



U.S. CIVIL AIR PATROL
SQUADRON 442
KERRVILLE, TEXAS

MONTHLY NEWS

“ReCAPping what you need to know March 2024”

Maj THOMAS KING CAP
SQUADRON COMMANDER

Maj GEORGE OTTO CAP
ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDER

LTC JOHN MURRAY CAP
DEPUTY SQUADRON COMMANDER

1st Lt. MARK DEL TORO CAP
DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR CADETS

Capt DIANN BLACK CAP
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Maj JOHN DORIE CAP
SAFETY OFFICER

COMMANDER’S CORNER (John Murray for Tom King)

Tom was in Colorado at the time of the meeting which was conducted in person at the Kerrville Airport by John Murray (Deputy Squadron Commander) and via Zoom by Tom in Colorado. This next squadron monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 3 April 2024 and will be conducted both in-person and via Zoom.

DATES & EVENTS TO REMEMBER

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHO
Squadron Monthly Meeting	KERV Conference Rm + Zoom	Wednesday, 3 April 2024	Squadron members and guests
April ES Training Exercise	Kerrville Airport (KERV)	Monday, 19 February 2024	ES-Qualified members
Spring Eclipse Mission	Kerrville Airport (KERV)	7 – 9 April 2024	ES-Qualified members

For additional information on these activities, contact either Tom King (210-467-7678) or John Murray (830-285-3248).

ADMINISTRATION (Roberta Himebrook, Bill Wood and others)

TXWG Annual Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas 2-4 May 2024. The conference will be held at the Marriot San Antonio Airport, 77 NE Loop 410. Group V will play an active role in helping conduct the conference. Several in our squadron have indicated interest in attending the conference. The annual CAP National Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas 15-17 August 2024. This will be a great opportunity to attend a national conference close to home! More on this in the next couple of months.

The squadron bank account balance remains at approximately \$7,000.

OPERATIONS/EMERGENCY SERVICES (Bob Hamm)

Bob said that he continues planning for March and April ES (SAREX) training mission including the scheduling of air sorties. A number of sorties were conducted in late February – early March, operating out of KERV.



On 19 February, Mike Duc (San Marcos squadron) brought the near-new C172 at the San Marcos Airport (KHYI; N592CP) and Chris Spradley (Bexar County squadron) brought the new C172 at the Stinson Airport (KSSF; N271CA) to Kerrville in order to qualify our pilots with the Nxi and Electronic Stability Protection (ESP) systems in these aircraft. Bob Hamm, Gary Black, John Murray and Tom King each qualified after completing abbreviated Form 5 check rides in these aircraft with either Mike Duc or Joe Sorensen (check pilots). Tommy Hayes is working with Joe Sorensen to get qualified in the C172 as well as its Nxi system. The plan within our squadron is for these individuals to conduct training on the use of the Nxi and ESP systems for the other air crew members of the squadron.

Bob and Tom King flew N794CA down to Corpus Christi International Airport on 20 February, participating again in the Counter Drug/Padre Island National Seashore mission (PINS). Roger Corbin is the new PINS coordinator for our group. Bob is working with Roger planning near-future PINS sorties.

The squadron’s planning for the spring 2024 annual eclipse mission is essentially complete. Bob Hamm, Mark Del Toro and Tom King have participated in a series of MS Teams conference calls conducted by Chris Baker, TXWG ES Officer to assist other Group V squadrons in their planning for the eclipse. The annual eclipse will occur on 8 April 2024. Our participation in this mission will be very similar (but not identical to) the fall eclipse mission last October 2023. We also continue to work with the Kerrville-Kerr County Emergency Management team in coordinating funding via the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) for this mission. Our air crews will again provide aerial reconnaissance and aerial photographs along major highways and intersections as well as streets and visitor viewing areas to support Kerrville and Kerr County efforts to analyze crowd sizes and observe critical infrastructure before, during and immediately after the April eclipse.

The Mountain Flight Clinic (MFC), which our squadron hosts each year, will be conducted on the weekend of 26 – 28 April 2024 in Alpine, Texas. If you plan to attend this exercise, you should make your hotel reservation at the Hampton Inn – Alpine, requesting a room within the CAP block of rooms. The next MFC planning session will be held on Tuesday, 19 March 2024 in-person in the KERV conference room as well as via Zoom. Staffing needs will be a major topic of discussion.

