



ALABAMA WING CIVIL AIR PATROL

NEWSLETTER

March 2008

**Col. Mike Oakman
Commander**

**Lt. Col. Dave Boswell
Vice-Commander**

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Fly A Teacher Day

Albertville, Ala.—"Wow, that was awesome!" Wayne Caudle said as he exited the CAP plane he flew in. The Alabama Wing flew Boaz City school teachers under the Fly A Teacher program of Civil Air Patrol. Eighteen teachers flew almost a total of 24 hours on Saturday morning. The teachers and pilots from the Wing gathered at Albertville Airport on a cool, cloudless day.



Janice Wright, Sandy Sims, Rebecca Williams, Jennifer Beck, Mary Ann Jenkins, Sherree Foxx and Capt Lynn Toney of Boaz Schools pose before a CAP aircraft.

Twelve cadets from Boaz Middle School Squadron served as hosts to pilots, teachers and parents as their teachers flew. They also worked on the flight line, under the supervision of Larry Smith. Comments ranged "I enjoyed seeing things from the air" to "I knew this was an agricultural area, but I didn't know how many cows and chicken houses there were," and "This is better than Six Flags."



Lt. Col. Talmadge Butler from Gadsden Squadron shows SrMber Amy Young and SrMbr Brian White the leading edge of the wing. Young and White are parents of Boaz cadets who both said, "Our kids want to get their pilots' licenses when they're 16."



Picture taken by an SEP teacher

Teachers flew in pairs. The flight was planned so that one teacher flew in the front seat on the flight from Albertville to another airport. Each flight landed and the teachers switched seats. They participated in pre-flight activities, going by the checklists each pilot carries. Every teacher received a certificate from the Alabama Wing that could be framed and hung in a classroom. Capt. Lynn Toney, Commander of the School Enrichment Program (SEP) in Boaz, and 1st Lt Sonja Erskine, Commander of Boaz Middle School Squadron, supervised the Fly A Teacher day.

The CAP pilots enjoyed the opportunity to show teachers the part of CAP they like the best. They succeeded in selling CAP flying because one or more teachers said, "Now I want to fly." "This has been one of my dreams."



Teachers enjoyed the day, taking pictures of homes, schools and the area to show in the classrooms, inspiring themselves taking the pictures and lessons back to the K-5 classrooms to inspire the students.

Bessemer Squadron Color Guard



Montevallo, Ala. – On Sunday, February 3, 2008, the Cadet Color Guard of the Civil Air Patrol, Bessemer Composite Squadron presented the colors for guest speaker, Mrs. Bob Riley, the First Lady, Patsy Riley at the Lucille Ryals Thompson Colonial Chapel at The American Village in Montevallo. The program was part of a series called Sundays in the Chapel.

National Goes to MSFC

Huntsville, AL – Huntsville Composite Squadron AL055 Safety Officer Capt. Paul Johnson, an aerospace engineer with NASA in the Safety and Mission Assurance Office, was able to arrange and escort CAP School Enrichment Program Office personnel Susan Mallett, Debbie Dahl, and Angie St. John during the recent STS-120 astronaut crew visit at the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, Alabama.



Susan Mallett, Debbie Dahl, Angie St. John and Col Wheelock

The National Staff members were able to watch the presentation by the astronauts and personally meet the crew and obtain autographs from each.



Air Force Col. Pamela A. Melroy, the second woman to lead a Shuttle mission; flight mission specialists Army Col. Douglas H. Wheelock, Stephanie D. Wilson and Dr. Scott Parazynski; and pilot Marine Corps Col. George D. Zamka.

Tornadoes Sweep through Alabama

Maxwell AFB, Ala.--The Alabama Wing Civil Air Patrol answered a tasking from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) to provide disaster documentation of the tornado damage in Jackson and Lawrence Counties.

The tornadoes touched down in the early morning hours of February 6, 2008. Assigned from Tuscaloosa and Pell City Squadrons, the SDIS Flights were dispatched by 1:00 PM CDT the same day and returned to base by 6:00 PM CDT.



Lawrence County, Alabama

Disaster photographs were supplied to Virtual Alabama/DHS, AEMA, Jackson and Lawrence County EMAs, the American Red Cross, the Alabama Department of Forestry, as well as Governor Bob Riley's Office.

Twelve Civil Air Patrol volunteers, including two flight crews, and two aircraft logged 110 man hours in response to the tasking.



Jackson County, Alabama

Just over one week after photographing tornado damage in Jackson, Morgan and Lawrence counties, the Alabama Wing responded to a request to complete damage documentation for tornado touchdowns in southeastern Alabama.



