



*Semper volans!
Semper vigilans!*

The Coastwatcher

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

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Schedule of Coming Events

October

06-SAT 73X Cleaning/Trailer Insulation
05-07 FRI-SUN Harwinton Fair
05-07 THU-SUN AOPA Convention
09 TUE Regular Meeting (BDU/Test/LDR)
09 TUE Regular Meeting Seniors (Reports)
13 SAT Squadron SAREX
16 TUE Regular Meeting (Blues/ML/AS)
23 TUE Regular Meeting (BDU/ES/AEX)
27 SAT Cadet Ball
29 TUE Regular Meeting (Parent's Night)

SQUADRON SAREX

The squadron will hold a Search and Rescue Exercise on Saturday, 13 October. Officers and cadets should muster at the trailer at 0800 and be prepared to participate in both ground and flight training. Col Kinch requests that you reply personally to him at larekin@aol.com as to whether or not you will be present or not present.

CTWG USAF EVALUATION

The USAF will hold a wide ranging evaluation of CTWG capabilities from 29 OCT to 04 NON out of Brainard Airport. The event is designed to train and evaluate the complete functional capability of a CAP mission base. The goal is to involve a significant number of qualified wing members, ground vehicles, and aircraft. Participants will include mission pilots, observers, scanners, ground teams, and trainees for all of these functions. More information will be forthcoming in future postings.

CADET MEETING MINUTES

02 October, 2007

C/TSgt Molinari opened the meeting with a formation and drill.

Captain Bourque led the scheduled physical training session.

S/M Wojtcuk conducted testing and polled the cadets on their specific interests within the CAP program.

Col Kinch and Capt Rocketto presented a short session on aircraft sextants and celestial navigation. Col Kinch demonstrated and explained the Bendix Mark V Bubble Sextant and the Kollsman Periscopic Sextant and Capt Rocketto explained the fundamental principle of determining position by star sights using the sextant and *Sight Reduction Table H.O. 249.*



Col Kinch demonstrates periscopic sextant

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

The Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander was featured in the last edition. New England Airlines based at Westerly State Airport (WST) flies three of these British planes on regularly scheduled runs to Block Island. Bill Bendokas and his pilots have provided this vital service for three and a half decades.

The Islander is a ten place light transport powered by two Lycoming O-540 engines developing 260 HP each. First flown in the mid 60s, they are built on the Isle of Wight and approximately 1200 have been produced to date. The versatile airframe can be supplied with turboprop engines and is also offered in a militarized version called The Defender. A unique variant, the Trislander, a three engine model with the third engine mounted on the vertical stabilizer in a manner similar to the DC-10. An image of this version of the "Islander" is shown below.



Trislander at Reading, PA

Britten-Norman also pioneered hovercraft design under a subsidiary, Cushioncraft. Their turbine powered CC-7 which the Indians called "the roaring turtle," and Capt Rocketto had an interesting meeting on the Amazon River during *Carneval* in 1971 but that is a story for another day.



CC-7 on the Amazon

But now I am reminded of another sight on The Amazon back in '71. Can you identify the classic aircraft seen in this two ship formation?



Mystery Craft of the Week

BOMBER'S MOON

As a historical note, the full moon which we observed last week was known during World War II as a "bomber's moon." because the reflected moonlight, especially on bodies of water provided good visual references for the navigators and bombardiers. However, the pale light cut both ways and served to illuminate the bombers and their contrails to the defending fighters and anti-aircraft guns. The bright waning full moon was one of the crucial factors which generated the enormous losses suffered by the Royal Air Force Bomber Command in the Nuremburg Raid of 30-31 March, 1944. The double-edged effect of moonlight on bomber crews is illustrated in the first stanza of Kathleen Lowe Oliver's poem quoted below.

On the night of June 23-24, 1944, Sgt Frederick Oliver perished when his Lancaster was shot down over France. His widow, Kathleen Lowe Oliver penned a poem in his memory.

Full Moon 1945

Cold bomber's moon....
Chill my spine with your icy breath.
Cold, treacherous moon,
That lighted my love to his death.

The image of a "bomber's moon" has also served to inspire at least one movie, a television play, and several pieces of music.

MOLINARI PROMOTED

C/TSgt Michael Molinari was promoted to C/MSgt and awarded the Charles Lindbergh Achievement



Col Kinch and newly minted C/MSgt Molinari

CADET WRITERS WANTED

The Meet-A-Member column of *The Coastwatcher* is looking for Cadets who are willing to interview Senior Members and write a descriptive piece about their background. If you are interested, email srocketto@aquilasys.com and I will contact you with a sample article and the names of some officers to interview.

FLY-A-TEACHER

Stuart Sharack, a teacher at the Juliet Long School in Ledyard and an Aerospace Education Member of CAP, was taken on an orientation flight by Maj DeAndrade and Capt Rocketto. Sharack was briefed on the theory of flight and accompanied Maj DeAndrade on a preflight inspection of Cessna 182 N9573X. They departed Groton-New London Airport and flew over Fishers Island and westward down the coast to the mouth of the Connecticut River. Turning northward, the flight progressed past Gillette's Castle to Middletown and then eastward to Ledyard before returning to GON.

During the flight, Sharack handled the controls, was familiarized with the sectional chart, experienced positive and negative g loads, listened to air traffic control, and observed the operation of radio navigation devices.

Upon landing, Maj DeAndrade presented Sharack

with his flight certificate. An airport tour for Mr. Sharack's Aerospace Club is tentatively scheduled for the 18th of October.



Teacher Stuart Sharack receives his certificate of flight from Maj DeAndrade

CITRUS FRUIT SALE FUNDRAISER

The Squadron will run a Citrus Fruit Fund Raiser this year. Information and materials will be distributed at the meeting on the 9th of October. The sale will offer navel oranges and grapefruit in 20 lb and 40 lb boxes as well as mixtures of both fruits. This is our major fund raiser for the year and Cadets and parents are urged to participate.

PARENT'S NIGHT

A Parent's Night is being planned for the 29th of October. We hope to have a guest speaker, recognize recent Cadet achievement, and serve refreshments. Further information will be posted in future issues.

CAC

The Cadet Advisory Council meets with Wing Cadet leaders once each month and serve as a planning board for activities and as a channel of communication between Cadets and Wing staff. C/SrA Brohinsky is our representative and C/MSgt Molinari is the alternate.

Cadet Brohinsky reports that fund raising, the new Cadet "Great Starts" program, and regulation changes were discussed at the last meeting.

Cadet Brohinsky invites you to contact him at 10footfall@gmail.com with any suggestions or comments which you might wish to make.

