



Mission for America

*Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!*

The Coastwatcher

Newsletter of the Thames River Composite Squadron
GON
Connecticut Wing
Civil Air Patrol

website: <http://cap-ct075.com/default.aspx>

Vol. I No. 12

09 November, 2007

Schedule of Coming Events

November

10 SAT Wing Safety Day
13 TUE Squadron Meeting/SCC/(Testing)
17 SAT Wing 'O Flight (BDU)
20 TUE Squadron Meeting (Blues)
21 WED Wing Staff Meeting
27 TUE Squadron Meeting (BDU)
29 THU USCGA Lecture (Blues)

December

01 SAT Field Trip to ANG A-10 Facility
Civil Air Patrol Day in Connecticut
04 TUE Squadron Meeting Reports/(PT)
05 WED Squadron Commanders Call/CAC
09 SUN East Eagle Scout Ceremony
11 TUE Squadron Meeting SCC/(Testing)
18 TUE Squadron Meeting (Blues)
19 WED Wing Staff Meeting

NOTE: Scheduling Symbols

SCC-Squadron Commanders Call

CAC-Cadet Advisory Council

TESTING TUESDAY

Cadets are reminded that testing will be held this coming Tuesday. Anyone expecting advancement should prepare to take an appropriate test. Contact Lt Wujtcuk for current status.

FRUIT SALE

THE FRUIT SALE HAS ONLY TWO MORE WEEKS TO RUN. SQUADRON MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXERT A MAXIMUM EFFORT DURING THE NEXT FORTNIGHT.

At the present time, the following members are sales leaders based upon receipts received: Rocketto (14), Kinch (7), Bourque (5), East, Montgomery, (4), Barberan (3). Jalbert (1).

MANDATORY SAFETY DAY

The Wing is holding a safety day on Saturday, November 10th. for flight crews. Captain LeBoeuf will conduct the meeting in the Homeland Security Hangar at Brainard Field. Sign in is at 0815 and dismissal is at 1200. Topics will focus on CAP flight operations. Squadron members who wish to carpool in the van should e-mail Col Kinch. at larekin@aol.com

A-10 FIELD TRIP

The Squadron field trip to the 103rd Fighter Wing's Bradley Airport facility is definitely set for 01 December. However, final arrangements have not been made. Anticipate a morning departure and mid-afternoon return. If members are interested, we can return to the Springfield Armory National Park Site also. Consider this option for discussion at the next meeting.

WING O' FLIGHT

A Wing Orientation Flight Day will be held at the Waterbury-Oxford Airport on Saturday, 17 November. Interested Cadets should contact Captain Rocketto at srocketto@aquilasys.com.

EAST EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY

Cadet Shawn East invites Squadron members to attend his Eagle Scout Ceremony on Sunday, 09 December, at 1300 at the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club. Scouts are requested to wear their uniforms. If you plan on attending, please notify Cadet East by 01 December. E-mail should be sent to andreweast@msn.com.

CADET MEETING MINUTES 06 November, 2007

C/Msgt Molinari led an opening formation.

Capt Bourque conducted PT testing.

Capt Rocketto oriented new cadets.

Capt Rocketto presented a short astronomy briefing on finding stars and planets in the southern sky in the early morning. This lesson supplemented the two recent e-mail information notes on planetary scale, and viewing the International Space Station and Shuttle and early morning sky.

Col Kinch briefed the Cadets on the problems and results of the USAF evaluation held on Saturday last.

USCGA LECTURE

Black Holes and the Big Bang

On Thursday, 29 November, Dr. June Matthews, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will discuss the topic of particle physics and the Big Bang cosmology.

The lecture will be held in Dimick Hall at 2000 and will be preceded, if there is any interest, by a pizza dinner hosted by Capt Rocketto. If you are interested in attending, you must e-mail Capt Rocketto by Tuesday, the 27th.

