

THE CADET UPDATE

LA CROSSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON, CIVIL AIR PATROL

WING CONFERENCE COMES TO LA CROSSE



This spring La Crosse will host the 2013 Wisconsin Wing Conference at the Best Western Riverfront Hotel from 03-05 May 2012. Wing Conference serves as an annual opportunity for Civil Air Patrol members from around the wing to get together, share information, learn from one another, and recognize outstanding performance. The Conference is open to both senior and cadet members.

During the conference members have the opportunity to attend breakout sessions on a variety of topics. This year sessions will include flight training information, encampment prep information, uniform wear, and more.

On the Saturday evening of the conference the wing's annual awards banquet will be held. During this banquet the wing's top performers will be recognized including the Cadet of the Year, Squadron of Merit, Senior of the Year, and many other awards.

Cadets who wish to attend the conference must have their parent's permission. If a cadet wishes to stay overnight at the hotel they must also have a senior member chaperone that has agreed to chaperone them. The room rates are \$79/night, however since the conference is in La Crosse cadets should not feel the need to get a hotel room.

The conference itself is \$45 for cadets which includes all three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. A second option is \$40 and includes only Saturday's lunch and dinner. A no-meals option is \$35. We will need cadets to run the F-16 simulator during the day on Saturday. Cadets who work the simulator will not have to register or pay.

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WINTER NEWSLETTER

Upcoming dates:

- * 20 APR: La Crosse Neighbors Day Cleanup
 - * 3-5 MAY: Wing Conference
 - * 04 MAY: Freedom Honor Flight Honor Guard
 - * 10-12 MAY: Region Cadet Leadership School
 - * 17-19 MAY: Wing SAREX @ La Crosse
 - * 01 JUN: Squadron "Grand Re-opening" Open House
 - * 29 JUN-07 JUL: Summer Encampment
- Stay up-to-date with Upcoming Events at www.lacrossecap.org*

NEXT PARENTS' COUNCIL MEETING: 20 APR

Thank you to all the parents who turned out for the first Parents' Council meeting back in February. It was a good turnout and led to some valuable discussion. We had a chance to discuss upcoming activities, eServices, online cadet testing, and more.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20 from 0830-0900 at the squadron facility. The cadets will be out helping with La Crosse Neighbors Day, so it will be a

great chance to meet and discuss squadron happenings.

Agenda items this time include:

- Wing Conference info
- Summer Encampment
- Wreaths Across America
- Food support for the Wing SAREX in May
- Sequester effects
- Question & Answer

The meeting will occur shortly after opening formation and the

cadets organizing and departing for the Neighbors Day activities. If you have questions please contact 2d Lt Alice Ackerman at wilson8813@yahoo.com or 608-397-8551.

The cadets will have a BBQ lunch at the Neighbors Day site. Parents are invited to pick their cadets up at the site at 1200 or cadets are encouraged to stay until 1500 to continue helping pickup Hixon Park.

LA CROSSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON

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C/Amn Andrew Zittlow locates a clue
during a ground search exercise at Black-
CAP XXVIII.

18 ATTEND EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLEGE

While the Packers and Vikings may create quite a rivalry between the states, recently members from the two wings worked together to help carry out the 28th annual BlackCAP Emergency Services College. For the first time in the school's history it was led by Wisconsin Wing members. Maj Todd Mandel served as the school's Director and C/Lt Col Michael Ebert served as Cadet Commander. In total, 18 squadron members attended which far exceeded the internal goal of 10.

The event provided basic and advanced emergency services training to members every year in a fun and fast-paced environment. This year was no different as more than 120 CAP members representing four CAP wings and three regions converged on the Red Wing airport which is located in Bay City, Wisconsin.

During the three days of training members completed an extensive list of ground team tasks and participated in a number of ground sorties. At times the training flights were given notice of an upcoming sortie, and other times a "mission" was sprung on the students.

