



CIVIL AIR PATROL, MONTANA WING
“TRANSPONDER”
E NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012



Executive Summary

Civil Air Patrol - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond

Civil Air Patrol ♦ Montana Wing Headquarters ♦ P.O. Box 1887 ♦ Great Falls, MT 59403 ♦ (877) 529-5538

<u>Billings</u> Beartooth Composite Squadron	<u>Bozeman</u> Big Sky Composite Squadron	<u>Butte</u> Butte Composite Squadron	<u>Great Falls</u> Malmstrom AFB Composite Squadron	<u>Great Falls</u> Skyhawks Senior Squadron	<u>Helena</u> Lewis & Clark Composite Squadron.	<u>Kalispell</u> Flathead Composite Squadron	<u>Lewistown</u> Central Montana Flight	<u>Missoula</u> Missoula Composite Squadron	<u>Plains</u> Thunderbird Mountain Composite Sqdn.
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WING TIPS

- As of 31 December 2011, the Civil Air Patrol had 60,750 members; 26,291 cadets and 34,459 senior members. Montana Wing ended the year with 319 members; 153 cadets and 166 senior members
- Montana Wing Public Affairs distributed the first of three CAP Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to select Montana radio stations on 12 January. The first PSA is about recruiting in general. The others, about emergency service and cadet programs, will be released in April and July
- In the movie “Capt America – The First Avenger” the two ribbons on Captain America’s service coat are CAP ribbons. During the end credits two World War II era yellow CAP aircraft appear on the screen. These vintage aircraft fly by with the CAP symbol visible on the wings and, as the frame zooms out, the words “Civil Air Patrol” are visible. In addition, a WWII era CAP poster can also be seen
- Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT-DES) conducted a reduction-in-force at the beginning of the year. Among the headquarters staff positions eliminated was the Public Information Officer. In the event of an emergency the PIO position will be filled on an "as needed" basis with FEMA-trained PIOs mobilized as required. Major Tim Crowe of the Montana National Guard has taken over MT-DES media duties
- On 26 January, CAP NHQ announced that the U.S. Congress had fully restored the Civil Air Patrol’s fiscal year 2012 budget. As a result, all flying operations are back to normal and more money is available in this year’s budget for Air Force mission training and cadet orientation flights than CAP had last year. Units without sufficient funds for Air Force training or cadet orientation flights should contact the Montana Wing Commander for funds
- On 14 January, some 40 members of Montana Wing command and staff met at Fort Harrison in Helena for a leadership conference hosted by Wing Commander Colonel Herbert Cahalen and presided over by Vice Commander Chuck Lynch. Following the introduction of new staff officers and squadron commanders several of the principal Wing staff presented briefings on topics within their functional area
- Wing Director of Operations Lt Col Pete Graf advises planning is well underway for a full-up Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) 10-12 February in Helena. Flying is planned to/from and during the SAREX and there will be ground search and rescue team operations

- Maj Al Nash, Rocky Mountain Region Director of Public Affairs reports: I don't know how closely you have been following the effort for a CAP Congressional Gold Medal, to honor both CAP and individual CAP members for contributions during World War II. I'm pleased to report Rocky Mountain Region leads all others, with 71% of the Members of Congress representing our 5 states already signed on as co-sponsors. All members of the Colorado and Montana delegations have signed on. We still have opportunities to sign on Senators and Representatives from Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming

STAFF NOTES



WING MEDICAL OFFICER

Dr. Sharon Nichols, Maj, CAP, MTWG/HS

February 2012

February is the Beginning of Cold and Flu Season

There are many simple things you can do to avoid catching and spreading these illnesses. The most important preventative measure is simple - *Hand Washing*. But, do you really know how to wash your hands properly? 40 seconds will do it. Since it takes 20 seconds to sing Happy Birthday, feel free to sing it out loud two times to entertain others and get interesting comments from those around you. Remember to wash your hands before and after eating, sneezing or coughing, after using the restroom and most importantly after being around anyone who appears ill. It is also a good idea to wash your hands frequently when in public areas especially when you have been touching handrails, shopping cart handles and elevator buttons. Germs hide everywhere! Lastly, it is not necessary to use antibacterial soap. The Mayo Clinic studied these soaps and found that using them may actually help promote the development of resistant strains of bacteria. The portable alcohol solutions are better than nothing but do not kill as many germs as good old soap and water when proper hand washing techniques are utilized. On a final note, Happy Heart Month from your favorite Cardiologist in the Montana Wing!

