



## **“THE SKYCHASER”**

***July/August 2020 Issue***

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

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## **WING TIPS**

### **SIGN UP FOR THE CAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE 14-15 AUGUST 2020—IT'S FREE AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL!**

This is a rare opportunity to attend a CAP National Convention for free and while in your own home! There are Zoom meetings on just about every aspect of the Civil Air Patrol. You may never find a better and easier way to get credit for attending a National Conference. It is Friday and Saturday 14-15 August 2020 online. **Check the PROPS email for your registration code.**

Click here to sign up: <https://civilairpatrol2020.pathable.co/register-here>

### **SPLIT SAREX IN RAPID CITY AND SIOUX FALLS SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2020**

There will be a split Wing Search and Rescue Exercise in Rapid City and Sioux Falls on Saturday 22 August 2020. This is an excellent opportunity to brush up on your ES skills and learn new ones.

**MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR THE CORRECT EVENT BASED ON YOUR UNIT'S LOCATION!**

Click here to sign up FOR RAPID CITY: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/august-2020-split-sarex-west-river-custer-tickets-115544329199?ref=estw>

Click here to sign up FOR SIOUX FALLS: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/august-2020-split-sarex-east-river-sioux-falls-tickets-115545005221?ref=estw>

## WEST RIVER AEROSPACE EDUCATION DAY SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2020 IN PHILIP

Because of the coronavirus, the Wing cannot do overnight activities yet. However, we are splitting the AE Weekend into West River and East River AE Days. There will be O-Flights, glider flights, and rocketry at the Philip Airport Saturday 5 September 2020. There is no cost, but you will need to bring your own food as there is nowhere to eat in Philip.

MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR THE CORRECT EVENT BASED ON YOUR UNIT'S LOCATION! **Click here to sign up:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdwg-west-river-aerospace-education-weekend-in-philip-tickets-116341676085>

## EAST RIVER AEROSPACE EDUCATION DAY SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2020 IN SIOUX FALLS

And for the same reasons, there will be an AE Day in Sioux Falls on Saturday 19 September 2020. There will be O-Flights, drones, rocketry, and a discussion with former and current military and airline pilots on the profession of flying. **More details to come.** If you are a LCCS, SFCS, MCS, or BSCS AE Officer, please contact Lt. Col. Todd Epp on how you can assist at [todd.epp@sdwg.cap.gov](mailto:todd.epp@sdwg.cap.gov).

### **STAFF NOTES**



#### WING COMMANDER

Col. Nick Gengler, CAP

Greetings SD Wing. I am now 3 months in as Wing Commander. This also marks 5 months of dealing with the COVID pandemic.

Being stuck inside, the constant Zoom meetings, and the civil unrest in our country has tensions running high. I have visited a few Squadrons and I can tell our members are itching to get back to action.

I want to remind everyone of two things. First, I ask you to remain cautious. COVID cases have been slightly increasing on the Eastern side of SD for the last week and we need to continue to practice precautions.

The second is to remember our core value of respect. Respect to our fellow CAP members, military personnel, family, friends, and everyone we meet. Respect is critical. We meet people from all walks of life, all with different backgrounds.

Each and every person adds value to CAP and they should all feel valued in the organization. I ask you to please interact with everyone with a value of respect and we can continue to develop our organization to new heights. Thank you.

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## **WING CHIEF OF STAFF/OUTREACH**

Lt. Col. Todd Epp, CAP

We are still looking for a Wing Director of Public Affairs. I am in the position until we can find someone who can fill it on a permanent (not forever!) basis. This is a key position in the Wing, with oversight of all our public affairs efforts, including publications, training, social media, and required reports.

I've appointed CMSgt Blake Parke of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron as a Wing Internal Aerospace Education Officer. Blake is an avid sUAV enthusiast. His first big assignment will be to help me put and other East River AEOs put on the East River Aerospace Education Day on Saturday 19 September 2020 in Sioux Falls.

I've also appointed Brig. Gen. Ron Mielke as an Assistant Development Officer. Ron had a long and distinguished S.D. Air National Guard career and has been one of the main forces behind the tri-annual Sioux Falls Air Show. He will assist in raising funds for the development of our Cadets and Senior Members.



