

# OKLAHOMA WINGSPAN



Volume 1, Issue 7  
Sept. 2004



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September

17-19	SAREX WAR
24-26	SWR Conference
25-26	CN Training Chickasha

### October

15-17	SW Aircrew Competition, Amarillo, Texas
16	AE Workshop
16-23	Nat'l Staff College Montgomery, AL
23	Herkert/Lyon Wedding
29-31	FTX Lake Thunderbird
30	CD Training

### November

1-5	Inland SAR
6-7	Mission Scanner Training, Enid
19-21	SAREX Altus

## COMMENTS FROM THE COMMANDER

Col. Virginia Keller

I attended the Summer National Board in Tampa, FL (in between hurricanes). The hotel had taken in a lot of people from a Retirement Home, in Port Charlotte, that had been badly damaged. So there were a lot of people in the lobby and elevators in wheelchairs on walkers and canes and someone not realizing what was going on made the comment that "CAP has got to start recruiting some younger members". Homeland Security missions were one topic of discussion. First Air Force the lead federal agency for NORTCOM (charged with Homeland Security issues) briefing was very interesting. They see CAP as an asset to be called upon just as any fighter or other squadron would be. Safety, as always, was a big issue, and Kansas Wing won the Safety award.

The Norm Edwards CN award went to Ernie Bilotti of the Florida Wing. If you have seen any of the old videos on CN training, Ernie was the guy in the middle, usually on Norm's left. They had worked together for years and Ernie was very deserving of that award.

We are completing FY04 this month and it has been a good year for the Oklahoma Wing. We are trying very hard to get all the paperwork that has to be turned in at the end of the year completed. If you are holding some please turn it in soonest. We have to compile and send it on by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

Please continue your good work and great support of Oklahoma Wing in FY05.

*Virginia Keller, Col, CAP  
Oklahoma Wing Commander*



## SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

There is still time to make plans to attend the Southwest Region Conference on September 24-26.

It will be a "Great Networking Opportunity" and the chance to learn more about the "Best Volunteer Team in the Nation"!

It will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Market Center in Dallas, Texas.

For more information contact:  
Lt. Col. Rebecca McGinley  
281-339-1076  
rmcginley@awesomenet.net

## NATIONAL FLIGHT ACADEMY

*Provided by: J. Don Foster Mission PAO, OKWG*

National Flight Academy (NFA-OK-04) 6-14 August, 2004 at Muskogee was a success by any measure. The 22 cadets attending each received 10 hours of flight instruction, completed Ground School, met new friends, and consumed a large quantity of food during the nine day event. There was little time for socializing, though, because each day's schedule was crammed with flight-oriented activities from early morning until bedtime. A typical day began with breakfast, grabbing a sack lunch, a van trip to the airport, a full day of flight training, dinner, and ended with evening ground school at Bacone College in Muskogee.

"The goal of the academy was to provide each student with ground school and ten hours of flight instruction," said Lt. Col. Don Van Alstine, academy director. "We can't guarantee that every academy student will be able to solo in just 10 hours but we were very pleased that 12 of the 18 eligible to solo did so," Van Alstine added. Four of the 22 were ineligible to solo because they did not bring the flight medical certificate that is required to fly solo.

Van Alstine praised the instructors and staff for volunteering and making the academy a success. The 10 Certified Flight Instructors included Bruce Bailey of Bull Shoals, Arkansas, Bob Castle of Midwest City, Oklahoma, Dan Crum of Spring, Texas, R. P. Dexter of Pensacola, Florida, and Roy Hill of Arlington, Texas. Also George Noren of Stony Brook, New York, Jason O'Brien of Pope AFB, North Carolina, Chris Painter of Yukon, Oklahoma, John Pauly of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Jon Phelps of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Jim Harig, Muskogee Squadron Commander and Certified Ground School Instructor, conducted nightly ground school.

The 22 students attending represented eight states. Oklahoma cadets at the academy included Ben Barton of Dell City, Casey Cole of Oklahoma City, Chris Gutierrez of Norman, Justin Rodriguez of Pawnee, Daniel LaBounty of Warner, Robby Shepard of Ardmore, and Kyle Teter of Oklahoma City. Oklahoma Wing cadets were nearly outnumbered by those from Colorado, including Andrew Edtl of Colorado Springs, Patty Morkert of Cotopaxi, Kurt Barth of Snowmass Village, Ryan Marx of Durango, Joseph Poch of Colorado Springs, and Rebecca Roseman of Boulder. Other cadets included twin brothers Neil and Peter Pfau of Paola, Kansas, Daniel Balch of Vilonia, Arkansas, Candace Smith of Foreman Arkansas, Donald Pruitt of Richardson, Texas, Alicia Garcia of Floresville, Texas, Cameron Martin of Imlay City, Michigan, Caleb Cascairo of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and Caleb DeMarco of Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

C/Maj. Daniel LaBounty, Muskogee Nighthawks Composite Squadron, was the ranking cadet attending. He was named Cadet Commander for the academy. In addition, LaBounty became the first cadet of the academy to make a solo flight.

