



# St Cloud Composite Squadron Newsletter

## Upcoming Events:

**DUE TO COVID 19**  
all upcoming events are  
**TENTATIVE.**  
Please check online for  
further information.

- **Aug 31 2020**  
**Change of Command Ceremony - VFW Sauk Rapids, MN**
- **Oct 10, 2020**  
**Ripley Rendezvous Scout Event - CAP ES Demo and Recruiting Event**
- **Oct 21-25, 2020**  
**MLA- Minnesota Leadership Academy:**
- **Dec 21, 2020**  
**Annual Bellingring and Potluck**

## National Commander's Desk 24 Jul 2020

### Pandemic Response Sets Mission Duration Record

Well, it's official. No matter how you slice it – duration, level of effort, or scope – Civil Air Patrol's COVID-19 response is our largest campaign since World War II.

**Maj. Gen. Mark Smith**  
National Commander/CEO

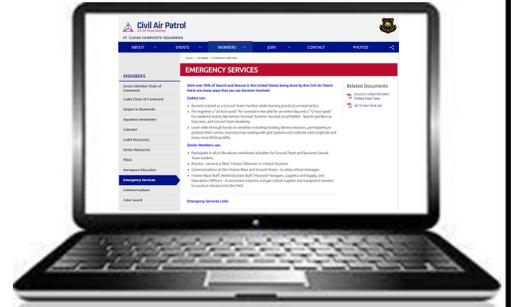
## Virtual Times

During the Covid 19 Pandemic we have had unprecedented changes in our daily lives as we have had to adjust to being at home more, not having normal summer activities, and doing more virtual learning.

As a Squadron we have had to adjust to a different version of Civil Air Patrol. We have gone virtual with our meetings and have seen the need for being flexible, having patience, and working together as a team. We have also been able to see the value of CAP in regards to Emergency Services as seen by the message from our National Commander above.

We are working towards in person meetings and currently are in a flex schedule format with two meetings a month virtual and two meetings a month. It has been nice to get together in person again - despite having to wear masks. With the recent purchase of a projector for use at the Airport Hangar we are hoping to have even more in person meetings.

We have seen an overwhelming response to the in person meetings and are grateful for the hard work and dedication of all members of the Squadron to make this possible. We look forward to being able to train together more.



## Cadet Change of Command St Cloud Composite Squadron

31 AUG 2020

### Incoming Cadet Staff

**Cadet Commander:** C/CMSgt Joshua Fisher

**First Sergeant:** C/CMSgt Connor Schwab

**Flight Commander:** C/MSgt Caleb Fisher    **Flight Sergeant:** C/MSgt Aiden Staup

**Logistics Officer:** C/SrA Samuel McCoy    **Assistant Logistics Officer:** C/Amn Leo Sun    **Public Affairs Officer:** C/Amn Leo Sun

## Interview with Incoming Cadet Commander

### C/CMSgt Joshua Fisher

#### Why did you join Civil Air Patrol?

I joined CAP largely to develop my leadership capabilities. I'm not an outgoing person, but CAP has forced me to grow outside of my box. I was also interested in the military and color guard, so CAP has given me a taste of what those are like.

#### What has been your favorite CAP activity?

Non Commissioned Officer School at Minnesota Leadership Academy - MLA. I love doing drill, whether calling or marching, and we did a lot of drill at NCOS. But I also gave my first speech at NCOS and did my first sit-leads, so it helped me grow in areas that I was really weak in.

#### What has been the most challenging experience you've had in CAP?

I think the most challenging experience I've had would be the lockdown due to COVID-19. Trying to prepare for the meetings and keep everyone engaged when you can't perform in-person activities has been difficult.

#### What are your plans for the Squadron as you become St Cloud Composite Squadron's new Cadet Commander?

A couple of goals that I have for the squadron are to get involved in the community and increase in drill proficiency. Getting involved in the community will help our squadron to get it's name out to the surrounding area and, hopefully, will help to recruit more cadets. For the drill, I think a lot of cadets really enjoy it, but they haven't had the opportunity to become proficient in it.

#### What is your ultimate goal in CAP?

I never had a minimum rank that I wanted to reach, but I am looking at going to the Air Force Academy. My goal in CAP is to grow in my leadership and gain new experiences to prepare me for the Academy.



## Emergency Services Training at St Cloud Composite Squadron

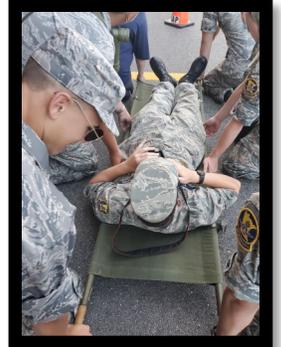
Emergency Services Search and Rescue Training consists of both in classroom work and outdoor field work to prepare you for assisting with Search and Rescue Missions.

