



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for JUNE 2020

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

Publishers: Wing Commander Colonel Nick Gengler / Wing Vice Commander Lieutenant Colonel Craig Goodrich
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



• *SOUTH DAKOTA 2020 VIRTUAL WING CONFERENCE SMASHES RECORDS*: South Dakota Wing held its first ever virtual wing conference on 9 May 2020. Due to restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the conference, usually an in-person get together, had to be held virtually. Previous in-person wing conferences were usually attended by 80-100 members. The night before the 2020 conference participant signups surpassed 440 registrations representing more than 35 CAP Wings, multiple overseas CAP squadrons and members of the North Central Region Staff and National Headquarters Staff! That the conference was such a huge success was primarily due to the efforts of now

Colonel Nick Gengler and Capt Tyler Gross, aided by a plethora of wing members. In the photo Col Gengler greets participants to the 2020 Virtual South Dakota Wing Conference.

• *REDCAP UPDATE*: From 2-6 October 2019 South Dakota Wing took part in Mission 19-M-0607A, a search and rescue mission for an elk hunter reported missing in the Black Hills. SDWG aircrews and ground teams joined hundreds of searchers from over a dozen organizations. An extensive search began, but because of the high elevation and continued snow cover, the winter passed without additional searches. With the spring thaw, search efforts resumed most recently with regional canine teams. On 26 May 2020 a body was discovered by a local resident repairing a fence in the Deerfield Lake area. Based on his clothing, physical description and

location, the deceased is believed to be the missing hunter. He body was found approximately 2 to 2.5 miles north of his last known location.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

- Congratulations to Col David Small who has been selected to be one of the two North Central Region Vice Commanders!
- Congratulations to Col John O’Neill of Missouri Wing on his appointment as commander of the North Central Region. Col O’Neill succeeds Col Regena Aye who has assumed a position on the National Staff..
- Please join me in welcoming two of the newest Squadron Commander's in the Wing, 1st Lt Loyd Tracy of the Rushmore Composite Squadron and Maj Kurt Johnson of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.
- Capt Richard Rezac is our new Director of Emergency Services for the Wing. Capt Donny Weiland has been added to the Wing Staff as Assistant Emergency Services Officer.
- As I continue to develop the Wing Staff I am reminded of the “span of control” themes from my cadet leadership books. Right now there are over 30 staff positions and some of them with their own staff under them. Then add on top of that the Squadron Commanders as well. I don’t expect anyone, including myself, to be able to manage that many staff positions. I currently have our Wing Vice Commander Lt Col Craig Goodrich overseeing Operations and Communications. In addition, I am appointing two new Chief of Staffs; one focusing on our support roles and one focusing on our outreach roles. Capt Richard Rezac will be the Chief of Staff for Support and Lt Col Todd Epp will be the Chief of Staff for Outreach. Both members are high energy and bring valuable direction to CAP. I plan to keep them all busy and to make sure we are all reaching out to our Staff and members alike. I ask the Wing Staff and all members to work with their respective managers but also feel that you can still reach out to me directly. We are all working together to make the Wing stronger and the program more effective.
- On the topic of Wing Staff, if there is an area on the staff that interests you and you want to help out at the Wing level, by all means reach out and see where we can find a position for you. There are many people with 2, 3 and even 4 hats running different programs at the same time. It would be great to have a deputy for each position, maybe even more. We need to continue to develop our members into positions to not only gain their experience, but also bring to the Wing new members from different backgrounds that can offer innovative directions. Again, reach out if you would like to work in a Wing Staff position. We will be happy to find a home for you.
- We have put together a Re-Mobilization Team and are actively looking to get the SD Wing back to meeting up again. We are looking at County by County statistics as well as the State as a whole. We are looking at active cases, hospitalizations, and more. We want to open things up when it is safe and continue our training. Thank you for being patient with us as we continue to work out a plan to get us moving again. I am encouraged to see the virtual Squadron meetings still happening and I ask you keep at it. Keep studying, keep training and stay safe.

- Encampments – Due to our summer activities being cancelled or postponed, I encourage you all to sign up for upcoming Fall and Winter Encampments. Not all of them are posted yet but keep an eye on the website <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/activities/encampment> to see if you can apply and attend an Encampment.

- Check out the 10 things to do in CAP while at home: <https://www.cap.news/10-things-to-do-while-youre-at-home/>



WING DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

- Seniors now is the time to look at where you are in the Senior Member Program because things are changing! When August 4th rolls around in a couple months there will no longer be Professional Development but Volunteer University led by former NCR Commander, Col. Regena Aye. When that happens you will have a certain amount of time to finish your level. If you cannot complete the level in time you will automatically begin working with the new, more flexible module program. Several of you have the ability to complete your level prior to the time so you need to start doing that now.

I have been contacting many of you with the things you need to do to complete the level you are on. Most of the items you can do is work on the level of your specialty track. If you have no rating--work on the technician level. If you are in Level 3--get your senior rating, if you are in Level 4 or 5 get that Master Rating. Capt. Richard Rezac has been contacting people and asking if you would like some mentoring help to do this! Please let us know. Mentoring is going to be a big part of the new program. Also--step up to be a mentor!

