



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for February 2016

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

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## WING TIPS

### CIVIL AIR PATROL'S 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Civil Air Patrol marks its 75<sup>th</sup> year of serving our nation. It is also South Dakota Wing's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as both were founded on 1 December 1941. CAP and SDWG began marking this historic year on 20 February. The year will be filled with events and activities of all types honoring our volunteer members past and present that will culminate on the actual founding date. CAP National Headquarters has designed two logos that will be used throughout the year to mark anniversary events and activities.

South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel John Seten expressed the feelings of all of us saying, “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of the great state of South Dakota. From the dark days of World War II to the present day our all-volunteer men, women and young people have served and continue to serve their communities, their counties and the state in emergency services, aerospace education and programs that train our cadets to become tomorrow's leaders.”





● **SD CAP LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

On Wednesday, 17 February members of the Wing from across the state converged on the state Capitol in Pierre to meet with legislators to thank them for their support. Over 30 Wing members participated. Fourteen cadets from the squadrons in Custer, Rapid City and Spearfish took part. For most of them this was their first legislative day.

Wing Commander Col. John Seten commented, “The purpose is to tell state policymakers the story of CAP in South Dakota, of the many volunteer hours spent on air and

ground missions for local, county, tribal, state and federal government, law enforcement agencies and first responder organizations. We also want them to know of our cadet program that prepares young people not just for careers in the military, but to be good citizens.” He also said it is important that the public understands in a time of limited budgets, SDWG helps stretch the resources of the state and saves money by using well-trained, professional volunteers who are held to the same level of performance and knowledge as their paid colleagues.



At mid-day the officers and cadets served afternoon snacks in the Speaker’s Lobby (House) and the President’s Lobby (Senate) for legislators, lobbyists, staff and others. This year the cupcakes featured the logo of CAP’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which is also the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the South Dakota Wing and the SDWG patch.

Our personnel briefed senators and representatives on the latest enhancements and advancements to the Wing’s abilities and capabilities, answered questions and handed out copies of CAP’s annual financial report and SDWG’s legislative brochure.

Later that afternoon Governor Dennis Daugaard met the visiting Wing members on the Grand Staircase of the Capitol Rotunda for a brief chat and a group picture.

It takes a large number of people to organize and execute an event like this. The SD Wing command and staff thank everyone who took part in making this Legislative Day a success. The high esteem in which the state legislators hold CAP/SDWG was demonstrated when we received a standing ovation in both chambers when our presence was announced.

- **SDWG ADDS TO AIRCRAFT FLEET:** By Lt. Col. Rick Larson. The “Eyes in the Skies” of SDWG have a new airplane. Just this week, Wing Commander, Col. John Seten, Vice Commander, Lt. Col. Rick Larson and Maintenance Officer, Maj. E.W. Filler traveled to Cessna Aircraft’s production facility in Independence, Kansas to take delivery of a brand new Cessna-182T/G1000E “Skylane”. The aircraft are purchased for CAP by the United States Air Force, and can cost over a half million dollars when equipped.

The new aircraft brings the CAP state fleet to seven. “It’s quite an honor...we were selected to receive this airplane based on our member’s exemplary record of service and accomplishment” said Colonel Seten. He adds that the SD Wing’s performance has netted regional and national recognition for outstanding operations and emergency services response. This will be our third digital airplane...we’ve had great results from this aircraft!” said Seten. Other CAP planes are based in Rapid City, Pierre, Spearfish, Brookings and two in Sioux Falls.

Equipped with the latest state-of-the-art Garmin G1000E aircraft avionics suite, SDCAP crews can more easily get the job done on their myriad of missions. Those tasks include Search and Rescue, Homeland Security, and support of USAF missions. Lt. Col. Larson says the airplane has systems that aid in accuracy and safety - this includes advanced digital instruments, weather avoidance display, autopilot and photo mapping. “This will be a major asset when it comes to wide area search or damage assessment missions” said Larson.

The Cessna-182T “Skylane” is one of over 550 aircraft operated by CAP The Skylane can cruise at 145 knots (167 mph), at altitudes up to 12,000 feet, has a 900 mile range and an 1100 pound payload.



