



The Squadron held its annual holiday dinner at Banquet Masters on December 2. About 36 members and guests attended the event. The highlight of the evening were the awards presentations to various Squadron members for meritorious service to the Squadron throughout the prior year.

Also the evening included a ceremony to commemorate the donation of 2,000.00 from the now disbanded P 40 Warhawk Pilots Association to the Squadron. Major Nader's father Eli Nader (deceased) served in WWII in the US Army Air Force with Cary Salter, treasurer of the P 40 Pilot Association, and former commander of the Mississippi CAP Wing. They maintained a lifelong friendship. When Major Nader learned of the potential to receive a distribution of a portion of the funds, she contacted her father's buddy. A slide show depicting 1st Lt. Eli Nader's WWII warbird adventures in his P-40 and P-51 was shown during the evening.

The evening was capped off by a fantastic dance performance by Jack Wholley and his dance partner, performing a tango and a fox trot.

Written by Joyce Nader

### **November 20th the Pinellas Senior Squadron had a non-funded mission.**

There were five sorties with LtCol.Larry McConnell and Lt.Bob Smith first flying the plane to St. Petersburg Air port. Then Larry McConnell as pilot with Mike and David flying the second sortie while Lt. Adrian Curta and Dan Antrim were in the third sortie. The fourth sortie included Major Wholley and Lt. Deese. The plane was returned to the Clearwater Airport by pilot Lt. Col. Larry McConnell and Lt. Bob Smith. These sorties were practice flights in case of any future rescue needs for this area.

### **MEMBERS ATTEND TEA DANCE**

On November 4, 2009, at the St. Petersburg Colisium, Major Jack Wholley and Lt. Wynelle Deese represented CAP during their annual Veteran's Day Tea Dance. Major Wholley who is a well-known dancer, introduced Lt. Deese to several of the dances and mixers to meet new people. There were prizes and snacks. All Military organization were represented at the dance in uniforms giving the dance over 100 people in attendance.

### **NEW MEMBER**

Elliott Smith has joined CAP to fly missions. He wants to be able to fly with CAP, rescue and educate. He see CAP as a way of pursuing his dreams of flying and aerospace education. He was born in New York and grew up in New York and Canada. One of his best childhood experiences was in his first airliner trip. His interest as a child included reading and flying. He is now married and is in college working on a PhD in Biochemistry. His other interest includeing aerospace medicine. He achieved the International Honor Society and National Dean's list. He has traveled to Ghana Africa and wants to be known as Elliott.

### **CHANGE OF COMMAND, DECEMBER 9TH**

LtCol. Ken McMahon as senior member of the squadron, presided over the Change of Command. Major Eugene Olson was retiring as Commander and Lt. Robert Smith has accepted that position. An award was given to Captain David Mead for being the fastest to progress as a new member in flight Instruction and Cadet Orientation Pilot. Other squadron members included Lt. Adrian Cuarta, Capt. Joyce Nader, Major Jack Wholley, Lt. Dan Antrim, Lt. Wynelle Deese, Mike Lt. Col. Larry Tellies, Lt. Col. Vivian Olson, Major Walt Pleasants, and SM Elliot Smith.

We are fortunate to have a new Commander who has been in CAP for several years, has experience in our squadron and has already contributed to the organization as our Safety and Personnel Officer. He grew up on a farm near Valparaiso, IN and graduated from Purdue University. He spent 31 years in various GM engineering positions in SE Michigan and feels that they were in good shape when he left them. He has been married to Carole for 36 years. He is an Amateur radio operator and private pilot. He only drives trucks and has not owned a car for nearly 30 years. His goal for the squadron is SAFETY FIRST and everything else as time permits.

We all wish Major Olson the best after being relieved of the Command and give him our thanks for a well-done job. He assumed Command at a time when the organization had lost several of their leaders and Major Olson successfully filled his responsibilities. We hope to continue to see Major and LtCol Olson as they have both contributed significantly to our organization.