You may need the Yeager Test--take it! It's online. You may need SLS or CLC. There are many virtual online courses being offered all throughout the country! If you do not hear from me then it most likely means you do not have enough time to get through the Level you are in on time and will automatically morph into the new program. Please contact me if you have any question at all: mary.donley@sdwg.cap.gov or 605-321-8056.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

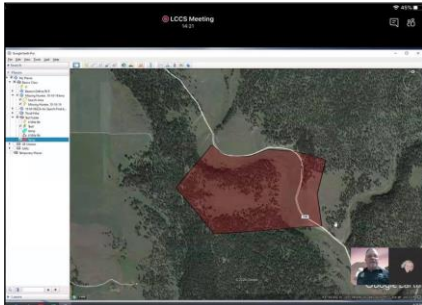
CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-68 – CUSTER)

The Squadron continues to meet virtually through Microsoft Teams environment every Thursday from 1830 to 2000 MST. During our first meeting of the month at least 15 visitors from the Rushmore Squadron and two guests participated in our meeting for a total of 34 participants. Additionally, several members participated in both the SD Wing and North Central Region virtual conferences during the month. When not participating in unit meetings, our cadets have been actively engaged in their leadership and aerospace education for upward progression while Senior Members have been working on individual training in their preferred specialty tracks, professional development and FEMA training.

LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-07 – TEA)



C/Lt Col Kyle Clement obtained his private pilot's license on May 6, 2020 through Legacy Aviation at the Lincoln County Airport in Tea. He also just completed his first year with SDSU majoring in aviation and is the Cadet Commander of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron. Congratulations to him!



At the LCCS meeting on 26 May several Cadets and Seniors and SDWG members attended the meeting to learn how use Google Earth and how we use it for our missions. The Google Earth instructor was Col. Mike Beason of the SDWG.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-63 – SPEARFISH)

- **CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Second Lieutenants Andrew and Jessica Pisciotta on the birth of their first child last month. Mother and daughter are both doing well. The Squadron sends their best wishes to the new family and looks forward to helping Ziva with her Curry Award (only 12 years to go!).
- **ENLISTMENT:** 2nd Lt Andrew Pisciotta has more big news. "I received a contract from the Air Force as a Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Specialist. I fly out to Lackland Air Force Base on 30 June for basic [training]." SERE members serve as subject matter experts who train all aircrew personnel (and others at risk) on how to handle themselves if they're caught in hostile territory.
- **FAREWELL:** It's with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to 2nd Lt Michael Engelhart. He has been an essential part of our Squadron for over two years. Since January 2019, he has been our Deputy Commander of Cadets, a time that saw a revitalization of our cadet program. Among his many accomplishments during his tenure include an Aircrew Rating (Wings), Senior Ground Team Badge, Commander's Commendation Award, Membership Award, and Red Service Award. He and his wife, Ms. Ami Schlosser, are moving to Moab, Utah. Lt Engelhart has accepted a position as a District Ranger at the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and Ms. Schlosser will be working as an archaeologist at the Moab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.
- **LEADERSHIP ASSIGNMENTS:** SM Jay Stomprud was appointed Deputy Commander of Cadets and SM Jenn Stomprud was appointed as an Assistant Aerospace Education Officer.

MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)

- **AEROSPACE EDUCATION AWARD:** The Miller Flight earned the Aerospace Education Achievement Award for Fiscal Year 2020. NHQ informed us, "Congratulations on earning the AE Achievement Award for fiscal year 2020. Through your dedicated efforts your squadron completed the necessary requirements for earning this award. Thank you for your active and successful involvement in helping accomplish the AE mission and for promoting an interest in aerospace, aviation and STEM.' Thank you to the members of Miller Flight for your hard work and dedication to our AE mission."

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38 – PIERRE)

- **PIERRE CONTINUES DISTANCE MEETINGS:** The Pierre Squadron has continued distance meetings this month as requested by National Headquarters. A number of people continue to check in via video meeting software. The cadet program is the primary material of choice. Several new prospective members have expressed interest in joining when in-person meetings resume. Check-ins include members both young and experienced. Members are looking forward to being able to again meet in-person.

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

- **GRADUATING CADETS:** The squadron is proud of our graduating cadets and we wish them the best in their upcoming journeys. Congratulations!

Cadet Staff Sergeant Austin den Hoed joined the Civil Air Patrol in June 2018. During his time as a cadet he has served in a few leadership positions, both for the squadron and the South Dakota Wing. These include element leader, STEM NCO, and Logistics NCO for SFCS and Cadet Administration NCO in Charge for the 2019 Joint Dakota Encampment. For his future after high school are, for the moment, to continue working at a local restaurant and, hopefully, start work at a local cabinetry shop. He is also a distribution partner in a network marketing company called Organo, and he plans to use that platform to get into the public speaking arena.

