



*Semper volans!  
Semper vigilans!*

# The Coastwatcher

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

Vol. I No. 8

12 October, 2007

## Schedule of Coming Events

### October

- 13 SAT WING SAREX
- 18 THU Juliet Long School Airport Tour
- 16 TUE Regular Meeting (Blues/ML/AS)
- 23 TUE Regular Meeting (BDU/ES/AEX)
- 27 SAT Cadet Ball
- 29 MON USCGA Lecture
- 30 TUE Regular Meeting (Parent's Night/Blues)

## WING SAREX TRUMPS SQUADRON SAREX IN REDEAL

The Wing will hold a Search and Rescue Exercise on Saturday, 13 October replacing the squadron SAREX previously announced. Officers and Cadets interested in participating should e-mail Maj Keith Neilson at [docko@snet.net](mailto:docko@snet.net)

## SENIOR FIELD DAY

Col Kinch and three officers installed the insulation on the new trailer last weekend. Workers were Lt Heard, Lt Noniewicz, and S/M Farley.

## CTWG USAF EVALUATION

The USAF will hold a wide ranging evaluation of CTWG capabilities from 29 Oct. to 04 Nov. 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.

## CITRUS FRUIT SALE FUNDRAISER

The Citrus Fruit Fund Raiser commenced on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and will run until 23 November. Cadets and Officers have been issued order forms and instructions and are urged to sell the maximum amount in this, our major fund raising event.

## PARENT'S NIGHT

A Parent's Night will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Uniform for the evening is Blues. Parents are invited to attend and a guest speaker is anticipated. Cadets who have been promoted in the past several months or made noteworthy contributions will be recognized. Parents who wish to assist with refreshments are asked to contact S/M Wojtcuk at [heartandsoul@snet.net](mailto:heartandsoul@snet.net).

## CORPORATE LEARNING COURSE

The course will cover work done at the Wing level and is required for advancement to Level II. Course material is online at the National website. You must have completed Level I, be enrolled in a specialty track, and have completed Squadron Leadership School. If you are interested, complete a Form 17 and pay a \$25 fee. Forms are to be submitted to Maj Oestreicher. Contact him at [Sescap022@gmail.com](mailto:Sescap022@gmail.com).

## AOPA CONVENTION

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association held a major convention in Hartford last weekend. CAP members served as volunteers, ran a recruiting booth, and maintained a ready ground team and flight team in case an aircraft went missing. At least one emergency locator transmission was investigated with null results.



*N9704E taxis to RWY 02 at HFD in preparation for ELT search*

## PROMOTION

C/SrA George Abbiati earned the Wright Brothers Achievement and was promoted to the grade of C/SSgt.



*Cadet Abbiati receives his new insignia of rank from Col Kinch and Capt Bourque*

## CADET MEETING MINUTES

09 October, 2007

C/MSgt Michael Molinari led the squadron in the opening formation.

Cadet T/Sgt Jonathan Scannell led those members not taking tests in a study session focused on aerospace topics.

Cadet A. Wojtcuk returned the five gallon cooler which she had cleaned and will receive a merit point for her volunteer effort.

Cadet East successfully identified the mystery aircraft which was presented in the last edition of *The Coastwatcher*.

Capt Rocketto discussed future events and instructed the Cadets in the protocols for the Citrus Fruit Fund Raiser.

## COMMANDER'S CALL

09 OCTOBER, 2007

Col Kinch briefed the assembled officers on the upcoming Wing SAREX, the USAF evaluation, the status of the trailer project, and van improvements

We expect to have electricity connected within two days. Then the handicap ramp must be constructed and the skirts installed.

A kit has been purchased to install the light bar on the van. The new radio and antenna have also been received and will be installed in the near future.

Capt Noniewicz held a safety briefing which covered proper ground handling of CAP aircraft.

## GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

The two aircraft which were photographed in formation and displayed in the last edition of *The Coastwatcher* were the Consolidated PBV Catalina. The “Cat” was the penultimate model in a long line of successful Consolidated flying boats and amphibians constructed under the leadership of aviation pioneer Major Reuben Fleet. A mid 1930 design, the Catalina sported twin engines mounted on a parasol wing. Later versions were amphibious and featured stabilizing floats which retracted forming the wing tips of the aircraft.

Cats performed for decades and were used as patrol bombers, long range transports, convoy escorts, submarine hunters, and even torpedo bombers. The German battleship Bismarck was first located by a RAF Coastal Command Catalina with a U.S. Navy copilot aboard. This occurred six months before the United States entered World War II. A year later, the PBV was responsible for locating elements of the Japanese fleet and are credited with a significant contribution to the victory at Midway.

