



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for January 2018

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

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WING TIPS

- **TABLETOP SAREX**: On 6 January, members of the South Dakota Wing met for a Table-Top SAREX. A Table-Top SAREX is a Search and Rescue Exercise without actually launching aircrews or dispatching ground teams, but instead the training is concentrated on the Mission Incident Staff personnel. They are given scenario inputs and have a limited amount of time to gather information by asking questions of the moderator, and then filling out the proper forms required by CAP (most of the paperwork) and NIMS (National Incident Management System). The instructor, Lt. Col. Rick Fawcett, teaches advanced Incident Command System (ICS) classes at the Civil Air Patrol National Emergency Services Academy each summer. Capt. Patrick Nowlin, the SDWG Emergency Services Officer, coordinated the training exercise with Lt. Col. Fawcett. SDWG Incident Commanders and senior mission staff personnel that attended the class covered several scenarios and got a great refresher course on ICS forms and search and rescue considerations. Participants also used part of the day to discuss Emergency Services (ES) training in the wing, how to improve our professionalism and ensure we are properly evaluating the training received before signing people off on ES tasks.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew six aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in January in support of the state's Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) and South Dakota State University (SDSU). Both organizations have continually ongoing research projects surveying mountain lions, bobcats, swift foxes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. The result was 19.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.4 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 23.2 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 4 sorties; Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, 1 sortie; and Lt. Col. Duncan Kiernes, 1 sortie. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot is accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. The photo shows a bighorn sheep, one of the critters tracked by GF&P and SDSU researchers.

- **NEW CAP WEBSITE:** 29 January, an upgraded CAP website has gone live, www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com. The newly designed website folds four CAP sites into one, making the original website more user-friendly for existing members as well as prospective new members

HANGAR TALK

- January was a busy month for aircraft changes. We are getting ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast) installed in several aircraft as they come through Rapid City for various other maintenance issues. It is a surveillance technology in which an aircraft determines its position via satellite navigation and periodically transmits it to Air Traffic Control as well as other aircraft in the area. That means pilots need to get up to speed on how it works and what it means. Scanners and Observers will be curious as to what that flashing light on the panel means! Quite often the first person to notice something wrong is the one furthest from the source. (Murphy's rule of proximity says, "The closer you are to the instrument panel, the less likely you are to see a problem"). So let's not make ourselves look silly in front of our other crewmembers when we get our first "TRAFFIC ALERT" and don't know what to do.

- The Glider Program is up and rolling. We have word from National that an "Assembly Jig" will be arriving soon by UPS. This makes a one hour assembly chore for at least four people turn into a 30 minute process for only one or two. We did pull the fuselage out to gain access to the cockpit. We have a very well equipped aircraft with VHF radio, on-board computer and even a data recorder just in case you get the perfect thermal to go for the state altitude record. We have uploaded the Sailplane Flight Manual to WMIRS under the Maintenance/Glider category. Soon anyone can download any or all of the information to your personal computer or just do a Screen Print for quick reference. Our goal is to get a "core" group trained and qualified not later than the April Wing Conference so o-rides and classroom training can be offered. It takes a minimum of three people to launch a glider sortie: The Tow Pilot, the Glider Pilot, and a ground support member to help with rope hookup and Wing Runner. We encourage every potential ground support member to take the Wing Runner course on WMIRS so we are all speaking the same language on the flight line and in the classroom. Once we have our act together, we can open the program to those interested in obtaining their "Cadet Solo Wings", or actual Glider Rating. We have started a list already, so if you want to participate please contact Lt. Col. DeWeese at 605-641-2362 or Buck.DeWeese@sdcap.gov.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **WELCOME ABOARD:** Welcome aboard to Dr. John Spangler who is in the process of joining Rushmore Composite Squadron. John is a retired pediatric cardiologist and a pilot whose hobby (bordering on obsession) is flight simulators. He has already donated a computer for the CAP flight simulator and reprogrammed aircraft in the simulator to not only look like our airplanes but to have the same instrument panels, etc. For those interested in flight simulation of CAP Search and Rescue missions, check out this web address for a nice article about CAP on the major flight simulation website: <https://www.flightsim.com/vbfs/content.php>.

- **NEW WING VEHICLE:** A new 12-passenger Chevy 3500 van was delivered to the Wing in Rapid City. It only had 8 miles on the odometer. In the photo Mr. Jim Weisgram of Rapid City Chevrolet hands over the keys to our new van. The van will be assigned to the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Capt. Jerry Foy will help dress it up with CAP logos, radios, etc.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

WING CONFERENCE: This year, the Wing conference will be held in Deadwood. We are hosting the North Central Region Conference at the same time. The date is 12-15 April. Classes will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Look for the Eventbrite Sign Up to be out soon with all the details.