Prattville Alabama

Although damage was found in several counties, the primary damage from the February 17, 2008, tornadoes was in Prattville, Alabama. Two Satellite Digital Imaging System (SDIS) flights from Tuscaloosa and Birmingham 90 squadrons flew mission in support of Alabama Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security and other organizations needing documentation of the damage. High resolution video taken by the Tuscaloosa squadron was also transmitted to state agencies.



Russell County, Alabama

SDIS crews took pictures of Russell County and Prattville, Alabama which showed the extent of the destruction caused by the tornadoes. The homes of several Alabama Wing members were destroyed or damaged and, at one point, two CAP cadets were reported missing, but were located unhurt. Maj. John Neil, Director of Operations for Alabama Wing, reported that 85% of Alabama Squadrons notified the wing they were ready to deploy ground and air assets as needed.



National CAP Photographer Susan Robertson took this picture of 388X over the skies of Prattville.



Her comment, "It was good to see our plane up there."

Emergency Services

First, I want to thank everybody for his or her support and willingness to deploy over the last few weeks. As most of you know, the Alabama Wing has been tasked twice to perform in the aftermath of several tornadoes that have ravaged the state. Crews from Pell City, Birmingham, and Tuscaloosa responded with SDIS and high-resolution video for our clients. Our photographs were delivered to the National Weather Service, the Alabama EMA, the Department of Homeland Security, CAP-USAF, and the First Air Force Command. I even received an E-mail from a Major in Greenland, requesting copies of our photos of Prattville (He is a former member from the Wetumpka-Elmore Squadron). The Alabama Wing has received numerous complements on the work, including the statement that "those were the best photos we have seen of the damage, including the media."

The Alabama Wing also participated in our first Fly-A-Teacher Program for the Boaz School District, the first of February. We flew 19 teachers

during the morning flights. We heard several great comments about the professionalism of our crews and aircraft. Everyone I spoke with said they had a great time and look forward to doing it again.

Because of the flying, several units have gone back to their squadrons and have approached their local schools about the program. I have already been contacted about the possibility of doing a Fly-a-Teacher day in Mobile, Birmingham, Huntsville, Auburn, and Pell City. This program is one that gets very little use nationally. We have been told that if we can get the teachers to sign-up, as AE Teachers, then National will make sure that we get the money to fly them.

This program is a build-up to this summer when we may get as many as 100 teachers from across the country to fly for Aviation Challenge/Space Camp. We could use most of the aircraft during a weeklong program.

We also have several other missions coming up this summer, including the Operations America's Shield in May, and a training SAREX in Baldwin County in April. We will also be having a Guided Training Practice in July at Bessemer.

Many units are also conducting their own non-funded mission to get their members qualified as Scanners, Observers, and Mission Pilots. If your squadron would like to do some non-funded training, then contact me and I will get you a non-funded mission number so that you can count the training towards the members SQTRs.

Just a reminder, to all of the squadrons that own an aircraft or want an aircraft assigned to

their unit, the new Aircraft Merit System for the Justification of an aircraft starts 1 March, 2008.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members to putting the hours on the aircraft. In February, the Alabama Wing is tied for fifth place in the Nation for the average hours per tail number. We currently have 66-hours per tail, with the National requirement being 67-hours per tail. Having said this, we still need to continue to keep the aircraft flying. We need to be able to justify all of our aircraft, or National/region may pull them and either give them to someone else or sell them.

-Keep-um flying-

John P. Neil, Major
Director of Operations
Emergency Services Officer
Alabama Wing
CAP

2008 ALWG Cadet Competition (Color Guard) Winners.

1st Place - Autauga-Elmore
Cadet Squadron (AL 123)
2nd Place - Redstone
Composite Squadron (Al 119)
3rd Place - Maxwell Composite
Squadron (Al 032)

Boaz Middle School Squadron

Boaz Middle School squadron has held a Change of Command and has visited The Tut Fann Veteran's home in Huntsville, Alabama as a service project.



*Lt. Col. David Boswell with
1 LT. Sonja Erskine, Commander Boaz
Middle School Squadron*



*Boaz Middle School Cadets with their
Commander*

On 19-20 December 2007, Cadets from the Boaz Civil Air Patrol Squadron #801 visited the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Cadets, senior members and Commander Erskine alike visited both days with Veterans from all four sections located within the home which houses over 150 Veterans. The Veterans livened up quite a bit, just seeing so many young Cadets in their Military BDU uniforms. Many Veterans began telling Cadets old war stories from Europe, the Pacific, Korea and Vietnam and just by listening

one could tell the older fellows, and gals, were really enjoying having someone around to listen to their stories of long ago.

