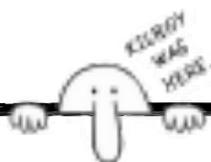




St. Cloud Composite Squadron Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- * All upcoming events are tentative due to Covid -19 so please look online for more Information
- Minnesota /North Central Region joint Conference, April 22-24 , 2022
- Encampment Preparatory School, April 29- May 1 2022
- Great Minnesota Wing Aerospace Fling , May 7, 2022
- SCCS Open House, June 4 and 11 of 2022
- MN Wing 2022 Encampment, June 25-July 2



C/CMSgt Connor Schwab and C/CMSgt Caleb Fisher have their uniforms inspected.

Cadet Competition

On Saturday, January 29, 2022, the St. Cloud Composite Squadron Color Guard competed at Bethel University for 1st place against 10 other teams in the Cadet Competition. They had to compete against the other teams in several events throughout the day. Some events were done as

a team and some were done with randomly selected individuals. The events that the team had to participate in were: Uniform Inspections, Uniform Building, PT, Indoor Practical, Outdoor Practical, Written Exam, Impromptu Speech, and a TLP or team leadership problem. Our great team consisted of C/1st Lt. Abraham Berg-Arnold, C/CMSgt Connor Schwab (Color Guard Commander), C/CMSgt Caleb Fisher, C/SMSgt Benjamin Greshowak, C/CMSgt Leo Sun, and C/TSgt Samuel McCoy. 2nd Lt Jonathan Sowada is the Senior Member that heads up our Color Guard.

For the Uniform Building, the selected cadets had to take the uniform of a cadet in a certain rank and adorn it properly with the insignia, ribbons, etc. Cadets Abraham Berg-Arnold and Leo Sun were randomly selected to do this event. In the Uniform Inspections two Cadets were chosen to have



SCCS Color Guard stands before their Marshmallow tower

their uniforms inspected by an eagle-eyed inspection officer. Cadets Connor Schwab and Caleb Fisher were the cadets chosen to participate in this event in which they placed 2nd.

PT was done before the competition and the scores were submitted a week before. The whole team participated in the written exam portion and we also placed 2nd in that event. The Indoor Practical was performed by the Cadets: Connor Schwab, Caleb Fisher, Leo Sun, and Samuel McCoy. The Indoor Practical is where the Color Guard posts the colors, like they do at squadron ceremonies, and is rated on their performance. The Outdoor Practical is where the Color Guard marches with the flag to the flagpole, then they raise the flag, lower it and fold it. They are then judged on their performance along with how well the flag is folded. Cadets Connor Schwab, Caleb Fisher, Abraham Berg-Arnold, and Benjamin Greshowak participated in this event.

The last two events that had to be accomplished was the Impromptu Speech and the TLP (team leadership problem). Cadet Leo Sun was randomly chosen to perform the task of the Impromptu Speech. Cadet Sun was given a topic and ten minutes to prepare for a speech that had to last between 2-3 minutes. Cadet Sun placed 2nd in this event! The last event was the TLP which all the Cadets had to participate in. The Cadets were given marshmallows, spaghetti noodles, a piece of tape, some paper, and 18 minutes. They had to fabricate a sturdy structure that had to be at least 2 and a half feet tall and be able to stand unassisted for at least 30 seconds.

The Color Guard did very well overall in the competition and placed 3rd overall! They hope to go back next year and win 1st place!

Interview with Lt. Raveling

on

Wreaths Across America

Q: How many years have you been working with Wreaths Across America ?

A: I started this at the squadron level about 12 years ago, and St. Cloud was one of the few at the time along with the Brainerd Squadron to do this outstate.

Q:How did you get involved in Wreaths Across America ?

A: I had seen an article in the National CAP magazine, contacted Wreaths Across America , asked questions and showed it to members of the local legion, who asked me ,if they supported my endeavor, would I make sure I had legion members or spouses covered at Camp Ripley and I told them , yes definitely. I did cover all requests that year, and it has grown exponentially over the years.

Q:What is the biggest reason you feel Wreaths Across America is a good organization to support ?

A: Wreaths Across America is a good organization to support, because they cover America, showing gratitude and respect for the citizens that have served. Along with partner organizations such as CAP, and others, we bring a quiet respect to those veterans, and a sense of pride and thoughtfulness that the families of the veterans appreciate, and know our efforts are on their behalf, and that of the nation.

History of Wreaths Across America

When Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company, was just a 12-year-old paperboy, he won a trip to Washington D.C. That is when he visited the Arlington National Cemetery. His visit left a significant impression on him that lasted him all his life. This impression made him realize how much his freedom cost and taught him how he should honor those who died for it. In 1992, his wreath-making company had an overabundance of wreaths and, remembering his visit to Arlington, Morrill knew just what to do with them.

With the help of the Maine Senator, Olympia Snowe, his family and some volunteers organized a wreath laying ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery. Members of the local American Legion and VFW posts, and volunteers from the community helped with putting a hand-tied traditional red bow on each wreath. All this included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This tribute went on for several years without notice until, in 2005, a picture of the “wreath-adorned, snow-covered, gravestones” made its way onto the internet and caused national attention to the wreath laying ceremony. In



C/2dLt Alayna Schwab
salutes a fallen Soldier

2006, Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations helped with over 150 wreath laying ceremonies around the country. During 2007, Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization, was formed by Morrill's family and different individuals.

