



# THE THOMPSON VALLEY VOICE

Winter 2008

The official newsletter of the Thompson Valley Composite Squadron of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol.



## TVCS CADET DINING-IN AND AWARDS CEREMONY 2007

The 2007 Year End Dining-In and Awards Ceremony was held on December 13th, 2007 at the Larimer County Courthouse. The event was attended by cadets and senior members.

### Award Presentations and Dinner

The Thompson Valley Composite Squadron cadets held a "year in review" awards ceremony and Dining-In on December 13th, 2007. The event wrapped up a successful year for TVCS cadets.

The formal evening began with a social gathering, followed by a catered dinner from Carraba's, a video presentation that reviewed the year, and a number of trips to the "grog bowl" for members who didn't follow proper rules of dinner etiquette.

After dinner many awards were presented to cadets. Notable awards included Billy Mitchell Awards for Cadet 2nd Lieutenant's Andrew Harrison and Skylar Caldwell. The Billy Mitchell Award recognizes the completion of the first eight achievements in the cadet program and

requires the cadet to pass written examination. Other awards included the VFW NCO of the Year Award presented to C/2nd Lt Skylar Caldwell, NRA shooting medals, and community service awards.

### Guest Speakers

USAF Major Eric Davis is the Director of Missile Operations for the 20th Air Force. He is also active in Wyoming Wing Civil Air Patrol and is a former cadet. MAJ Davis spoke to the audience about "What I learned as a CAP cadet and 10 leadership lessons from 18 years in our great Air Force." His presentation challenged cadets to work hard and plan intelligently for their future.

Colonel Ed Phelka is the new Colorado Wing Commander. He presented several awards to cadets and announced his 2008 goals for the Colorado Wing.



**Top photo:** CAPT Jenny Ninswender, C/2LT Andrew Harrison, MAJ Eric Davis USAF, C/2LT Skylar Caldwell, COL Ed Phelka, MAJ Ken McNaught.  
**Bottom photo:** COL Ed Phelka announces wing goals for 2008.



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

BY KEN MCNAUGHT

In early January our Wing Commander published a list of goals he wants the Wing to achieve in 2008.

While we will help Wing achieve all their goals, I also felt we could benefit from having our own goals (or priorities) which will help guide our actions and activities this year. So, here is a list of Thompson Valley Composite squadron's 2008 goals. They are presented below in no particular order.

### **Increase our cadet membership by 25%**

Utilize the "Open House" concept, coupled with the "Great Start Program" to gain new members.

### **Add at least two newly qualified air crews (one per plane)**

Continue our mission pilot training in both the 'glass' and 'round dial' planes and work with new members to complete their scanner and observer training.

### **Establish a program to increase Senior membership by 10%**

Continue the established mentorship program to help new members complete initial training programs (both Emergency Services and Professional Development).

### **Provide at least one orientation flight for each cadet who is eligible**

Continue to improve the Cadet O-ride program to provide incentive and opportunity to both Cadets and qualified pilots.

### **Participate in training opportunities**

Have all members participate in the many training opportunities offered throughout the year, including:

- Professional Development classes (SLS, CLC, etc.)
- Emergency Services (SAREXs, 1st Aid, 101 tasks, etc.)
- Squadron jobs and specialty track advancement

These goals not only directly support the Wing goals, but provide us slightly more focus in the areas that are most important to us. Please plan on helping us meet our goals for the year.

Ken McNaught  
[Kmcnaught21@comcast.net](mailto:Kmcnaught21@comcast.net)  
686-9002

## DID YOU KNOW...

### **Butter instead of margarine**

This may be old news for many of you, but a study from the Netherlands concludes that butter is better for you than margarine.

The study focused on the ability of the volunteers' blood vessels to dilate. The researchers found that dilation was restricted by about 30 percent in the group that consumed trans fatty acids (such as found in margarine or other hydrogenated fats), compared to the butter group. In addition, levels of HDL (good cholesterol) were 20 percent lower.

Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, July 2001

By Dr Ed Carr, DC  
Health Services Officer



## OPERATIONS NEWS AND ICS TIDBITS

BY SUE WOLBER, OPERATIONS OFFICER

### **Flight Operations News:**

Congratulations to:

- Sean Blake initial Form 5 aircraft checkout
- Bill O'Connor Flatland Mission Pilot

Greetings to Gary Oplinger - transfer from BJC as a Form 5 current pilot and Orientation Pilot. Welcome!

### **ICS Tidbits:**

The use of the Incident Command System (ICS) is mandated nationwide for all emergency response agencies. What is ICS? According to Wikipedia:

"The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept in the United States. It is a management protocol originally designed for emergency management agencies and later federalized. ICS is based upon a flexible, scalable response organization providing a

common framework within which people can work together effectively. These people may be drawn from multiple agencies that do not routinely work together, and ICS is designed to give standard response and operation procedures to reduce the problems and potential for miscommunication on such incidents."

You remember from your ICS training the common example of why we need standard phrasing - someone on-scene calling for "a tanker" - does that mean a fire truck or a slurry bomber aircraft? There's a similar ancient story in CAP lingo: supposedly someone in the field doing direction finding (DF'ing) asked for some more LPers. He phrased it as "we want some more little LPers". The radio person back at mission base didn't know that "Little LPer" is the name of the DF unit built by LTronics, and heard "we want some more little helpers".. thought "little helper" was a cutesy name for cadets... and sent a busload of cadets into the field. :-)



# EMERGENCY SERVICES

BY BILL O'CONNOR, EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICER



Emergency Services is one of the three missions that the Civil Air Patrol is organized around. CAP is responsible for 90+% of all inland search and rescue operations involving missing or downed aircraft. Since no one purposely plans an emergency or an off field landing, the actual missions are sporadic. We in the CAP have to plan and train for these missions even though it can be months between missions. In order to stay proficient, CAP is mandated to conduct regular Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX's) on a regular basis. These simulated exercises are intended to keep our skills sharp for the real thing.

Over the recent months we added 3 new Mission Scanners to the squadron ES resources. Aaron Miller, Troy Mellon, and Jason Roualt completed the training requirements and are now mission qualified scanners.

TVCS has a large percent of the total roster qualified in one or more mission ES aircrew functions. We have 25 mission scanners, 20 mission observers, and 9 mission pilots. In a recent message from COWG that is based on a directive from National, qualified cadets are encouraged to train and qualify for air crew positions as mission qualified members of crews.

The duties and responsibilities for ES functions are described in CAPM 60-3. I encourage you to look at this manual and determine the ES function that interests you. COWG, and especially Group 2 which we are part of, is in need of more qualified mission base personnel. These include Communications Unit Leaders (CUL), Air Operations Branch Directors (AOBD), Ground Branch Directors (GBD), and Ground Team Leaders (GTL). All of these require preliminary steps and ratings in the ES functional chain. However, if you do not start somewhere you will never achieve the mission qualified status in these functions. The reward is participation in the vital functions of either a SAREX or a Red Cap (Real Mission) as an integral part of a SAR team.

If you have any questions relating to ES functions and responsibilities, email or look me up at a meeting and I would be pleased to address these.

## SAREX SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY

BY ERIC SCHWARM, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

TVCS and Vance Brand Cadet Squadron will hold a funded SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise) at the Longmont Airport on February 23rd, 2008. Steamboat Springs will also participate as an additional location. All Group 2 personnel are invited to attend,

The exercise is intended to increase the number of aircrew members, ground team members, and mission staff members. The exercise will also provide practice opportunities for people holding current Emergency Services ratings.

There are plenty of remaining slots for aircrew and ground team members.

The ICP (Incident Command Post) will be located at the Air West facilities and will open at 0700. All participants must sign in by 0745 and participate in the briefing at 0800.

