

*Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302  
Celebrating 50 years of service in 2007*



# Full Throttle



Monthly e-newsletter of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302, Arizona Wing, Civil Air Patrol  
Deer Valley Airport, Phoenix, Arizona

*50 years of service to Arizona and America — 1957-2007*

1Lt. Paula Ramage, Squadron Commander

*Vol. 1, No. 9 — May 2007*

## *Celebrations to begin!*

### **Squadron to mark 50th anniversary**

**Fifty years have passed.** Thousands of hours and perhaps a million miles have been logged in the air by scores of dedicated volunteer flight crews.

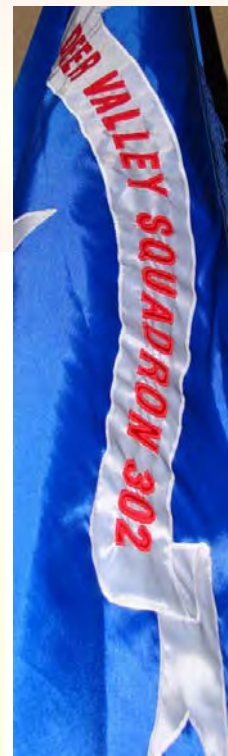
Many other equally dedicated volunteers have coordinated communication, participated in ground teams, served as cadets, taught and absorbed aerospace education, and shaped the character of the next generation.

All told, hundreds proudly have served their community, state and

nation as members of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 of the Civil Air Patrol. And now, the time has arrived to commemorate this dedication to excellence as the squadron celebrates its 50th anniversary with special cadet and adult observances.

Time is running short to ensure your participation in these events. Please see details on page 2 and be sure to attend.

**Happy 50th Anniversary, Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302!**



#### **Inside Full Throttle**

- Remembrances of 37-year squadron member 3
- Wing conference open to adults, cadets 4
- Getting to know: Squadron first sergeant 5
- Cadets part of winning regional team 6
- 3 complete Wing SLS or CLC 6
- Wing introduces new Web site 7

*See the May-July Quarterly Training Schedule (QTS) for upcoming events and contact information. Also, go to <http://azwg.us> to view activities within the Civil Air Patrol's Arizona Wing.*

## Adult anniversary celebration is May 4 ...

A gala celebration at which adult members, past members, parents and guests will observe Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302's 50th anniversary is only days away, yet the deadline for ticket purchases looms even more near.

Tickets, priced at \$23 per person, must be purchased by Monday, April 30, to attend the gala, which is scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday May 4, at Phoenix Elks Lodge No. 335, located at 14424 N. 32nd St., Phoenix. The lodge is located just south of Acoma Drive, the midpoint between Thunderbird and Greenway roads.

Chicken, fish and beef will be served as buffet entrees along with salad, vegetables, dinner roll, dessert and ice tea, coffee or water. A cash bar will be open throughout the evening.

**Lt. Col. Pete Feltz**, a former commander of the squadron, will serve as master of ceremonies and lead those assembled through remembrances of the squadron's past 50 years. Special guests at the event include **Phoenix Vice Mayor Dave Siebert**, **State Rep. Nancy Barto** and **Col. William Lynch**, commander of the Civil Air Patrol's Arizona Wing. Special messages from other dignitaries also will be shared.

A squadron open house from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Monday, April 30, provides the final opportunity to purchase tickets. Allowances can be made to pick up tickets the night of the event provided arrangements for payment have been made. Contact **1Lt. Paula Ramage**, squadron commander, at [kcramage@cox.net](mailto:kcramage@cox.net) with questions.



### *Full Throttle*

**Full Throttle** is the monthly e-newsletter for officers, cadets and friends of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302, Arizona Wing, Civil Air Patrol. Its mission is to bolster communication with and among officers and cadets, enhance awareness of squadron activities, and share news and information about the squadron and its personnel.

The newsletter also can be viewed on-line at <http://azwg.cap.gov> and following unit links.

Story suggestions and submissions can be forwarded by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication to **2Lt. Jerry Porter**, squadron public-affairs officer, at [civilairpatrolsq302pao@cox.net](mailto:civilairpatrolsq302pao@cox.net).

To guarantee receipt of the newsletter, readers should ensure their e-mail addresses and other contact information remain current with the squadron and on e-services at [www.capnh.gov](http://www.capnh.gov).