During the second visit there were many smiling faces of the Veterans as the Cadets entered the home's doors. Veterans were waving their hands and shouting out "Hello" and that the Cadets had remembered some of the Veterans' first names really made them feel special.

The Boaz CAP Cadets did an outstanding job. I was quite impressed to see such young persons, ages 11-12-13, go in to such a home and be able to interact in so well with all these older Veterans. I think a lot of good character was built on both sides of the wall that day.

SrMbr Larry Smith
Boaz Middle School Squadron



*Cadet Airman Gaskin assists the
Veterans Home Staff in packing
Christmas presents donated by
various charities.*



Cadet Airman Cothran assists in marking Christmas gifts with Veteran's identification.

Shelby County Squadron

On January 15, Lt. Col. Johnny Ward appeared on The Hank Erwin Show on WOTM - TV, a local Birmingham TV Station that is seen on Charter Cable stations in Birmingham and several other Charter Cable network stations in Alabama. The one hour show was seen from 11:00 - noon, live, and rebroadcast that night from 20:00 - 21:00. Hank Erwin is an Alabama State Senator and also a member of our Shelby County Squadron.



Personnel Officer

Remember to renew your membership

- Log on to the CAP National Web Site
- Enter your password and ID number.
- Look at the top line when it pops up. It will show your name, etc.
- Look at the first line under your name—Membership Renewal.
- Click on and follow instructions.
- Read the instructions carefully.
- Let us all renew our membership as soon as it is necessary to do so.
- Unit commanders and personnel officers can access the membership roles of their unit and determine which members are due for renewal in 60 or 90 days and alert the members.

. 1 LT John Hawkins, Director of Personnel
1320 LITTLE CLOUD CIRCLE
ALABASTER, ALABAMA 35007
205.663.5066

The Wing IG Col Joey Owens

can be contacted at (cell) 256-312-3397, at his home number is 256-492-4762, or email

jowens@gadsdenwater.org.

Birmingham 34 Officer No Longer Completely Retired.

Major James Dormuth of Birmingham Squadron 34 has been brought out of retirement by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office to help form a cold case investigative unit. Major Dormuth will join with five other former law enforcement officers from Shelby County in this new responsibility.

Major Dormuth retired from the U. S. Postal Inspection Service (a Federal Law Enforcement Agency) in October 2005 with 30 years of service. The five officers, with 125 years of combined experience in investigations, will work on unsolved cases as recent as less than a year old to some that are decades old.

According to Sheriff Chris Curry the new unit will give the Sheriff's Office an opportunity to view unsolved cases from a fresh perspective and with new technologies. This is another example of how CAP members give back to their communities. Squadron 34 is proud to have Major Dormuth as a member.

Every time we take off in our CAP-USAF aircraft, we should make a mental note of what/when/where/how we might abort the takeoff. If we suffer a major malfunction during the takeoff roll, we not only need to abort, but we need to abort safely.

The reasons to abort can be many, and they don't always relate to the engine failure scenario. It could be that we notice a warning light, such as an "Alternator Out" light, or a "Vacuum Low" light, things that would probably affect the safety of the flight (especially if we are making an IFR flight) just as surely as if the engine died. It could be that we notice an instrument failure, like an ADI, DG or HIS, which would impact the mission, even if we had VFR weather. Of course, an engine out take-off is out of the question!



FLIGHT SAFETY

AVOIDING DANGEROUS ABORTED TAKEOFFS

Recently, there was an airplane crash in the news. It was a large corporate jet that took off (or better said attempted to) from Teterboro, NJ, and instead of getting airborne, it ended up stuck in the lobby of a building across from the airport. You might wonder what this has to do with our CAP aircraft. Read on.

The thing to keep in mind is that we should think (before taking the runway) about the things that would cause us to abort a takeoff (the "what and when"), at what point in the takeoff roll we can safely abort (the "where"), and what we are going to do if we need to abort (the "how"). Do we apply full brakes? Is the runway wet? You can see where we are going. If we do this every time, we might not prevent an engine failure, or an ADI failure, but we will be better prepared to survive the consequences

Pell City SAREX

Let's all be safe out there and plan well enough to "Live to fight another day"!

GROUND SAFETY

ROAD SAFETY CAN AVOID ACCIDENTS

I recently came across an accident in the news where a van had stalled at night, and had to pull to the side of the road. Unfortunately, they had no warning or hazard triangles to set out, and a truck hit them, injuring some of the vehicle passengers.