CTWG USAF EVALUATION

A total of 20 members of the Squadron participated in the USAF evaluation of the Connecticut Wing last Saturday. Poor flying weather prevented actual air missions but a series of table-top scenarios were worked by the crews. These included a missing aircraft en route from Bridgeport to Mt. Washington, a lost mentally deficient person in the Winsted area who was equipped with a personal location device, and a missing person in the vicinity of Bristol with no details.

Squadron members participated in a number of leadership positions. Major Keith Neilson was "Air Operations Branch Director, Maj John DeAndrade was Air Operations Branch Supervisor, and Capt Paul Noniewicz was Air Branch Supervisor in Training.. Air crews included :Lt Cols Kinch and Wisehart,, Capts Noniewicz and Rocketto, and Lts Lintlemann and Miller.



Capt Noniewicz and Majs Neilson and DeAndrade study weather information.

Lt Miller and Lt Col Wisehart flight planning



Our Ground Team was lead by Capt Bourque and consisted of C/MSgt Michael Molinari and Cadets Alexis Wojtcuk, Abigail Wojtcuk, Jesse Brohinsky, Kevin Roe, Shawn East, Jennifer Johnson, Jonathan Scannell, George Abbiati, Ryan Montgomery, and Mary Biekert.

Since weather conditions precluded actual flying, the aviation section participated in table top simulations and the Thames River Ground Team received emergency service training.

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

Last week's mystery aircraft was the Handley Page B.2 Victor. The Victor was one of a triad of strategic bombers developed for the Royal Air Force in the 1950s. It sported an unusual crescent shaped wing platform designed to maintain a constant critical mach number over the entire span and a T-tail.

As time passed, many of the Victors were converted to tankers and reconnaissance aircraft. During the Falklands War, the Victors supported the notable "Black Buck" missions. Eleven victors were tasked to refuel a single Vulcan bomber and *each other* outbound from Ascension Island to Port Stanley and five were needed for the return journey.

Victors went to war for a second time during the Kuwait Liberation refueling allied aircraft. Ironically, the conversion of Victors to tankers was carried out by an amalgamation of Hawker-Siddeley and Avro. Hawker Siddeley had produced the Valiant and Avro had produced the Vulcan, the rivals of the Victor. Those two firms had combined under pressure from the British government. Handley-Page resisted amalgamation and went into bankruptcy and liquidation.

The two Victors in the photo were temporarily operating out of Peru in 1968 and investigating the French nuclear tests in Polynesia. Peruvian politics were a bit turbulent at that time since the army under General Velasco had just staged a coup d'etat, deposing Presidente Fernando Belaunde-Terry.

For the next month or so, we will be featuring Connecticut products in this column. The first mystery aircraft, for which we supply two pictures is shown below.



ANSWERS TO THE LAST QUIZ OF THE WEEK

The Challenge was Issued Which Cadet Triumphed?

This week's answers have been supplied by Lt. Col Carl Stidsen, Wing Inspector General. No Cadets accepted the challenge. *Que triste!*

1. What is the name of the mystery aircraft in this edition? Handley Page B.2 Victor
2. What is the third aircraft in the V-bomber series? Vickers Valiant
3. The Vulcan was built by a company called Avro. What is the origin of the name? Alliot Verdon Roe was the founder of the company.
4. What do the Argentines call the Falkland Islands? *Las Islas Malvinas*
5. The Argentines used an aircraft which they called the "Dagger." What is the interesting provenance and history of this aircraft? the Dagger is the Israeli built version of the Mirage IIIE. However, some Mirages were purchased directly from France so some confusion exists for plane spotters as to which is which.
6. Why is the airport on Ascension Island known as "Wideawake?" One story states that presumably, the aircraft crew must be wide awake to find the island on approach. An old AAF song choruses "If we don't sight Ascension, My Wife will get a pension." On the other hand, the island is inhabited by multitudes of a bird called the sooty tern whose cry sounds like they are calling "wideawake." What do you think?
7. What is the meaning of the acronym SAREX? Search and Rescue Exercise
8. NATO code names beginning with the letter F are used to designate Soviet fighter aircraft and names beginning with B and C designate bombers and cargo aircraft. What is the significance of the name if it is one or two syllables? For example, what can be ascertained immediately about the difference between a Bear and a Bison? A one syllable name

indicates that the aircraft is propeller driven. Two syllables means that the plane is a jet.