**OUR NEW CESSNA-182T/G1000E**



**MAJ. FILLER REVIEWS THE NEW AIRCRAFT’S PAPERWORK**



**GARMIN G1000E AVIONICS SUITE**

- **VIRB / GIIEP TRAINING MONTH:** We were fortunate to have received funding in February for a month-long photo training mission. Aircrews had the opportunity to get their hands on and fly with the newly installed VIRB nadir photographic system. Mission 16-T-4343 was used to gain expertise on the new gear as we could easily get tasked by FEMA or SD OEM to fly using this new photographic technology. Spring is coming and so will the flooding. We also trained with new software to upload photos to the FEMA website where they are available for assessment by emergency management officials. Training was also conducted on the new Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation–Portable (GIIEP) system; a portable, multi-band receiver capable of handling a variety of visual and textual data which enhances CAP’s ability to respond to disaster situations and provide imagery products (still and video) that can be quickly disseminated to mission partners.



LEFT: CAP AIRCRAFT WITH VIRB CAMERA MOUNTED NEAR THE OUTER RIGHT WING TIP

CENTER: CLOSE UP OF THE VIRB NADIR CAMERA SYSTEM

RIGHT; CAPT. KARLA WEST AND CAPT. JASON ERICKSON OF SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON TRAIN ON THE NEW VIRB SYSTEM



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew six aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in February 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 18.2 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilots were Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt, five sorties, and Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, one sortie. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

## STAFF NOTES



### **WING COMMANDER**

Col. John Seten, CAP

- **WING STAFF POSITION CHANGES:** I've swapped duty position titles for Maj. Todd Epp and Lt. Manny Steele. Manny has been moved to the duty position of Wing Government Relations Advisor (GRA) while Todd has moved to the Assistant GRA.

- **WING LEGISLATIVE SQUADRON MORE THAN DOUBLES IN SIZE:** Thanks to a tremendous effort by Lt. Manny Steele our Wing Legislative Squadron (SD-999) has more than doubled in size. Due to his efforts our Wing Legislative Squadron has gone from being non-existent to an enrollment of over 30 members today; nearly one-third of the legislature. As a former state legislator, Manny has unique access to the floor of the House and Senate where he can mingle and speak directly with the legislators on our behalf.



## **WING AEROSPACE EDUCATION OFFICER**

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

- **NEW AEROSPACE EDUCATION CHALLENGE**: National has sent me two four-gyro platforms with controller, motors, props, the whole works! They kits are identical and require assembly. I would like to award the kits at the Wing Conference to the top two essay winners. Essays, you say? Boooooo! HISSSS! I can hear the groans from Tokyo. However, since this is Aerospace EDUCATION you can't expect something for nothing can you? A simple essay, 500 words maximum, addressing the utilization and the future of these remotely piloted platforms (they get a new three-letter acronym every other week). Each squadron may submit as many essays as they please, or team up to combine ideas and talents in a single essay. Deadline for essays is May 15th. Send your essays to me by email and I will forward them to a Wing Staff member (TBD) for final evaluation (unless we get Gov. Dugaard or Judge Judy for Wing Conference speakers). My email address is [deweese@rushmore.com](mailto:deweese@rushmore.com). Call me anytime at [605-641-2362](tel:605-641-2362). If you would like a sneak peek at what we are talking about go to: <http://quadlugs.com/collections/framekits/products/box-quad-frame-kit-450mm-range>. You can see the assembly instructions, a video, live flying, etc. Team up, sharpen your pencils, and go to work. Late entries will not be accepted.

- **NAME THE AIR FORCE'S NEW B-21 BOMBER CONTEST**: By John Tirpak, Air Force Magazine Daily Report for Monday, February 29, 2016. [Edited] "The Air Force will hold a service-wide contest to name the new B-21 bomber (formerly Long-Range Strike Bomber, LRS-B), Secretary Deborah Lee James announced. James said she's asking all members of the Air Force "family"—uniformed, civilians, and family members alike—to "learn more about the role this platform will play against the real threats that we will face" and submit appropriate nicknames, suggesting that she hopes the effort will lead to more advocacy for the system."

Wing Public Affairs Officer Maj. Bruce Kipp contacted Air Force Magazine to ask now that the Civil Air Patrol is part of the USAF "Total Force" will CAP officers and cadets will be allowed to submit suggestions for a nickname for the new bomber. Also the article did not mention when the "name the bomber contest" would begin or to whom nickname suggestions should be sent. Do you have that information?

