

January 2004
Volume 2, Issue 1

The Mountain Wave

Monthly Newsletter for the Los Alamos Composite Squadron
of the Civil Air Patrol



COMMANDER
Cpt David L. McClard

**DEPUTY
COMMANDER
FOR SENIORS**
LtCol Larry L. Tellier

**DEPUTY
COMMANDER
FOR CADETS**
1stLt Mark Peters



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LA SQUADRON WEBSITE
<http://sulphurcanyon.com.lacap/>

NM WING WEBSITE
<http://nmwg.cap.gov/>

NATIONAL CAP HQ
WEBSITE
<http://www.cap.gov>

NEWS FROM WING

TRAINING

SQUADRON LEADERSHIP SCHOOL AND CORPORATE LEARNING COURSE

A Squadron Leadership School (SLS) and Corporate Learning Course (CLC) professional development weekend is scheduled for 7-8 February 2004 at NM Wing headquarters.

The SLS contains the most basic and the most important mechanics of how a squadron operates. For the new member who is overwhelmed by the organization, this is a great beginning to understanding the Civil Air Patrol.

The CLC is the expansion of squadron management and demonstrates how a Wing functions. Many NM Wing staff officers will be instructors and will bring expertise in their particular area to light.

To attend either of these classes send your signed CAPF 17 (senior activity form) to Col Dennis Manzanaras, Director of Professional Development, P.O. Box 1628, Taos, NM 87571-1628 OR fax to him at 505-751-3066. Please write your e-mail address on the top of the form. If you have questions, e-mail Col Manzanaras at taosatty@quiznet.net or call him at 505-758-8660. There is a small fee for these two-day classes which will be payable at the door.

SW REGION STAFF COLLEGE

After completing SLS and CLC, the next step in professional courses is the Region Staff College. We are fortunate to have the Southwest Region Staff College (SWRSC) held at Kirtland Air Force Base, 10-17 July 2004. SWRSC is renowned for its thoroughness and well thought out curriculum. The majority of the classes are taught by professional instructors from the NCO Academy at KAFB.

To register for SWRSC send your completed CAPF 17 to Col Dennis Manzanaras, P.O. Box 1628, Taos, NM 87571-1628 **AND** send a courtesy copy to

SWRSC 2004 Director Maj Mike Swanson, 7625 Brook Haven Way, Shreveport, LA 71105-5706 along with a \$25 deposit.

**NATIONAL CHECK PILOT
STANDARIZATION COURSE**
17-18 January 2004 in Santa Fe.



GENERAL INFORMATION

National HQ will implement an online news service beginning January 2004. Look for it under the heading, News, on CAP's home page. The news site will be updated on a daily basis. The online news service will permit us to carry more comprehensive coverage of member activities. The printed newspaper will go to a bi-monthly at this time, with hard-copy issues published in February, April, June, August, October, and December during 2004.

FROM COL F.A. BUETHE, CAP

After careful consideration of New Mexico State approved vendor procedures and requirements, State approved aircraft maintenance vendors, vendor costs for annual/100hr inspections, vendor labor and material rates, location of approved vendors, ferry distances to approved vendors, financial burden on the wing for these maintenance items, and squadron comments on wing maintenance procedures, New Mexico Wing will use the following procedures until the current New Mexico State vendor(s) contract expires.

For aircraft annual/100hr inspections the wing will use AirTec, Great Southwest, United, and Mesilla Aviation.

Squadrons will use the closest of those four vendors for annual/100hr inspections.

To the maximum extent possible ferry flights to those vendors will be done as reimbursable check rides or other reimbursable flights.

Squadrons will coordinate with Wing Maintenance Officer and Albuquerque Squadron II to receive a replacement aircraft

Los Alamos Composite Squadron

SENIOR OFFICERS

OPERATIONS

Gerald Merkey

STANDARDIZATION/ EVALUATION

Dorothy Brown

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dave McClard (acting)

CUSTOMS/DEA

Brian Smith

COMMUNICATIONS

Stanley Simmonds

LOGISTICS

Tom Marshall

SAFETY

Lee Knoell

SUPPLY

Tom Marshall

TRANSPORTATION

Brian Smith

MAINTENANCE

John Sutton

Crew Chief 4842G

Lee Knoell

Crew Chief 6319H

Richard Pearson

ADMINISTRATIVE

Roger Kruse

PERSONNEL

Dave McClard (acting)

FINANCE

John Veilleux

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Gretta Christensen

TESTING

Annette Peters

WEBPAGE

Roger Kruse

"For once you have tasted flight, you will walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward; For there you have been, and there you long to return."
Leonardo da Vinci

while their aircraft is undergoing an annual/100hr inspection. The replacement aircraft will remain with the receiving squadron until the next reimbursable event (SAREX, Mission, funded check ride, etc.) at which time the aircraft will be exchanged for the squadron's normally assigned aircraft.

