

“These Things We Do That Others May Live”



THE SORTIE

FALLBROOK SQUADRON 87

Capt. James Pedersen- Editor



Maj. Jim Redmon and Lt Col. Jerry Rohles

Lt Col. Jerry Rohles proudly accepted the Civil Air Patrol Group 7 Pilot of the Year award from Fallbrook Squadron 87 Commander Maj. Jim Redmon. Col. Rohles is a pilot who has continually shown extraordinary dedication to all of the flying activities of Squadron 87 and the California Wing, especially over the past year. Among his many accomplishments, he flew 50 mission hours for Group 7 commitments as well as volunteering to replace crews at the last minute from other groups whose circumstances caused them to cancel their participation. In addition, he is in training to become a Mission Manager.

He flew numerous sorties in the search for aviator Steve Fossett in both the C182 and GA8 airplanes, and flew 12 other sorties resulting in approximately 28 hours in the search grid and/or in transit. He flew another 14 hours of Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) missions, and 5 hours participating in the Edwards AFB Shuttle Off Airport Landing Exercise. His dedication to the CAP mission has been demonstrated by his volunteering for missions in which he did not launch and patiently waiting long hours to be tasked in others.

Col Rohles tireless support of CAP training is demonstrated by his flying almost 50 hours dedicated to instructing CAP pilots both in the squadron and in group search and rescue exercises.

He has been an ardent supporter of the Cadet Orientation Ride program. He coordinated efforts with the Air Force ROTC Unit at San Diego State over a two year period to obtain approval for participation in the Flight Orientation Program. In addition, he has coordinated the efforts with the CAP Oceanside Squadron 47 and Hemet Squadron 59 for their orientation flights. He volunteered every time he was needed and flew both AFROTC and California Wing cadets on numerous sorties.

Col Rohles flying shows consistent skill, dedication to safety, and thoroughness. This is demonstrated when he advocates cleaning the squadron aircraft after completion of the day's flight activities. He plans his flights with a clear understanding for the limitations of light aircraft. As an example, he developed a fuel tank probe specifically for the squadron aircraft so pilots can determine the actual amount of fuel onboard. At many squadron meetings he reminds members to review the aircraft gross weight limitations to assure a margin of safety. He frequently discusses issues of relevance in supporting the squadron's safety program and provided an example of aircraft performance at high density altitude using reduced power for takeoff at low altitude. Through these examples and many other he shares his wisdom and considerable experience. In addition he has invited nationally recognized speakers on aviation safety to share their experience in the quest to improve squadron safety. His contributions clearly exceed expectations of the competent CAP pilot.

All of the pilots in Squadron 87 look to him to set the example for dedication and professionalism in the unit and he never disappoints.

Congratulations to Lt Col Rohles for a well deserved award.