Air Force Magazine News Editor Amy McCullough replied, "As members of the Total Force, **Civil Air Patrol members will definitely be eligible to participate in the Air Force's B-21 naming contest.** However, the service has not yet worked out the details as to how that will work. I just spoke with SAF/PA and they said they are working with Air Force Global Strike Command to iron out a process and expect to make the announcement in the next couple of weeks. We will certainly write about it in the Daily Report when that announcement is made."



## **WING HISTORIAN**

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

- A monograph on SDWG's Philip Composite Squadron 53<sup>rd</sup> Horse-Mounted Ground Search and Rescue Team written by Assistant Wing Historian Maj. Bruce Kipp, has been posted on the Wing website in the Wing History section under History.

• Did you know that the Civil Air Patrol has an anthem? CAP’s National Historian Colonel Frank Blazich reports that the "official" CAP anthem of World War II was “The Civil Air Patrol.” It was introduced in 1943. Unfortunately no original recording of the anthem/march has yet been located. Col. Blazich shared the sheet music with a young CAP historian who computerized it and increased the tempo to liven it up. It can be listened to at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOvx7o4HFU8>. CAP also has a “service song of the Civil Air Patrol” from 1959 called “CAP is on the Go”. The music is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aawZ8xS5iQY>. Here are the lyrics:

**The C.A.P. Is On The Go**

We are the C.A.P. we're on the go.  
We're always, always, always on the go.  
We are ready in peace, ready in war,  
Ready for what we're needed for,  
THE C.A.P. IS ON THE GO.  
Down on the ground, up in the blue,  
Set to protect the living likes of you,  
From training cadets to flying patrol,  
With air supremacy our goal,  
We of the C.A.P. want you to know,  
We're always, always, always on the go.  
In this land of the free,  
We'll protect our liberty,  
So feel secure to know,  
That the Civil Air Patrol is on the go.  
(Repeat)



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**WING SAFETY OFFICER**

Lt. Col. Mark Huntington, CAP

**HOLIDAYS:** From time immemorial, humans have celebrated holidays. These days of celebration generally include various traditions, often vast quantity of foods, and sometimes raucous activities. We’ve just recently passed through the 2015 holiday season, with celebrations as diverse as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

The word *holiday* originates from *holy day*; generally having religious connotation, *holy* also means “set apart”. In addition to religious holy-days, we celebrate national holidays that have no religious meaning whatsoever. Holidays are “set apart” to commemorate, honor, or remember something or someone important.

Did you know that Civil Air Patrol celebrates a special holiday? CAP regulations mandate that each unit must set aside a day to remember something important: Safety! Historically, the CAP Safety Holiday was designated as a “Down Day”, meaning no flying except for emergency services missions. Ironically, it increased awareness of Safety in that invariably the weather was perfect for flying, and every time you cussed the good weather, you remembered the reason you were grounded: Safety.

The current Safety Day regulation eliminates the “grounding” in favor of a day having a Safety theme, with briefings and activities focused on Safety awareness. The South Dakota Wing implemented a Wing-wide safety day, to ensure compliance by all subunits. On this day, each individual unit has flexibility to program activities that best meet the needs of the local squadron.

The 2016 SDWG Safety day took place on 21 January. On this day, from the peaks of the Black Hills to the Sioux River valley, units engaged in a number of activities including potluck suppers, multimedia video presentations, casual “no uniform” days, lecture-briefings, and even a Safety Jeopardy game show. The photos accompanying this article capture some of the excitement generated.

Until next year, here’s wishing you a very Merry Safety Day! Keep safe.



## SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

### **BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)**

(Item submitted by C/Maj Gross)



- **CYBERPATRIOT-VII UPDATE:** Team Big Sioux competed in the Semi-Final Round of CyberPatriot-VIII on 21 February. Coach C/Maj Tyler Gross feels the team performed very well. However, the results and the team standings won't be known until they are published on 3 March.

We are in the “All-Services” Division pitted against 1,280 teams, 447 of which are CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from CAP the, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC.

