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# AIRWAVES

Winner of the 2009 Belsam National Award for Excellence

## RMMA AIR SHOW AND FLY-IN A HUGE SUCCESS!

by  
Capt P.D. Sargent.

*Not only was the 2010 Rocky Mountain Metro Airport Air Show and Fly-In a success wowing crowds with marvelous aircraft displays but even more amazing were the pilots who fly what looks to the observer as impossible machinery. "How does something that heavy soar through the air?" children asked.*



Photo courtesy of Michael Glover, Professional Photographer

Recruitment Officer, 2d Lt Dennis Mercer, and Public Affairs Officer, Capt Patricia Sargent, planned and staffed the squadron Information Booth. More than a hundred adults stopped to inquire about Civil Air Patrol and fill out applications and inquiry forms; numerous young people signed up to be cadets.

Aerospace enthusiasts awed by the spectacle of skill and bravery and the chance to serve something bigger than themselves strolled through displays of strength and service of the Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Coast Guard, and Civil Air Patrol. CAP recruiting team members met and greeted crowds of people who showed a strong interest in a compelling organization that provides the opportunity to rear young people in a safe and meaningful environment while also offering adults the opportunity to "give something back" to the community in appreciation for their own successes.

*Continued on page 2*

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**CELEBRATING THE JOY OF AEROSPACE**

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## STATIC DISPLAY

Pilots, and those whose dreams were to be pilots someday, came to check out the Cessna 182, which was the static display in front of the booth. Many spun yarns about their years in the service “oh, so many years ago.” Families took photos of the children who climbed into the pilots seat under the watchful eye of Capt Jason Rew and others who staffed the static display throughout the weekend. Everyone was vigilant about safety.



Capt Paul Carter explains the role of the Cessna 182 in CAP'S Search and Rescue efforts.

Members of the Civil Air Patrol Foundation reported each day along with squadron members whose job it was to meet and greet the people. Volunteers met the requirements to leave the chairs to the weary and stand in front of the booth to welcome visitors. The effort paid off. Colonel Gary Tobey and SM Patty Sampers, Col John Buschmann and even Wing Commander, Col Phelka, remained active throughout their shift. The excitement was electric when the crowds came. Col Tobey said the booth was the best recruiting effort he had ever seen. “And I’ve been around a couple of years,” he quipped.

## KIDS AND DOGS

Children gravitated to the booth to pet “Chewie,” the Search and Rescue Dog accompanied by 1stLt Jack Permison from Black Sheep squadron. The pair moved throughout the Air Show throughout the

weekend, but tended to settle back at the Jeffco’s shady tent where Chewie’s “mobile



Photos left and right columns by Capt P.D. Sargent

house,” water bowl, and lots of TLC awaited. “Chewie” is the only SAR dog in the wing. Cadets love him, and he seems proud to serve.

## EVERYDAY HEROES

Among the 312 volunteers, senior members and cadets pitched in to form a cohesive cadre of a well-trained work force. Cadets worked hard. Many spent the night in the camping area provided, ate camp chow, and helped wherever they were needed, mostly at the DDR booth, manning the glider, talking to visitors at the CAP booth, refreshing water for the CAP volunteers, controlling crowds that wandered



Capt Don Bessee, directing the Trash Patrol.

Photo by PAO 2d Lt Lisa Sowell, Broomfield Composite

.An everyday hero was Capt Donald Bessee, Operations Officer from Vance Brand Cadet Squadron in Longmont. Bessee has assumed supervision of the trash patrol at the Air Shows in recent years. It is a long and strenuous day, providing bags and containers for trash pick up and supervising cadets and managing their assignments. He could be found long after the air show was over, policing every inch of the air show area looking for left over tidbits by flashlight.

In all events wherever hundreds of people congregate, trash removal is crucial, not only for health reasons, but also for safety. Blowing trash can cause accidents on taxiways and runways--anywhere airplanes need to move from place to place. Airport management was adamant about cleaning the tarmac and the surrounding areas before anyone was allowed to leave. Foreign objects debris create aircraft damage, FOD.

Another unsung hero was Lt Col Tricia Toussaint, who cooked for the hungry hordes--three meals a day--and slept on the site to be able to be up early for cadets and their sponsors who would arrive early. Toussaint was the leader of the 2010 Cadet Encampment this past summer and was used to providing for the always-hungry teens. It was a hot, sweaty job in the heat of August days. Like Capt Bessee, she did the work calmly and steadily not complaining about the work load, the blazing sun, or the overload.