GONE WEST

Brigadier General Paul W, Tibbetts, Jr., the commander of the B- 29 Enola Gay, which dropped the first atomic bomb used in warfare, died on the first of November at his home in Columbus, Ohio.

General Tibbetts first flew at the age of 12 when he promoted his father's candy business by dropping candy from an aircraft flying over Miami. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1937. In August of 1942, he participated in the first bomb raid by the Eight Air Force in Europe. In the fall of 1944, he was briefed on details of the Manhattan Project and ordered to organize and

train a squadron to deliver the weapon. Tibbetts used special authority to equip and organize his new command and on 17 December, 1944 the 509th Composite Group was activated and based at Wendover, Utah. After extensive training, elements of the 509th transferred to the Pacific island of Tinian. On 6 August, 1945, the *Enola Gay*, launched carrying the bomb code-named "Little Boy." Five and a half hours later, the bombardier, Maj. Thomas Ferebee released the weapon from an altitude of 32,700 ft over the city of Hiroshima.



Fuselage of Enola Gay Awaiting Restoration in the NASM Garber Facility c. 1985

In the six decades since the bombing, the controversy over the necessity for that mission

has been unceasing. Critics claim that the Japanese were on the verge of surrender and that the introduction of this quantitatively novel weapon was an immoral act. One can question the vision of hindsight, given the fog of war which existed in 1945. Those who support the dropping of the weapon argue that millions of lives were saved, given the losses which would have been incurred by a land invasion and by the impending starvation which faced the Japanese population if the invasions, code-named Operations Olympic and Coronet had occurred.

General Tibbetts never regretted his role in the bombing.. He argued that war is fundamentally immoral and the greater immorality would have occurred if we had not used the bomb and allowed millions more to die in the prolonged struggle.

After retiring from the USAF in 1966,, Tibbetts became involved in corporate aviation, retiring in 1987. He was 92 years old when he died.



*Nose art on
Nagasaki
Bomber
USAF Museum*

Boeing B-29 Superfortress



TWO AIR MISSIONS

Maj DeAndrade and Capt Rocketto flew a photo mission in 73X this week and photographed the Montville schools. The photos will be presented to the Montville Board of Education as part of a program to make CAP Cadet opportunities known to a greater number of educators. Afterwards, Maj DeAndrade flew to Windham and took two University of Connecticut ROTC Cadets on an orientation flight.

NEW TRAILER ELECTRICAL HOOKUP

On Wednesday, Mr. Henry Douton, completed the installation of the electrical boxes and Groton Utilities reconnected the main power. As we go to press, the final connections between the main box and the new trailer are being made. Col Kinch will test the heating and air conditioning circuits and if they are operational, we can expect to begin our long anticipated occupancy.

THE NEW QUIZ OF THE WEEK

Will some Cadet take up the challenge?

1. What was the name of the U.S. Navy Captain who flew as Weaponeer on the *Enola Gay*?
2. What was the name of the pilot of *Bocks Car*, the aircraft which dropped "Fat Boy" on Nagasaki?
3. What is the essential chemical difference between "Fat Boy" and "Little Boy?"
4. The white mystery helicopter states that it is based in Brooklyn. The USCG Air Station is Brooklyn is based on a field named for a famous navy enlisted pilot. Who was he?
5. The Mobile based helicopter has a red-dominated paint scheme. What was the original mission of those helicopters which first received this high visibility paint?

6. The commercial airport for Lima, Peru is called Aeropuerto Jorge Chavez. Who was Jorge Chavez and what was his achievement in aviation history.
7. Look at the aircraft pictures below and state what structural feature the aircraft all have in common.