Staff members, including Director/Commander Van Alstine, were Doug Shipe of Broken Arrow, Commander of Cadets; J. Don Foster of Fort Gibson, Staff Assistant/Photographer; John Gonzales of Claremore, Transportation Coordinator; Martha Wilson of Guthrie, Administration; Kathy Suarez from Wing Headquarters, Administration; Clint Purtell of Muskogee, Chaplain; and Douglas Hall of Oklahoma City, Chaplain.



## CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

*Provided by Capt. John Gonzales - Director of Cadet Programs OK Wing*

It's not your average field trip to Washington! As last year's inaugural class will testify, the Civic Leadership Academy is a fabulous opportunity for cadets to learn about government, the media, and public service careers.

Please help spread the word about this opportunity and encourage your top cadets to apply. Interested cadet officers have until 1

November to apply.

Please note that this activity runs out-of-cycle with the other NCSAs, so special application procedures apply.

Learn more by visiting the Civic Leadership Academy website: <http://level2.cap.gov/index.cfm?nodeID=5546>

## AEROSPACE EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANTS

*Copied in Part from the CAP Website*

"The Aerospace Education Foundation (AEF) of the Air Force Association continues to provide outstanding support to Civil Air Patrol's aerospace education mission. We share the common belief in the importance of aerospace education to our country and AEF backs up that belief by providing grants to CAP units and educators who promote aerospace education. AEF has provided over \$110,000 to CAP to help fund our aerospace programs. AEF grants must be used for aerospace-related activities and cannot be used for flying instruction, honor guard, color guard or buying uniforms. A grant request cannot exceed \$250.

Our last CAP unit grants cycle ended

June 30, 2004. The winners are listed at the end of this article. Our next cycle is for educators (aerospace education members/school teachers) and will end September 30, 2004. Applications are due before this deadline. Please visit our website, download the application form, and send it to us. The next application deadline for CAP Unit Grants is December 31st."

Stillwater Composite Squadron was the only squadron in the Oklahoma Wing to receive a \$250.00 grant.



## AEROSPACE EDUCATION WORKSHOP REMINDER

*Maj. Kelly Wardlaw, OKWG Internal Aerospace Education Officer*

**Reminder:** All CAP members interested in Aerospace Education are invited to a one-day workshop on October 16, 2004 at Tinker AFB in the conference room.

Attendees will learn about the Aerospace Education Speciality track, and information for Squadron Aerospace Education Officers. Sample activities and resources will be explored. The afternoon will consist of a "Show and Tell"

with members sharing activities and ideas for Aerospace Education.

If you are planning to attend, please email Maj. Wardlaw ([RecLdr@aol.com](mailto:RecLdr@aol.com)), so we can get a head-count. If you have an activity you would like to share, let her know the topic and the time required.



## OKLAHOMA CADETS TOUR WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

*Provided by 2nd Lt. Sandra Schmidt, PAO Will Rogers Composite Squadron*

Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri provided a special tour for Oklahoma CAP cadets on 6 Aug 04. Seventeen members of Will Rogers Composite Squadron OK-149, based in Claremore, Oklahoma were privileged to tour Whiteman, home of the B2 Spirit bomber and the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing. CAP members toured the 442<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing's A10 "Warhog" and Missouri Army National Guard's 1-135<sup>th</sup> Attack Battalion AH-64A Apache helicopter, as well as the B2 bomber. Cadets and senior members were especially pleased to have the opportunity to board the B2 "Spirit of Alaska" and tour the cockpit. The tour also included a unit mission brief, which highlighted each unit on base, and how they contribute to the defense of America.

WRSC-OK149 members making the trip included cadets: Charles Bassett, William Bassett, Josh Young, Emily Schmidt, Eric Rimpley, Mathew Harader, Steven Inman, Phillip Mills, Sonya Martin, Jamie Ortega, Patrick Patterson and Dustin Nuttle. Senior members attending were Lt Col Charles Kietzman, Capt John Gonzales, Capt Larry Lees, 1Lt Steve Willhoite and 2Lt Sandra Schmidt. Former WRSC members Claire Patterson, who is currently a member of Central Iowa Composite Squadron IA-091 and senior member Capt Phil Patterson of Midway Composite Squadron IL-067 met with WRSC-OK149 in Missouri and accompanied them on the tour.

Special thanks to CAP USAF reservist, Maj Kevin Schoen, OKWG/CP Capt John Gonzales and Oklahoma CAP state director, Hal Gary for making arrangements for the trip. Also, thanks to SSgt Francesca Popp, USAF, who is stationed at Whiteman AFB who made preparations for, and directed the tour.



