



The Fly-By

*The official newsletter of the
La Crosse Composite Squadron*

COMMANDER'S NOTES

As we look ahead to snow receding and spring arriving, we also start to enter the busy season for CAP. There's a lot on the horizon and I'd like to see as many of our members out there living the CAP life as possible!

A few key things to put on your radar...

Starting on 4 March and then continuing in June and October, we will have training days for members to become Ground Team qualified. We need more ground team members and I hope to see many new faces at these trainings. Members who attend all three sessions will be able to be qualified as a Ground Team Member 3. This also means you can wear the Ground Team (Basic) badge on your uniforms.

The end of April brings us Wing Conference, being held in Chippewa Falls this year. This is a time when members from around the state get together to share information and learn new concepts. The weekend also hosts the Wing's annual Awards Banquet. La Crosse members, and our unit, have historically earned many awards and I would hope to see our members there to support one another. This event is open to cadets too, so please plan to attend! You can find more at www.wicap.us/wingconf.

It's also not too early to put the annual Summer Encampment on your radar. This event helps newer cadets set the tone for success in their cadet career. This year's encampment will be held in August, but before you know it applications will be available and scholarship information will be out. So stay tuned and be ready to challenge yourself.

And senior members and parents...encampment needs your help too! Encampment is always seeking eager and caring adults who are willing to give up a few days of their summer to help enrich the lives of CAP cadets.

As always, you can check out our squadron website for all the current events and stay tuned to Facebook and the email listserve so you can stay up to date!

The next Squadron meeting will be held at 1000 hours on 4 March at Headquarters. Please plan to attend!

Major Todd Mandel, Commander

OPERATIONS UPDATE

As of 21 February 2017, our aircraft has 21 tach hours to the 100 hour inspection and oil change. We should try to get those hours flown in the next week or two, and hopefully ahead of the 6 month oil change date of 31 March 2017.

If you are a pilot in need of a CAPF 5 or a CAPF 91 please arrange it with Major Dave Berget NOW! Weather is getting better, and as it improves he will be busy instructing at Colgan Air and may not be able to complete them unless his schedule allows. Several pilots have completed training and are now CAPF 5 rated. One more is on Major Berget's schedule to complete at this time.

Thank you Dave for all your help and time spent getting the rest of us current or qualified!!!

I will update everyone with total hours and other pertinent information at the Pilot meeting at 0900 hours on 4 March. See you there!

Meanwhile, schedule the aircraft and fly if you can! We need the hours!

- REMINDER -

ALL pilots should attend the Pilot meeting at 0900 prior to the Regular monthly Squadron meeting on 4 March

Fly and drive safely!

Major Richard M. Martin, Operations

SAFETY DOWN DAY

Our annual Safety Down Day will be held on Saturday, 4 March at our monthly Squadron Meeting, beginning at 1000 hours.

All Senior Members and Cadets are encouraged to attend Safety Down Day on 4 March!

GERALDINE "JERRIE" MOCK'S AROUND THE WORLD BY AIR RECORD-BREAKING FLIGHT

March brings an important anniversary to aviation history - Geraldine Fredritz "Jerrie" Mock's record-breaking around the world flight that took place from 19 March to 17 April 1964. Mock was the first woman to complete circumnavigation by air, and it took her a total of 23,103 miles! She took off in her Cessna 180 named "The Spirit of Columbus" from Columbus, Ohio, and for the purposes of this flight the passenger seats were taken out, additional fuel tanks added, and more communication equipment and instruments.

Mock's 1953 model Cessna 180 had a maximum speed of 165 miles per hour. The flight took her from Columbus, OH to Bermudes, Açores, Casablanca, Bone, Tripoli, Le Caire, Dharan, Karachi, New Delhi, Calcutta, Bangkok, Manila, Guam, Wake, Honolulu, Oakland, Tucson, El Paso, Bowling Green, and back to Columbus, Ohio. The total elapsed time for this adventure was 29 days, 11 hours, and 59 minutes. She never flew the "Spirit of Columbus" again, and today it hangs in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. Mock did continue on in aviation, however, setting 22 Federation Aeronautique International records between the years of 1964 and 1969. Mock was a leader in aviation then, and inspiration to others still today.

Source:

<https://www.thisdayinaviation.com/17-april-1964/>

Captain Mary Beth Marx, Aerospace Education Officer

AEROSPACE EDUCATION UPDATE

Building on our UW-L Planetarium trip last month, we will soon be working with five new desktop telescopes that were provided to our unit through CAP's STEM Kit program.

These telescopes will allow us to gaze at the heavens and make observations related to the moon, star movements, and the planets.

CAP STEM Kits are offered free of charge to CAP squadrons and Aerospace Education members. Previous STEM Kits our squadron has used include model aircraft, robotics, and model rocketry.

Major Todd Mandel, Commander

SQUADRON FINANCE

Our squadron ended the 2016 calendar year in a healthy financial position. As we begin to move into the busy part of the year we ask our members and families to remember that fundraising events are critical to the survival and operation of our unit.

Over the next six months there will be Brat Barns, a donation request, color guard opportunities, and our inaugural Airport 5K Fun Run/Walk. Each of these events will need help from members and supporters alike to be successful!

This month's "Did you know?" has to do with building rent. Did you know that the "per member cost" for building rent is \$30 per year? That's right! The amount we pay to rent our building from the City of La Crosse is more than \$2,400 a year. So we appreciate everyone's support in making our unit financially sound.

Major Todd Mandel, Commander

CADET UPDATE

Several cadets & senior members completed a SCUBA diving training on Saturday, 18 February at Marineland in Onalaska. They learned the basics of SCUBA diving and had some fun 10 feet down.

Be sure to check out SCUBA photos our Facebook page!

Recent Cadet promotions include:

Elyas Dewitt to C/SRA	Gavin Hefner to C/A1C
Dominic Janssen to C/SMSGT	Izic Janssen to C/TSGT
Catriona La Due to C/A1C	Kellen Lomas to C/A1C
Rebekah Munns to C/AMN	Jacob Nelson to C/AMN,
Triston Wilke to C/A1C	

Congratulations everyone!

2d Lt Scott Tiedeman, Deputy Commander of Cadets

WISCONSIN WING CONFERENCE

21-23 April in Chippewa Falls

Attention Senior Members! We're excited to announce a pricing change for this year's Wing Conference.

The full conference rate has been reduced from \$90 to \$65 but only through 31 March, so register now! This early-bird rate gives you access to the Friday evening social, Saturday and Sunday meals, the conference, Commander's Call, and the awards banquet. But this rate goes away on March 31, so act today!

Members who have already paid the \$90 rate will receive a refund of the difference via check after Wing Conference concludes.

Check out the Wing website at:

www.wicap.us/wingconf