Squadrons will thoroughly and carefully inspect their aircraft upon completion of its annual/100hr inspection before accepting it from the maintenance vendor and document any discrepancies. If significant discrepancies are found the squadron will not accept the aircraft, but will point out the discrepancies to the vendor and coordinate resolution with the vendor through the Wing Maintenance Officer.

Local maintenance vendors may be used for emergency or other repairs (not associated with the annual/100hr inspection) by coordinating with the Wing Maintenance Officer.



LOCAL NEWS

SAFETY BRIEFING

By 1st Lt Lee Knoell, CAP
LA CAP Safety Officer

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004, we held our monthly LA CAP safety meeting. The main topic covered by Personal Minimums by Larry Tellier. Larry used a CD from AOPA that included three segments each with a little more information than the first segment to help build a case for determining your own personal minimums. The presentation was stopped after each segment and discussion was had between those in attendance about what was observed by each in the segment and what was wrong with the pilot's decision. All in all, those that did not attend missed an important safety message.

Additionally, I covered the topics of the December 03 issue of the CAP Sentinel.

The Sentinel had information on two recent CAP aircraft accidents. The first accident occurred in California Nov. 21, 2003, that killed two CAP members and completed destroyed an aircraft. It seems that the pilot (a commercial rated pilot with a CFII) and the observer took off from mission base during a SAREX at 1028 pm to return to their home base and never made it. The plane and crew were not reported missing until the next morning when the Cal. CAP were unable to locate the plane and its crew.

This should never happen. In NM the pilot is required to call back to mission base upon arrival at the home base with his flight time, Hobbs meter reading, and fuel quantity. I do not understand how the Cal. CAP aircraft went unaccounted for until the following morning. The local sheriff's office dispatched a helicopter that located the CAP aircraft on the NW slope of Tip-Top Mountain at about the 6900-foot level. The aircraft was completely consumed by fire. The pilot did not file a flight plan. This should be a good lesson for all pilots and CAP crew members about the importance of filing flight plans so that search for you can begun in an expeditious manner if you are overdue.

The second CAP aircraft accident occurred Nov. 22, 2003, in Wisconsin during a CAP Form 5 Check Ride. While simulating a forced landing, the aircraft made a hard landing that caused substantial damage to the aircraft. Neither the pilot nor the check pilot were injured. It was reported that the airspeed of the aircraft suddenly decayed and the aircraft landed hard. The landing was being attempted on runway 12 with the winds reported as 050/9. Both accidents are currently under investigation.

It appears that FY 04 is not off to a good start for the CAP. The following is a summary of the statistics for FY 03 compared to FY 04:

	03	04
Aircraft Accidents	5	2
Aircraft Incidents	38	4
Fatalities	2	2

Los Alamos Cadet Squadron

CADET COMMANDER and LEADERSHIP OFFICER

C/2nd Lt Shannon Kruse

DEPUTY CADET COMMANDER and ADMIN. OFFICER

C/2nd Lt Marit Christensen

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

C/2nd Lt Curtis Christensen

CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE

C/SMSGt. Jesse Peters

ALTERNATE CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

C/2nd Lt Curtis Christensen

SQUADRON GUIDON

C/CMSGT Josh Roybal

FIRST SERGEANT

C/2nd Lt Curtis Christensen (acting)

FLIGHT COMMANDER

C/CMSGt Jesse Peters

FLIGHT SERGEANT

C/SMSGt Jonathan Roybal

FLIGHT GUIDON

ELEMENT LEADERS

Victor Stearns
Jonathan Kressin
Rose Parker

CADET LEADERSHIP OFFICER and DRILL INSTRUCTOR

2nd Lt Nicolas Walker

CADET LEADERSHIP

2nd Lt Ron Roybal

CADET SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

COORDINATOR

CSM Colette Longo

CADET AEROSPACE EDUCATION ASSISTANTS

"Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic."

Vehicle Mishaps	16	0
Bodily Injuries	13	3
Serious Injuries	2	1

The other topic that both Larry and I talked about was icing. We both displayed a copy of the icing article that can be found on the Air Safety Foundation web page through AOPA. Pilots, keep in mind that carburetor icing can occur at > 50% humidity and temperatures between 25 and 90°F. Carburetor icing is the number one cause of icing accidents. Pilots, review your knowledge on icing because tis the season.

GTM TRAINING DAY

By C/2d Lt. Shannon Kruse

On November 22, eight cadets and three senior members from the Los Alamos Composite Squadron Cadet Program participated in a Ground Team Member Training Day. The day started at 0700 with a safety briefing and ended at 1500 with a pizza party.

