration of CAP's and concurrently South Dakota Wing's 75th Anniversary in 2016. The new section consists of three parts. The first part is "History". This is where the Wing Historical Staff

will place documents relating to the history of South Dakota Wing. The second part is “Genealogy”. Maj. Kipp has worked hard to come up with a list of the units that have been part of South Dakota wing since its founding in 1941. The third part is “Heraldry”. It contains photos, descriptions and information about the Region, Wing and Squadron patches. All three parts are works in progress. If anyone has a suggestion as to a document to be uploaded to history, new, amplifying or correcting information on former SDWG units, or more information on the patches we wear, please contact a member of the Wing Historical Staff.



DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS

Capt. Jerry Foy, CAP

1 October 2015 is the start of another fiscal year for Civil Air Patrol and a great time for our annual inventory when we need to account for all CAP items entrusted to our wing. While this message is focused on those in charge of protecting our wing’s aircraft, vehicles, communication and other equipment and supplies, **we are all responsible** to make sure we get the most utilization out of those assets that are entrusted to us. If you know that any of the above items are no longer needed, not operational, no longer safe, degraded or missing, please report that information to your Logistics Officer as soon as can. If you are approved to take item(s) out of your squadron, be sure you have that items signed out on your squadron log book. Sign it back in when it returns and let your Logistics Officer know immediately if that item is not operational or safe

Yes, we do like to get rid of junk. One year we got rid of 114 items and that included 3 or 4 vehicles. Let your Logistics Officer know about potential junk who will start the possible disposal through SDWG.

If an item needs repair, we will try to repair it. If you need a spare while your item is being repaired let us know and will get you a spare. If the item cannot be repaired as determined by your Logistics Officer and SDWG, we will work to replace that item as funds allow.

If you feel your squadron needs additional equipment, please let us know. We might have stock on what you need, new or slightly used. We can also receive items from other agencies that no longer need the products.

If your squadron is offered a donation of any equipment, please contact your Logistics Officer before you accept it. Unless you are the commander, you do not have that authority.

If you have items that do not have the CAP asset tag on them, tell your Logistics Officer. National HQ has raised the dollar value prior to requiring the items to be tagged and added to our inventory.

If you no longer need equipment, let your Logistics Officer. Another squadron might need it.

If you find an item that you thought was lost (maybe for more than “a while”), bring it back and we will be happy. Yes, people who cannot find items during our annual inventory sometimes suddenly find that missing item a month later. It happens a lot. You are ok, just bring it back!

Please take care of your equipment - keep the vehicles cleaned, waxed, oiled and gassed up. Keep your computers and radios operating properly. You will need our inventory.

Keep your entire inventory ready to use immediately. If you are the Logistics Officer and need assistance, give me a call.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(Items submitted by Capt. Hofer)

- **MINNESOTA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**: We have three members who will attend the Minnesota Wing Leadership Academy 15-18 October at the Minnesota National Guard's Camp Ripley, near the city of Little Falls in central Minnesota. They are: Lt. Josh Hartelt, C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and C/Lt Jaden Petersen.
- **SUPPORT TO THE RED CROSS**: The squadron provided support to the Red Cross' Prepare-a-Thon and Disaster-Themed Fun Walk/Run in Brookings on 19 September. It was an afternoon filled with disaster-themed events. There were community booths to educate people on how to be prepared when disaster happens and a children's obstacle course where they splashed through "flood waters" and climbed over "storm debris".
- **LOANER AIRCRAFT**: The Minnesota Wing has temporarily loaned a Cessna-182RG, a variant with a retractable landing gear, to SDWG. We are fortunate that the aircraft is parked here in Brookings where it is available for operational missions. This was one of the planes shown on the news from our last SAREX.
- **CADET O-RIDES**: We were pleased to have been able to conduct cadet orientation flights in September. C/A1C Darin Burke and C/Amn Andrew Sweebe were each able to fly twice in September.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)

(Items submitted by Lt. Bierwirth, photos by Lt. Bierwirth and Capt. Bierwirth)

