



February Issue 2007



WHAT IS A SAREX AND WHY WOULD I WANT TO ATTEND?

By 1st Lt Ruth Peterson



When I joined CAP, I started hearing about an event called a SAREX . I eventually found out that SAR was an acronym for Search And Rescue, and EX stood for the word EXercise. However, since I knew that I was not really cut out to go out into the wilds or up in the air to look for lost people or downed aircraft, I didn't try to find out more. Since that time, I've learned that a SAREX is a vital part of the CAP mission, and I can play a very important role. A SAREX is actually a very complex set of tasks, each one just as necessary as the next, but when many people train for each one of the specific tasks required, we can come together as a team to get the job done.

I will list a few of the activities required for a SAREX or actual SAR mission.

- ❖ Ground Team - this is the group of CAP members that had always come to my mind when I thought of Search and Rescue. These are the ones who don their 24-hour packs and head out into the hills and woods to do the actual searching for lost people and downed aircraft.
- ❖ Radio Operators - Members of the ground team need to know how to operate a radio to be able to communicate with the base. However, there needs to be people at the base that can communicate with those out in the field. Having more than one or two well-trained and experienced base radio operators makes events go much more smoothly, and the work can be spread to ease the load. You must take a class and have an ROA card to work with radios.
- ❖ Pilots, Scanners, and Observers - These tasks are for the officers in the squadron. Training is available for member pilots to learn how to fly missions specific to CAP. The scanners and observers are passengers in the plane. The observer helps the pilot with navigation and can take over the flying of the plane, if necessary. The scanner's job is to look for the lost person or object on the ground. CAP offers schools for both observer and scanner, and the SAREX is the training ground for the trained officers.
- ❖ Base Co-ordination - With ground teams out in the field and aircraft flying the mission, plenty of trained people need to be available to co-ordinate all the activities.
- ❖ Admin and Finance - How much are we spending for fuel? Can we afford to fly another sortie (air mission)? How do we get another tent? The van broke down; how much to get it fixed and where? One doesn't normally think about all the money and paperwork during a crisis. We just go out and find the people or take care of the problem, right? Well, we can wish that to be true, but the money needs to be tracked, and the paperwork needs to be done. Training is available during a SAREX for these tasks as well.

There are still more tasks, but this is a taste of all the jobs that come together to make a Search and Rescue event successful. It takes training and practice to get people up to speed in each job.. These events provide both the training and practice in each task to make us able to work together successfully in the event of a crisis. There is a task that is suited to just about every personality and skill level. The only requirement for attending a SAREX is to pass the Curry test and take the GES 116 test available online. Take advantage of the available SAREX training events to find your preferred task and train to be part of the team.

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Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Commander's Corner</i> | 2 |
| <i>Promotions</i> | 3 |
| <i>Cadet of the quarter</i> | 3 |
| <i>February Birthdays</i> | 3 |
| <i>Websites of Interest</i> | 4 |
| <i>Upcoming Events</i> | 4 |



Cadets!

Please have your parent or guardian sign here to indicate that they have received and read the FIREBALL.

Parent Signature:

Cadets should bring a signed FIREBALL with them to the first drill after they receive it.

**The Change of Command is complete, Now what?
What can we expect as a squadron in the Civil Air Patrol?
1st Lt Dan Whalen, Commander, LCCS**



**CIVIL
AIR
PATROL**

***Drug
Free and
Proud!***



Before answering that question, I would like to thank Lt Col Larry Mason for his leadership and honest, no nonsense "Git R Done" style of working with our squadron. I have learned a lot about leadership from Col Mason and hope everyone in the squadron has had a chance to get to know him and learn from him. I look forward to working with Col Mason as he assumes the roll of Wing Director of Operations. This is a HUGE job, and I am sure that Col Mason will appreciate any help he can get. Good Luck!

My personal expectations for our squadron are that we will continue in the fine traditions we have had from the past, create new traditions, and set new high standards as we progress into the next couple of years. The Lewis County Composite Squadron is poised on the edge of greatness. I truly believe in the fact that we have the finest group of cadets, senior members, parents and supporters possible. We have demonstrated the ability to work together on large projects like the BME, Motivation Phase Weekends, Air Fair, Lewis County Fair, flower bowl sales and the Seattle to Portland Bike Race.

Our cadets have more opportunity to study, learn and be tested than any squadron in the state. Our senior member ranks have grown and there will be opportunities for training and learning to work as a team which believes in one another to get the job done. With the addition of Captain Mark Greenman as the Wing Glider Operations officer and a member of our squadron, we are set to have an increase in the number and frequency of Powered and Glider Flights.

As we finalize our Squadron Goals for 2007, consider the things we have listed as goals and think about how you can be a part of making them come to life. Strive to be an expert at your job - Learn, Grow, Read and Reach for the Top!