At 0700, the cadets attended the safety briefing held by the Senior Members at LAM and then drove up to Sawyer's Hill. Once at Sawyer's Hill, 1st Lt. Mark Peters lead the cadets and explained how to use an Elper to find a distress beacon and how to track the signal to the target. The true excitement came, however, when c/Amn Helen Longo spotted the ELT.

After the ELT search, the team headed back to base camp for some show before beginning the tricky but readily understood orienteering course and compass introduction. Cpt. Dave McClard sat down with the cadets and demonstrated how to find north on a topomap and how to manipulate a compass. Next, everyone wandered over to the beginner course and one cadet figured out the direction of travel while directing another cadet on which direction to go. With much laughter and good times, the cadets quickly finished up the course.

Next, C/SMSGt Jesse Peters took

everyone over to the more advanced course. This time, everyone joined in and had a great time together. At one point, 1st Lt Mark Peters picked up a point in the course – a small dead tree – and carried it with him to the next point. Quite a humorous event.

When the compass practice was over, there was a simulated downed aircraft where c/SMSGt Jesse Peters was the pilot and the cadets had to rescue him and carry him out on a litter. For this exercise, such practical skills as identify any hazards on the scene and using caution on the scene were stressed, as well as how to assess a patient and tell what hurts and how he is doing using the ABC's (Airway, Breathing, and Circulation). The cadets also learned how to transfer the patient onto a litter and carry it out safely. This was an excellent training job by Cpt. Dave McClard.

When the litter carry was done, everyone headed back to base camp and split into two teams. The first team hide the ELT and the second team had to find it using the Elper. This was an interesting task because by now it had begun snowing lightly and the wind was blowing hard at times. Even with these handicaps, the second team did an excellent job in only 7 _ minutes. However, the first team faired terribly when it was their turn to find the ELT because the snow was coming down rapidly and the wind was really blowing, causing the Elper to give false reading and sending the team in everywhere but the correct direction. But it was a great lesson on what the weather can do to a search.

Unfortunately, the snow was coming down so hard by the end of the second search that the training was cut show; but after all the gear and everybody was loaded up, they headed off for a planned pizza party. A great end to a great day.

Squadron Notes

FROM THE PAO

(1st Lt Gretta Christensen)

I am attempting to publish the newsletter monthly. It will be hard to do if there are no stories nor pertinent information. So I will gladly accept submissions from you, the squadron members. Please have them to me by the 25th of the month.

My e-mail address is:
gchristensen@earthlink.net

FROM THE CADET ACTIVITIES OFFICER

(CSM Colette Longo)

Cadets, mark your calendars!

Ice Skating — 19 January,
1750-1950

**Atomic Museum/Uniform
Acquisition from Wing
Headquarters and KAFB
Clothing Store.** — 21
February, 0700-1900.

Planning has begun for our **Tour of NASA**. We would like to go during the public school's spring break. A lot of planning and work needs to be done between now and then. All volunteer help is welcomed.

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

WINTER CADET ENCAMPMENT HELD AT KIRTLAND

By 1st Lt Gretta Christensen, CAP
Encampment PAO

A record number of cadet "first-timers" had the opportunity to attend this year's winter Cadet Encampment hosted by Eagle Composite Squadron at Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB), December 26-30, 2003. Cadets traveled from as far away as Tucson, Arizona, and San Diego, California, to participate. Once again at the helm, serving as Encampment Commander, was Lt. Col. Paul Ballmer, CAP of Albuquerque. Aided by his spirited assistant, C/LtCol Kaycee Gilbert and her competent staff, the five-day encampment proceeded without a hitch.

Staff members arrived early Friday morning for the Required Staff Training. The rest of the cadets began arriving shortly after noon and by 1600, 63 cadets, representing all but two squadrons in the Wing, were registered and raring to go. The first order of business was to establish their quarters in the KAFB west gymnasium. Although lacking in the soft comforts of home, the gym provided a great sanctuary from the elements when the temperatures plummeted to below freezing the second day of camp. Formations, inspections, and morning reports could all be done inside. The locker rooms and shower facilities were added benefits to the otherwise bleak conditions.

One of the highlights of the week was the challenge of the Security Police Confidence Course. For some cadets it was a fun game; others were stretched to their limits. Each flight was seen working a team to help the individual team members overcome the obstacles.

The fearful/adoring relationship with SMSgt Edgar Allan Poe, III, USAF, was rekindled. Although appearing to be a tough, hard-nosed, Drill Sergeant, it became obvious rather quickly, that SMSgt. Poe cared deeply for the cadets and was striving to provide them with the tools necessary to withstand the unhealthy influences that they

face each day.

