



# The Newsletter

## POLK COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON

Volume 2, Issue 2 — March 2011



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### Finally!

After months and months of delays, Shuttle Discovery had a picture-perfect launch on February 24th. Her mission will be extended from 11 to 12 days. Her journey will end at the KSC shuttle landing facility and Discovery will be retired and sent to the Smithsonian Institution where she will be treasured always.

CAP Colonel Eric Boe is the pilot on this mission.



# Commander's Call

By: 1st Lt. James K. Peto, Commander

## **What's on Jim's mind?**

With the month of March upon us, we can look forward to warmer and wetter weather on the horizon. Our anticipation turns toward mission training, orientation flying, and all the activities associated with the warmer times of year. Our immediate future though, holds more. I am excited to see our rocketry program moving along and cannot wait to launch the Titan rockets. That should be a fun day. I am also encouraged that our senior members will be brushing up on their Customs and Courtesies as well as basic drill movements. Thanks to Lt. Col. Hall for organizing this.

The calendar is filling up fast as Sun-N-Fun and the Wing Conference approach quickly. If you have not already done so, please sign up to help out at Sun-N-Fun this year. You need to send an e-mail to [sunnfun@flwg.us](mailto:sunnfun@flwg.us) detailing who you are, when you can be there, and what you can do to help. Wing Conference registration is open online at <http://flwg.us>. The big news is that Lt. Col. Michael Cook will be promoted and become the new Florida Wing Commander replacing Col. Chris Moersch. The cadets will have their own conference agenda that will keep them busy.

Group 3 has had to shuffle around the cadet orientation flight schedule because of funding. The following dates are set: March 12th at Clearwater, April 9th at Vandenburg, and May 14th at Crystal River. Priority will be given to first-flight cadets. If more funds become available, more flights will be scheduled, but for now, this could be it for a while.

Thursday March 10th at 7:00 p.m. we are having an Air Force meet and greet. It will be in Winter Haven at the clubhouse of the

Carlton Arms apartments. Major Scott Spitzer from the Air Force Academy will be there as well as the local Air Force recruiter to discuss possibilities and answer questions that cadets, homeschoolers, or their parents may have. This is an open invitation to join us. For more information, please contact 1st Lt. Jim Peto at 407/569-6999 or [jpeto@flwg.us](mailto:jpeto@flwg.us).

Over Memorial Day weekend, the Florida Parent Educators Association will be holding its annual homeschool convention at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Kissimmee. I have the pleasure once again of being the event coordinator for Civil Air Patrol. It gives us a chance to showcase our programs as well as our members. Cadets and Senior Members are encouraged to come and help out. We will have a static display booth with various activities, including Alka-Fuji rockets and the Fatal Vision goggles. We will also be providing a color guard for the keynote address. Please contact me if you wish to join us.

The arrival date of the aircraft is still up in the air. The problem is with the glider, not the plane. But the plane needs to be checked out with the glider to be sure that both are operational and can fly together. It could be weeks or even months before it gets here, but I am very jazzed about the opportunity to have a CAP aircraft here at Winter Haven. What we need to concentrate on is getting more aircrew trained and ready to go. Mission pilots, scanners, and observers are needed. Take advantage of all the training that is offered and fly whenever possible. I'd hate to get a call for a mission and not be prepared.

Until next month, remember...

*"It is better to be wrong too soon than right too late."* (Yuri Gagarin)



## Squadron Birthdays

19 March — SM Roland Jones

26 March — SM Herminio Cuervo



## Random Ribbon

### International Air Cadet Exchange Ribbon



Awarded to cadets and senior member escorts that participate in the International Air Cadet Exchange outside the continental limits of the U.S.

# Blinks

Squadron website: [www.polkcountycomposite.webs.com](http://www.polkcountycomposite.webs.com)

Group 3 Website: [group3.flwg.cap.gov](http://group3.flwg.cap.gov)

Florida Wing website: [flwg.us](http://flwg.us)

CAP Website: [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com)

CAP eServices: [www.capnhq.gov](http://www.capnhq.gov)

## Attractions

1 Mar — Squadron Meeting (Aerospace Education & Achievement Testing)

5 Mar — CPR/Basic First Aid Class (Squadron Headquarters)

8 Feb — Squadron Meeting (Leadership Class & Cadet Class)

10 Mar — Air Force Meet & Greet (Carlton Arms of Winter Haven)

12 Mar — Group 3 Cadet Powered Orientation Flights (Clearwater Airpark)

15 Mar — Squadron Meeting (Safety, CPFT & Drill)

22 Mar — Squadron Meeting (Emergency Services & Character Development)

26 Mar — Sun-N-Fun begins (Lakeland Linder Airport, runs through 3 April)

29 Mar — Squadron Fun Night

## *This Month In History*

44 B.C. — Julius Caesar is assassinated on the floor of the Roman Senate (15 Mar)

1770 — The Boston Massacre takes place (5 Mar)

1836 — The Alamo falls to General Santa Ana (6 Mar)

1874 — Magician and escape artist Harry Houdini is born in Hungary (24 Mar)

1879 — Scientist Albert Einstein is born in Germany (14 Mar)

1934 — Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, is born in Russia (9 Mar)

1979 — The Three Mile Island (PA) nuclear plant nearly melts down (28 Mar)

1989 — The *Exxon Valdez* runs aground in Alaska spilling 11 million gallons of oil (24 Mar)