Most services and many nations employed the PBV. The U.S.A.F operated them as the OA-10 and used them as SAR craft. They were produced in Canada as the Canso and in the Soviet Union as the GST. The Naval Aircraft Factory in Pennsylvania build a variant, the PBN Nomad.

After the war, some continued to fly as island transports and fire bombers and 24 still remain on the FAA registry.

An example of a PBV-5A is shown below. The aircraft carries the name of Antilles Air Boats a Virgin Island seal and the airline emblem, a stylized bird in a circle. Antilles Air Boats was the creation of the legendary Charlie Blair, USN aviator, USAF Brigadier General, airline captain, and long range navigation expert. Blair designed the emblem himself, taking it from the bird on the weather vane on his home. Blair has a strong

Connecticut connection. The Sikorsky VS-44A at the New England Air Museum was one of three flown by Blair as Chief Pilot of American Export Airlines. Blair flew the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic with passengers and mail in one of these aircraft and the museum example, Excambian was last flown commercially by Blair's Antilles Air Boats.



*N5588V on ramp at Harry S. Truman Airport, U.S. Virgin Islands. A North American B-25 Mitchell is seen in the background.*

Continuing with the theme of aircraft which operate from water, an example of a unique World War II seaplane fighter is shown below. Can you identify it?



## SPUTNIK

On October 4<sup>th</sup> of last week the world marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the launch of the first successful artificial satellite of the earth, Sputnik I and the start of the “Space Race.” Startled by the Soviet achievement, Sputnik spurred the efforts of the United States. The U.S. Army was given permission to commence a second satellite program, Explorer, in competition with the U.S. Navy Vanguard. Four months later, Explorer I was successfully launched.

## HARWINTON FAIR

Cadets Msgt Molinari, Cadets Scannell and Brohinsky, and Captains Bourque and Rocketto worked the traffic detail at the Harwinton Fair over the weekend of 5-7 October. Captain Rocketto took the three Cadets to the Fair on Friday and returned with Scannell and Brohinsky on Saturday night. Captain Bourque replaced Rocketto and remain with Molinari until Sunday afternoon.



*Cadet Scannell demonstrates auto marshaling style.*



Chief Neville dazzles opponent as he gormandizes with gusto.

The highlight of the event was the performance of fellow Cadet CMSgt Zach Neville, the “first shirt” of the Northwest Hills Squadron. In the first ever fried dough eating contest, Neville consumed 7 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  nine inch pies in 12 minutes to defeat 16 other contestants who came from as far away as Texas. Neville is now the reigning World Champion and was awarded \$1000 dollars first prize money.

## COL FREDERICK G. HERBERT, CAP

Jonathan Scannell's grandfather, Col Frederick Herbert, a former frequent visitor is now a member of our squadron. Col Herbert is Northeast Region Historian and a former CTWG commander. He recently set a speed record in a Cessna 177 in a flight which he made from Connecticut to Maine. The flight was to honor those Constitution State CAP members who deployed to Maine in 1942 to fly anti-submarine patrols.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

The following list of websites may be useful if you engage in CAP activities.

1. **Connecticut Wing (CTWG) Headquarters** at <http://www.ctwg.cap.gov/>.

2. **Civil Air Patrol Online** is the National Headquarters site. Especially useful is the section listed under “Quick Info” called “CAP Knowledgebase.” You can obtain answers to many questions by querying this utility. Go to: <http://www.cap.gov/>

3. If you wish to practice for **testing**, the Canandaigua Composite Squadron maintains an excellent resource for you to use. The site has practice tests for cadets in aerospace and leadership and senior members in aerospace. <http://www.mdln.hws.edu/cap/modules/index.asp>.

4. The **Northeast Region** site address is <http://www.ner.cap.gov/>

5. CAP's **Emergency Services Resources** site contains a wealth of information about this primary function of the Civil Air Patrol. The place to go is <http://www.cpa-es.net/>.

6. Want to check the layout of your **ribbons**? Try [http://www.mer.cap.gov/ribbons/check\\_sr.html](http://www.mer.cap.gov/ribbons/check_sr.html).

7. **The Thames River Composite Squadron** Website is now located at: <http://cap-ct075.com/default.aspx>.

## FAA SAFETY MEETING

A presentation on runway safety will be offered at GON terminal, 155 Tower Rd. on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 7:00 PM. Credit will be given for the Wings Program and details may be obtained at [http://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event\\_details.aspx?eid=16543](http://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=16543)