2007 Lewis County Composite Squadron Goals

Attain a top 5 position in the wing and "Most Improved Squadron"

*** Emergency Services**

Two Ground Teams / Complete and Ready for action

2 Ground Certified Team Leaders

100% GES / Squadron

100% CPR / First Aid

100% ROA / Squadron

100% OPSEC / Squadron

5 Working towards Advanced Communication User Level

85% + Radio Net Participation

*** Aerospace Education**

Aerospace excellence award

Orientation Flights

2 for each Cadet / Powered or Glider

3 Cadet Orientation (Powered) Flight Pilots

2 Cadet Orientation (Glider) Flight Pilots

2 Mission Pilots

2 Scanners

2 Observers

*** Cadet Programs**

Promotions

5 Officers at Mitchell (2d Lt) or above

12 New Staff Sergeants

Recruiting / Retention

25 New Cadets / Retain 80% or more current Cadets / Retain 90% of New Cadets

All Members to talk to **at least** two prospective members

5 New Seniors

1 ES Officer

1 Supply Officer

1 Leadership Officer

1 Plans and Programs Officer

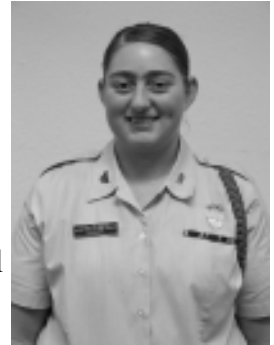
1 Personnel / Admin Officer

January Promotions

- *Andrew Martin from AB to Amn*
- *Jake Madaris from Amn to A1C*
- *Kayla Hughes from A1C to SrA*
- *Paul Anderson from SrA to SSgt*
- *Karrie Hoksbergen from SSgt to TSgt*
- *Tommy Whalen from MSgt to SMSgt*
- *Ruth Peterson from 2d Lt to 1st Lt*
- *Francis Hodges from AB to Amn*
- *TJ Williams from Amn to A1C*
- *Robert Marlow from A1C to SrA*
- *Eric Tibbits from SrA to SSgt*
- *Jonathan Peterson from TSgt to MSgt*
- *Jonathan Shea from SMSgt to CMSgt*
- *Rita Whalen from 2d Lt to 1st Lt*

Cadet of the Quarter C/SrA KAYLA HUGHES

Each quarter, the cadet staff chooses a cadet to be honored as cadet of the quarter. This is the cadet who has been observed to attend functions, help other cadets, look sharp in their uniform, and maintain an overall 110% attitude. C/SrA Kayla Hughes is the first cadet chosen for this honor. She will wear the Cadet of the Quarter Cord on her shoulder until the end of the next quarter when a new cadet will be chosen. All the cadets should work to make this the toughest decision that the staff can make!



FIRST ANNUAL LCCS AWARDS BANQUET

Over 100 Cadets, Officers, friends and family attended the Lewis County Composite Squadron (LCCS) annual banquet held at the Salvation Army building in Centralia, Washington,. During the event, awards were presented and promotions were acknowledged. The guest speaker was Col. Ron Averill, a Lewis County Councilman, and retired Army Colonel. Group III Commander Lt Col Kandyce Lewis was also on hand at the event.

Colonel Ted Tax, the Washington Wing Vice Commander, was present to oversee a change of command for the Squadron. 1st Lt Dan Whalen took over the command of the squadron from Lt Col Larry Mason who has taken a position with Wing as Director of Operations. A change of command for Cadet Commander was also performed. C/Maj David Peterson transferred command to C/2d Lt Kyle Whalen.

- Rising Star Award - 2d Lt Bill and C/SSgt Eric Tibbits
- Pathfinder Award - 1st Lt Roger and C/CMSgt Jonathan Shea
- High Flight Award - Maj David Painter and C/TSgt Jeremy Jackson
- Righteous Award - Lt Col Larry Mason and C/TSgt Karrie Hoksbergen
- 110% Founder's Award - 1st Lt Dan Whalen and C/Maj David Peterson
- Cadet of the Year - 2d Lt Kyle Whalen



February Birthdays

- 5 Gary Dickinson
- 13 Ian White
- 21 Skyler Sorsby



Websites of interest for Cadets:
National CAP Website
(Check out the National encampments! You must sign up for them by the end of Dec.)
<http://www.cap.gov/>
Washington CAP Website
<http://www.wawg.cap.gov/>
The Hock Shop (For Uniforms)
<http://www.thehock.com/>



OFFICER DRILL SCHEDULE

THURSDAYS IN FEBRUARY

6:30 pm— SCOUT LODGE
At 3rd and Adams
Chehalis, WA

| DATE | TOPIC |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Feb. 1 | Business & Planning Drill |
| Feb. 8 | Senior Training |
| Feb. 15 | No Drill |
| Feb. 22 | Senior Drill |

Important Dates—Add to your Calendar TODAY!

For More Info, go to www.wawg.cap.gov. Click on Members. Under Members, click on Cadet Programs. All the info is there! If you have any questions about events (price, how to apply, etc) call your 'higher-ups', and they can help you out! That's what they are there for!

10 March - SAREX in Bremerton. We will try to take a group to this exercise. This is an opportunity to work toward becoming ground team qualified.

13 - 15 April - Spring Conference. All cadets and officers should consider this an important event to attend. This year's conference will be held in Yakima, and C/Maj Houston Pye will be commander, so you know there will be lots of training and fun involved. The conference also always ends with a banquet which is a great social time for everyone!

11 - 13 May - Mo Phase weekend. Put it on your calendar now!

18 - 20 May - SAR conference. Again, we will try to get a large group to take up to Crystal Mountain for the weekend for lots of fun and training.

8 - 10 June - Another BME. Get your apps in early. Cost \$75.

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for articles is on the 15th of the month.

Schedules must be in by the 20th. Send to the editor at Grpete@centurytel.net

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