WING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp, CAP

- In November 2017 I completed four years as the Wing Director of Public Affairs. I feel that the time has come for me to step aside for a more physically active person who can attend SDWG events and activities. The Wing needs to see their principle Public Affairs Officer out and about. Public affairs for the Wing can be a big job and I would not leave my successor in the lurch. I am willing, with the new Director's agreement, to step down to Wing Assistant Public Affairs Officer to provide continuity, guidance and assistance to the new Director. I am also willing, with the new Director's agreement, to continue as editor of the monthly Skychaser e-newsletter and triannual Wing Roundup magazine. If you are interested in becoming the new SDWG Director of Public Affairs please contact me by email (bruce.kipp@sdcap.us) or by phone 605-261-4507.

- Although it is not mandatory, Personnel assigned as Public Information Officers are expected to work towards attaining a proficiency level in the Public Affairs specialty track of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. I hold a Master level rating in Public Affairs and am available to mentor anyone who wishes to enter the program. For more information check out CAP Pamphlet 201. Cadets who anticipate transitioning to Senior Member may take advantage of this program.

- Although it is not mandatory, Wing personnel assigned as Public Information Officers are expected to work towards attaining certification as a Public Information Officer (PIO) in Emergency Services. I am a Skill Evaluator for PIO and am available to mentor anyone who wishes to qualify. For more information check out the SQTR for PIO under Operations Qualifications in eServices. Cadets who anticipate transitioning to Senior Member may take advantage of this program.



WING INSPECTOR GENERAL

Lt. Col. Shelly Metzger, CAP

- Inspector General Senior Level Training Course, 21-22 April at the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron HQ, Landmark Aviation, 3401 Aviation Avenue, South Hangar – 2nd floor, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. The deadline to reserve a seat in the class is COB 13 April. There is no cost for this course. To reserve a seat in the class email me with your name, rank, CAPID, cell phone number, and email address. NOTE: Completion of the IGSC pre-test on LMS is required prior to attending the class. Lodging is available at the 196th Army National Guard Regional Training Center, 803 West National Guard Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. \$31.00 Private rooms (dependent on availability) or semi-private rooms (share a bathroom). The deadline to reserve lodging is COB 13 April. To reserve a room, please email me your dates of arrival and departure. Shelly Metzger, Lt Col, CAP, shelly.metzger@sdcap.us, 406-461-3432



DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- SLS / CLC: The date for the SDWG Squadron Leadership School (SLS) and Corporate Learning Course (CLC) to be held in Sioux Falls has changed to Saturday, 10 February. The class will be from 0800-1800 at the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron HQ. Also, NDWG has invited SDWG members to take part in their SLS to be held in Fargo from 16-18 February. For more information on this please contact me.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)

(Item and photo submitted by 1st Lt. Gross)



CYBERPATRIOT ROUND 3 (STATE ROUND): This year our squadron had two teams participating in Round 3, the “State Round”, of the 2017-2018 CyberPatriot Competition that took place from 19-21 January. Our High School-level team placed 26th out of 325 teams (8th out of 85 CAP teams) in the Platinum Tier of the All Services Division. They will advance to the Semi-Final Round to be held on 9-11 February. Our Middle School-level team placed 393rd out of 646 teams in their division. They are not advancing to the semifinals.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)

(Items and photo submitted by Lt. Col. DeWeese)



- OUTREACH:** On 16 January, squadron members were at the basketball game between the Yellow Jackets of the Black Hills State University and the Hardrockers of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. The event also served as a military recognition night. We had a table set up along with the American Legion, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Army National Guard recruiters who all had display tables. It was a community visibility program in the lobby outside the doors of the gymnasium. Many conversations took place with interested people, as well as with some past CAP members. In the photo Maj. Collister (left), C/A1C James Crenshaw, and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese (right) staff the CAP table.



PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)

(Item and photos submitted by SM Richard Rezac & Lt. Col. Tam Gatje)

- PIERRE AVIATION DAY:** On 24 January, several members of the Pierre Composite Squadron assisted in our Aerospace Education mission at the 5th Annual Aviation Day hosted by the South Dakota Discovery Center, and sponsored by the Pierre Elks Lodge. There were over 300 attendees at the event, most of them elementary-school children. Squadron members staffed two areas of the event ; 1) Helping students build a parachute, which they launched in a vertical wind tunnel; and -2) guiding students in the safe landing of a plastic aircraft sliding down a fishing-line glidepath. These activities helped made aviation come alive for these young people. Other attendees at the event were Ellsworth AFB, Mustang Aviation, Pierre Model Airplane Club and the Great Planes Women in Aviation Chapter. Thanks to Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Maj. Lee Vaughn, Capt. Jon Becker and SM Richard Rezac for their participation. And a special thank you to SM Rhea Waldman (who is also Dr. Rhea Waldman, Education Director at the Discovery Center) for inviting us. The looks on these young folks' faces was enough to tell us this was a resounding success!