### AEX AWARDS PRESENTED

Three Squadrons in the Oklahoma Wing successfully completed the AEX II activities and the required Aerospace Education Day to meet the program requirements for 2004.

Those recognized with the Aerospace Education Excellence Award are:

Edmond Composite Squadron  
Flying Castle Composite Squadron  
Stillwater Composite Squadron

Congratulations for your outstanding work in the Aerospace Education Mission.



### FIRST SOLO FLIGHT

*by Betty M. Simpson*

Yesterday I soared through the sky;  
Saw the earth from an Eagle's eye.  
Touched and warmed by rays from the sun;  
My machine and myself transformed into one.  
This brief time belonged to me...  
Climbing higher, glancing back to see;  
Where I'd been and What I'd done...  
I realized how far I'd come.  
Yesterday, a dream. Today, a reality;  
My new awareness brought totality.

Today, I touched the sky.  
Today, I learn to fly!



## 2005 TEAM AMERICA ROCKETRY CHALLENGE OPEN TO CAP

Individual CAP units can form teams and enter the Team America Rocketry Challenge this year!

The Challenge is the world's largest model rocket contest and provides student teams with a realistic experience in designing a flying aerospace vehicle that meets a specified set of mission and performance requirements.

This year's Challenge involves building and flying a model rocket carrying one or two raw eggs that achieves a precise flight duration (TBD) and returns the egg(s) to the ground safely. Bonuses are awarded if the rocket has two stages, and carries two eggs rather than one.

Teams will consist of three to fifteen students who are in 7th through 12th grades in any U.S. school or home-school program, supervised by one or more adults who are certified as teachers (including home-school) or who are

officially-appointed group leaders in U.S. chapters of national non-profit youth organizations, including but not limited to the Scouts, 4-H, Civil Air Patrol, Skills USA and Young Astronauts. There is no limit on the number of teams per school or organization. All teams must be affiliated with and must draw all their members from either a single school or local home-school organization, or a single chapter of a national youth organization.

Only the first 1250 teams that submit a completed application package postmarked on or before November 15, 2004, will be allowed to compete in this year's event.

For more information, and to sign up to be notified about when the rules and application will be posted, please visit:

[www.rocketcontest.org](http://www.rocketcontest.org).



## ESTES INDUSTRIES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND CAP

Estes Industries, U.S. Department of Education, and the Civil Air Patrol have formed a partnership to sponsor 400 teachers in 16 areas across the country.

Through Estes Industries generous donation, 400 teachers from inner-city, disadvantaged schools will benefit as CAP Aerospace Education Members. "Estes-CAP Teacher Scholarships" will sponsor 25 teachers in each of the following 8 regions this fall: New York; Los Angeles; Washington, D.C.; Miami; Houston; Cleveland; Milwaukee; and Denver.

If you have a recommendation of a teacher that fits the criteria, please contact [kbaucum@cap.gov](mailto:kbaucum@cap.gov). Through the assistance of the U.S. Department of Education, 8 additional regions will be chosen in January.



## ARMED FORCES NETWORK AND CAP

*Marc D. Huchette*

Warren T. Lee, Chief, Radio & Television Production of the American Forces Radio and Television Service has agreed to air all our TV and radio spots on all of their stations across the world. He was able to watch our current ones off of our website and is excited about airing them on TV and Radio on a permanent schedule.

This is really a huge breakthrough for us being able to market ourselves to military men and women as well as their families. He is also interested in airing some of our specialty videos like the CAPabilities, NCC, AE and the new Technology one that was played in Tampa for the National Board.



## “Semper Vigilans”

## AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

*Paul Capacik*

As of 1 September NHQ will automatically run a routine check to find those members that are due to renew. If there is an email address in the national database, the computer will generate a renewal notice complete with the dues they are owed based on the wing. This is the first month that this email will go to members of all the wings. The email will also include a link to click on, that takes the person to e-services for immediate online renewal using a credit card.

All commanders should encourage members to use this method as it has the potential to save significant corporate dollars in manpower, paper, and mailing costs if this method becomes the norm. Also encourage members to get their email address into the national database and keep it current. This is one of many member services that can help members keep informed about matters that concern them directly.



*The OKLAHOMA WINGSPAN is the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Wing of Civil Air Patrol and is published by Public Affairs Officer Capt. Kathy Curtin.*

*Deadline for submission of articles is 25th of each month and newsletters will distributed at the monthly Wing Staff Meeting. Items will be approved by the Wing Commander and printed according to importance, timeliness, and available space. Articles submitted are printed “As-Is” and the Public Affairs Officer assumes no responsibility for correctness, punctuation, and grammar.*