



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for June 2018

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

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WING TIPS



- **SEARCH AND RESCUE:** On 9 June South Dakota Wing conducted a remote-base Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) at Mitchell Municipal Airport. Unlike most SAREXs where we already have supplies and equipment in place, a remote-base SAREX requires that we bring in everything needed for search and rescue activity, good practice for working in South Dakota’s more remote areas.

Three CAP aircraft, several CAP vehicles and 48 personnel representing five of the Wing’s six squadrons participated. The exercise involved three scenarios; an air and ground search for a missing hunter, an aerial search for a missing aircraft and a photo survey flight of notional flooding along the

James River. Two Ground Teams were formed for the scenarios. Personnel from Davison County Search and Rescue participated in the ground search portion of the exercise.

The Wing expresses its sincere thanks to the Dakota Flight Center at Mitchell Municipal Airport for allowing us use of their facility for the Incident Command Post. The Wing also thanks the Mitchell Salvation Army for providing meal service for exercise participants. The photo shows the Incident Command Staff directing the search and rescue operations scenarios.



LEFT – USING A HAND-HELD RADIO DIRECTION FINDER TO SEARCH FOR AN TRAINING EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTER
 RIGHT – THE DUMMY IN DEEP GRASS THAT WAS THE OBJECT OF THE MISSING HUNTER GROUND SEARCH SCENARIO

- **HOT SPRINGS AVIATION DAY:** On 2 June SM Malisa Niles and C/Amn Banion Niles of the Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City) set up and manned a Civil Air Patrol exhibit at the First Annual Hot Springs Fly-In and Open House. The CAP booth, on display for over 6 hours, was viewed by 173 people. Five families expressed interest in CAP and contact information was exchanged. Several members of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron (Custer) also assisted at the booth.



- **SIoux FALLS FLOODING:** On 21 June the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron put an aircraft aloft to survey the flooding in the area resulting from more than five inches of rain over two days (20th and 21st). The photos were provided to the local media for their reporting. Photos by SSgt David Stockinger.





TOP LEFT: SPLIT ROCK CREEK OVER 264TH STREET
 TOP RIGHT: BADLANDS SPEEDWAY
 BOTTOM LEFT: BIG SIOUX EAST OF WILLOW RUN GOLF COURSE
 BOTTOM RIGHT: HIDDEN VALLEY GOLF COURSE



- **REGION STAFF COLLEGE:** 5 days, 40 hours and 25 students from 5 different states. One of the best weeks in Civil Air Patrol! Bright and early on 12 June we gathered to embark on an adventure at the North Central Region Staff College (RSC) that would find us learning, laughing, and sharing more than we could imagine. Classes ranged from communications skills and mentoring to how to work with challenging members. Each and every one of us discovered things about CAP, each other and ourselves we will never forget. Divided into four groups we came up with a flag to represent the dynamic of our group, had numerous group discussions on topics of diversity, personalities, motivation, decision making and managing activities. The conclusion to every discussion

was that we all love being Civil Air Patrol for the same two reasons; helping others, and the people in CAP. The classes were informative and we all took something away from each one of them. In my opinion the most important reason to attend RSC is for the people/friends you will connect with. Boss Lady Col. Mary Donley did an amazing job keeping us all on the learning track while having fun doing it. Every one that attended the RSC came away with many new friends, new ideas and greater insight into ourselves and the Civil Air Patrol that will allow us to continue helping people. *(Submitted by Maj. Karla West)*

- **KRAP OPEN HOUSE:** Eleven SDWG members supported the joint Experimental Aircraft Association



(EAA)/Rapid City Regional Airport Open House on Saturday, 23 June. There was beautiful weather for the well-attended event. Six members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron: Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, Lt. Col. Howard Steiner, Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, 1st Lt. Keven Gross, 1st Lt. Tricia Weathers and Cadet Anna-Claire Edwards were there. Also five members of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron: Capt. Timothy Modde, Capt. Donald Weiland, SM Jody Weiland, C/SrA Amelia Weiland, and C/SrA Jordan Weiland also participated. We helped provide security for the flight line and had a static display of one of our aircraft. We made contact with several individuals

interested in becoming members of CAP. *(By Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich)*



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew five aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over four days in June 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 13.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 3.4 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 17.2 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 4 sorties; and Capt. Brandon West, 1 sortie. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot is accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. The photo shows a wild bobcat, one of the critters tracked by GF&P and SDSU researchers.