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BEARTOOTH COMPOSITE SQUADRON (MT-008, BILLINGS)

(Items submitted by 2d Lt Dana Lariviere and Capt Bruce Kipp, clip-art by Capt Kipp)

- Welcome to our newest member, Senior Member Rebecca Bledsoe!
- Check out our new Squadron Website at: <http://www.rmrmt008.org>
- Captain Kipp went to the "Focus on Safety 2012" Conference on 1-2 February at the Crowne Plaza in Billings. The conference was a consortium of local and county government, emergency services organizations, institutions of higher education, business, industry and public outreach community service organizations and groups. Specifically, he attended FEMA's MGT-386, Advanced Crisis Communications Strategies for Public Safety Communications Supervisors" course on 2 February
- On 3 February, Capt Kipp participated in "Communicating with Vulnerable Populations," a tabletop exercise hosted by Yellowstone County's Riverstone Health Agency in Billings. The exercise brought together county government, emergency services organizations, educational institutions, and public outreach and non-

profit community service organizations and groups. Capt Kipp briefed the participants on CAP, its capabilities and how it can assist them in providing emergency services

CADET NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER PROMOTIONS:



Congratulations to Cadet Eric Mitchell on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Rickenbacker Award



Congratulations to Cadet Samuel Bochy on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award



CADET AIRMAN PROMOTIONS:



Congratulations to Cadet Ian Novasio on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Feik Award



Congratulations to Cadets Leilahni Kay and Robert Parker on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award



MISSOULA COMPOSITE SQUADRON (MT-018, MISSOULA)

(Items submitted by Lt Col Kaye Ebelt, introductory comment by Capt Bruce Kipp)

[The “Big Sky Density Flyers,” are a team of teachers from western Montana led by Montana Wing Director of Aerospace Education, Lt Col Kaye Ebelt. They will travel to NASA’s Space Center in Houston 5-11 February to participate in the “Teaching from Space - MicroGravity eXperience.” They will conduct physics experiments studying the properties of liquids with different densities in a near zero gravity (microgravity) environment.]

- The Big Sky Density Flyers are a week out from our trip to Houston. We want to share our site for video and photographs we’ll be sharing with our students: Google - [Big Sky Liquid Layers](#) (video). We will send highlights of each day’s activity via email if you request them. The video clips of our microgravity flights will be available Thursday by 3:00pm and on Friday by 3:00pm. If we have any difficulty loading the videos we’ll let you know. Right now our schedule from 6-11 February is:

Mon: Physiological Training (Hyperbolic Chamber)

Tue: Test Readiness Review & Load Experiments on the Boeing 727 / Professional Development

Wed: Anti-Motion Sickness Briefing / Flight Suits / Safety Briefing / JSC Tour

Thu: Flight One: Kaye Ebelt, Sandy Murphy (8:30 - 10:30 Houston) Preflight / Debrief / Present Data

Fri: Flight Two: Jann Clouse, Carol Morgan (8:30 - 10:30 Houston) Preflight / Debrief / Present Data

Sat: Flight Day - Make up for bad weather

BUTTE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (MT-031, BUTTE)

(Items, photo and graphics submitted by Lt Col Bill Bowden, clip-art by Capt Kipp)

- Butte Cadets At Bull Riding Finals: The semi-finals for the National Bull Riding Championship were held in Butte at the Civic Center. Butte cadets, C/TSgt William Link, C/TSgt Eric Eichner, and C/SrA Travis Tenold participated in the color guard during opening ceremonies both days of the competition. The color guard

also included SSgt Padgett, an Air Force recruiter, and a Petty Officer, Navy Recruiter. During the intermission, the cadets assisted the recruiters to throw Air Force and Navy water bottles and tee shirts to the crowd

- Color Guard Training: Interested cadets attended color guard training. Lt Col Paul Goedert and C/TSgt Eric Eichner taught them how to present the colors and included the applicable portions of the manual of arms. Following the color guard activity, the cadets increased their first aid knowledge with additional training in bleeding control and bandaging