- **SUI IS OVER**: Whew, our SUI is over. We did very well (whew, big happy sigh!).
- **GREAT START PARTICIPANT**: Cadet Ethan Updike attended the Great Start program recently held by the Rushmore Composite Squadron. Many thanks to Maj. Goodrich and his crew for holding the event.
- **MODEL ROCKETRY**: Capt. Victoria Bierwirth taught a Goddard rocketry class to several Custer High School 9th grade classes.
- **MOUNTAIN FURY/O-RIDES**: We hosted the Mountain Fury Course and what an exciting time it was. Many pilots got some awesome air time and they were even gracious enough to give four of our cadets a feel for the air. For C/SrA Anthony Dillon, C/SMSGT Thomas Dillon, C/A1C Hunter Rice, and C/AB Updike it was a thrill of a lifetime. They thought the landings were pretty cool as they were bumpy and a lot of fun. Two cadets did take the controls and thought it was pretty sweet, the other two decided to wait until next time as it was their first time in a plane. Lt. Kris Bierwirth even had her first time in a CAP plane and she has decided it may be a little while before she goes up again.



- **AEROSPACE EXCELLENCE AWARD:** For a second year in a row our squadron earned the Aerospace Excellence Award. What a great team we are building!



LT. TIM MODDE, CAPT. JAMES DILLON, C/LT JASON PARRY, C/SMSGT THOMAS DILLON, CADET ETHAN UPDIKE, C/A1C HUNTER RICE, C/SRA ANTHONY DILLON, CAPT. VICTORIA BIERWIRTH

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(See Cadet Airman Promotions)

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Items by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- **RIVER TUBING TRIP CANCELLED:** The planned tubing trip down the Niobrara River for members of the South Dakota Wing was cancelled due to colder than normal weather at the intended location. Due to other upcoming events and the weather deteriorating into fall, it was determined that it would probably not be feasible to hold the trip this year. Cadets and seniors that are interested in this trip for next year should contact Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Pierre, or Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Wing Staff. The date for the event will probably be earlier in the year with the hopes of good weather. Watch for an announcement of the dates for next year.

- **PIERRE FUN NIGHT:** The Squadron recently held their “Fun Night”, which occurs on the fifth Tuesday of any month that has five Tuesdays. Pizza and soda was served and a movie shown. The squadron and a cadet parent provided pizza. Everyone definitely had their fill. Best of all, four potential cadets attended the event.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)

(Item and photos submitted by Maj. Goodrich, Capt. Ryan Jones)

- **CADET GREAT START:** On 26 September, new CAP cadets from all three west-river squadrons joined together at the Rushmore Composite Squadron for a Great Start clinic. Some of the classes covered leadership, aerospace education, chain of command, the CAP rank structure and proper wear of the uniform. After great grilled burgers and grilled corn by Chef (Capt.) Ryan Jones, The cadets also completed a physical fitness test composed of pushups, sit-ups and a one-mile run. The course is the first of its type held in western South Dakota. Crazy Horse Composite Squadron sent one cadet and Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron sent one

cadet. C/Lt Doyle also came from Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and played a key role as instructor for a portion of the day. He was a huge help with teaching. The course is designed to help our newest cadets earn their first stripe and the Curry Award. In total the course resulted in 10 cadets receiving their first stripe. It was a very successful day, the new cadets left for home at the end of the day more motivated than ever about CAP. See the Cadet Airman Promotions section below for the names of our squadron's six new Cadet Airmen.

As a special bonus at the end of the day, Cadets Bentley, Mckeehan, Spence and Helgeland all got to fly in their first CAP orientation flights, thanks to pilots Col. Mike Beason and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett.



- **WELCOME ABOARD:** September was a BUSY month for recruiting!!! We welcome aboard 10 new cadets and four new senior members to the Rushmore Composite Squadron. The new cadets are: Keri Bentley, Nathan Carlin, Lucas Dimitt, Keithen Griffin, Mason Helgeland, Amelia Jensen, Ana Mckeehan, Noah Moore, Andrew Olsen and Brandon Spence. The new Senior Members are: Cheryl Dimitt, David Galluzzo, Merlyn Mccoy, and Kenton Mckeehan. We are very pleased that you have joined CAP as members of our squadron.