## **WING CHIEF OF STAFF/SUPPORT**

Capt. Richard Rezac, CAP

In reviewing our records, it came to my attention that the missing-person search we helped with down in Kyle (Mission 18-M-0621A) for Jonah Busch was credited as a "Save" by the AFRCC. As such, according to CAPR 39-3, we are eligible for a Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving. The paperwork has been submitted and approved by Col. Gengler. You will see this appear in your eServices record under "Awards/Decorations".

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## **WING DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Lt. Col. Tom Bass, CAP

FY20 is rapidly ending. All our squadron commanders and finance officers need to start working on their FY21 squadron budgets. The deadline to have the squadron's budget to me will be August 31<sup>st</sup>. I will be emailing the squadron budget templates out no later than August 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please email me: [tom.bass@sdwg.cap.gov](mailto:tom.bass@sdwg.cap.gov).

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## **WING DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Col. Mary Donley, CAP

August 4th marked a big change in what has been known as Professional Development in Civil Air Patrol for many years. From this point on you will hear it referred to as Education and Training and Volunteer University.

I am including a link so you can go check it out. Some things will look familiar, but the biggest change is the switching of courses to modules.

The Five levels are still there but there are changes to the levels and what needs to be accomplished before you can complete a Level. You will have more flexibility as to how and when you complete the modules for your level. They can all be face to face or online. The choice will be yours.

I can't tell you exactly how it will work until we dive in and see come after August 4th. What I can tell you is that we will need more instructors for the modules--so I am asking you all to consider applying to be an instructor.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A TEACHER--YOU JUST NEED TO BE SOMEONE WHO LIKES TO HELP PEOPLE AND SEE THEM SUCCEED AND PROGRESS. There is a link to apply to be an instructor at the bottom of the link to that page.

You may want to put together just a short word document resume outlining what you have done in CAP and in your professional world as well. You will be contacted shortly and be invited to the training.

Every squadron WILL NEED a few instructors to mentor the new members through Level I as well as be able to offer the modules at meetings. Now senior members can participate in senior training at your meetings. The new program will have a record keeping system that will resemble the SQTR system used in Operations.

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/cap-university/education-and-training>

Please, please be patient with the new program as we work through the changes that are going to take place! And please consider putting in your name to be an instructor!

If you have questions/concerns do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to answer them. Remember too--in some cases you have some grandfather time to complete the Level you are in.

I spent much of the last few months contacting members who were close to completing levels. We got quite a few people through their levels. Remember always to be working on the next rating of one of your Specialty Tracks! That is the one big thing that tends to hold up the awards and promotions!



## **WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION**

Maj. Tim Modde, CAP

Since the South Dakota Wing is still in stage 2 recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic, multi-day events cannot be held. Thus, the multi-day AE Day planned for September 4-5-6 in Philip has been confined to a single day event.

In response to the travel required by the East River squadrons for a single day's event, it was decided that West River and East River squadrons will hold their own events to maximize aerospace activities. (See above.)

West River squadrons (plus Pierre) will meet in Philip on Saturday September 5, 2020 between 9:00 (MDT) and 5:00 pm. Powered aircraft and a glider will be available for orientation rides. In addition, rocketry and model aircraft activity will be held as in the past, as well as UAV demonstrations.

Since this is a one-day event, meals will not be provided so either bring a sack lunch or be prepared to make a quick trip into Philip to grab some fast food. The east river aerospace event is currently being planned and with

specifics to be shared shortly. Sign-ups for the West River event is available above. For those attending please sign up for the activities they plan to participate in to assist planning.

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

### **LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-07 – TEA)**

#### **O-FLIGHTS IN TEA**



*By 1st Lt. Denise Clement, CAP*

On July 18, 2020 Cadet Joshua Renner of Lincoln County Composite Squadron and Cadet Hunter Gerdes of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron received their First Orientation Flight from Lt. Col. Duncan Keirnes.

### **MILLER FLIGHT (SD-33 – MILLER)**

#### **AEROSPACE EDUCATION AWARD**

*By 1st Lt. Pandy Rezac, CAP*

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 AIRCRAFT TAKES A BATH**



*Photo by SM Trey Stroup*

*By Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, CAP*

Cadets and senior members at the Pierre Composite Squadron took some time to pull the CAP plane out of the hanger and give it a well-needed wash.

Before cleaning, Capt. Becker taught the cadets about the sensors onboard the plane and what they do. He also explained to them to be careful when washing around them to prevent damaging them.

On top of that, he also pointed out many areas on the plane not to put tremendous amounts of pressure on to protect the airframe, such as the flaps, elevators, ailerons, and rudder.

