

NEWSLETTER

August - September 2025

Nevada squadrons show spirit and outreach

In this Newsletter edition we highlight Squadrons located in Nevada – the “Battle Born State” so named because it achieved statehood during the Civil War. The words “Battle Born” also appear on its state flag.

Our WSASAS members are all located in the western part of the state and include Washoe, Carson City and Douglas counties. Each of these counties includes miles of sparsely populated areas and high terrain.

My wife is from Ely in eastern Nevada. On a recent trip to attend her high-school reunion, I had the opportunity to experience first-hand how remote some areas in Nevada really are.

We flew our C182 into Elko Airport and visited Lamoille, at the foot of the Ruby Mountains – a beautiful valley. Then, in a rental car drove on largely gravel roads down the eastern side of the Rubys toward Ely.

All was going well UNTIL our rental car experienced a tire blow-out over 60 miles short of reaching Ely – and no spare tire. We were literally in the middle of nowhere; no cell phone service and since it was July 4th, in an area with no vehicle traffic.

I learned that even without cell service, the SOS function of my iPhone worked to connect me via satellite to the nearest emergency service – as it turned out White Pine County Sheriff’s office. I described our plight, mentioned that I was part of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Air Squadron – and needed assistance. The dispatcher sent a search & rescue team to pick us up – a 90-minute drive – one way. Great service!

Air Squadron membership has its rewards!

Dale Terry, Newsletter Editor



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Carson City Aero Squad

Established in 1966, the Carson City Sheriff's Office Aero Squadron will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

The Squadron is limited to 20 volunteers who donate their time and personal aircraft to missions ranging from search & rescue (SAR) to extraditable prisoner transport (15-20 flights per yr).

Currently, fourteen members and 8 aircraft compose the Carson City Airport based Squadron and since its inception. Steve Lewis, Sec/Tres reports "we have a great relationship with the Carson City's long-serving Sheriff Ken Furlong."



Squadron SAR is coordinated by the Sheriff's SAR unit with personnel at the airport and in the air. A recent mission over Rachel, NV provided

highway observation assistance over 3 days as requested by the US military for a large crowd gathered in the area.

The squadron meets monthly at Red's 365 Grill in Carson City.



Douglas County Air Unit



Sworn Reserve Deputy Ken Ambrose works in the smallest air squadron in WSASAS – there are

only two members.

Douglas County Sheriff does not have any owned air resources, so the county depends upon the Cessna Citation and Jet Ranger Helicopter that Ken and his son Jonathan can provide.

There are several missions that the Air Unit flies with searching for marijuana growing operations at the top of the list. Often the grow sites are adjacent to Indian tribal land, which requires coordination with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Other missions have included SWAT training and viewing road closures during winter weather.

The Air Unit is based at Minden Airport.

We are looking for news articles and event dates

Is your squadron involved in an upcoming event? Is your group holding a meeting with a great speaker? Are members flying to interesting locations? We would love to put your upcoming dates on our calendar. Let us know when and where – we'll send out information to our squadrons.



Pass on suggestions for articles and upcoming event dates to: Dale Terry, Newsletter Editor, Dale.Terry@sacairsquadron.com.

Washoe County Air Squadron

Washoe's Air Squadron is a volunteer group within the Search & Rescue (SAR) arm of the Sheriff's Office, with aircraft based at Stead Airport.

Covering over 6600 square miles in the northwest corner of Nevada, the county includes the Sierra Nevada mountains, Lake Tahoe, Pyramid Lake and the western edge of the Black Rock desert. Reno and Sparks are the two major population areas.

The Squadron was organized in 1937 and operated until 1953. In 1983 the Squadron was reactivated and has remained active ever since. They recently celebrated the 85th anniversary of the Squadron. Donn Daggett, former commander, reports "that the group has over 300,000 hours of PIC flying experience."



One year ago, the Squadron received media attention when the group played a major role in locating a missing 79-year-old woman who was lost at Pyramid Lake. The search effort included flying grid patterns. To prepare for SAR missions, the Squadron conducts one ground training and one flight training session each month.



Currently, the Squadron has an all-volunteer team of 27 pilots, four observers and 17 airplanes. Most of the group is made up of retired military, ex-military, and ex-airline pilots.



In 2023 the Squadron flew equipment to the southern Oregon Lake County Hospital to ease strain on its operations during a fire emergency. The Golden Fire burned more than 2,100 acres in Klamath County and essential equipment needed to restore hospital operations were found in the Reno area. The Squadron stepped in and quickly flew the equipment to Oregon.



NASA to the Rescue

By Kevin McDonnell, Alameda County Squadron

As I buckled my seatbelt and strapped on my kneeboard, I looked down and felt frustrated. Once again, my ballpoint pen had failed in the summer heat, turning into a sticky mess. I had tried several different brand pens, but most had the same fate. Some would leak, and the ones that didn't, would often not write at all.



I should have known someone had already solved this problem.

Some of us still remember the excitement of the 1960s space race. Back then, anything related to NASA was exciting - people were fascinated by things like Velcro and Tang. An incredibly useful invention from that era provided the solution to my pen problem.

NASA had to figure out how astronauts could write in space, where there's no gravity. The answer? NASA endorsed the **Fisher Space Pen**. It has a pressurized ink cartridge that lets it write in zero gravity, underwater, and most importantly for me, endure extreme heat and cold. The secret is in the ink—something called thixotropic ink. This special ink is thick when undisturbed, so it won't leak, but the agitation of the ballpoint makes the ink thinner when you start writing, allowing it to flow smoothly. No more inky disasters.

I've been using Fisher Space Pens for 30 years, and they've never let me down. Each refill lasts about ten years. In all that time, I've never had to deal with another melted or useless pen again.

There's an old joke about an apocryphal meeting between an American astronaut and a Russian cosmonaut. The astronaut proudly explained "With our best minds, we spared no expense inventing a pen that could write in zero-gravity, at any angle, on wet or oily paper, and tolerate extreme temperatures."

How did the Russians solve this? The cosmonaut quipped "We used pencils."

You can find several on-line vendors, including Amazon, who sell the Space Pen.