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

(Items submitted by 2LT M. Klosterman)



CYBERPATRIOT ROUND 3 (STATE ROUND): This year our squadron had two teams participating in Round 3, the “State Round”, of the 2017-2018 CyberPatriot Competition that took place from 19-21 January. Our High School-level team placed 220th out of 926 teams (65th out of 240 CAP teams) in the All Services Division. They earned Second Place in South Dakota but did not place high enough to advance to the Semi-Final Round. Our Middle School-level team placed 145th out of 646 teams. They earned First Place in South Dakota and scored high enough to advance to the Semi-Final Round to be held 9-11 February.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotion



Congratulations to Tim Modde of Hill City and to Donald Weiland of Custer, both members of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, on their promotion to the rank of Captain!

Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to Levi Woodard of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Major!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



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



Congratulations to Luke Thompson of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on his promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Brady Hedrick of Sioux Falls, of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, to Lydia Klosterman of Brandon, Andrew Smith and Daniel Willison of Sioux Falls, all of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Noah Healy of Mitchell, of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Michael Rohl of Brookings, of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Jordan Weiland and Amelia Weiland, both of Custer and members of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!





Congratulations to Timothy Daene of Sioux Falls, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Preston Drew of Custer, a member of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General John F. Curry Award!



★ ★ SPACE TOURISM ★ ★

Virgin Galactic is months away from bringing tourists to space. Virgin Galactic's spacecraft the VSS *Unity* completed a successful glide test last week, keeping the company on track to operate the first space tourist expeditions later this year. The test pushed "*Unity's* atmospheric capabilities hard, touching top-end glide speeds as the pilots completed a busy test card," the company said in an update. On January 11th, the *Unity* was released from its mothership over the Mojave Desert at an altitude of 50,000 feet and began a steep descent. The spacecraft accelerated to Mach 0.9 to test its flight performance, stability and control before safely landing. "At this stage of the glide flight program, each flight is essentially a dry run for rocket-powered test flights," according to Virgin Galactic. Over the next few months, the team will add elements to each test flight to closer replicate space exploration. The company is on-time to reach founder Richard Branson's goal of being on a suborbital test flight by April. The spacecraft is capable of carrying six customers and two pilots. The 2.5-hour experience includes six minutes of weightlessness and the ability to view the Earth's curvature from space. Commercial flights are expected to begin by the end of the year. A ticket aboard the *Unity* spacecraft cost \$250,000. Hundreds of people - including Stephen Hawking, Ashton Kutcher, Leonardo DiCaprio and Justin Bieber, have already placed a deposit for a voyage into space.

Source: Cailey Rizzo, January 15, 2018, www.travelandleisure.com/travel-news/virgin-galactic-space-2018



VSS UNITY IS CARRIED ALOFT BY ITS MOTHERSHIP, THE WHITE-KNIGHT-TWO



Former South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel Alden House passed away on 4 January. He was a native South Dakotan, born and raised in farm country in central South Dakota. In 1948, after lying about his age he joined the 196th Regimental Combat Team of the South Dakota Army National Guard at the age of 15. He continued as a member of the Army Guard and worked on the family farm until July 1950 when he joined the Air Force and trained as an aircraft mechanic and electrician. While in the Air Force he was stationed in Texas, Illinois and California, and was shipped overseas and spent two and one-half years in Japan during the Korean War in a P-51 fighter squadron. In 1954 he returned to the family farm. In 1955, he moved to San Francisco and worked for United Airlines as an aircraft mechanic and maintenance inspector. He also worked as a reserve deputy sheriff for five years. In 1964 he moved back to the family farm and re-joined his Army Guard unit, which had converted to a combat engineer unit. He also worked as a police officer in Chamberlain. In 1969, he moved to Rapid City for a Civil Service position with the Army Guard as a helicopter mechanic/crew chief.

Colonel House joined the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol in July 1975 as a member of the Rapid City Composite Squadron. He participated in many search and rescue missions with the CAP in South Dakota. He served as the wing commander from March 1991 until May 1994.

In 1992, at age 60, he retired from his civil service position with the Army Guard after 26 and one-half years. In April of 1993, he became a part-time bailiff for Pennington County Court House. He retired from this position in November 2011. Alden House received numerous awards and medals during his years of public service with the Air Force, the South Dakota Army National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol.

Burial will be at the Fort Meade National Veterans Cemetery near Sturgis.

