



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for APRIL 2020

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

Publishers: Wing Commander Colonel David Small Jr. / Wing Vice Commander Lieutenant Colonel Buck DeWeese
Editor: Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp • Wing Assistant Public Affairs Officer • (605) 261-4507 • bruce.kipp@sdwg.cap.gov.us

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WING TIPS

CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19: In response to the nationwide outbreak of the Coronavirus, aka COVID-19, the National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol has directed that all CAP members will postpone non-mission essential travel through 11May. Any CAP gathering that can be postponed without negatively impacting CAP’s mission readiness or emergency services capabilities should be postponed until after 11 May 2020. Distance learning/virtual methods should be used to the maximum extent possible. Proficiency flying, flight evaluations, and other one-on-one flight instruction between a single student and instructor may continue in accordance with current CAP procedures if in compliance with any temporary restrictions on airport access and travel restrictions established by state or local agencies. Mission essential travel is defined as those missions that involve search and rescue, disaster relief or other emergency response and recovery operations. Brig. Gen. Phelka, CAP National Vice Commander, said, “By restricting travel and meetings, we minimize our members’ exposure to the virus, aid the community by keeping our members from unknowingly spreading the virus, and maintain a posture of readiness where healthy aircrew and ground crew members can respond when needed.



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew five aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over two days in March 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 9.5 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 4.0 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 13.5 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, two sorties; and Maj. E.W. Filler, three sorties. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot was accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **DEATH IN THE WING:** It is with sadness that I inform you that 2nd Lt. Tom Simmons, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, passed away on 20 March. Tom was a relative newcomer to SDWG having joined us in late 2018 after a career in information technology. Some of us were fortunate enough to have worked with Tom as he introduced SUAS to our Wing and taught several of us the FAA Part 107 drone class.
- **NEW NCR COMMANDER:** Please join me in congratulating Col John O'Neill for being selected to succeed Col Regena Aye as Commander of the North Central Region. Col O'Neill had dedicated his life to CAP, starting as a cadet where he earned the Spaatz award through serving as the Missouri Wing Commander and most recently working on CAP National priority projects. John has a real depth and breadth of experience in all three CAP missions from being a pilot, IC, and ground team leader in ES to having a passion for model rocketry and STEM outreach. John has also inspired many Missouri cadets to complete the Spaatz award. The change of command is scheduled for May 22nd in conjunction with the NCR/KSWG conference.
- **WYOMING WING EVENTS:** The WYWG Conference is 23-25 May and WYWG Encampment is 25 July – 2 August 2020. Money for scholarships is available and CEAP may be available but you must apply for them. PayPal is being used to register for the Conference and Encampment. SDWG has been invited to participate. If you have questions use your chain of command. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it would be wise to check with the event administrator for any changes in dates.



WING DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

Senior Members - Have you been using this time looking at where you are in the Senior Member Program? Things are going to be changing come this August 4th! I visited with Col. Regena Aye about the new program and the transition will be happening in August despite our challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic!

Here are some things to consider: If you are close to finishing the Level you are on, especially those of you in Level II or Level III, try getting together with someone who can help you, socially acceptable distanced of course! Things like Specialty Tracks can be worked on to achieve the next rating, technician, senior or master. Take the Yeager Aerospace test if you haven't yet, it's open book!

Many of you need Squadron Leadership School (SLS) or the Corporate Learning Course (CLC) to finish your level. We will be holding one or more before August because after August those courses are going away and be replaced with modules for each level. Some of the modules will be online and some will be Face to Face. This is the link to look over the new program: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/cap-university/education-and-training>

Professional Development will be renamed: Education and Training. Col Aye, whose term as North Central Region Commander is ending in May, is taking over the program as Chief of Education and Training. She has asked me to encourage many of the experienced members in our wing to apply to be instructors. There is a link on the page to apply.

I do pray that you are all well and handling the socially distancing--quarantining and that we all do our part to flatten the curve so we can get back to business! Stay safe friends and call me--email me--with any questions or concerns or if you just need to talk!!



WING ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Lt. Col. Bruce Kipp, CAP

- **REMINDER:** If you create a logo for wear on an item of clothing (such as a tee-shirt) for an SDWG activity please remember to send me (bruce.kipp@sdwg.cap.gov) a photo of the logo and a photo of the logo on that item of clothing. Also please let me know who designed the logo, when it was designed, and who approved it for wear. Why? Because I am the curator of the SDWG Library of Logos; an historic compendium of all the logos used by SDWG for its activities back to the dawn of time. The Library of Logos is available for everyone to see on the Wing Website under the “Members” tab, select “History”, then Heraldry. The library also provides a handy reference source for inspiration if you are tasked with designing a logo. Check out the new entry in the SDWG Library of Logos for the 2020 Cadet Leadership Academy!

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-68 – CUSTER)

- **VIRTUAL MEETINGS:** Our Squadron conducted two virtual meetings in March.

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-07 – TEA)

- **VIRTUAL TRAINING:** Our Squadron has started remote/virtual training classes. So far we have done Character Development for the cadets and Emergency Services for both Cadets and Officers. Both have been very successful.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-XX – SPEARFISH)

- **NEW SENIOR MEMBERS:** The squadron has two new Senior Members, Jay and Jenn Stomprud. They are the parents of three new Squadron cadets. Welcome Aboard! We are pleased to have you with us.
- **TRAINING:** Although the corona virus has impacted all of us, our mission continues. Prior to the cancellation of CAP events, our Squadron hosted a Great Start program on March 7. We also participated in several sorties during the month including a mission to support a training mission for Ellsworth AFB although our sorties in Spearfish and Rapid City were canceled due to high winds. Col. Small hosted a character

development conference call for our cadets. Many of us also completed Aircraft Ground Handling and SSgt Bawden briefed the unit on CAP's History Program via a recorded presentation on YouTube.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)

- **PHYSICAL FITNESS:** On 10 March a good contingent of cadets attended a great physical fitness session at the YMCA in downtown Pierre. Squadron commander Capt. Ruth Carley supervised the event. A prospective new senior member, a parent volunteer, was there as they are considering joining. All cadets had great fun at this program and were tired and hungry when it was over. Luckily they were able to enjoy some treats brought by birthday cadet C/1st Lt Alec J. Crowser.

