

FLIGHT TRAINING

On the last weekend of March, the members of Pinellas Senior Squadron conducted a successful non-funded Flight Clinic for all senior members. With the help of Dave Lawson of Group Three serving as the Flight Release Officer throughout the weekend, FL SER 182 was able to fly 8.1 Hobbs hours, which is equivalent to 5.6 Tachometer hours in N6498F the CAP corporate aircraft CAP Flight 8-25.

Enthusiasm among the members, excitement about new skills learned, and joy in washing the plane together brought this weekend together for the twelve senior members who flew this weekend. For the first time in a long time, Pinellas Senior Squadron flew a practice "Sundown Patrol" supported with air to ground radio communications continually with Major Bob Scott on the ground providing communications coordination. John Flournoy and "Dutch" Hinkle were able to work with Bob Scott by cell phone on the ground setting up the CAP radios so the "Sundown Patrol" was a grand success. Though we were a little late launching, the "Sundown Patrol" was very effective in team coordination and skill development.

Many hands made light work as ten of the individuals dove into the aircraft-washing project at Noon on Saturday. The shop vacuum cleaned the inside of the plane. Then we used the aircraft cleaning solution donated from a solid supporter of CAP to clean the outside of the plane. Quickly the plane began to shine. The enthusiasm mounted as this little plane became more than just another airplane. This plane emerged as "the Group Three CAP plane." Together we planned the familiarization flights for the afternoon for scanners and observers. Some senior members were able to fly in the aircraft for the first time. A few moments after takeoff from Albert Whitted Airport, one senior member in training to become a scanner said, "This plane rides a lot different from a 727."

The plane was washed. Senior members flew for the first time in the CAP plane. One pilot worked on improving mission pilot skills. One from five pilot worked on his flight proficiency. Many senior members gathered skills as scanners and observers. This weekend made a difference for the better. Our squadron is on track to building mission ready teams. Step by step...this weekend was a winner.

Senior members who flew were Major Gene Olson, Captain Pete Crawford, Lt. Col. Larry Tellier, 2nd Lt. Thomas Teamoh, 1 Lt. Russ Gerber, 1 Lt. Wynelle Deese, SM James Janota, SM John Flournoy, Capt. Dutch Hinkle, Capt Mary Hinkle and SM David Curran.

Written by Lt. Col. Larry McConnell

NEW MEMBER

Another new member has shown outstanding interest in our training programs. John Flournoy has gained membership because he wants to serve our community and be involved in the Albert Whitted Aviation Community. He wants to participate as air and ground crew activities.

John has a M.A. in Art and Education. He is retired and married with one child and one grandson. He enjoys art, sailing, and community service. His work experience includes teaching in a remote island of Micronesia.

He was born in Indiana, Munster and we welcome him into our mist. He has made a fast start by attending the Saturday ground school training sessions.

PROMOTIONS

SM Dutch and Mary Hinkle were both promoted to Captains. Each gained that promotion in their own right since Dutch has a Ph.D. and Mary is an attorney and CPA. Both have taken on jobs at the squadron, Dutch is the Training Officer and Mary is our Personal Officer. They both continue to provide leadership to the squadron.

Major Jack Wholley has completed Level IV for promotion to Lt. Col. He was awarded the Chuck Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award in August, 2005.

MAY & June 2006 DATES TO REMEMBER

May 10th-CAP MEETING
MAY 17th-CAP MEETING
MAY 24th-CAP MEETING
MAY 31st-EATING AND MEETING
June 7th-CAP Meeting
June 14th-CAP MEETING
June 21st-CAP MEETING
June 28th-CAP MEETING

SCOTT CROSSFIELD DIES

The world of aviation and Civil Air Patrol has lost a wonderful piece of history and a great friend. Col. Scott A. Crossfield, 84, former test pilot died in an airplane crash in northern Georgia on 19 April 2006. He was alone flying in his 1960 Cessna 210A from Prattville, AL to Manassas, VA when the plane disappeared.

Col. Crossfield was a gunnery instructor and fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy in WWII. He received bachelor and Master of science degrees from the University of Washington. He became a research pilot for 5 years at the High Speed Flight Research Station at Edwards, CA. He was the test pilot for many research aircraft including the X-1, X-4, X-5, XF-92, D-558-I and D558-II. Scott Crossfield set four speed records on 20 November 1953 and became the first person to reach Mach 2. This was accomplished in an air-launched, rocket propelled D-558-2. Later he became the NASA program manager and first project pilot on the X-15 rocket powered research aircraft. He was the pilot of the first 30 demonstration flights of the X-15.