Lt. Col Tricia Toussaint, made sure everyone was fed throughout the weekend Air Show activities. In addition to her leadership with Ground School, teaching First Aid/CPR classes, planning a Wing Conference, and conducting cadet Summer Encampment, she has served Civil Air Patrol wherever needed for many years.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

An entire family contributes a group effort to support CAP events 1st Lt Ken Graham and his three children, 1st C/Lt Col Caitie Graham, 1st Lt Megan Graham, and, C/Capt Travis Graham. worked the entire weekend. Dad and daughters manned the registration, and son, Travis assisted PAO 2d Lt Lisa Sowell photographing the air show. The three siblings sang the National Anthem at the show.



A family working together: Megan and Caitie greet each volunteer with a smile.



These young Graham singers express their love in the songs they sing. Left to right 1st C/Lt Col Caitie Graham, who was Cadet Squadron Commander until October 27; Lt Megan Graham, and C/Capt Travis Graham. The group sings at many public and church events.



Photo on this page by PAO 2d Lt Lisa Sowell, Broomfield Composite Squadron



Western Air Flight Academy provides meeting space for Jeffco Squadron.



Recruiting team shown are 6 Jeffco squadron members, 3 Foundation Board members, and 1 "Chewie," SAR dog in a hot tent.



Maj Ralph Nations staffs the Communication van to account for all volunteers making sure of everyone's whereabouts and safety.



Army, Navy, Coast Guard, firefighters, law enforcement, and Civil Air Patrol represented service to our nation.

Photo by Lisa Sowell, PAO Broomfield Composite and Capt P.D. Sargent



A senior officer stands with his honor guard after they had performed at the opening ceremonies.



2d Dennis Mercer, Capt Jennifer Kauffman, Col Ed Phelks, Maj Skip Hyde, and Capt Patricia Sargent. Mercer and Sargent were Booth Planners

Photo by Capt P.D. Sargent

# Perspectives

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Unforgettable personalities attending the air show included Kathryn Gunderson, who joined Civil Air Patrol cadets in 1941. When CAP was started, *The Chicago Tribune* announced openings. She and her friends, were among the very first cadets.

“Laer,” she said, “the Navy was looking for women pilots to train in a Line Trainer, for instruments.” She and her friend went to Atlanta, Georgia for training. It was the first time she had been away from home. “There, I was with a group of about twelve to fifteen women pilots who were taught how to operate the Link Trainer,” she said. Her job was then to train Marines.



Kathryn Gunderson, former WASP.

Once trained, the Marines taught the WAVES. “They wondered, “What kind of woman would fly an airplane?” she said. But Gunderson was a WASP and was under a six month contract. “Fortunately,” she said, “the Navy had to give me a release, so I entered the Women Army Service Pilots with the Army Air Corps and was stationed at Sweetwater, Texas for further training.”

“She carried her wings,” said her daughter, Patrice Gunderson, “and flew to Lubbock, Texas where she ferried airplanes and towed gliders.” Kathryn Gunderson added, “Those gliders were actually moving targets. They used live ammunition.” Musing over the past, the pioneer CAP cadet and early member of the

WASPS said wryly, “Some of the shooters were not too good a shot.”

In the training command, mishaps were blamed on the women.”When anything went wrong, she said, “the officers asked, ‘Was it one of the girls?’”

The usual doubts about women’s abilities, strength, and endurance always cropped up. “Can you fly eight hours a day?” they were asked. “But it was not very long that they wanted more WASPS to come,” she said with a smile. Eventually though, enough men were trained, and the women were expected to leave just as the “Rosie the Riveters” had to leave the factories and personal income when the soldiers returned home.

The WASPS were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Jacqueline Cochran, who started the WASPS, was the first woman pilot and the first woman to break the sound barrier. She is now deceased. The WASPS were the first women to be able to fly military aircraft, and Kathryn Gunderson was among the first!

Another notable woman was Emily Warner, a member of the Ninety-Nines, an international organization of licensed women pilots from 35 countries. She said she had been flying for over fifty years. Since the Wright Brothers took flight in 1903, women have made a significant contribution to aviation, but like entry to other



Captain Emily Howell Warner of Denver, is a member of the Ninety-Nines, and a pilot with fifty years experience.

male-dominated organizations, the climb wasn't easy. It took women willing to test their mettle in endurance, speed, altitude, and other competitions to gain attention to the fact that women pilots were there to stay.