Another encampment favorite, SrA Carrie Lewis, USAF Reserve, an instructor for the Department of Energy Central Training Academy, led discussions and shared some of her experiences as a Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) instructor. Again, the focus was on facing difficult situations and having the courage and strength to overcome them.

The cadets were treated to a briefing about airborne lasers. Still in the research and design phase, the goal of this anti-ballistic missile defense system is to mount lasers on modified 747s, which would then be used to shoot down ICBMs.

Several senior staff members shared their expertise at various cadet briefings. Captain Joseph Perea, CAP, switched hats a couple of times for the briefings. First he was the physician explaining the basic types of illegal drugs and their effects on the body. Much emphasis was placed on reasons to abstain from drug and tobacco use and alcohol abuse. His second hat was that of pilot and aerospace educator. His enthusiasm for flight and futuristic technology was apparent to all.

Captain David Simonson, CAP, spoke on the emergency services aspect of Civil Air Patrol. Much emphasis was placed on helping the cadets understand the training involved and how the incident command system works.

Sunday was dedicated to Moral Leadership. Cadets were given the opportunity to attend the church service of their choice. During one of the Moral Leadership sessions LtCol Ballmer and his "band" treated the cadets to patriotic music. Finally, 1Lt Jim Hoy from Gallup, the Encampment Moral Leadership Officer, led a discussion on the Core Values of CAP.

Major Gene Wikle, CAP of Albuquerque, a retired Air Force officer and currently a civilian employee of the Department of Defense, discussed the specific United States Air Force bases and their missions. Additionally, he discussed the benefits of an Air Force career and

FYI

MIMS Training additions in e-services: Six new tutorials have been added in e-services that graphically show how to enter CAP Pilot and Emergency Services specialty data into the MIMS system. These were developed in response to the most frequently asked questions that the DO and IT staff received. □The tutorials can be accessed from the top-center part of the main e-services page, and also as selections on the pages where the data is entered. We will continue to add these training aides as time permits.

Personal locator beacons are available to CAP Members through Fastfind and Fastfind Plus PLB (personal locator beacon) at a deeply discounted price! Officially used by the US Coast Guard, the Fastfind and Fastfind Plus (with GPS) personal locator beacons (PLB) are the latest safety and survival products.

Fastfind PLB normally sells for \$649. CAP members can order it for only \$385, plus shipping charges. Fastfind Plus (with GPS) normally sells for \$999. CAP members can purchase for \$620 plus shipping.

To purchase, email Greg Snack (Revere Supply) at GJSnack@aol.com and request "CAP ORDER FORM". Return the order form (fax or mail form with payment - major credit cards or check). CAP ID number must be provided for verification and orders are limited to one per member ID. For more information, you may call Greg Snack (Revere Supply) at 732.672.5276 or Revere Supply at 973.575.8811.

*"KNOWLEDGE is knowing that a tomato is a fruit.
WISDOM is knowing that you don't put a tomato in a fruit
salad."*

answered any questions the cadets had concerning the Air Force.

The five days of drilling culminated in a Pass in Review before Col Frank Buethe, New Mexico Wing Commander, LtCol Paul Ballmer, Encampment Commander, and Capt David McClard, Los Alamos Composite Squadron Commander. The Cadet Encampment concluded with the graduation ceremony in the NCO Academy at 1900. Alpha Flight was recognized as the Honor Flight. Special honors were bestowed on C/CMSgt Thomas Nichols (Honor Staff Member), C/SSgt Christopher Sexton (Honor Cadet), and C/Amn Carina Gruver (Most Improved Cadet). The third annual New Mexico Winter Cadet Encampment was a great success because of the hard work of the cadet staff members, their senior member staff advisors, and the exceptionally well-behaved cadet "first-timers!"

Someone said the membership of every organization is made up of four kinds of Bones:

There are the Wishbones who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work!

There are Jawbones who do all talking, but very little else!

Next, there are Knucklebones who knock everything else everybody tries to do!

Finally, there are the Backbones who get under the load and do the work!

What kind of Bone are you???

"Dictums from Dave"

Please consult the LACAP website schedule for meeting information. 03 FEB 04 is our next scheduled meeting. Mr. Huss from ABQ FSDO is our scheduled speaker. For those who so desire, we will plan to have an early dinner (4:30pm) with J.D. at the Central Ave. Grill, please RSVP.

Pilots & Crews, SARExs are scheduled for January 23-26 and February 20-23. Please let me know if your interested in participating. These will be local missions.

IMPORTANT DATES

17-18 January: National Check Pilot Standards Course, Santa Fe

23 Jan-02 Feb: SAR/DR/HLS Exercise, White Sands

3 Feb: Sr. Meeting with J.D. Huss, FAA FSDO, at CD#1

7-8 Feb: SLS & CLC, KAFB

20-23 Feb: SAR/DR/HLS Exercise, Roswell