



*Semper volanis!
Semper vigilans!*

The Coastwatcher

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

Vol. I No. 5

21 September, 2007

Schedule of Coming Events

September

22 SAT **Rocket Launching**
25 TUE **Regular Meeting Night (BDU)**
27 THU **Pizza and USCGA Lecture**
29 SAT **73X Wash and Wax (Chester)**

October

Harwinton Fair 5-7 October
AOPA Convention 4-7 October
Cadet Ball 27 October

Second Field Day

A second field day was held on 15 September. The stairs and banisters were installed on the main entrance and a set of steps were constructed for the secondary exit to the new trailer.

We still need to install the skirting and insulation, complete the electrical hookup, and move in the furniture. Expect the scheduling of at least one more work party.

Erratum: C/TSgt Michael Molinari was a member of the work party on 08 September., the first field day. We regret the omission of his name.

73X WASH AND WAX

Senior members are requested to assist in cleaning 73X. We will fly the aircraft to Chester and will transport additional volunteers there in the van.

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

The aircraft in Edition 1.4 is the Raytheon Beech T-6A Texan II. It is a derivative of the Swiss Pilatus PC-9 Mk II. This aircraft has been adopted by the Air Force and Navy for the Joint Primary Pilot Training (JPPT) program and it is the namesake of the North American T-6 Texan, World War II advanced trainer discussed in Edition 1.2 of *The Coastwatcher*.

Our current mystery aircraft was based at GON during the '60s and '70s as part of Joe Fugere's pioneering Pilgrim Airlines fleet. LtCol William Dolan of our squadron checked out as Captain in this exact aircraft, N125PM.



AVIATION JAPE OF THE WEEK

A haughty German ground controller was castigating a BOAC captain for his unfamiliarity with the taxiways at a Berlin airport. "Speedbird 27, haf you not been here before?" demanded the official in an impatient and condescending tone. "Yes," replied the Captain, "87 times during World War II, but I never landed."

CADET MEETING MINUTES
18 SEPTEMBER, 2007

C/Tsgt Molinari directed the squadron in drill assisted by Flight Leader Jonathan Scannell and Alexis Wojtcuk.

Capt Rocketto provided a slide illustrated historical week in review and discussed the first scientifically instrumented flight into a hurricane and the progression of aircraft types used in "hurricane hunting," a review of the X-15 high altitude hypersonic research program, commemoration of the birthday anniversaries of Orville Wright and the USAF, and a discussion of how Thomas Attridge managed to shoot down his own Grumman F11F of the south coast of Long Island.

Capt Bourque presented and Emergency Services lecture on the appropriate measures to take if one is lost and the necessity for a small emergency kit, especially fire making equipment.

Capt Rocketto set up a telescope and cadets and parents observed the first quarter moon, Jupiter, and its four major satellites: Ganymede, Callisto, Europa, and Io.



Cadet Abi Wojtcuk observes the Moon in a Meade EXT-125 telescope

S/M Wojtcuk explained the rationale and the methodology of the new Cadet-of-the-Cycle Program. Cadets will be awarded points for attendance, participation in special events, promotions, meritorious deeds, and appearance and military bearing. Points will be accrued and a Cadet-of-the-Cycle will be named periodically. The data collected will be used to name a Cadet-of-the-Year. Cadets and senior leadership discussed the program and everyone is encouraged to submit suggestions for improvements.

Cadets were instructed to bring their paper helicopters to the next meeting and we will run a competition for the slowest rotor powered descent. Points will be awarded for participation and merit.

The following issues were presented for further consideration:

1. Participation in the Harwinton Fair, **FRI-SUN, OCT 5-7** is an important money raising activity. However at this time, we have not received any notification that we will be needed but we will alert the cadet body if this happens.
2. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) will be holding its convention in Hartford and request CAP assistance in marshaling aircraft at Brainard and Bradley. We also need volunteers to man our information booth. Volunteers who can serve four hour day shifts from Thursday to Sunday, **OCT 4-7**, should e-mail, Capt Rocketto, at srocketto@aquilasys.com. However, the squadron officers have decided that the Harwinton Fair takes priority.
3. Dr. Mary Lanzerotti of the IBM Watson Research Center will deliver a Saul Krasner Memorial Lecture on Thursday, **27 OCT**, in Dimick Hall, U.S. Coast Guard Academy at 2000. The lecture and discussion period end at 2130. The topic is "The Physics of Computer Components" and will be illustrated by

examples, photos, and diagrams. For those interested, Capt Rocketto will host a pre-lecture pizza party at Friendly Pizza, corner of Rte. 32 and Rte. 163 in Uncasville. The party commences at 1830. Parents and senior members are invited and if the wish to attend, should, as a courtesy, notify Capt Rocketto by e-mail, srocketto@aquilasys.com by 1800, WED, the 26th. If you wish to attend the lecture without attending the pizza party, you should report to the main gate of the Academy by 1945 and have a photo identification with you.