CyberPatriot teams compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find/fix security vulnerabilities in simulated networks. When the scores are finally tabulated the top 13 teams in the All-Services Division win an all-expenses paid trip to the Finals on 10-14 April in Baltimore, MD.

Team Big Sioux’s members are: C/Lt. Jaden Petersen (Brookings) (Team Captain), C/CMSgt. Graham Dinnel (Lake Benton, MN), C/MSgt. Andrew Toft (Elkton), C/A1C Andrew Sweebe (Brookings) and C/Amn Peter Engels (Minneota, MN).

## **CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**

(Items submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)



- **AN AMAZING YOUNG MAN:** C/Lt. Jason Parry, a resident of Custer and a member of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, is a graduating senior at Custer High School. For part of his senior project he decided to bring aerospace education to the Custer Elementary and Middle Schools. On his own initiative he spoke to teachers within the Custer School District where five teachers showed interested in Civil Air Patrol. Jason obtained a grant from the Air Force Association to cover the cost of their Aerospace Education Membership. He also got these teachers and their classrooms involved in the Aerospace Connections in Education Program. He successfully fostered a relationship between CAP and the classroom to reach a total of 194 students. This included forging a rapport with teachers and preparing an aerospace education lesson plan. He then taught the lesson to the 5th grade class with the assistance of some of his fellow National Honor Society members. Jason's ability to lead, to follow through with tasks, and to communicate effectively was reflected throughout this project. Parry's extracurricular activities include CAP, drama club, freshman impact program, IT person for Custer Youth and Alumni Foundation, Altar server at St. John's Catholic Church, and National Honor Society member. He is currently taking an Emergency Medical Technician course for the State of South Dakota. C/Lt. Jason Parry is an exemplary cadet within the CAP and a very motivated individual. His senior project brought awareness to teachers and their classrooms about the programs and resources Civil Air Patrol has to offer. Jason plans to attend South Dakota State University in Brookings where, in addition to his academic endeavors, he intends to join the AFROTC program there. Upon graduation from SDSU and receiving a commission in the Air Force he intends to enter active duty military service.

- **PIZZA AND DDR:** We decided to take one of our meetings to the public and had our DDR program discussion at Pizza Hut. Our topic was "are there drugs in our hometown." The cadets were each assigned to a community leader that they would have to meet with and discuss the topic

- **LEGISLATIVE DAY:** Capt. Kris Bierwirth, Cap.t James Dillon, 2nd Lt Tim Modde, C/CMsgt Thomas Dillon, C/CSSgt Anthony Dillon, C/CSSgt Hunter Rice and C/Amn Ethan Updike all attended legislation day. For some it was their first time, everyone enjoyed it. Cadet Updike was in Pierre the week prior attending a "TeenPact" leadership course. I think we might have a politician in the making.

- **CADET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:** C/CMsgt Thomas Dillon, C/CSSgt Anthony Dillon and C/CSSgt Hunter Rice attended the CLA class in Pierre. They came back from very pleased with themselves. They did very well in the drill and military bearing competitions. They both really enjoyed the D-Day planning event. They realized that there is a lot of hard work involved in planning a major event.

## **PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)**

(Items/photos submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- **AIRPORT SAFETY SEMINAR:** Pierre Members Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Maj. Lee Vaughan attended an airport safety seminar held in Rapid City at the airport fire station. The new Military Operations Area (MOA) was discussed to give local pilots background on the use of the area. New technology in the cockpit was discussed indicating the importance of keeping aware of what is happening outside the aircraft and not being lost in the menus of the electronics. Also attending the seminar were the Rapid City Airport Manager, area flight examiners, USAF members and CAP members from Custer and Rapid City.

- **SQUADRON LEADERSHIP SCHOOL:** Ryon Skaggs, formerly a cadet with the Pierre Squadron, now an officer in Pierre, attended the Squadron Leadership School in Sioux Falls. This class is designed to enhance a senior member's performance at the squadron level and to increase understanding of the basic function of a squadron and how to improve squadron operations.

- **VANDERMATEN MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Pierre members Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Lt. Col. Tam Gatje went to Brandon to attend a memorial service for Col. Merlin VanderMaten. In a long career with CAP, Merlin was SDWG Commander from 15 October 1982 until 31 October 1985. Merlin was a dedicated member giving many hours of service to CAP, acting basically as a full-time (or more) employee of the organization. He was always available when needed to carry on the group's needs. A funeral had been held for him in Minnesota where he resided at the time of his death. The memorial service was held in Brandon where we had lived earlier while a member of CAP. He will be greatly missed.