Scott Crossfield was a strong supporter of teachers using the aviation concepts in their classroom. A selection committee chooses an aerospace education teacher of the year. Annually, at the National Conference on Aviation and Space Education he, personally, presents the winner the Scott A. Crossfield Award with a check for \$1,000.

One Aerospace Education teacher wrote the following: “ I headed to the museum on Sunday of Sun 'n Fun and discovered the gentleman who owned Fantasy of Flight was planning to make a tape, conversing with Scott Crossfield. Assuming it would be interesting to watch, I hung around. Scott wandered in and was just waiting. I took the opportunity to speak with him, telling him how important NCASE had been to me, among other things.”

“Then the taping began--of the nose of the bomber (Fertile Mertle) since that was the one Scott was dropped from with the rocket plane, when he exceeded mach 2. Interesting to listen to the conversation. Then, the news came that he had been killed in a plane crash, so soon after and a shock!”

Written by Lt. Col. Vivian Olson

CITY COUNCIL HEARING of Albert Whitted Airport Master Plan

On April 20, 2006, at 6 pm a City Hall Hearing was called for the final public review of the Master Plan for Albert Whitted Airport. Attending the meeting was our Commander, Pete Crawford, Deputy Gene Olson and Lt. Thomas Teamoh. The session was open to public opinions and issues of Aviation concerns. Major Olson made good statements of facts and concern for our CAP Squadron future involvement at this facility. After a presentation by the development firm, the council invited everyone to a ground breaking ceremony the next day, Friday, the 21st at 11 am with the Mayor and other VIP sponsors. This event will start the official construction of the New Airport Terminal Building, a long over due city project.

Written by 2nd Lt. Thomas Teamoh

OPERATIONS

The plane, back from the 100 hour inspection, will be used extensively for training and proficiency flights in the coming weeks. The Pinellas Senior pilots will fly a minimum of 20 hours a month. That's an average of 45 minutes a day. The plane will be scheduled out of Whitted frequently to make it easier for St. Petersburg pilots, scanners and observers to have access to the plane.

GPS Simulator training with the companion power point will continue to be taught in the meetings using multiple computers. Additional training will include the CAP radio and the aircraft audio panel. As often as possible the plane will be flown to Whitted for hands-on training.

Written by Major Olson

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Major Eugene Olson and a few Cadets will help launch rockets for school children on Wednesday and Friday, May 3 and 12th, for a long-time teacher friend. The two schools are King's Highway in Dunedin and Skycrest Elementary in Largo. These aerospace education classes are after school programs taught by volunteer teachers. The programs grew out of the national "Young Astronauts Program".

On May 8th Duke, a graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy, will be at the school to formally present a moon rock for permanent display. The public is invited to the 10am ceremony. Charlie Duke was the lunar pilot for the Apollo 16 mission to the moon. It was at one of the Young Astronaut conferences that we met astronaut Charlie Duke.

Soon after joining the Civil Air Patrol, Lt. Col. Vivian and Major Eugene Olson's met Marie Grein, a local fifth grade teacher who has helped develop and institute several aerospace school programs in the Pinellas County Schools. Ms. Grien never stopped teaching aerospace even after retiring. She now helps after-school programs at two schools. It is for these classes that the rocket launches will be held.

Ms. Grien obtained her private pilot's license, joined the Women Pilots group "The 99s", is a member of Women in Aviation and is active in assisting with FAA safety seminars. If you were at the October Albert Whitted airshow, you would have seen Marie Grein sitting in the CAP booth working with the 99s. We look forward to working with Marie for several more years of rocket launches.

Written by Major Eugene Olson

Fly A Teacher

The Civil Air Patrol Fly-A-Teacher program is being marketed through the distribution of flyers to various Middle Schools. The Drop Out Programs are a great source of teachers who may be interested in activities in which to introduce their bright and active students that need an outlet for their energies.

Civil Air Patrol has limited funds for this first-come, first-served program. Once the funds are gone CAP funding ends. However, the local pilots and supporting members will be allowed to self fund.

REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST!

Editors: 1 Lt. Wynelle Deese

2 Lt. Thomas Teamoh