Our first in person meeting since Covid 19 was an ES meeting and we met at the St Cloud Regional Airport CAP Hangar. We followed the protocols set forth by Civil Air Patrol for in person meetings and were able to participate in a litter carry exercise. During this exercise both Cadets and Senior Members were able to participate. This is an exercise that needs to be performed to certain specifications in order to be signed off on for Emergency Services Ground Team Training.

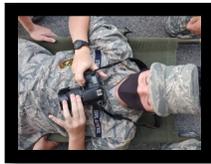
A litter carry is used in ES when in a remote location and transportation of a patient is needed. We train to lift, carry, maneuver around and over obstacles and set the litter down. When starting, the first thing to do is to make sure that the injured person is moved properly onto the litter and secured properly. The litter must then be brought to waist height to start the transport. You should have a six to eight person team and all members should be trained properly so to be able to perform a smooth lift and carry.

A brief synopsis of a litter carry:

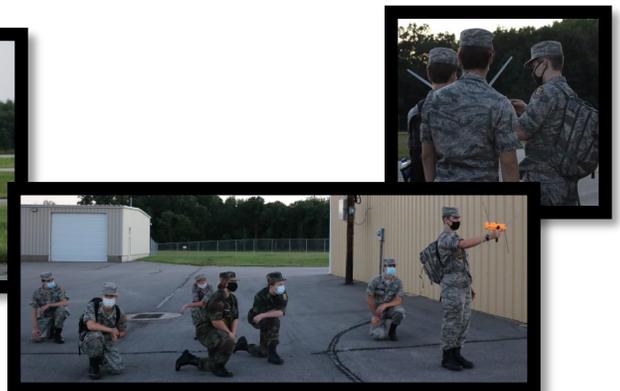
The person to the left of the patient's head is the one giving the command for the litter carry. When lifting, a command that always comes after the main command is 1 2 3, with the movement being performed immediately following 3. When picking up the litter all members face the litter, get down on one knee and grab the litter rail with both hands. When the command, "lift to the knees," is given members straighten their backs and lift, in unison, to bring the litter to the knees. On the command, "lift to the waist," everyone slowly lifts to their waist as they rise to a standing position with both hands on the litter. After the litter is lifted the team leader commands, "face front," and members then rotate their body to face the head of the litter and remove one hand. The next command is forward. It is better to not keep in step with everyone as it makes for a smoother ride for the patient. There are procedures for going around and over obstacles. To set the litter down the team leader calls, "halt," then, "face center." The members turn their bodies to face the litter and grab on with both hands. On the command, "lower to the knees," keeping backs straight, team members lower to a kneeling position with the litter in front at knee height. On the command, "lower to the ground," members bend slightly forward in unison until the litter is safely on the ground.



As a Public Affairs Officer I was able to participate in one of the carries as the patient and take pictures so that people that were not able to be carried could see what it looked like to be carried. It was weird being on the litter and having people carry me, it was kind of like a trust exercise. I did learn a lot from doing the litter carry as an injured person. One of the most important things being that it especially important for the team carrying the litter to know what they are doing to provide a smooth carry. Thanks to the training our Squadron has had I had a great team carrying me!



Our second ES meeting in person since Covid 19 was an ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitter) Search: Cadets learned how to use the radio direction finder, "cheese box," to locate an ELT with hands on training while completing the tasks of: locate a distress beacon, employ scanning techniques while on foot, move as part of a search line, and communicate with other members on a search line. We were then split into two ground teams and participated in a search for an ELT that was hidden on the airport grounds as we continue our training for mission readiness.



The Civil Air Patrol's three missions are Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Emergency Services. Emergency Services has come to the forefront during the Covid 19 Pandemic and we are proud to be of assistance to others as we continue our training. CAP Mission statement: "Supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space and cyber power."

## Emergency Services - Why We Train

Emergency Services is one of Civil Air Patrol's primary missions. St. Cloud Composite Squadron Ground Team trains on a monthly basis under the instruction of Lt Elizabeth Moscatelli to prepare and be ready for Ground Search and Rescue Missions. St Cloud Composite Squadron Air Crew trains under Maj Russ Portele and Lt Col Gregory Nastrom. With both Ground Team and Air Crew training we are preparing for any type of emergency that we may be called upon to help with.

