



Air Trails

CAP-WESTERN NEW YORK GROUP NY-024

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January/February 2010

Volume 5, Number 9



SQUADRON OF THE YEAR – Maj. John Risio (center) Commander of the Niagara Falls Composite Squadron 1, accepts the WNY Group Squadron of the Year award from Col. Ken Andreau, NY Wing Commander (left) as Maj. Larry Skerker (right), WNY Group Commander looks on. The award was presented at the recent WNY Group Military Ball. *(Civil Air Patrol Photo)*

NIAGARA EARNS SQUADRON OF THE YEAR AWARD

DEPEW -- Niagara Falls Composite Squadron #1 took top honors at the annual Western New York Group Military Ball, January 9, 2010, at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew.

The squadron was judged the best in the group for excellence in activities, training, accomplishments, and cadet and senior achievements for 2009.

The Military Ball featured a delicious dinner, distinguished guests, and 1st Lt David Wharton served as the emcee. Following dinner, Lt Col Charles Jones presented the 2009 Year in Review and later Group Commander Maj Larry Skerker and staff presented notable awards to members for their service and outstanding achievements.

C/A1C Devin Sampson was recognized for earning the Solo Flight Badge. Cadet Sampson earned the WNY Group Solo Flight Scholarship last year. Other award winners included: Capt Aaron Conley, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron - Senior Member of the Year; C/1st Lt Timothy Anger, TAK Squadron - Cadet of the Year; C/1st Lt Bronson McGee, Jamestown Squadron - Solo Flight Scholarship; and C/2nd Lt Megan MacDonald, Jamestown Squadron - Cadet NCO of the Year. After the awards ceremony, it was time for fun with a little dancing. The Military Ball is a great opportunity for all members from the group to get together and celebrate their achievements. I know we all look forward to attending again next year.

My thanks to everyone in the squadron for all of their contributions and service last year. Our hard work has been duly recognized. Here's to another great year in 2010!

(Submitted by Maj John J. Risio)

MORE MILITARY BALL HIGHLIGHTS - Here are more details of the Western New York Group's annual Military Ball held at Salvatore's Italian Garden on 9 January 2010. The Ball was to recognize WNY Group members' activities and accomplishments as well as to honor individuals for the year 2009. There were 131 people in attendance. Thanks to all that attended and congratulations to the award winners.

The following special guests were in attendance:

Col Kenneth Andreu , Commander New York Wing; Lt Col David Sommers USAF, Liaison Officer; Lt Col Thomas Carello, Chief of Staff, New York wing; Lt Col Rolland Zavada, former NYW Chief Check Pilot & Director of Standardization & Evaluation; Lt Col Bill Hughes, NYW Director of Operations; Lt Col Diane Wojtowicz, NYW Director of Safety and NYW Web Master; Lt Col Charles Miller, Finger Lakes Group Commander; Lt Col David Hunter, Deputy Commander Finger Lakes Group; Lt Col Jim Pierson, New York Wing Aircraft Maintenance Officer; and Maj Mike Pearson, New York Wing Standards and Evaluation Officer.

TAK Composite Squadron provided the Color Guard; Lt David Wharton was the Master of Ceremony; Chaplain Lt Col Wood provided the invocation; Maj Larry Skerker, Group Commander, and Col Andreu had a few remarks to the group. The "Year in Review" was presented by Lt Col Charles Jones.

Service awards were available for the following members:

20 Years -- Lt Col John Galuski, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron
20 Years -- Maj Tyrone Ulrich, Dunkirk Flight
25 Years -- Maj Jackie Erckert, WNY Group
30 Years -- Maj Ronald Houseman, WNY Group
30 Years -- Maj Daniel Hunter, TAK Squadron
30 Years -- Lt Walter Paluszak, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron
30 Years -- Lt Gary Shoffstall, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron
35 Years -- Capt Gerald Bainbridge, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron
35 Years -- Capt Donald Nichols, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron
35 Years -- Capt Donald Rexnard, Jamestown Squadron
35 Years -- Lt Col Patricia Tolsma, WNY Group
55 Years -- Lt Col Herman Goldstein, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron
55 Years -- Lt Col Barbara Manley, WNY Group

Cadet awards were presented by Maj Ellen Maternowski, WNY Group Cadet Programs Officer, with the assistance of Major Skerker

Mitchell Awards were presented to C/2Lt – Megan MacDonald and C/2Lt – Erika Snell, both of Jamestown.

The Spaatz Award was presented to C/ Col Elizabeth Anger at the TAK Banquet in November.

As for Senior awards: Grover Loening- Maj Wayne Busch and Capt Mike Johnson, Staff Officer of The Year – Lt Norman Beitz, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron, and Senior of the year – Capt Aaron Conley, Niagara Frontier Senior Squadron.

Northeast Region Aerospace Education Officer of the Year- Capt Thomas Baldwin, Niagara Falls Composite Squadron (awarded at the Wing Conference).

Northeast Region Cadet Programs Officer of the Year- Maj Ellen Maternowski (awarded at the Wing Conference).

