

# CALL THE BALL

VOL.2 NO.45

The Newsletter of the 130th Composite Squadron

May 2002

## Activity - MAY 2002



### COMMANDERS CORNER

Wing Conference brought an unexpected surprise. Our Wing Commander called yours truly for an award and to my total disbelief I was conferred as the Squadron Commander of the year. Hopefully no photographs of this award are available, as I will look like a deer in the headlights. It's hard to express how great it felt to receive this rare honor. When our units first commander Lt. Takada won this award I had no thought that I would ever follow in his footsteps. When I left the podium with

about 50% of my brain cells firing amongst much back slapping and handshakes I was lifted off my feet by our former fire breathing Deputy Commander of Cadets Major Browning. I said, "How on earth did this happen?" to which I added jokingly "And without you old friend?" Some of the other 50% of the brain cells started firing as I pondered the reasons I had been given this award. Any fathead ego problems were instantly deflated as I realized it is not so much what I have done but what you have done to make me and our unit a success.

### YES, ITS YOU!

Public Affairs: Who was it that went out, hunted down a journalist and started getting us press in the papers? Personnel: Who was it that talked to the perspective members sold them on the program went to the high schools and rang up the 3rd highest count of new members in the wing? The Pilots: Who is it that goes out on cold mornings fires up the airplane and give our guys a chance to experience flight? Emergency services: who is it that got the tent, wrote the thank you letters, Thought up and borrowed the airplane wreck, got the hot food, prayed us some good weather and so on? Logistics: who was it that trucked the uniforms and cadets back and forth from Red Wing so our cadets could look sharp? Leadership: Who comes early looks sharp in the uniform, who is there giving the tests and helping keep me on track? Communications: who was it that sought out a 1st class JPOLE D.I.Y. Antenna project that is so popular that units all over the wing are coming to our meetings to video tape construction plans and building them everywhere? The big one - Participation: Who is it that is taking advantage of our projects. Going to the Blue, Black and Redcaps? Driving people from one event to the other and making sure that everyone knows the 130th globe insignia because they see us here there and everywhere participating? The answer of course it that it is *all of you!* And the Cadets. Oh, how I worry about our new cadets and how they will behave. How incredibly impressed and pleased (not to mention relieved) I was to hear Col. Bistudie, a cadet turned senior who have been around a long time and who is not easily

impressed say, "I just want to tell you how impressed I was with your cadets. Several of them were at my table at awards and sat at attention until I said "relax and sit at ease." They all waited until all the plates were served before eating." You cadets are doing an awesome job! Major Bouer the Viking commander took me aside and said, "I thought your unit should have received squadron of the year also." This comment from another competing unit (one who had just about taken the rest of the Wings awards btw) was pretty amazing. In short - with a crew like you it is easy to look good. Thank you!

### NEXT YEAR:

I believe we can win Squadron of the year or Squadron of Merit. One of the linchpins in the criteria is progress within the program. For a unit so heavy with new recruits it is physically impossible for you to turn from Cadet Basics to Spatz award winners overnight. To progress to Mitchell award you also need to have completed Basic Training/ Encampment. So cadets, this is not your fault! If we want to go to the next step we need to focus on our advancement within the program. For Cadets I've been told by a few transfers that we are one of the few units that has no added Squadron "Hoops" to jump through to progress from grade to grade. It's been my opinion that the (Big Blue Book) National and Wing Supplements to the regs are enough! So lets take advantage of our "easy" promotions and move ahead. If we continue as we are doing and continue doing our reporting we will give the rest of the squadrons a run for their money. Seniors there are ECI, SLS, CLC and other training opportunities to help you advance. Last year we had three new Yeager awards winners. The only one previously was many years ago. This year we would like to have 6 more Yeager awards. Thanks to Wing we have a free copy of the big book along with an additional copy that I purchased at the bookstore. I've asked the DCOS (Deputy Commander of Seniors) Capt. Roedder to make that one of his main projects this year.

