



FOX VALLEY COMPOSITE SQUADRON
CIVIL AIR PATROL – GLR-IL-274
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
11 HUNTINGTON CIRCLE, NAPERVILLE, IL 60540



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fox Valley Composite Squadron Breaks Guinness World Record® for World's Highest Paper Airplane Flight at 96,563 Foot Altitude

WEST CHICAGO, IL – On Saturday, September 13, 2014, Fox Valley Composite Squadron, the local unit of the Illinois Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), beat the Guinness World Record® of “Highest Paper Airplane Flight from a High Altitude Balloon”. The paper airplane was launched from Kankakee, Illinois and achieved a dizzying altitude of 96,563 feet (18.3 miles straight up into the Stratosphere) -- breaking the prior record of 89,591 feet -- then safely landed, 82 miles away, Southwest of Rochester, Indiana.

The squadron started the project as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) experience for their cadets (youths ages 12-18). The cadets completely designed and constructed the traditional paper airplane design -- one recognizable by every grade-school child -- made of paper board and measuring 30 inches in length, with a 14½ inches wingspan and weighing a total of 424 grams (1 pound). The paper airplane was also outfitted with a GPS tracking system, temperature sensors, barometric pressure sensor, flight computer, batteries, solar panel and HD video camera to record the entire historic flight. The aircraft was then tethered to a large helium weather balloon and launched to altitude, where the balloon burst and the paper airplane's flight computer cut itself away for its record-breaking flight.

Of course the new world record is considered unofficial until the squadron submits all required documentation and evidence to Guinness -- which they intend to complete this week -- but, before too long, they are hoping that this amazing achievement is vetted and published in the next Guinness Book of World Records. More details (including photos and videos) are available on the Fox Valley Composite Squadron's Near-Space Balloon Project website at: <http://www.foxcap.org/content/nearspaceballoon>

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 60,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Its unpaid professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. Performing missions for America for over 70 years, CAP will receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit <http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com>, <http://www.capvolunteernow.com> and <http://www.capgoldmedal.com> for more information.

Fox Valley Composite Squadron -- the local unit of the Civil Air Patrol -- is located at DuPage Airport (West Chicago, IL) and is currently comprised of 41 Cadets (youth 12-18) and 49 Adult Members. These members volunteer their time and expertise towards Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs. The Squadron meets most Fridays at 7:00 PM at DuPage Airport and welcomes anyone interested in learning more about participation to attend a meeting. A map to the meeting location and additional information about the squadron is available at <http://www.foxcap.org>

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PHOTOS CLEARED FOR PUBLICATION & BROADCAST:



Cadets and Senior Officers preparing aircraft for launch.
PHOTO CREDIT: 1st Lt Gary Brown

DOWNLOAD PHOTO AT:

<http://www.foxcap.org/media/fvcs5/team.jpg>



Launching the balloon and paper airplane from Kankakee, IL
PHOTO CREDIT: Manda Larson

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<http://www.foxcap.org/media/fvcs5/launch.jpg>



Lift-off and climb-out of the balloon and paper airplane.
PHOTO CREDIT: Manda Larson

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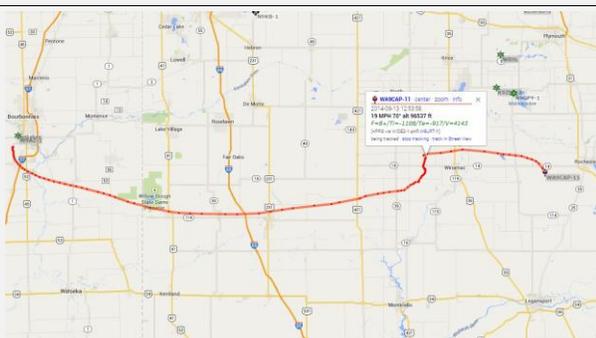
<http://www.foxcap.org/media/fvcs5/liftoff.jpg>



A view of Earth captured from the paper airplane at 96,563 feet.
PHOTO CREDIT: 1st Lt Gary Brown

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<http://www.foxcap.org/media/fvcs5/horizon.jpg>



The GPS track log of the balloon and paper airplane.
PHOTO CREDIT: 1st Lt Gary Brown

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<http://www.foxcap.org/media/fvcs5/gpstrack.jpg>



Commander Maj John Fletcher poses with airplane after recovery.
PHOTO CREDIT: 1st Lt Gary Brown

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