



# The Fly-By

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
LA CROSSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON



## COMMANDER'S NOTES

Any organization works best when many hands help make the organization move forward and meet its goals. Over the last two months it's been gratifying to see so many people pitching in and helping make the squadron the best it can be.

From the Waffle Breakfast to the 5K to the Clean Up Day to the Open House, it's been quite a hectic few months, but after all of it we can look back and see everything we accomplished!

So a big thank you to everyone who has helped pitch in to make these projects and efforts work. We've raised nearly a third of our annual budget in just two months, which is a great start to the fiscal year!

However, we're not done yet! We are now rolling into our annual **Wreaths Across America** season. Wreaths are \$15 each and we strongly encourage cadets and seniors to reach out to neighbors, friends, and community businesses to purchase a wreath. We lay the wreaths on the second Saturday of December in a ceremony to honor our fallen veterans. What makes **Wreath Across America** special, is that while we are laying wreaths in La Crosse, more than 10,000 wreaths are being laid across the United States as well.

Supporters can purchase wreaths online at <http://caplacrosse.org/wreaths> , or submit a paper order form with a check.

**Major Todd Mandel, Commander**

## CADET UPDATE

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with that comes some particular announcements and important information:

- Congratulations to the cadet leadership on helping us reach our goal of earning the **Aerospace Excellence Award** as a squadron. The cadet staff were tasked with meeting the required number and type of classes, and did it.
- The **Wisconsin Wing Non-Commissioned Officer School** is being held 10-12 November at Volk Field. If you are a Senior Airman or higher, then you should attend. If you have already attended, you should consider going a second time. You will have lots of hands-on opportunity to lead drill and will learn a lot about how to manage small groups and tackle projects.
- It's never too late to think about next summer! Applications for **National Cadet Special Activities** will open up in early December. Start looking at the list now and think about what you want to apply for ([www.ncsas.com](http://www.ncsas.com)).
- **C/2d Lt Zittlow's** term as Cadet Commander expires at the end of December. We will begin selecting the next Cadet Commander. Watch for application information to come out!

**Major Todd Mandel, Commander**

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

Our aircraft is back after its 200-hour and is good to go! We cannot, however, fly O-flights for 10 hours due to a magneto change.

NOW is the time to get your proficiency up to date and get some hours on the aircraft so we don't end up low at the end of the next fiscal year. Fly safe and OFTEN!!!

**Major Richard M. Martin, Operations**

## SATURDAY, 4 NOVEMBER MEETING / FTX

**0900 hours** - Pilots/Observers/Scanners' meeting

**1000 hours** - General Squadron meeting

**1100 - 1145 hours** - Lunch break for those attending the Squadron meeting and FTX

**1200 - 1700** (approximate) hours -- Field Training Exercise and classroom GT training - **All members welcome!**

## **SQUADRON FINANCE**

We had an open house on October 14th. Our partner non-profit, AVCAP, operated a silent auction and brat/hot dog sale that raised \$1,529. These funds primarily go to pay for the rent, utilities, and internet service for the headquarters building.

For the squadron, we currently have a healthy balance of \$4408. However, in that are two large donations towards Wreaths for America. One for grant was for \$1,000 from the Barb & Dave Erickson Fund and the other is a \$750 Logistics Health, Inc. donation.

We are also reducing our internet costs by more than 75%. We are switching to mobile hotspots from a company called Mobile Beacon that specializes in providing internet service to non-profits. The cost for this service will be \$360 a year which is a huge savings over our current \$1,400 a year we pay to CenturyLink. And the new service provides internet speeds of more than 7MB/sec versus the 1-2MB/sec we currently get. However, the new hotspots will not be available to cadets so that we can limit demand.

Thank you to all of those who helped secure donations for the silent auction. A special thank you goes to Major Linda Zimmerman for putting it all together and to Major John Patterson for his help in setting up the beautiful display of items.

**2dLt Sara Zittlow, Finance Officer**

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND**

Our PD Weekend is scheduled for 10-12 November, 2017 at Volk Field. Here are the available courses, together with their directors so far.

- **Aerospace Education (AE)** - A class has been planned – information forthcoming.
- **Corporate Learning Course (CLC)**. Director is 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Louis Merk at [louis.merck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:louis.merck@sbcglobal.net) .
- **Squadron Leadership School (SLS)**. Director is Captain Maryellen Merk at [mmerck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmerck@sbcglobal.net) .
- **Unit Commanders Course (UCC)**. Director is Major Corey Miller at [cory.miller@wiwg.cap.gov](mailto:cory.miller@wiwg.cap.gov) .
- **Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) Basic Course**. Director - To be determined
- **Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) Advanced Course** - Is being considered. Direct questions to Major Todd Mandel at [todd.mandel@gmail.com](mailto:todd.mandel@gmail.com).

Registration is now open. Go to <http://wicap.us/> for more information.

## **AEROSPACE EDUCATION UPDATE**

The AE meeting on the 23 October featured a visit from John Heasley of Driftless Stargazing. John volunteers with NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Solar System Ambassador Master Teacher and serves on the NOVA Education Advisory Board. During John's visit he oriented cadets to the three new telescopes the squadron received through a STEM Kit grant provided by CAP's National Headquarters.

The program originally was set to be outdoors, but the weather didn't cooperate. So instead the session was done indoors with a focus on learning about stargazing and how to use the telescopes. In the spring we plan on doing a night of stargazing when the weather is more cooperative (and warmer!).

**Major Todd Mandel, Commander**

## **GT FIELD TRAINING/COMM EXERCISE SATURDAY, 4 NOVEMBER**

On Saturday, 4 November beginning at 1200 hours, our Squadron will host Ground Team training. The FTX will conclude by 1700 hours. Watch for more information in your email soon!

**All Senior and Cadet Members interested in Ground Team training are welcome to attend!**

### **\*MEMBERS WITH AT LEAST GROUND TEAM 3 (GTM3)**

**TRAINEE STATUS** - will go into the field with Major Clark and Major Mandel.

- Meet at HQ by 1130 hours
- UOD is BDU/ABUs \*\*dress to be outdoors\*\*
- BRING your 24-hour pack
- BRING 2 canteens full of drinking water (and snacks, if needed).

### **\*MEMBERS WITH TRAINING LESS THAN GTM3 TRAINEE**

**STATUS OR NO PREVIOUS TRAINING** - will meet with Major Zimmerman to complete prerequisite training for GT, primarily in a classroom setting.

- Meet at HQ by 1145 hours.
- UOD is BDU/ABUs
- BRING your 24-hour pack, if you have one.
- BRING a lensatic or orienteering compass.
- BRING pencil and paper.
- BRING outerwear in case we go outside for an activity.

**Major Linda L. Zimmerman, ESO/SO**