**Vol. 1, No. 9**

**May 2007**

### ... Cadets to enjoy 'burger burn,' picnic celebrations

Cadets from Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 will celebrate the squadron's 50th anniversary with a pair of observances: a "burger burn" during the squadron's open house from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Monday, April 30, and a picnic from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at Cactus Park, 39th Avenue and Cactus Road.

Burgers will be sold for \$5 each at the open house, and money likewise should be brought to the picnic to raise funds for encampment. Parents are welcome at both events.

# *37-year squadron member reflects on serving with ‘like-minded people’*



*Maj. Tim Beckwith, a 37-year member of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302, is shown with some of his aviation-related memorabilia in the background.*

*Editor’s note: Following is but a sample of the great memories and fellowship that await at Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302’s 50th anniversary gala on Friday, May 4. Remembrances such as this certainly give reason for your attendance at this special event.*

*By Maj. Tim Beckwith  
Safety Officer*

First, the promotional message: Safety is a state of mind – keep it up front in all you do. Whether at home, driving, flying or cadet activities, use extra caution with anything that has the potential to cause you harm.

Examples include any electricity or plug usage, fueling vehicles or aircraft, or being in proximity to anything that’s in motion such as a vehicle, running mo-

tors and machinery in operation. Don’t let these things hurt you. Pay attention!

Okay, that gets the inescapable safety message out of the way.

I realized a few weeks ago Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302’s Civil Air Patrol (CAP) birthday is my CAP birthday as well. 1957 indeed was a good year! My early years in CAP were as a cadet in Connecticut, and I have many fond memories of growing up in this fine organization.

The last 40 years have been in CAP’s Arizona Wing, and all but three of those years have been in Squadron 302. Those other years were with the Arizona Wing as governmental services director (now called counter drug) and related services with state and federal agencies.

I’ve been thinking of the reasons I’ve spent 37 of my CAP years in Squadron 302 and have come away with some interesting items. Certainly, foremost is aviation with its function in CAP activities of all types, be it searching, counter-drug missions, cadet orientation flights, various flight training or proficiency flying.

But more so, it is being associated with the like-minded people whom Squadron 302 has been proud to have as members these last 50 years. It’s the people in Squadron 302 who make it work and provide the fellowship along with those who support us at the group, wing, region and national levels in our organization.

I might take two or three minutes at the anniversary celebration on Friday, May 4, to speak

*(Continued on page 4)*

---

## ... Squadron veteran shares memories

*(Continued from page 3)*

of some of our past members, at least two of which gave their lives in conjunction with CAP activities. Also, Squadron 302 facilities have been located at Deer Valley Airport, at least since my association with it started in 1966. We've been housed in great facilities – thanks to the City of Phoenix. We've had many corporate aircraft assigned to the squadron to help us perform our missions. But most of all we've had great people.

I love CAP flying and CAP aviation. Squadron 302 made much of it possible:

- **1961** — Jet-orientation course with five hours in a U.S. Air Force T33 jet;
- **1973** — Flying one of my children, **Rich**, in Squadron 302's L-19 doing flour bombing (when it was permitted) and making spot landings at Buckeye Airport with other bird dogs;
- 1990 — Being a target for the first F-16 intercept to test the U.S. Customs agreement with the U.S. Air Force (and got good video of it, too);
- **2003** — Being in flight with **Dave Hay** of Squadron 302 on the very day and minute the Wright Brothers did their thing exactly 100 years before;
- **2004** — When some 302 members and I flew a loose formation (okay, it was parallel runway traffic-pattern work) with the

world's largest airplane, an Anatov 225, at Williams Gateway Airport;

- **December 2006** — When I took one of my grandchildren, **Matthew**, a cadet in Florida who was visiting for the holidays, for his first CAP flight. How proud I was!
- And last, but not least, when my wife, **Patricia**, a fellow CAP member and a cadet at Squadron 301 a few years back, was receiving her flight training in the 1970s, I spent several CAP flights flying with and following after her on her solo flights, several of which are momentous and add to many, many special moments doing things together.

Squadron 302 had been a senior squadron for most of its years but became a composite squadron around 1990 when the old 307 Cadet Squadron joined us. It used to meet in Sunnyslope. Our cadet ranks have continued to be as successful as the adult portion, excelling in earning many honors from national and wing headquarters. Best of all is the contribution the squadron has provided to help many of our youth grow up in a selfless and respectful manner. Again, people are what matter.

So happy anniversary, Squadron 302! I'm privileged to have been associated with a great bunch of people sharing such noble, common interests.