If you are driving a CAP van, or even your own vehicle, check that you have a good spare tire, some tools and, by all means, a hazard signal to put at the rear of the vehicle to warn approaching traffic in the event you have a mechanical breakdown. It can save your life!

Remember, we can get killed just as easily on the ground as in the air! Be safe!

Lt. Col. Harold Coghlan

Outstanding SAREX Tasks



*Signing into the Mission
Photo by SrMbr Ed Tyler*

Pell City, Ala.—A missing helicopter which might have crashed, a sinking boat in Lake Guntersville, emergency locator transmitters, (ELTs) and an elderly man who wandered away from his truck while picking berries in the nearby woods, these were all simulated missions for the Alabama Wing Search and Rescue Exercise held Saturday, March 1, 2008, at the Pell City Airport.



*Preflight for Safety
Photo by SrMbr Ed Tyler*

The Pell City Squadron hosted the wing wide event and more than 90 volunteer Civil Air Patrol members signed in for air and ground sorties. Thirty-seven air sorties were flown in support of the practice mission.



*On the Flight Line
Photo by SrMbr Ed Tyler*

Eight ground sorties were briefed and completed. Air crews flew more than 30 hours to find the Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) and to guide ground crews to sites where the victims could be found. "The ground teams were able to coordinate with the aircraft and find the helicopter," and "The victims looked real." Realistic moulage had been applied to the simulated victims so ground teams could practice the skills learned in the Alabama Wing's Field Training Exercises (FTX).

The Satellite Digital Imaging System (SDIS) photographed area sites as they trained to gain proficiency in using the system which provides real-time photographs from the air to supported agencies.

The Alabama Wing holds several practices during the year so that the CAP volunteers can use and increase the skills used when the wing is assigned missions from Homeland Security, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency or the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. The Wing has recently supported AEMA and HLS with disaster documentation from the tornadoes that struck across the state in February.

Huntsville Squadron mans a water station for Rocket City Marathon

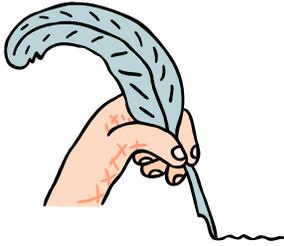
Handing out Gatorade and water, the Huntsville Composite Squadron worked at the 19th mile marker for the Rocket City Marathon held in Huntsville, Alabama on Saturday, December 8, 2007. The CAP volunteers were responsible for setting up and distributing over 1200 cups of needed refreshment to runners who streamed by their water station at speeds ranging from a walk to six-plus miles an hour. "It's a great way to be visible and to help in the community," was the comment made while planning the squadron's participation.



*SrMbr Paul Chassey, left, 2 Lt Brandon Parker, center, and Capt Carl Foster, behind table.
Photo by Lt. Col. Gene Mitcham*

After the last runner went by, the members were also responsible for cleaning up the piles of cups which had been dropped by the runners. Lt. Col. Gene Mitcham, Capt. Anthony Beresford, Capt. Harvey Plemmons, Capt. Carl Foster, 2nd Lt. Brandon Parker, and SM Paul Chassey supported the marathon at the water/aid station.

Public Affairs



I have often thought that creating the newsletter was about getting people to send articles and I'd carefully edit and put them in some sort of order and then send them out.

I have since decided that the newsletter is very similar to a scrapbook, but without the glue and the paste, scissors and stuff that goes into one of those wonderful books that so many people create and save from year to year to record the history of a person or a family.

The Alabama Wing Newsletter can be such a scrapbook. It's not on 12" X1 12" colored paper. There are not sticky stars, or twine fences separating the information about who is doing what. It is a gathering of the history of the wing. Not as an historian would collect, but as perhaps a biographer would collect. This is one record of the life of the wing.

There are stories, promotions, celebrations and pictures. But there are not enough of them being sent to me. If you have pictures to share, send them with a story about them. If there are celebrations, activities, promotions, programs, all stories of your squadron and its members and their activities.

Those are the bits and pieces that make up the scrapbook that is a wing newsletter.

Send all material to

Maj. Pat Mitcham
1919 McDowling Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803

256-880-0623

Email: pmitcham@knology.net

Send pictures as jpg at least 350 kb in size. If you only have printed photos, make an extra copy and send it to me. I'll scan it in. I may not be able to use all of the photos that I am sent, but I will use as many as possible.

The next newsletter will be May, 2008. Please send all articles, photos, and other items to me by April 25, 2008.