In the course of 2008, over 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies; over 100,000 wreaths were laid, over 60,000 volunteers were involved, and Congress unanimously elected December 13, 2008, as Wreaths Across America day. During the year 2014, Wreaths Across America and its volunteers laid over 700,000 wreaths and achieved their goal of covering the entire Arlington Cemetery with 226,525 wreaths.



Wreaths Across America is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of freedom and how to honor those who have sacrificed their lives fighting for or maintaining that freedom. As a Squadron, we help with it every year and if you are interested in or have questions about selling wreaths or attending or participating in wreath layings, you can contact 1st Lt. Richard Raveling at ravelinginsurance@msn.com.

St. Cloud Composite Squadron Launches

Model Rocketry Unit for Cadets

In 2021, despite the ongoing challenges with Covid, the St Cloud Composite Squadron launched a major effort to get its members interested in Aerospace Education by kicking off a model rocketry unit led by 1Lt Steve Szymanski. The cadets worked on completing tests and acquiring the necessary knowledge at home on personal computers. They then had to participate in a rocket launch to get full credit for their model rocketry badge.



On May 16th, 2021, the cadets started off with constructing and launching rubber band propelled rockets. The Cadets then had to complete two stages, or modules, at home (due to Covid). Next they had to take a test on each stage and pass it to qualify for the model rocket launch. If they did not complete

training, they would not be able to attend the launch. By September we had 24 cadets who had finished all of the tests required to attend the launch. The cadets received model rocket kits and built the rockets at a meeting in September.

A rocket launch was planned in early October, but due to bad weather it was canceled. The rocket launch was then rescheduled to the 30th of October at the Sauk Rapids/Rice High School. On the launch day not all the cadets who finished testing were able to attend so only 16 cadets attended. Each cadet was able to launch twice, the rocket that they constructed. The first launch was with a less powerful, type A rocket engine. The second time they launched their rockets the cadets used a more powerful, type B rocket engine.

C/CMSgt Tobias Dvorak states "I would love to launch more rockets in the future". Other cadets also expressed an interest and can't wait for future rocketry opportunities. These cadets will not have to wait long because the Squadron plans to launch load bearing rockets for the next stage of the model rocketry unit. The Squadron hopes to reward the cadets for their hard work, by bestowing upon them their Model Rocketry Badge and to bolster their knowledge and interest in Aerospace Education!



C/1stLt Abraham Berg-Arnold returns triumphant with his rocket

Promotions

Awards

- Feik: C/SrA Kaden Richardson
- Rickenbaker: C/TSgt Samuel McCoy
- Lindberg: C/MSgt Jack Atwood
- Goddard: C/CMSgt George Berg-Arnold
C/CMSgt Tobias Dvorak

- CAC Ribbon: C/CMSgt Caleb Fisher
- 2 Year Red Service Ribbon: Cadet Cade Morgan
C/MSgt Jack Atwood
- Community Service Ribbon 2nd, 3rd, and 4th clasp: C/CMSgt Aiden Staup
- 5 year Red Service Clasp: 2nd Lt Peter Docken
- 20 year Red Service Clasp: Lt Col Gregory Nastrom

Congratulations to all !

Commanders Corner



Hello St Cloud Composite Squadron,

In more recent weeks, I have been having this overwhelming feeling of pride in our Squadron. I think I have been feeling that way because of the camaraderie that I see when I am walking around during meetings.

Anyone who knows me will tell you that I operate under the notion that there is a time and a place for everything. In the CAP world, that is certainly true. There are times when we have to put our game face on and be serious and professional. Generally that is when we are training or, when we are in the public eye. There is also a time for fun and for laughter, and I think that this is equally important. Yes, we can be serious and still have fun! It is on that note that I want to share a brief story.

On Monday Feb 28 2022, the Squadron had a scheduled PT night. During PT, I was impressed by how hard everyone was working. It was awesome to see all the Cadets putting forth 110% into PT. We all know that exercise isn't the most exciting thing in the world, but we get through it. What happened next though is what really caught my attention. After Pt was done, some friendly competition ensued. 4 of our Cadets got down in push up position and then proceeded to execute what is known as a four person pushup. Look it up, it's kind of fun to watch. It is also not easy to do. Following two successful attempts, the Cadets then got the idea to do a mass pushup. 20 Cadets and 3 Senior Members all got down on all 4s with feet on each other's shoulders in a one straight line and attempted to carry out this mass pushup. I can assure you it is much harder than it looks, and the logistics of it just looks crazy. I'd say we were more or less successful. Not to be out done, I then challenged two Senior Members and a Cadet to do a four person pushup with me; and push we did! Our push up attempt was also successful. What was also amazing to me was not that we did it (I never doubted that we could[©]), but the fun that was had by all from the 4 of us doing our pushup. Even though we were under the strain of each other's weight, it was cool to look around to see everyone laughing, cheering and clapping. Maybe the Cadets were amazed that Senior Members could even do a 4 person pushup; who knows? Lol. What I realized after the fact is that while I spent so much time over the last 2 years worrying about our Squadron and how we would survive covid; maybe I didn't need to worry that much after all. What we have is special; what we have is camaraderie. We had it before covid and we will have it long after covid. Our Squadron is special and unlike any other organization that I have even been a part of. We look out for each other; care for each other and help each other up when we fall. That is what I love most about our Squadron and that is just one of many reasons that I have so much pride in our Squadron.