After training concluded on Saturday the flights spent the evening in the annual "Polecat Competition" where flights compete against one another in feats of skill such as Pick-Up Sticks, the Human Knot, and the annual frog jumping competition. All BlackCAP attendees are issued a plastic frog, a long-held school custom, and use this frog in the jumping competition. The highlight of the games was the "Dancing with the Stars: BlackCAP edition". Members from each flight participated in a polka dance-off as they danced to the "Green Bay Packer Polka" much to the delight of Wisconsin members and to the chagrin of the other 100+ Minnesota members in attendance.

The weekend concluded with an innovative drill competition and a pass-in-review, all of which are created and mastered within the 60 hours that the school operates. Foxtrot Flight earned the Honor Flight award with La Crosse Squadron member Cadet Staff Sergeant Maggie Weber serving as Flight Sergeant.

FLIGHT TRAINING

Many cadets join CAP because they want to learn how to fly. And one of the great parts about the CAP Cadet Program is that you can do just that!

In La Crosse Squadron, to being flight training, a cadet must reach the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant, maintain good grades, and be actively engaged in Emergency Services. If a cadet meets all of those requirements he/she can apply to participate in the "Pilot Training Program".

Acceptance into the PTP is not automatic, and requires the approval of the Deputy Commander for Cadets, the Squadron Commander, and the Flight Instructor. Once a cadet is accepted it is expected that they will

complete their pilot training in six months and remain qualified through good grades, active participation, and good service.

Cadets who do not complete their training in the six month time frame risk losing their spot to another cadet. Only a select number of cadets can participate in Pilot Training at one time.

Pilot training is not free.

Cadets must pay for the fuel and aircraft time during flight instruction. Cadets are encouraged to evaluate their ability to complete Pilot Training before starting.

Cadets who wish have questions about Pilot Training should talk with Major Mandel or Capt Dave Berget.





Secretary Mike Huebsch presents the Amelia Earhart Award to C/Capt John Brennan.



Secretary Mike Huebsch presents C/Lt Col Mike Ebert with the General Ira C. Eaker Award.



C/Maj Kevin Felix and his "mini-me" C/1st Lt Michael Cunningham look on during the awards ceremony



Capt Clyde O'Neil and Capt Linda Zimmerman visit during the reception following the awards presentation.

PROMOTIONS

Promotions earned during the first quarter:

C/AB to C/Amn: Harrison Davis, Andrew Zittlow

C/A1C to C/SrA: Will Allen, Zeth Burch, Aden Erickson, Steven Mischel

C/SrA to C/SSgt: TJ Henson, James Lanska, Drew Lysaker, Maggie Weber

C/SSgt to C/TSgt: Colton Wilbur
Armstrong Achievement: Andrew Marshall

C/CMSgt to C/2d Lt: Andrew Marshall

Flight Commander Ach: Patrick Robbins

Administrative Officer Ach: Patrick Robbins, Michael Cunningham

Cadets with questions about how to get promoted should contact Major Mandel or their flight staff.

SEQUESTER IMPACT

For better or worse, Civil Air Patrol is almost entirely funded by appropriated federal dollars through the Department of Defense. CAP's annual operational budget was approximately \$32 million in 2011.

As a recipient of federal funds, CAP faces the impact of the sequester just like other federal agencies and customers. For 2013 we expect that CAP's operational budget will be reduced to \$22 million. This represents cuts from multiple budget deals as well as the 10% across-the-board cut imposed by the sequester. If you do the math it means that CAP will operate with more than 30% less funding this year.

So what are the implications of that? The most noticeable to cadets will be reduced funding for orientation flights. La Crosse has an aggressive orientation flight program. However, currently all orientation flights are on hold until funding conditions are better understood. If/When they are unfrozen the flights will be limited at best until the next fiscal year begins in October.

Other impacts include less training dollars, less corporate staff at our national headquarters, and the need to do more with less.