- **OUTREACH:** Pierre cadets and seniors have helped the American Legion Post 8 with their monthly meetings for some time. This month the cadets also participated by posting the colors at the beginning of the meeting and retiring them at the end. They also helped with the serving of the meal and cleanup afterward. Helping in this endeavor were senior members Lt. Col. Lois M. Schmidt, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, Capt. Jon Becker and cadets C/SrA Joshua Vermundson, C/SrA Darion Osterkamp and C/Amn Jonathen A. Knudsen.



- **COLOR GUARD:** The Pierre Color Guard posted the colors for the girls' varsity championship hockey tournament held at the Expo Center in Fort Pierre in early March. As many avid hockey fans looked on the CAP Color Guard presented the colors while marching on the ice of the Expo Center. The Aberdeen Cougars defeated the Sioux Falls Flyers 4-3. Fans thanked the team for properly presenting the colors.



RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-31 – RAPID CITY)

- **RUSHMORE 2020**: The first edition of our new weekly electronic Cadet Squadron Newsletter "RUSHMORE 2020" was published. C/2nd Lt Tracy and C/CMSgt Kilburn co-editors.
- **WMIRS TRAINING**: Col Mike Beason gave WMIRS training to Senior Staff via [freeconferencecall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com).
- **ONLINE MEETING**: Rushmore Squadron had its first online Squadron meeting online using ZOOM, twenty four members attended.

SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-50 – SIOUX FALLS)

- **ENCAMPMENT PARENT MEETING**: SFCS Cadet Programs Staff held an online Parent's Meeting regarding encampment on 27 March 2020. A recording is available to view if any parents missed the meeting.
- **FIRST ONLINE MEETING**: The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron had their first COVID-19 online meeting on 26 March. Cadets participated in Character Development led by Lt. Col. Epp, followed by a Quizlet Live game of Aerospace and Leadership questions.



- **SQUADRON RE-VAMP**: Through the tireless work of many individuals, led by SM Randy Antonsen, a Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Headquarters re-vamp is in full swing! Cadets and Senior Members painted walls and trim, rearranged office spaces, went through expired aeronautical charts, cleaned everything in sight and much, much more. Some members even found some CAP Regulations and Drill Manual relics! Our squadron building re-vamp was cut a little short due to COVID-19 cancellations, but is very close to being completed. Thank you to all of those who helped make our squadron building look youthful again!

- **COLOR GUARD PRESENTATIONS**: The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Color Guard were proud to present the colors for the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) basketball games during their Military Appreciation Day at the Sanford Pentagon on 1 March. Participating cadets were: C/SrA Ryan Schultz, C/CMSgt Brayden Parke, C/MSgt Grace Ingebretsen, C/CMSgt Kaleb Sarchet, and C/SrA Zephaniah Tolliver.



★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

SENIOR MEMBERS



Congratulations to Gregory Lair of Sioux Falls, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Brigadier General in the South Dakota Air National Guard! In the photo Chief Master Sgt. Troy Erlandson (114th Fighter Wing) and South Dakota State Command Chief Master Sergeant Brett Cownie, unfurl General Lair's one-star flag during a formal promotion ceremony held at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance building in Sioux Falls on March 7, 2020. General Lair currently serves as the South Dakota National Guard's director of operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jorrie Hart)



Conversion: Congratulations to Jerry Densmore of Rapid City, Aircraft Maintenance Officer on the Wing Staff, who converted from Lieutenant Colonel to Chief Master Sergeant! The rank of Chief Master Sergeant in CAP is rare and more difficult to attain than Lieutenant Colonel.

CADETS

Cadet Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Kyle Clement of Sioux Falls, a member of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and receipt of the General Ira Eaker Award! The Eaker Award is the CAP Cadet Program's second most prestigious award.



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

Noncommissioned Officer Promotions



Congratulations to Chancey Hall of Highmore, a member of the Miller Flight, and to Preston Drew of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Isabella Pollman of Bridgewater, a member of Mitchell Composite Squadron, and to Joseph Lasseter of New Underwood, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to the following cadets on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

Benjamin Barr of Brandon	Lincoln County Composite Squadron
Phoebe Kellar of Rapid City	Rushmore Composite Squadron
James Ragains of Rapid City	Rushmore Composite Squadron
Ethan den Hoed of Boyden, IA	Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
Jeremiah Jorenby of Brookings	Big Sioux Composite Squadron



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Ryan Schultz of Sioux Falls and to Jonathon Sjaarda of Beaver Creek, MN, both members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Mitchell Trias of Estelline, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on promotion to Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Michael Peterson of Steen, MN, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Hunter Rickard of Box Elder, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to the following cadets on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!

Michael Aaseng of Brandon	Lincoln County Composite Squadron
Cody Beaudry of Mitchell	Mitchell Flight
Jacobi Decker of Tea	Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
Gabriel Risty of Estelline	Big Sioux Composite Squadron
Joshua Stomprud of Mud Butte	Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron
Elijah Stomprud of Mud Butte	Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron
Kaira Stomprud of Mud Butte	Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron
Eleanor Stomprud of Mud Butte	Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to Capt. Don Weiand of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who completed the online Unit Commanders Course.