The Ninety-Nines came into being November 2, 1929, at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York. One hundred seventeen American women pilots were invited to assemble for mutual support and to advance aviation for women. The group struggled to organize and grow, but it was not until 1931, when Amelia Earhart was elected as first

president that recognition came. The group chose the name for the 99 charter members.

The organization, is comprised of professional airlines, industry, and government pilots, who also teach. "We are pilots who teach and pilots who fly for pleasure; we are pilots who are technicians and mechanics," says the organizational information found at [http://www.ninety-nines.org/index.cfm/about\\_the\\_organization.htm](http://www.ninety-nines.org/index.cfm/about_the_organization.htm)

Currently the Ninety-Nines comprise over 5,500 members throughout the world.

## Perspectives



A firefighter gets a better look at the aerobatics, crowds climb aboard interesting aircraft, moms find a creative way to watch their kids in a crowd, a GSAR guy climbs aloft to seek commander heights, Uncle Sam really wants YOU, and "Chewie" takes his master for a break from the sun. The atmosphere was filled with fun, amazement, and a strong sense of community.

## AWARDS & PROMOTIONS



SM Karl Feth is promoted to 2d Lt. He also completed LV1



SM Joe Dunigan is promoted to 2d Lt



SM Aaron Rhoads completed LV1. Aaron is a new Flight Operations team member.



SM John Rhoads completed LV1 John has joined the finance Team

Squadron Meeting Photos by Arif Gezalov

## Presenter

Highly respected for her work as Incident Commander, flight instructor, experienced pilot, and a host of other leadership positions, Lt Col Sue Wolber was the presenter for the August meeting.

Having been involved in a landing incident, Col Wolber, who had been the check pilot, told of the sticky web of paperwork, rules, regulations, FAA and CAP restrictions, and ultimate combined grounding of nearly a year.

The squadron sat in amazement and awe to think that this kind of accident/incident could happen to any pilot. Potential pilot members left the meeting after the presentation wondering if CAP would protect them.



Supporting Wolber and eager to hear her version of the incident that has kept her grounded for nearly a year are Maj Bill Waite, 2d Lt Jo Waite, Lt. Col Vic Hauser, all from the Boulder Squadron; Group II Commander, Maj Ryan Lord; and Lt. Col Sue Wolber, and Maj Roy Schutt COWG Director of Professional Development, both of Thompson Valley.

Wolber detailed the rules and guidelines pertinent to the pilots in the audience and advised of AOPA legal assistance, rental flight insurance, whom to call immediately, and the appeal process. Her N652CP accident last October and the frustrating experience of the appeal process is a sobering lesson.

✓ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Happy  
Birthday!



**JOHN BUTLER  
TOM PORCARO  
ROD TAYLOR  
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**NOVEMBER**

6 Air Crew Clinic

**DECEMBER**

4 Air Crew Clinic

8 Mountain Flying Seminar \*\*

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**Colorado Pilots Association, CPA**, has numerous fly-in opportunities--many in Colorado, some out of state--too many to print here. For more information visit [www.ColoradoPilots.org](http://www.ColoradoPilots.org)



**ARE YOU INSURED?**

Check pilot, Maj Sue Wolber's harrowing experience with a landing incident while working with a student last October led to a full year of red tape, FAA and CAP inspections, and ultimately a hefty bill for the damage incurred.

The on-going web of paperwork, rules, regulations, FAA and CAP restrictions, and ultimate combined grounding of nearly a year in addition to legal fees and ultimately rejection of appeals begs the question of whether AOPA pilot insurance would be worth the investment.

**AOPA Insurance Agency**

[www.aopaia.com/renter](http://www.aopaia.com/renter) .888.255.2672

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# Contributors

## PHOTOGRAPHER

2LT ARIF GEZALOV



With his experience and focus, he takes outstanding pictures of special events, meeting, SAREXs, and Civil Patrol life in general. Arif is the Senior Software Engineer at Webroot Software Inc. in Boulder. Please see his photos on pages 7.

*Many thanks to photographers*

*2d Lt Lisa Sorwell, Broomfield squadron PAO, C/Capt Travis Graham Dakota Ridge Composite Squadron, and guest Michael Grover professional photographer.*

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*Thanks to proofreaders*

*Maj Bruce Hertelendy, Dick Sargent, and Capt P.D Sargent.*

*And a big thanks to Maj Bruce Hertelendy for his "Cessna Under the Rainbow" photo for this month's banner.*