Cadet Captain Julia Lair joined Civil Air Patrol at the age of 12 in November of 2013. She has served in a variety of positions throughout the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and South Dakota Wing. After first serving as an Element Leader, she was chosen to teach classes as the Leadership NCO, and subsequently became the Flight Sergeant, First Sergeant, Training Officer, Cadet Deputy Commander for Operations, Cadet Commander, and a variety of Support Staff positions. While Cadet Commander in 2019, she led 35 cadets and increased the Squadron Cadet Membership by 15% throughout her term. Cadet Captain Lair graduated from Lincoln High School on 24 May, and in June will travel to Annapolis, Maryland for Plebe Summer at the U.S. Naval Academy. She hopes to major in Aerospace Engineering and pursue a career as a naval aviator in the Navy.



C/SSGT AUSTIN DEN HOED



C/CAPT JULIA LAIR

- **CREATIVE TESTING:** Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic our cadets have had to get creative to test virtually. They have continued to learn, lead, and promote. The cadets take online quizzes, as usual, but also take PT tests and drill tests at home! Parents, siblings, and other family members are getting involved in a way they never thought they would. They are becoming videographers and element members. LEGO people are becoming drill test props and treadmills are being used for mile run tests. Thank you, cadets for thinking outside the box to reach your goals!

- **INTERVIEWS:** Cadets applied for leadership positions within the squadron by writing resumes and then sitting through interviews. Senior cadets were taught how to conduct the interviews with the applicants. They also learned how to select the best applicant for the leadership position in question. All of this was done virtually and took them to a “real world” scenario that they will take with them into future job searches. Thank you cadets and senior members for teaching, leading and conducting these challenging, and sometimes frightening, tasks.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

SENIOR MEMBER PROMOTIONS



Congratulations to Nick Gengler of Beresford, new South Dakota Wing Commander, on his promotion to the rank of Colonel!



Congratulations to Loyd Tracy of Summerset, commander of Rushmore Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant!



Congratulations to Chester Stewart of Box Elder, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!



Congratulations to Ian Bradley of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Flight Officer

CADET PROMOTIONS

Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to Matthew Tracy of Summerset, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant!

Noncommissioned Officers



Congratulations to Malachi Smith of Mission Hill, a member of Lincoln County Composite Squadron, and to Alexander Heinrich of Custer, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Grace Ingebretsen of Luverne, MN, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Amber Kelly of Piedmont, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Darion Osterkamp of Onida, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Ryan Schultz of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Jonathan Hotz of Monroe, Rebekah McClary of Parker, and Daniel Oye of Tea, all members of Lincoln County Composite Squadron, and Mason Kieborz of Custer, a member of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on promotion to Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Emma Niles of Hot Springs, of Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Noah Daene of Kenneth, MN, of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Elijah Stomprud, Joshua Stomprud and Kaira Stomprud, all of Mud Butte and all of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to SDWG's Lt Col Manny Steel who was named NCR Legislative Officer of the Year!



Congratulations to SDWG's Maj Karla West who was named NCR Historian of the Year!



Congratulations SDWG's Lt Col Tom Bass who was named NCR Finance Officer of the Year!



Congratulations to SDWG's Ground Team who was named NCR Ground Team of the Year for sUAS Mission 19-C-6026!



Congratulations to 1st Lt Mimi Klosterman who completed Level III (Management) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program!



Congratulations Maj Karla West who completed Level IV (Command and Staff) of the Senior Member Professional Development Program!



Congratulations to Maj Karla West who achieved "Master" rating in CAP's Administration Technical Track!



Congratulations to SSgt Shawn Bawden who completed Level II of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. In recognition thereof has earned the Gen Benjamin Davis, Award!



Congratulations to SSgt Shawn Bawden who completed requirements for Technician in the Historian Track thereby earning the Leadership Award and Historian Specialty Badge!

★ ★ **BOOTS ON THE MOOOO'N** ★ ★

What do NASA, Netflix and Ben & Jerry's now have in common? They all have orders to put boots on the moon. "Boots on the Moooo'n," Ben & Jerry's latest Limited Batch Flavor, is inspired by Netflix's newest

original, "Space Force," which launched on the streaming video service on 29 May. Netflix's "Space Force" (not to be confused with the United States Space Force) follows General Mark Naird and his team of scientists and "Spacemen," who are tasked with getting American boots on the moon in a hurry. Meanwhile, NASA's Artemis program - which is not connected to the ice cream or the comedy series - is working to land the first woman and the next man on the moon by 2024.

"Boots on the Moooo'n," the new, limited-time Ben & Jerry's flavor, features "a universe of milk chocolate ice cream with fudgy astronaut cows and almond toffee meteor clusters orbiting a sugar cookie dough core." The pint's packaging depicts a cow seated in a stylized illustration of a mission control, looking up at an ice cream moon. The Netflix and "Space Force" logos are repeated on the side of the cup's lid. "Boots on the Moooo'n" will be available on store shelves as well as in participating Ben & Jerry's Scoop Shops across the country.



To celebrate the release, "Boots on the Moooo'n" became the first Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor to ride into the actual stratosphere, carried by a balloon high above Earth. Photos taken on the flight show the pint set against the blackness of space and the curvature of the planet.