LEFT: (L-R) FORMER MEMBER JEREMY LANGROCK (A SPAATZ CADET), COL. MARY DONLEY, FORMER MEMBER ROBERT MAXWELL, LT. COL. MYRA CHRISTENSEN AND LT. COL. TAM GATJE POSE IN FRONT OF A PICTURE OF COLONEL MERLIN VANDERMATEN AT HIS MEMORIAL.

RIGHT: WING COMMANDER MERLIN VANDERMATEN (L) RECEIVES THE "TOP 8 OF THE 50" AWARD FOR SOUTH DAKOTA AS THE BEST WING IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION FOR 1982.

## **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**

(Items/photos submitted by Maj. Goodrich)

- **WELCOME ABOARD:** We have a new cadet in the squadron - Jacob Strouth. We are pleased that you decided to join CAP and proud to have you with us.

- **NEW OFFICERS IN THE SQUADRON:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Arneson has transferred out of the inactive wing squadron to Rushmore Composite Squadron, and has been appointed as the Squadron Aerospace Education Officer. We also welcome Officer Tricia Weathers who joined us in January. She has completed Level 1 and has been assigned as the Squadron Emergency Services Officer.

- **CADET O-RIDES:** We tried to play catch up with Cadet O-rides this month, and we picked two beautiful Saturdays to do so, the 6th and the 20th of Feb. The following cadets got their first Cadet O-ride: C/Amn Jacob Lawrence, Cadet Mason Helgeland, C/Amn Nathan Carlin, C/Amn Lucas Dimitt, C/Amn Erik Allen, and Cadet Jacob Strouth. In addition, C/A1C Brandon Spence got his 2nd and 3rd Powered Orientation Flights. Thanks to the Orientation Pilots; Col. Mike Beason, Maj. Craig Goodrich, and Capt. Ryan Jones.



LEFT: CAPT. RYAN JONES AND CADETS MASON HELGELAND AND JACOB LAWRENCE  
CENTER: CADET NATHAN CARLIN AND CADET ERIK ALLEN  
RIGHT: CADET MASON HELGELAND AND CADET JACOB STROUTH

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

(Items/photos submitted by Capt. West)

- **VIRB DRILLS**: February is VIRB training month at the squadron. Aircrew members are familiarizing themselves with the operation of the newly installed wing-mounted VIRB aerial nadir photographic system and then taking the system aloft for operational drills.



## ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

### **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Robert Boecker, a resident of Sioux Falls and a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Ivan Kreger and Taylor Umland-Moyer, both residents of Sioux Falls and members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!





Congratulations to Anthony Dillon and Hunter Rice both residents of Custer and members of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron (Custer) on promotion to Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



### **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Keithen Griffen and Brandon Spence, both of Rapid City, and Ana Mckeehan of Kadoka, all members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, and to Peter Engels of Ivanhoe, MN and member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Erik Allen of Rapid City and Jacob Lawrence of Ellsworth AFB, both members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, and to Samuel Moser IX and David Willison, both of Sioux Falls and members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!



## ★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Kipp of the Wing Staff on earning “Master” level in CAP’s Senior Member Professional Development Program Specialty Track – Public Affairs Officer!



Congratulations to Denise Clement of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on changing her membership status from sponsor to senior member!



Congratulations to Capt. Jason Erickson of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who is now a Skills Evaluator (SET) for Emergency Services’ ICS Air Branch Director!



Congratulations to SM Tricia Weathers and SM Steven Helgeland of Rushmore Composite Squadron on completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition thereof they were presented with the Membership Ribbon!



## ★ ★ WING CALENDAR ★ ★

Below are the Wing Calendars for March and April as of the date this Skychaser was published. Check the Wing website for the latest information as the calendars are frequently updated.

MAR

5

Sat

all-day CAPF-73 Due

all-day SD National Guard Training Exercise

all-day Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO ...

APR

5

Tue

all-day CAPF-73 Due

all-day Vehicle Reports Due to Wing VMO ...

APR

29

Fri

all-day Constant Watch 16