- **ELLSWORTH AFB NEWS:** The Air Force has chosen Ellsworth Air Force Base and its B-1 bombers for a new missile. The USAF says the AGM-158C Long Range Anti-Ship Missile is used to strike enemy ships from long distances. Crews with Ellsworth’s 28th Bomb Wing began training on the missile system this month. In addition, the USAF says Ellsworth AFB is one of three bases selected to receive the next-generation B-21 stealth bomber. The B-21 is to replace B-1 and B-2 aircraft. South Dakota U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds says Ellsworth is a candidate to be the first base to get the next-generation bomber.



B-1B LANCER LAUNCHING AGM-158C LRASM



NORTHROP-GRUMMAN B-21 RAIDER STEALTH BOMBER

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **WING STAFF CHANGES:** Maj. Jeremy Langrock has assumed the duties of Wing Stan Eval Officer (DOV) from Capt. Joe Oye who will remain as Assistant DOV. 1st Lt. Tyler Gross is the new Wing IT officer. Maj. Shannon Hofer will remain as assistant.

- **FAREWELL:** SDWG and Rushmore Composite Squadron said goodbye to 1st Lt. Tricia Weathers who has moved to Utah. Not only has Tricia served as interim commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, she was invaluable as an MSA for REDCAPs and SAREXs and helped with several wing level events. We will all miss Tricia and husband Andy. SDWG’s loss is UTWG’s gain - I have already put them in contact with the UTWG commander. Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich presented her a plaque thanking her for her service and I awarded her a Commanders Commendation.



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

- **GLIDER/TOW PILOTS NEEDED:** The Wing needs Officer Pilots to sign up for Tow Pilot training or Glider Pilot training or both. Please contact me at deweese@rushmore.com or buck.deweese@sdcap.us or call 605-641-2362. This is a great opportunity to gain new qualifications and to provide our cadets with the fun and excitement of glider flying.



CHIEF OF STAFF

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- We have a lot of summer activities.
 - The Joint Dakota Encampment began on 23 June and runs until 1 July.
 - 13-15 July - Aerospace Education weekend in Philip. Come see (and if you are a cadet, ride in) our new glider. Lots of fun activities for seniors and cadets from glider rides to model rockets to learning how to fly UAVs and remote piloted airplanes. You must sign up for the \$25 event before you can sign up for the individual activities. More info and to sign up for the AE Weekend at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aerospace-weekend-tickets-46590034046>
 - 3-5 August - Ground Team School in Pierre. Do you need to hone your Ground Team skills or looking to renew your qualifications or just getting started in Ground Team training? Check out the sign up page for more information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sd-wing-ground-team-school-tickets-47079445890>. This event is FREE! We will be staying outside in tents for the weekend so remember to bring a sleeping bag. If you are interested in attending, sign up and talk to your Squadron Commander about transportation.
 - 17-19 August - SDWG/USAF SAREVAL in Mitchell.



DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- The North Central Region Cadet Honor Academy has been scheduled for Thursday-Sunday 18-21 October 2018 at the South Dakota Army National Guard RTI in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently I am seeking resumes for Cadet Commander (Cadet Project Officer) to assist in planning the activity as well as from those who would like to be instructors. Send them to me at linda.buechler@sdcap.us. The cost for the Academy will be \$35 per cadet and senior member. Further information will be forthcoming. The Cadet Honor Academy prepares cadets to serve on color guards and honor guards while simultaneously furthering their individual character development. If you have any questions, please contact me, linda.buechler@sdcap.us, (605) 212-7032.