4. As of this date, cadet tests which are passed will be posted in *The Coastwatcher*. Cadets are urged to check the posting and make necessary corrections.

Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club Junior Rifle Program

If you wish to continue in a marksmanship program, the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club Junior activities start on Friday, October 5th at 1800. Please bring a parent or guardian with you. Eye and ear protection are required and can be borrowed or purchased. Recommended clothing is long pants, sweat shirt, and work or hiking boots. Participants must join the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club for \$25 and pay an additional \$35 to cover cost of ammunition, targets, and match fees.

If you are interested, report to Quaker Hill on the 5th of October. Further information may be obtained by contacting team coach Mrs. Jennifer Sloan at jennslo@msn.com.

No plane is a person; no person a plane....But there are times when the interplay between two is so intense and absorbing that they do seem fused into one. And I think one of the two can be a machine.

-from *Nanette, A Pilot's Love Story* by Edwards Park-

PROMOTIONS

C/A1C Jesse Brohinsky and C/A1C Shawn Carpenter qualified for the Feik Achievement and were promoted to A/SrAmn in a ceremony on 18 September. LtCol Kinch was absent, attending a reunion of his Okinawa based C-130 squadron so Capt Bourque, assisted by S/M Wojtcuk pinned the insignia on the new senior airmen.



Capt Bourque pins Cadet Brohinsky's new insignia



Cadet East salutes Capt Bourque while S/M Wojtcuk prepares his insignia

*Bless them all! Bless them all!
The long and the short and the tall.
Bless the instructors who taught us to fly!
Sent us to solo and left us to die.
For we're saying goodbye to them all.
The long and the short and the tall.
There is no promotion this side of the ocean.
Farewell, my boys, bless the all?*

-World War II Song-

MEMORIES OF OCTOBERS PAST

01/13 Robert Goddard files first patent
01/42 First flight of Bell XP-59A
01/47 First flight of North American XF-86A
02/1883 Robert Goddard born
02/18 First flight of Kettering "Bug"
03/43 First successful flight of V2
04/83 Leroy Grumman dies
05/14 First air-to-air shoot down
05/31 First trans Pacific flight
6-8/38 A.C.T. Bennett sets world seaplane record
07/03 Langley Aerodrome crashes
10/66 Leslie Leon Irvin dies
11/45 First flight Bell XS-1 by Chalmers Goodlin
11/2003 Ivan Getting GPS conceiver, dies
12/2000 100th Space Shuttle Mission
14/49 First flight of Chase XC-123
14/47 Chuck Yeager breaks sound barrier
15/29 Movie *Frau in Mond* premieres
16/75 GOES I launched
17/22 First takeoff from U.S. aircraft carrier
18/73 Bernt Balchen dies
19/34 MacRobertson Air Race ends
20/20 Joy stick patent resolved
20/55 Larry Bell dies
22/11 First use of a/c in war
24/42 Wright-Langley controversy settled
26/40 First flight of North American NA-73
26/72 Igor Sikorsky dies

Requisite CAP Test

Test your knowledge of aviation history by answering the following questions. Cadets should submit answers via e-mail to Capt Rocketto at srocketto@aquilasys.com.

1. What is the popular name of Bell's P-59?
2. What is the popular name of North American's F-86?
3. What was the original German designation of the V-2?
4. What was the name of Pangborn and Herndon's Bellanca Skyrocket?
5. What was unusual about the landing gear on the Bellanca's trans-Pacific flight?

6. What was unusual about Mercury, the seaplane piloted by Bennett on the 6,000 mile flight from England to South Africa?
7. What is Leslie Leon Irvin known for perfecting?
8. What was Chalmer Goodlin's nickname?
9. What was unique about the Chase XC-123?
10. What was the more famous name of the North American NA-73



USCG Fairchild C-123B Provider



CC&F Burnelli CBY-3 Loadmaster



A-36 Apache