## Wing conference open to adults, cadets



In addition to the Quarterly Training Schedule (QTS), please note this upcoming event of interest for Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 adult officers and cadets:

- **Arizona Wing Conference** — This annual event for adults and cadets is set for Friday through Sunday, June 1-3, at the Pointe Hilton Resort, 7600 N. 16th St., Phoenix. Details are available on-line at [azwg.us](http://azwg.us).

Getting to know

# After being ‘dragged’ to program, squadron first sergeant is leader

As first sergeant of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302, C/MSgt. Aaron Masengale has multiple responsibilities in his role as the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC).

Following are questions and answers to help cadets and adult officers become better acquainted with this squadron cadet leader.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Q: When did you join CAP and the squadron?**

- I joined in November 2004.

**Q: What led you to join the organization?**

- My neighbor, C/CMSgt. **Melissa McCarger**, literally dragged me to orientation one day, and it really sparked my interest. I’d heard a lot about emergency services and the cadet program and liked what I heard and saw.

**Q: What is your current position within the squadron?**

- I’m the squadron first sergeant, which means I’m the NCO (non-commissioned officer) with the highest authority. The flight sergeants and element leaders come to me with any problems. I serve as the cadet commander’s right-hand man.

**Q: What other positions have you had within the squadron?**

- I have been giving leadership classes and have served as the orientation NCOIC, the NCOIC drill instructor, flight leader and element leader.

**Q: In which community do you live and where do you attend school?**

- I live in Glendale and am a junior at Apollo High School, where I’m a member of the varsity swim and wrestling teams.

**Q: What are your career goals?**

- I want to get a college degree — my field is undecided as yet — and then become either an active-duty officer in U.S. Marines or U.S. Army or go into the medical field as a paramedic or firefighter.

**Q: How can CAP help you in those endeavors?**

- In CAP, I just want to promote as much as I can, go to as many NCSA (National Cadet Service Academy) events as I can, get as much out of the program as I can and give back to the program as much as I can.



**C/MSgt. Aaron Masengale**



## Squadron cadets part of winning regional team

Two cadet members of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 will be heading this summer to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, to defend the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet National Championship after the



*C/Maj. Matt Ramage*



*C/CMSgt. Caleb Eaves*



*C/2Lt. Jessica Bayne*

Arizona Drill Team and Color Guard recently won first-place honors overall in the Southwest Region Cadet Competition for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations are extended to squadron members C/2Lt. Jessica Bayne and C/CMSgt. Caleb Eaves, who will be taking part in the national competition, as well as C/Maj. Matt Ramage, who will be unable to participate in the national event because of an injury. Teams from Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arkansas participated in the regional competition.

## 3 members complete Wing's SLS or CLC

Congratulations are extended to three members of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 who completed either Level II Squadron Leadership School (SLS) or the Level III Corporate Learning Course (CLC) during two days of weekend training offered in April at Luke AFB by the Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Completing the SLS was 2Lt. Jerry Porter. SLS is a requirement for the Certificate of Proficiency and provides CAP's adult members with a basic understanding of CAP operations at the squadron level and how those operations affect CAP's national missions. Additionally, members learn more about CAP customs, core values and communications. Case studies, discussion and group assignments are integral facets of the SLS.

Squadron members completing the CLC

were Capts. Mike Rich and Atilla Szokol. CLC discusses squadron-Wing relationships and how Wing-level operations help to accomplish CAP's three missions of aerospace education, emergency services and cadet programs.

### *Such named commander of Arizona Wing Group 4*

Command of Arizona Wing Group 4, of which Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 is part, recently was assumed by Maj. Adam Such. He succeeds Lt. Col. John Eggen, who has assumed national duties within CAP.

Maj. Such, who was group vice commander, has been succeeded in that post by Lt. Col. Newton Muehleisen.

## *Sunset silhouette*



*Cadets from Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 stand ready for inspection as they are silhouetted against the Arizona evening sky. The squadron's cadet program has helped to shape the characters of hundreds of young people in recent decades.*

### **Wing Web site introduced**

A new Web site is being introduced by the Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Already operational, the Web site can be found at <http://www.azwg.us>. It is expected to replace the former Web site by May 15.

CAP members and guests are invited to explore the new site and learn more about the organization.

### **Promotions, flight times to appear in June issue**

Because of deadline issues associated with last-minute promotion of Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302's 50th anniversary, promotions and flight times for the squadron's airplane will appear in the June issue of *Full Throttle*.

***Congratulations  
Deer Valley Composite  
Squadron 302  
on 50 years of service***