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

(Items submitted by Lt. Col. Buechler and Capt. Erickson, photos by Lt. Col. Buechler and Capt. West)

- **COLOR GUARD PERFORMANCE:** On 26 September, the squadron Color Guard performed at the Sioux Falls Special Olympics Truck Convoy. The World's Largest Truck Convoy is held annually in September. Drivers from across the state drive their big rigs on a designated route circling Sioux Falls in an effort to raise money and public awareness for the Special Olympics. Many drivers are accompanied by Special Olympics athletes during this trek. After the convoy, drivers and athletes were joined by family members, friends and law enforcement personnel for lunch, entertainment, an auction, and a presentation of awards.





- **FROM CADET TO SEAMAN:** Lt. Col. Linda Buechler and family attended her grandson's (Brandon Purkapile) graduation from Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Chicago, Ill, on Friday, September 4, 2015. Seaman Recruit Purkapile was a cadet member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron from 2008-2009 with the rank of C/Airman. Brandon said CAP training through encampment, cadet curriculum, and the physical training helped him prepare for training with the Navy and military life.

After some additional training Brandon will go to the fleet for a month to decide what his military occupational specialty will be. Currently he is thinking of training as a Gunner's Mate. The training focuses on the operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of naval guns, missile launchers and torpedoes as well as a strong emphasis on basic explosives, guidance and tracking systems, small arms, Naval ammunition classification, and safety. Upon completion of this training, seamen often continue on to a specialized school, where they learn a particular weapons system.



- **SIDEWALK ARTS FESTIVAL:** A hardy group of seniors and cadets dragged themselves out at o-dark thirty (actually 0430) to provide support to the Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival. While still dark the members set up tents, tables and chairs, and placed garbage and recycling cans throughout the event area.

The one-day downtown festival, held on 12 September, is a fundraiser for the Visual Arts Center of the Washington Pavilion. The festival featured over 225 vendors from over 10 states, a large food court and live entertainment. 40,000 were expected to attend this annual event.



- **NEW DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR CADETS:** As the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw wrote, "Progress is impossible without change." Progress through change is what the squadron is looking forward to in the coming months. Maj. Justin Johnson has stepped down as Deputy Commander for Cadets for the squadron and Maj. Nick Gengler has assumed the role. Johnson stated that his work schedule is not allowing him to devote the time it takes to run the cadet program at this time and is pleased that Maj. Gengler is willing to accept the challenge. Capt. Jason Erickson is looking forward to positive advancement from

the cadet program with leadership from the cadet staff. Maj. Johnson's mantra was that "the cadets run the show; seniors are around to offer guidance when needed." This is something Maj. Gengler plans to uphold. The cadets at SFCS have a solid program and with the leadership from C/Lt Nick Nash and his staff they will continue to make the program a success. In the photo C/Lt Nash and Maj. Gengler discuss plans for the cadet program.

- **SQUADRON OPEN HOUSE:** The squadron will host an open house for the community on 10 October from 0900-1200 at the hangars northwest of Nelson Engineering on 500 W. Hanger St. Come tour our hangar and our aircraft, as well as talk to our pilots about their experiences. There will be cadet-led tours of our Squadron Headquarters. Burgers and dogs will be provided at no charge, members please bring something to add to the grill out. Those participating, please be at the hangar by 0800 to help setup.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotions



Congratulations to William Collister, commander of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Major!



Congratulations to Tim Modde of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Nathaniel Fleet of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Kyle Clement of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Hunter Rice of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Kari Bentley, Spence Brandne, Lucas Dimitt, Ana Mckeehan, Noah Moore, Nathan Carlin I and Logan Wallace, all of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, and to Brooklyn Raber of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Senior Member Cheryl Dimitt of Rushmore Composite Squadron on her receipt of the Membership Ribbon! The award is presented for completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program.