Butte Composite Squadron members attended an American Heart Association CPR and basic first aid training course at the Home Atherton Fire Hall. The seven hour class included use of resuscitation mannequins and an automated external defibrillator (AED). The squadron expresses its sincere appreciation to the NorthWestern Energy Company for providing the course materials, the practice AED, and mannequins. In the photograph, C/SrA Amanda Page practices CPR and the use of an AED

CADET NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER PROMOTIONS:



Congratulations to Cadets William Cheman and William Link on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Rickenbacker Award



CADET AIRMAN PROMOTIONS:



Congratulations to Cadets Amanda Page and Travis Tenold on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Feik Award



Congratulations to Cadet Rachel Silva on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award



BIG SKY COMPOSITE SQUADRON (MT-037, BOZEMAN)

(Item submitted by 1st Lt Spencer Gilchrist, clip-art by Capt Kipp)

If it Ain't Rainin' or Snowin', it Ain't Trainin

Come rain, then shine, followed by snow. In lieu of the cancellation of the January SARX Big Sky Composite Squadron hosted a local training event to help sharpen the skills of their Ground Team members and train the newest batch of recruits. The training focused on a refresher course for current members and an introduction to the newer members. The team practiced electronic location transmitter (ELT) locating and they also played a quick game of "fifty-four card pickup" line search style before beginning the search for a practice beacon.

When training exercise began the Ground Team members used standard triangulation to determine location of the beacon; determined to be just south of town in the foothills of the Gallatin Mountain Range just above the Hogman Horse Sanctuary. From there the Ground Team began to hike into the forest to locate the beacon.

During the exercise Cadet Captain Matthew Johnson ran the team, for his first time, under the supervision of a qualified Ground Team leader. The challenges presented to him were a first key lesson in his continued training as a Ground Team Leader. To get an idea of the challenges presented, Johnson explained the situation during

the exercise, “We hiked up a really steep mountain, we started heading one way, following the DF signal...we split up [and] that team headed down to check if there is anything that way; looking for a stronger DF signal.”

Just after the comment by C/Capt Johnson the ELT signal inexplicably disappeared, and a snowstorm began to move in on the Ground Team. Luckily, they were prepared with cold weather gear and were able to continue the search. They searched meticulously for the next few hours without hearing the beacon’s signal. On reaching the top of the hill no signal was heard so the team began to track where they thought the beacon was located based on the map and prior triangulation.

The beacon was recovered and, after resetting the broadcast, the exercise was restarted. The team was relocated on the west side of the hill in order to be able to track the beacon. Unfortunately, the signal was only strong enough to travel a few hundred yards; a good example of how equipment failure could have been disastrous for the victims in a real-world mission. Given prevailing weather conditions the team could have faced potentially hypothermic victims. Through forethought the team brought a stretcher and had double checked their medical supplies prior to departure just as if they were on an actual mission. Though these supplies may not have been necessary the team takes their training very seriously, as true professionals should.

After the activity the team was lead through an after action review by Captain Tim Schober and First Lieutenant Spencer Gilchrist. Based on the National Wildfire Coordination Group’s standard for after action reviews, it covered what was planned, what actually happened, why did it happen (factors leading to events) and what can we do next time to correct weaknesses and sustain strengths?

The Big Sky Composite Squadron currently has two qualified Ground Team Leaders and eight highly trained Ground Team members. They will be continuing a regular training program this spring in order to qualify more new team members and replace those who will soon be leaving the team.

FLATHEAD COMPOSITE SQUADRON (MT-053, KALISPELL)

(Item and photo submitted by SM Dale Rodwick)



The Flathead Composite Squadron will be taking to the air! The long awaited Squadron aircraft should be safely parked at Kalispell City Airport by the time this month’s issue is published. The wonderfully generous folks at Red Eagle Aviation graciously presented our squadron with an awesome, spacious hangar. Our members have been very busy preparing this space for our use. The hangar is a perfect venue for conducting hands-on Aerospace Education. Our intention is to conduct many of our classes and activities during the warmer months in this new environment. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone involved in this process; you are helping us in our mission to promote CAP as a positive force within our community. Visit us at <http://www.flatheadcompositesqdn.com>