CAP members/ former members on active duty/ Reserves/ Academy: Capt Charles Anderson, US Army-425th Field Artillery Reg. 3rd BR Watertown , NY; Capt Brian Busch USAF- Instructor, 341st Space Wing Great Falls Montana; 1Lt Brent Miles- Operations Intel, Luke AFB Arizona; Cadet 1st Class Jonathan Lewczyk, USAF Academy, Pilot Training; Cpl Al Mehlretter, India Co., 3rd Bn, 25th Reg., U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Buffalo, NY; SPC Andrew Mehlretter, U.S. Army, Intensive Care Unit LPN, Iraq; PFC Sean Scharlau, U.S. Army Reserve, Command Specialist 401st CAB Webster, NY; PFC Michael Allen , U.S. Army National Guard, Fort Bragg then Afghanistan; Spec. David Fehlman, U.S. Army National Guard, Fort Bragg then Afghanistan; John Blanton, U.S. Air Force. A1C Andrew Dexheimer, USAF Maintenance School; Cadet 4th Class Austin McCain, U.S. Army ROTC, Rochester Institute of Technology; A1C Joshua Larwood, USAF-Nursing Residency, Andrews AFB Washington D.C.; SrA Corey Paden- USAF, Utah; Cadet Lt Josh Terry – USAF, Wyoming; LCpl Abby Wharton-USMC, Okinawa Japan; and 2Lt Liam Taylor-USAF, Lackland AFB. **(Submitted by Lt Col Charles B Jones).**

NEW YORK WING HARLEY DAVIDSON RAFFLE -- This year's First Prize is a.....2010 Harley Davidson Iron 883 Sportster in Grey and BadA** Black. It can be yours for the price of a Raffle Ticket (\$20.00).....if you are the lucky winner. Tickets will be sent out soon so get your order in.... only 2500 tickets will be sold. But if you can't wait, send a check made out to: New York Wing - Civil Air Patrol, New York Wing Headquarters - Civil Air Patrol, 24 Loop Road - Building One, Westchester County Airport, White Plains, New York 10604-1218, or call 914 683 1000 to ask for further details. Drawing will be May 2, 2010, at the Lac du Sacrement Banquet cruise at the New York Wing Conference at Fort William Henry, Lake George, NY.

DOOLITTLE RAIDERS – Surviving Doolittle Raiders will hold their 68th reunion, April 16-18, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The reunion will include a free public autograph session, educational event and memorial service. Of the nine living Doolittle Raiders, only five plan to attend the reunion, according to Maj. Gen. Charles Metcalf, USAF Retired, museum director. The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association plans to fly in 25 B-25 Mitchell bombers for the reunion. If their efforts are successful, it will be the largest gathering of B-25s since World War II.

NOTAMS & PLASTIC – The FAA began a transition from paper Notices to Airmen in January in several test locations, including Southern Calif. TRACON, Denver Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT), Amarillo, ATCT, Tallahassee ATCT, Las Vegas ATCT and Boise ATCT. Also, deadline for the replacement of paper airman certificates will be March 31. Pilots with paper certificates after that date will not be able to exercise their flying privileges, except for temporary certificates issued under CFR 61.17 or a student pilot certificate issued under CFR 61.19, paragraph (b.).

AMELIA EARHART – To tie to the recent release of the feature film about Amelia Earhart, a temporary exhibit was placed in the Seattle Museum of Flight featuring photographs and video clips, her flight suits, a makeup compact and smelling salts. One of Earhart's scarves was carried into space by astronaut Randy Bresnik aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis in November. Bresnik is the grandson of Earhart's personal photographer, Albert Bresnik. The scarf, on loan from the Museum of Women Pilots, was one of her favorites, but she declined to take it on her last flight. Meanwhile, a watch that belong to Earhart, in the possession of the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchinson, Kan., is on loan to astronaut Shannon Walker who will be on the International Space Station for six months later this year.

UND UAV PILOT DEGREE -- The world's first degree course for unmanned air vehicle pilots has started at the University of North Dakota, with 12 students.

Known as the Unmanned Air System Operations course, it will be a four-year bachelors' degree, equipping students with pilot skills and the technical and operational knowledge they will need to be able to fly UAVs in all environments.

Jeffrey Kappenman, head of the university's unmanned aircraft centre, says: "Primarily the market is still military, but a lot of that is shifting over time. It's going to be a huge market in the future."

The university is talking to the Federal Aviation Administration about its wish to set up a 35,000km² (13,500 miles²) UAV flying range over North Dakota that the university's centre can use for UAV research as well as pilot training with real - rather than simulated - UAVs.

Professor Ben Trapnell says: "What we hope to do is educate and train students with the best available technology that exists, but we know that technology is going to change extremely rapidly. We may even need to teach courses in technology that has not hit the street yet."

NER SAFETY POLICY -- The mission is paramount...and safety is inextricably linked to mission accomplishment. The hallmarks of a world-class flying and emergency services organization are discipline, obedience, and precise execution. Discipline includes adherence to the law, regulations, standards, checklists and organizational procedures. Obedience is loyalty to the organization to its core values. Safety cannot be bypassed for the sake of convenience. Leaders at every level are charged with enforcing existing standards and ensuring everyone applies sound risk management in instances not specifically covered by the rules. Commanders and supervisors will be held accountable for compliance. LEADERSHIP ... ENFORCEMENT ... ACCOUNTABILITY. Established by Col. Robert Diduch, former Northeast Region Commander, this policy is effective immediately and will continue in effect until further notice. All members must read and understand this policy. It is to be incorporated into all new members' Level 1 training. Also, it must be reviewed with each member when a CAP Vehicle Operator's Permit is issued, and when a CAPF 5 and CAPF 91 check ride is given.

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME – *If your squadron has an item of interest for the group newsletter, please e-mail me at flyboy@flmtgif.org. Special thanks to Cols. Robert Diduch and Ken Andreu, Lt. Cols. George Fillgrove, Charlie Jones and Dick Loew, Kentucky Wing, and Maj. Larry Skerker, Ellen Maternowski and John Risio, for contributions to this issue.*