Prior to cleaning the plane, cadets just completed their PT for the month, so playing with water sure was a relief for many of them on that rather warm day. Safe to say everyone had a blast and made sure the plane was spotless inside and outside, ready for whenever it may be needed.

## **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-31 – RAPID CITY)** **CADET SOLOS!**



*By 1st Lt. Loyd Tracy, CAP*

My son, C/CMSgt Heinrich, continued with his flight training with completing his solo endorsement using a local FBO CFI. He was accepted into the power academy but unfortunately that was canceled due to COVID19. His next step is to apply for the CAP Wings Program that will help him get his private pilot license next summer!

His future goal is to become a commercial pilot and a SM CAP pilot.

## **O-FLIGHTS IN RAPID CITY**



C/SSgt Banion Niles and C/AIC Emma Niles taking O-Rides with Lt Col Howard Steiner.

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

### **CADET CHANGE OF COMMAND AND PROMOTIONS**



*By SM Merrilee Schultz, CAP*

On July 23, Cadet 2d LT. Keon Den Hoed was welcomed by Commander Capt. Kurt Johnson as the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron's new Cadet Commander. Cadet 2d Lt Den Hoed was also honored with the Billy Mitchell Award. This milestone is earned after the completion of the first eight achievements of the cadet program.

July 23 was also a celebration of several promotions for the cadets. Many cadets earned multiple promotions while away from the squadron due to Covid-19, proving these cadets hold the Civil Air Patrol oath, vision, and mission to a very high standard.

#### **AEROSPACE EDUCATION NIGHT AT SOD BUSTER**

The cadets had Aerospace Night at Sod Busters Field in Sioux Falls on July 16. Everyone had the opportunity to fly Unmanned Aerial Systems, Remote Controlled Aircrafts, and more. SFCs was joined by the Mitchell Composite Squadron.

#### **CYBERPATRIOT AFA CAMP**

The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron's CyberPatriot high school team completed the Air Force Association Cyber Camp hosted by the Louisiana Wing last week. The cadets learned the basics of the Windows and Ubuntu operating systems and their basic commands. At the end of the week, they held a mini-competition. This experience will help them prepare for the upcoming CyberPatriot competition.

#### **FUN NIGHT AT THE SQUADRON**

The end of July heat calls for outdoor fun! The cadets enjoyed playing kickball, football, and cornhole. They then cooled down with water games and ended the night with a few games of chess.

## **HH PROMOTIONS HH**

### **SENIOR MEMBER PROMOTIONS**

#### **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

\*John Spangler to Major.

- \*Jonathan Owen to Major based on his service in the U.S. Public Health Service.
- \*Alfred Heinrich to 1st Lt.

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Jay Brosius to 2d Lt.

#### **MITCHELL COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Matt Healy to 1st Lt.

#### **MILLER FLIGHT**

- \*Pandy Rezac to 1st Lt.

#### **BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Ben Kallas to Captain based on being a CFII.

### **CADET PROMOTIONS**

#### **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Liberty Brink to C/AIC
- \*Phoebe Kellar to C/MSgt
- \*James Ragains to C/MSgt

#### **SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Keon Den Hoed to C/2nd Lt.
- \*Brayden Parke to C/CMSgt
- \*Michael Peterson to C/SrA
- \*Ethan Den Hoed to C/TSgt
- \*Andrew Smith to C.CMSgt
- \*Jacobi Decker to C/Amn
- \*Jonathon Sjaarda to C/TSgt
- \*Noah Daene to C/A1C
- \*Madison Stroud to C/SrA
- \*Zephanian Tolliver to C/TSgt
- \*Ryan Schultz to C/TSgt
- \*Wyatt Nicholas Henning to C/A1C

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Joshua McClary to C/Amn
- \*Samuel McClary to C/SrA
- \*Jonathan Hotz to C/SSgt

#### **LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Elijah Calvin Stomprud to C/SrA

#### **BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON**

- \*Gabriel Leif Risty to C/A1C

## HH KUDOS HH



Congratulations to C/Capt. Julia Lair on being selected to the U.S. Naval Academy! She is already in Annapolis, Md for her plebe year.



Congratulations to 1st Lt. Ryon Skaggs for completing Level 3



Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Nel Apley of the Miller Flight for achieving the Technician rating in the Personnel specialty track and completing Level II of the Professional Development program, earning the Gen Benjamin O. Davis Award.