BEST PLACES FOR BUYING STUFF

Having uniforms with badges, insignia, patches, etc... unfortunately means having to buy stuff. And for cadets it's often worse as they grow out of items and need new ones. So, here are some tips on how to save money when in need of uniform items:

- Check with the squadron first. BDUs and blues items are usually in stock. Boots, shoes, belts, etc. usually are not.
- Vanguard is the only company that can sell items that say "CAP" or "Civil Air Patrol" on them. So, if you need a CAP nameplate you have to go to www.vanguardmil.com. But check our Facebook page for the 10% discount code.
- **You don't need to go to Vanguard for things that aren't CAP-specific.** Vanguard is usually 200% to 300% more expensive than other online sources for things like hats, shoes, belts, etc... For uniform items check EBay or Google Shopping. For things like boots check the many police supply stores on the web. For oxford dress shoes check out WalMart, Kohls, Target, and even Goodwill. I once found a pair of Corfram dress shoes at a Sparta garage sale for \$2! (Too bad they melted at Riverfest...)
- Visit J & R Surplus Store in DeSoto for ground team equipment. They're cheap and have a wide stock. It's a great place to get canteens, web belts, load bearing vests, and more
- If you have a relative in the military use their AAFES access to purchase items. This is a good source for blues shirts, pants, and service coats. Note that the Air Force no longer uses woodland camo patterns, so you cannot purchase BDUs from AAFES.
- And if you outgrow things we are always happy to take donations to help provide a source for other future cadets!

Situation Report (as of 08 APR 2013)

- Squadron cadet count = 29
- Squadron senior count = 45
- Q1 new cadet members = 4
- Total squadron members = 74

- Wing-wide cadet members = 347
- Wing-wide senior members = 602
- Total wing members = 949

- Q1 orientation flights = 13
- Q1 online tests taken = 20
- Q1 tests passed = 18
- % of tests passed = 90%

- Phase I cadets = 16
- Phase II cadets = 7
- Phase III cadets = 3
- Phase IV cadets = 3



C/AB Nathan Warner is promoted to Cadet Airman by Maj Duane St Mary and C/Capt John Brennan



C/A1C Brian Gabrielson and C/A1C Aiden Erickson are promoted to Cadet Senior Airman

SUMMER ENCAMPMENTS COMETH!

Summer Encampment is a critical part of the CAP Cadet Program, and is strongly recommended for cadets 13 years and older. To earn the Mitchell Award a cadet must complete a summer encampment.

This year's Wisconsin Wing Summer Encampment will be held 29 Jun-07 July at the Volk Field ANGB near Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. The cost is yet to be announced, but is typically around \$150. This includes all food and lodging for the week. More information at: <http://goo.gl/L8o1T>

During encampment cadets learn more about drill, teamwork, attention to detail, and commitment to the cadet program. They also have the chance to experience life on a military installation, overcome challenges, and make new friends. Wisconsin's encampment also offers a second year program called the Wisconsin

Cadet Academy, for cadets who have completed encampment.

If your cadet would like to attend encampment but cannot make the Wisconsin dates then there are two other nearby encampments this summer.

The Minnesota Wing Summer Encampment will be 23-30 JUN at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Minnesota has an excellent encampment program as well. Maj Mandel will be going up to Minnesota's encampment so transportation can be coordinated if need be. Find out more at www.cadetleadership.org

Also the Iowa Wing Summer Encampment will be held 14-21 JULY at Camp Dodge, Iowa. The cost is \$130. Transportation arrangements would be on your own. Find out more at <http://www.iawgcap.com/encampment.html>

WHERE CAN I LEARN THAT?

For new cadets (and sometimes experienced cadets too) and their parents, finding information about CAP can be a challenge. CAP brings with it new terms, concepts, and requirements. So here are a few great sources that will help you connect, stay up to date, and get questions answered!

- **CAP Knowledgebase:** <http://capnhq.custhelp.com/> Type in a question and get an answer! It combs through CAP's regulations, manuals, change letters, and more. It's the source that staff go to all the time when we need an answer.
- **Squadron Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/lacrossecap> The squadron's Facebook page does not require a

Facebook account to access. It has updates, information, photos, and more. Recently we added self-help videos about boot shining, updating eServices, printing off a 101 card, and more. Also helpful blog postings and event listings.

- **Cadetstuff.org:** An independent online resource run by current and former CAP cadets. It has great articles, videos, and tips about succeeding as a CAP cadet. It also hosts moderated discussion forums where cadets and parents can connect with other cadets and parents from around the country.

And of course you can always email or message any of the cadet or senior staff to get a question answered!