Contact Aaron Miller for additional information. [amiller2978@gmail.com](mailto:amiller2978@gmail.com)

## GXY SAREX



**The Greeley SAREX was held on November 17th, 2007**

Top: Checking in at Air Ops

Middle: Communications Unit at work

Bottom: Refueling operations on the flightline

# DINING IN



## Dining In Photos

Top: USAF MAJ Davis helps a cadet with his uniform.

Middle: Even some senior members were sent to the grog bowl.

Bottom: Presenting awards to cadets.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By ROY SCHUTT, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

## Squadron Leadership School

The Squadron Leadership School (SLS) is designed to (1) enhance a senior member's performance at the squadron level and (2) to increase understanding of the basic function of a squadron and how to improve squadron operations. Prerequisites for attendance are completion of Level I and enrollment in one or more specialty tracks.



Wyoming Wing is hosting 2 Squadron Leadership schools in March. The dates and locations are –

The Wyoming Wing 2008 SLS North will be held at the Sheridan National Guard, Sheridan, WY from 1-2 March, 2008.

The Wyoming Wing 2008 SLS South will be held at Wyoming Wing Headquarters, FE Warren AFB, WY from 8-9 March, 2008.

Because the activity is held outside the wing, the Wing Commander, in addition to the Squadron Commander, must approve your Form 17.

Feel free to mail squadron approved Form 17s to the Wing Commander's home at:

Col. Edward Phelka, CAP  
1759 Weston Circle,  
Erie, CO 80516

or email a copy to [ephelka@comcast.net](mailto:ephelka@comcast.net).

Col. Phelka will forward the requests to the Wyoming Wing. Because of the processing involved, please get your requests in as early as possible.

This is a good opportunity to complete one of the Level II requirements without driving to Colorado Springs, or South Denver.

Contact me if you have questions about the content of SLS. Usually the uniform for the day is either corporate white, or short sleeve blues. The polo shirt is an acceptable alternate.

The Group 2 Commander has expressed an interest in holding a Squadron Leadership School and a Corporate Learning Course in the near future. These courses are required for Level 2 and 3 certifications. Teaching or directing one of these courses is required for Level 4 of the Professional Development Program. If you are interested in being a student, instructor or especially directing one of these weekend courses, please contact Roy Schutt via email at [rschutt@softhome.net](mailto:rschutt@softhome.net).

Teaching and Directing requires prior participation as a student in the course.

**SLS and CLC  
courses are required  
for Level 2 and 3  
certifications**

# PERSONNEL NEWS

BY TERRY THOMPSON, PERSONNEL OFFICER



Remember all those uniform changes I told you about in the last newsletter? Forget them - in military parlance, "As you were".

I had an article all written and submitted for this newsletter reminding you about the mandatory change dates when Eric, always the eagle eye, pointed out to me that there was a move afoot to rescind the changes. I checked his sources on CAP Knowledgebase and CAP Talk, and sure enough, it seems the National Board voted in November to quash all the pending "US Civil Air Patrol" changes to patches and nametapes.

My best advice for now, don't do anything until the dust settles. If you have already bought some of the new US CAP items, keep them - they may be collectors' items some day. You can eventually try selling

them on ebay. If you have already sewn them on your uniform, leave them. I'm sure they will have some sort of phase-out date.

There is also an ongoing effort also to revise and reprint CAP Reg 39-1 (the uniform regulation), and there may be some more uniform changes that come from that effort. Golly, I can hardly wait! If there are any of you who would like to follow this little saga (doubtful), you can go to the CAP Knowledgebase at the NHQ website under "Members", or to CAP Talk, which is a CAP chat site at <http://captalk.net/index.php>. Stay tuned; I'll keep you posted as best I can. Thank goodness for the blue polo shirts!!!

Terry Thompson  
Personnel Officer

## NEW MEMBER - MARK WILLIAMS

I grew up in ft. Collins and learned to fly at the old Downtown airpark, soloing at 16. I paid for college by serving in the Colorado ARMY National Guard as a Aerial Observer on the OH6, and as a Huey Crew Chief on the UH-1H.