### CAP IN WWII

On the History Channel check out Friday, 24—May 8:00 PM-9:00 PM or Sat 25 May at 12:00 AM to 1:00 AM Falkland War/Civilian Pilots/ Penicillin In this week in history, we revisit the brutal conflict between Great Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands, see how the U.S. Civil Air Patrol battled against Nazi U-boats on the Eastern Seaboard, and review the discovery and development of an antibiotic that would save many lives in WWII—penicillin. "This Week in History" received a Cine Golden Eagle Award for Outstanding Historical Production in 2002. TV G

### ENCAMPMENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL:

Encampment Preparatory School will be May 31 June at Anoka County Composite Squadron. If you plan on attending MNWG Encampment as a basic cadet this year, EPS will help you tremendously! Also, if you not 13 or a C/SSgt, you CAN attend EPS. It will prep you for an actual encampment. The school is now accepting CAP Form 31s for basic cadets. The cut off date for applications is May 17, but the 48 slots fill quickly. Get them in ASAP. The cost will be \$12/cadet which will be brought with you. The cost includes food and sleeping arrangements. Form 31s (but not the money) can be mailed to: C/Capt Lori Sobolewski, 4260 117th Ave. NE, Blaine, MN 55449. For questions, contact C/Capt. Sobolewski at: Sobo01@aol.com.

### T-SHIRTS:

I want to welcome a "new recruit" who as a cadet was a charter member of the Farmington Composite Sq. Chris Jones is a graphics designer and

just happens to work for a company that makes T-shirts. For our Fundraiser we are considering selling shirts to put some money in the account to help with O Flights payments and Uniform Accoutrements. We are looking for a Shirt idea. 130th Unit Patch? P-40 Warhawk? Flaming Chicken? What?

#### **VOLLEYBALL SHIRTS:**

Will all Brass Volley balls Part Deux team members who paid for shirts see Capt Craswell for Shirts, Refund or exchange for new unit shirts.

#### **LETS DRINK MORE COKE?**

If you drink lots of Coke products (And who doesn' t?) what would you think of buying it from the unit? We would be able to take the proceeds and use them for the unit. If this idea has merit please see SM Willhite about signing up for the "Pause that Refreshes project."

#### **TTT CLASS: by Capt Craswell**

During Wing Conference I was conferred as part of the 17 members of the CTTT which translated means I can teach a TTT Class which translated means that you as a TTT can sign off 101-T cards. We have learned that non-TTTs may not do any check offs or teach under a TTT that is not qualified in that track. As soon as this CTTT status is made current on the National Web page we will be scheduling a TTT class for all seniors who are qualified in anything I am not so we don' t have to beg borrow and steal TTT signatures from other units. Lt. Andrew Dew from St Cloud Squadron has kindly agreed to assist.

#### **CAP/COAST GUARD TRAINING SAR.**

A CAP/Coast Guard training exercise will be held May 11 at Lake Elmo Airport (St. Croix Squadron). Sign up is through MN Wing/DOS. Pre-registration is required.

#### **FREE AOPA AIR SAFETY SEMINAR.**

AOPA will hold a FREE interactive safety seminar on spatial disorientation from 7-9 p.m., Monday, May 6, at Hennepin Technical College' s auditorium. All pilots are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 1-800-638-3101.

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#### **GROUND TRAINING (Bluecap) SAR.**

We have been asked to participate in a Minnesota Wing Ground SAREX. This event is scheduled for June 7-9. Two State Forests in Northern Pine County will be the sites for this years event. Plans have been made, for some very interesting scenarios. Mission base staff and trainee positions are available. Interested parties should contact 1st Lt. Bill Reichert at [reichert@usfamily.net](mailto:reichert@usfamily.net)



A cadet basic discovers he will not start as a Colonel.

#### **RADIOS ARE GO!**

We have received a number of Neutec 45 Watt VHF radios for use in the CAP Channels. The first of these radios has been assigned to Lt Rossini for his official duties as DCOC. I have one more ready and more to come (If I can fix them) If you are willing to be an "Active" participant in the CAP nets (At 9:00 PM every night) please contact Lt Doug Ployhar about getting a callsign and the use of a radio. We would like everyone to be Radio-Active in the squadron.