The 166th AVN BDE training exercise (U.S. Army ATC training) will take place in May. Bob and Tom will fly in this exercise on 5 May; Hayes together with either Gary Black or John Murray will fly in the exercise on 11 May. Each day's participation involves flying first to Temple, Texas. Then over to Ft. Cavazos (formerly Ft. Hood) where each CAP aircraft will fly continuously around the traffic pattern to give the Army ATC trainees practice working with multiple aircraft. The exercise will also include diverting a single CAP aircraft at a time to conduct a PAR approach under the control of these Army ATC trainees.

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE (Tommy Hayes)

The squadron airplane (N794CA) airplane was flown a total of 29.3 hours (Hobbs / 24.6 hours tach during February. The airplane has a total of 83.8 hours (Hobbs for Fiscal Year 2024, keeping us in track for the required minimum of 200 hours each fiscal year. N794CA will go to Denton to be utilized in the USAF Rated Preparatory Program (RPP) for active-duty Air Force members who wish to enter the USAF pilot training program. The next 100-hour inspection will be due in less than 50 hours. Thus, the airplane will go from Denton to 100-hour inspection at Tac Aero (T82). Bob Hamm has been working to secure our use of one or more other CAP aircraft for our participation in the Eclipse mission and the MFC if needed. Tommy asks crews to please continue to be diligent when checking oil levels and let him know each time oil is added.

CADETS (Mark Del Toro)

Tom King together with Scott Purdy and Mark Del Toro gave an AE presentation that Tom and Bob were to give last January (but was cancelled because of adverse weather). The topic is "Use of Aviation Sectionals and Navigation". Working in pairs, the cadets created a basic flight plan using San Antonio sectional maps. The intent is to coordinate this presentation with near-future cadet orientation flights ("O-flights").

There will be no cadet orientation flights sooner than sometime in late April or in May because of the squadron airplane not being available. Bob will continue coordinating with Marquel McNeill, squadron O-Flight Coordinator, on schedules for cadet orientation flights.

Scott Purdy is planning another CAP-provided STEM kit activity called "Snaptricity". With the Snaptricity STEM Kits, cadets use hands-on activities to explore how electricity and magnetism is used in daily items. Using the kit, the cadets demonstrate the workings of magnetic fields, electricity, parallel circuits, and switches.

Mark Del Toro and the cadets made a road trip to the NASA John Space Center in Houston, Texas on Saturday, 24 February 2024. Mark reported that both cadets and seniors had a great time there.

If you have any interest in participating on any of these cadet activities (or other cadet activities), please contact Mark Del Toro, Deputy Commander for Cadets. Your participation would be greatly appreciated!

SAFETY (Dan English)



Dan discussed "suicide prevention". Suicide is not inevitable for anyone. Understanding the issues concerning suicide and mental health is an important way to take part in suicide prevention, help others in crisis, and change the conversation around suicide.

Risk factors are characteristics that make it more likely that someone will consider, attempt, or die by suicide. They can't cause or predict a suicide attempt, but they're important to be aware of.

- Mental disorders, particularly mood disorders, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, and certain personality disorders
- Alcohol and other substance use disorders
- Hopelessness
- Impulsive and/or aggressive tendencies
- History of trauma or abuse
- Major physical illnesses
- Previous suicide attempt(s)
- Family history of suicide
- Job or financial loss
- Loss of relationship(s)
- Easy access to lethal means
- Local clusters of suicide
- Lack of social support and sense of isolation
- Stigma associated with asking for help
- Lack of healthcare, especially mental health and substance abuse treatment

By starting the conversation, providing support, and directing help to those who need it, we can prevent suicides. Evidence shows that providing support services, talking about suicide, reducing access to means of self-harm are just some of the actions we can all take to help others.



Remember that TXWG mandates that all members must participate in the monthly safety briefing prior to participation in any squadron activity including air operations. This participation must be documented. Your signing in at the monthly squadron meeting completes this requirement. You need no more safety briefing for this month. If you cannot attend a particular monthly meeting, respond "RECEIVED" to the e-mail to which the monthly newsletter is attached. And you'll get credit for the safety briefing.