After college I worked as a CFI in Palo Alto, CA for about 8 years while I earned my CFII and my A&P Mechanics License. I have since had a very turbulent 15 year career flying DC8s, 727s and 737s for 2 Major and 2 National airlines, as well as struggled and starved through 2 commuters flying BE1900s and Do 328JETS.

Two years ago I ended up at NetJets as a Citation Pilot, where I may well stay for the remaining 20 years of my career. I have a very patient wife who is a teacher in the Poudre school system, and two boys, ages 7 & 9.

I have always been interested in the CAP, and hope to find a role that allows me to stay involved for many years!

*(No photo was available in time for newsletter publishing - Eric.)*

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

BY ERIC SCHWARM, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

**Our newsletter naming contest is done, and the winner is...Terry Thompson!**

Terry submitted several name ideas, including the winning entry: Thompson Valley Voice. Thompson Valley Voice clearly reflects the name of our squadron without placing emphasis on any of our missions over the others. Thanks to all of you who submitted name ideas for our squadron newsletter. There were a lot of good choices, making it difficult to choose.

**New Assistant Public Affairs Officer**

Please welcome the newest member of the Public Affairs team. Adam Campbell has been appointed as the Assistant Public Affairs Officer and will help with all aspects of our growing Public Affairs program. In addition to authoring the newsletter, we will soon be working on a public affairs crisis plan, and have volunteered to assist with the Colorado Wing Conference.

As usual, please submit items for the newsletter to Eric Schwarm: [eric@schwarm.us](mailto:eric@schwarm.us)

## MISC PHOTOS



1st Aid Training



Veterans Day



# COMING SOON...

## Ground Team Member Training - Feb 12th @ Longmont

Group 2 is hosting a GTM3 training starting Feb 16 at Longmont. All interested members please have your squadron ESO or commander provide MAJ Lord (Group 2 Commander) a list of names of those who are committed to attending. All Group 2 is highly encouraged to attend this. Remember, general ES pre-req's are required before attending, plus a signed SQTR.

More info to follow as time gets near.

## SAREX - Feb 23rd - Longmont Airport

See article on page 3.

## FAA Wings Seminar - Apr 17th @ Western Air Flight Academy - Hosted by the Jeffco Squadron

The Chart Seminar is a two hour presentation that qualifies for credit with the FAA WINGS Pilot Proficiency Program. The presentation is educational in nature and encourages flight safety. It covers a broad range of chart knowledge and aeronautical information products. It highlights current chart changes and calls attention to the importance of flying with current charts.

## Colorado Wing Conference - Apr 18 & 19 @ The Fort Collins Marriott

Friday, April 18

1700-2000 MEET AND GREET/REGISTRATION – Marriott Hotel Ft. Collins

Saturday, April 19

0700 Registration – Marriott Hotel Lobby

0800 General Assembly

SEMINARS THRU OUT THE DAY

1900 Banquet – Marriott Hotel

Conference deadline is APRIL 5, 2008. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel. Ask for the Civil Air Patrol block of rooms. Rooms are \$85.00/night. Deadline for Group Rate is April 5, 2008. *All cadets must be chaperoned at all times.*

# YOU TUBE VIDEO

Featuring the video shown at the Dining In

The “year in review” video shown at the Dining In and Awards Ceremony in December is available for viewing on You Tube. The address is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5G5Meq3U50>

While visiting You Tube, try searching for other CAP videos. There are a lot of them out there for your viewing pleasure.



**THOMPSON VALLEY  
COMPOSITE SQUADRON**  
PO BOX 270885  
FT. COLLINS, CO 80527

## CIVIL AIR PATROL

Civil Air Patrol, the official U. S. Air Force Auxiliary, is a civilian, volunteer, nonprofit, service organization. Its unpaid members perform more than 80 percent of inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and conduct one of America's finest youth programs, the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program.