On June 17, 2020, our squadron was contacted to help in the search of a missing person. This missing person was 83-year old Donald Leroy Wieberdink who was last seen on June 16 around 1215 CDT in Spicer, Minnesota, located near Willmar. Even though Mr. Wieberdink was in excellent physical shape, as he likes to bike 20 plus miles a day, he suffers from dementia. The Minnesota Wing Duty Officer contacted Lt Col Gregory Nastrom at 0730 on June 17, requesting aircrew from St. Cloud to aid in the search. Lt James Eblen met Lt Col Nastrom at the hangar at 0930, and after preflight of the airplane, launched at 1000. They were instructed to go to Green Lake in Spicer and make an area search around the lake and surrounding area. According to Lt Col Nastrom, "We flew about 1000 feet above ground level at a relatively slow airspeed to facilitate survey of the ground. We had been told what color clothes the missing person was wearing and the color of his bicycle. Another airplane from the Hutchinson Squadron was already on scene and was searching south of our area. About 1230 CDT we landed at Willmar to refuel and have a short rest. We launched about 1300 CDT and continued our search east of Green Lake. By this time, the Hutchinson crew had returned home and a crew from North Hennepin Squadron had replaced them. We were careful to keep in radio contact with the other airplane and make sure we didn't get too close to each other to be a hazard. By about 1530 CDT we were low on fuel and requested a return to St. Cloud."

Mr. Wieberdink was found at 1730 on June 17 about a mile from where he was last seen, missing for nearly 30 hours. He was barefoot and sunburned, but in good spirits. Lt Col Nastrom stated that, "Although we did not see Mr. Wieberdink, we must have flown over him several times. We later learned that he had been resting under trees to avoid getting sunburned!"

The Wieberdink family later issued a statement that read, in part, "We feel gratitude towards all of the law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, Civil Air Patrol, and many other service personnel who spent countless hours searching for him..."

The story here has a happy ending and this is why we train. Emergency services is an important aspect of Civil Air Patrol and this story illustrates just how important it is to be trained and ready for anything that may come our way. Submitted by: SM PAO 2nd Lt Sandra Schwab

### Cadets

#### Promotions

**Dead Rank Achievement 13** - C/Capt Katherine Olson

**Amelia Earhart** - C/Capt Tanner Ziwicki

**Billy Mitchell** - C/2nd Lt Hunter Ruhl

**Rickenbacker** - C/TSgt Michael Thielen, C/TSgt Preston Thielen

**Wright Brothers** - C/SSgt Ashley Eblen

**Feik** - C/SrA Nathan Wiener

**Curry** - C/Amn Leo Sun

#### Awards

**5 Year Clasp for Red Service Ribbon** - C/Capt Katherine Olson

**Achievement Award** - C/Capt Katherine Olson

### Senior Members

#### Promotions

**1st Lt Chuck Amundson**

#### Awards

**Achievement Award** - 1st Lt Wendi Wigham

### Challenge Coin Recipient

1st Lt Wendi Wigham

## Commander's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cadet Captain Katie Olson for her service and support to the St Cloud Composite Squadron.

All too often, many don't realize just what kind of dedication and focus it takes to be a Cadet Commander. Being in a leadership positions such as this requires the occupant of the position to be "on" all the time. You are always thinking about what to do next or how to keep people involved and motivated as well as the needs and well-being of the Cadet Corps. It sounds easier than it is, but in truth it is a tough position to manage. It takes a special kind of person to take up the duties and responsibilities of the Cadet Commander.

Katie took up the office of the Cadet Commander in August of 2019. In the interview prior to her selection as the Cadet Commander, Katie laid out a plan of action that was well thought out and detailed. She spoke about her plans for staff training, operations and activities. It was obvious to me that she had put a great deal of time into developing her plan and thinking on how she wanted her term to go. True to her plan Katie spent this past year mentoring her staff and challenging the staff and the cadet corps to raise the standards bar in the Squadron and to think outside the box. Using the knowledge that she gleaned from past leadership training events such as Encampment, Minnesota Leadership Academy and Basic Cadet Officer School, Katie armed herself with the necessary tools that helped her successfully mitigate and manage the challenges that come with any leadership role. Then, in March of 2020, life threw us a monkey wrench. As we are all aware, the Squadron and all of Civil Air Patrol came to a screeching halt due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. No one was prepared for this and no one could have seen this coming, but Katie proved herself equal to the task and set herself to work getting the Squadron back up on its feet. Katie's quick thinking and knowledge of social media and virtual media sites were a large factor in the Squadron's ability to resume functioning. In as little as two weeks, the Squadron was up and running in a virtual format. To her credit and the credit of her family, Katie is an intuitive leader. She thinks on her feet, she is not afraid to take the lead and definitely not afraid of challenges. She is a hard worker and she doesn't stop until the work is complete.

I am glad to have had the pleasure of working closely with Katie this past year. Over the past 24 years, I have learned a lot but one of the most important things that I think I have learned over the years is that you never stop learning. Katie has certainly made light of this to me as she has opened my eyes to all sorts of new possibilities.

Submitted by: SCCS Commander Lt Col Shawn Warneke