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, CAP

- Maj. E.W. Filler of Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings) became a new CAP Instructor Pilot when he completed his Form 5 checkride on 16 June.
- C/2nd Lt Branden Spence of Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City) became an FAA Certificated Pilot on 12 June.
- STEM Flight with Lt. Col. Russel Limke of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish) to Kimball, SD and Chamberlain, SD. We spent the day talking to kids about airplanes.



- Glider Days: On 27 June I got recurrent as a Tow-Pilot, and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese got recurrent as a Glider Pilot and took his first CAP Glider Form 5 checkride.
- The 2018 North Central Region National Flight Academy (Powered) was held in Fremont Nebraska from 14-28 June. I spent a week there (14-21 June) teaching cadets how to fly. My two cadets got their first airplane solo flight while there. There were 24 cadets, 9 certified flight instructors and two senior staff members there. The Nebraska Army National Guard came up from Lincoln with two HH60 Pave Hawk helicopters to give orientation rides to everyone. Some of the rainy day activities included a visit to the UAV research lab at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and a visit to the Strategic Air Command Museum near Ashland, NE. It's always great to be in an environment with cadets and other CAP members excited about flying. Preparing so many cadets to solo in a short amount of time is a real challenge, but the reward is equally gratifying. I strongly recommend that cadets apply for a spot at a flight academy next year if they hope to earn their pilot's license.



LEFT – MY TWO NORTH CENTRAL REGION POWERED FLIGHT ACADEMY CADET STUDENT PILOTS

RIGHT – NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD HH60 PAVE HAWK HELICOPTERS CAME TO GIVE EVERYONE ORIENTATION RIDES



LEFT – ONBOARD A NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD HH60 PAVE HAWK HELICOPTER FOR AN ORIENTATION RIDE
RIGHT – NCR POWERED FLIGHT ACADEMY LIGHT SNACK



NCR POWERED FLIGHT ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS VISIT THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND MUSEUM NEAR ASHLAND, NE



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp, CAP

- In June I completed 4½ years as Wing Director of Public Affairs. 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 its principle Public Affairs officer out and about. I'm willing, with the new Director's agreement, to step down to Wing Assistant Public Affairs Officer to provide continuity 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. Please let Colonel Small know if you will take on this Wing Staff position.

- **ASSISTANT EDITOR** #1: I am seeking an Assistant Editor, either senior cadet or adult officer, for the triannual SDWG Wing Roundup hardcopy magazine. Skills to be learned are production of the manuscript up to and including sending it to the publisher.
- **ASSITANT EDITOR** #2: I am seeking an Assistant Editor, either senior cadet or adult officer, for the monthly SDWG Skychaser electronic newsletter. Skills to be learned are production of the various editions of each month's newsletter up to and including sending it out electronically to our internal and external audiences.
- **ASSITANT EDITOR** #3: I am seeking an Assistant Editor, either senior cadet or adult officer, for producing and issuing of SDWG news releases to targeted and state-wide media outlets. Skills to be learned are production of a new release up to and including sending it out electronically.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063 – SPEARFISH)

(Item submitted by Maj. Collister)

- **NEW CADET**: Please welcome Micah Byrd as the newest member of the squadron. We are pleased that he decided to join Civil Air Patrol and proud to have him in our unit.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038 – PIERRE)

(Items and photos submitted by 2nd Lt. Rezac)

- **OPEN HOUSE**: On 2 June the Squadron hosted an open house in their space at Northridge Plaza. The event lasted from 1:00 to 4:00. Col. Small, Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, 1st Lt. Mimi Klosterman and a number of cadets came to assist. There were tables covering several areas of CAP including our squadron history, Emergency Services, Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, flight simulation, model rockets and DDR. Over 20 people signed in to express interest in CAP and, as of the end of June, one cadet has already joined. Several more youth and a few adults have come to meetings and are interested in joining. All in all, we chalk this one up as a success, while we learn from this event and apply those learnings to our next Open House. Thank you to everyone for giving us a hand!





SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050 – SIOUX FALLS)

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



- **COLOR GUARD**: The squadron’s color guard participated in Marion’s Annual Summer Celebration by marching in the 16th Annual Parade and Rumble on the Route on Saturday, 16 June. It was great to see other cadets getting involved in Color Guard this time.

In the photo, left to right, and looking sharp are C/Amn Thomas Swier, C/SSgt Andrew Smith and C/2nd Lt Julia Lair.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Senior Member Promotions



Congratulations to two well deserving senior members who have received promotion to Lieutenant Colonel based on prior military service. Russel Limke of Spearfish, a member of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, was Director of Staff for the SD ANG, Joint Force HQ, as a Colonel. He was an F-16 pilot for the Air National Guard and is eager to become a CAP mission pilot. Howard Steiner of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, served in the US Marine Corps and US Navy, retiring

from the Navy as a Navy Commander. His Naval career saw his spectacular performance in multiple positions of leadership and authority, especially while deployed to the Far East and Middle East. Prior to his inter-service transfer to the Navy, he served as a Marine flying the EA6B prowlers; deploying to the Far East/Western Pacific and to the Middle East on a Mediterranean tour. He is involved in Aerospace Education and the flight simulator project with the Rushmore Composite Squadron.

Cadet Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Ryan Harris of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant!



Congratulations to Branden Spence of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Sydnie Cloutier of Sioux Falls, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!



Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Noah Misselt of Box Elder, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Luke Thompson of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Lydia Klosterman of Brandon, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Thomas Friedrich of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Micah Healy of Mitchell, and to Andrew Smith of Sioux Falls, both members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Nolan Rohl of Bruce, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Thomas Swier of Marion, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Allen Rudd of Volga, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Aimee Schmitt and Joshua Vermundson, both of Pierre, both members of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Brayden Parke of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Gen. J.F. Curry Award!



★ ★ U.S. SPACE ACE RETIRES ★ ★



Astronaut Peggy Whitson, who has spent more time in space than any other American, retired from NASA on June 15, 2018 after 32 years of service to our country. She joined NASA in 1986 after earning a doctorate in biochemistry and worked in several scientific posts at the agency over the next decade. She was chosen for the astronaut corps in 1996.

She flew three missions aboard the International Space Station (ISS): Expedition 5 in 2002; and Expedition 16 in 2008, during which she became the first female commander of the orbiting lab; and an extended stint from November 2016 through September 2017, which spanned Expeditions 50, 51

and 52. Whitson also commanded Expedition 51, becoming the first woman to lead an ISS mission twice.

During her career, Whitson racked up a total of 665 days in space — more than any other NASA astronaut, and a record for women worldwide. She also has performed more spacewalks than any other woman, venturing outside the ISS on 10 occasions for a record-setting total of 60 hours and 21 minutes. And during her most recent trek to the ISS, Whitson became the oldest female astronaut (57) to reach orbit.

She set some records on the ground as well, becoming the first woman (and first nonmilitary person) to serve as chief of NASA's astronaut corps. She held this position from 2009 through 2012.

★ ★ MARS CLOSE APPROACH ★ ★



In July Mars will get closer to Earth than it has been in 15 years, making it appear larger and brighter than usual. The event, known as Mars Close Approach, is thanks to Mars' and Earth's orbits around the Sun, which on July 31 will line up so that the Red Planet is 35.8 million away. For much of that night it will be visible to the naked eye low in the sky above the southern horizon around midnight.

In the days before Mars Close Approach, between July 27 and 30, the planet will be in opposition with the Sun and will look around three times brighter in our sky than it normally does. The Red Planet will remain larger than normal when viewed by telescope for a couple of weeks, before fading in mid-August as it moves further away from Earth. Mars only comes close enough to allow this kind of view every 15 to 17 years. Mars won't be this close again till September 15, 2035. [Editor's Note: 31 July would be a great date to hold an Aerospace Education viewing party, after all, some of you might wind up living there someday]

