



*Semper volantis!  
Semper vigilans!*

# 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. 69

19 October, 2007

## Schedule of Coming Events

### October

- 23 TUE Regular Meeting (BDU/ES/AEX)
- 27 SAT Cadet Ball
- 29 MON USCGA Lecture
- 30 TUE Regular Meeting (Parent's Night)

## 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, OScanners, Ground Teams, and trainees for all of these functions. More information will be forthcoming in future postings.

## PARENT'S NIGHT

A Parent's Night is being planned for the 30<sup>th</sup> of October. We hope to have a guest speaker, recognize recent Cadet achievement, and serve refreshments. Further information will be posted in future issues.

## CADET WRITERS WANTED 2ND NOTICE

The Meet-A-Member column 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](mailto:srocketto@aquilasys.com) and I will contact you with a sample article and the names of some officers to interview.

## CITRUS FRUIT SALE FUNDRAISER

The Squadron will run a Citrus Fruit Fund Raiser this year. Information and materials were distributed at the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> 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. The sale ends on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

## ANG A-10 TOUR

A Squadron visit to the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, CT Air National Guard at Bradley Airport is scheduled for Saturday, 01 December. The Wing flies the Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II and the Bombardier/Gates C-21 Learjet. Details will be forthcoming in future postings.

## HARTELL VOLUNTEERS

C/Msgt Michael Molinari and Cadets Shawn East and Kevin Roe accompanied Capt Rocketto to Camp Hartell on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, to assist other CAP volunteers to assist the CT National Guard in receiving and storing equipment from two units of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry recently returned from Afghanistan.



*Cadets East, Roe, and Molinari Inventory Supplies*

## SAREX REPORT

CTWG ran a Search and Rescue Exercise on Saturday, Oct. 13 out of Brainard Airport. Fifteen squadron members attended comprising about 50% of the participants. The drill was a rehearsal for the upcoming USAF Evaluation in November.

Capt Bourque led the only ground team which consisted of Cadets Molinari, Alexis Wojtcuk, Abigail Wojtcuk, Patrick Dougherty, Jennifer Johnson, and Ryan Montgomery. They were tasked with searching for an ELT in the vicinity of the Norwich VOR using radio direction finders and aircraft advisories.

Majors Keith Neilson and John DeAndrade functioned as "air bosses," directing the three aircraft which flew a total of ten sorties. Mission Pilots and Observers included DeAndrade, LtCol Thomas Wisehart, Lt Steve Heard and Capt Paul Noniewicz, Lt Francisco Mariano, Capt Stephen Rocketto, and S/M Justin Allison flew as Scanners.

In addition, Capt Rocketto manned the radio room as Pilot Representative and Heard, Allison Noniewicz, and Rocketto received training as Flight Line Marshals.



*Capt Bourque  
Leads Cadets at  
Sign-IN*



*Maj DeAndrade  
Briefs Acrews*



*S/M Allison and Capt Noniewicz  
Practice Marshaling*

## CADET MEETING MINUTES 16 OCTOBER, 2007

C/MSgt Molinari opened the meeting with a formation.

Capt. Rocketto informed the Squadron of the impending O Flights, SAREX, A-10 visit, and squadron finances.

S/M Wojtcuk administered testing.

Capt Wholean lead a moral leadership seminar on the concept of victory and the necessity for effort in achieving results.

Capt Bourque debriefed the Squadron on the SAREX exercise held last Saturday. Squadron members related their experiences in the van mounted ground search for the ELT. A discussion was held about the problems which arose and ideas for improving search techniques were discussed. The methods by which an aircraft can communicate with a ground team without the use of radios were reviewed.

Cadet Jonathan Scannell earned the Lindbergh Award and was promoted to C/MSgt .



*The Newly Minted C/MSgt Scanell is  
Congratulated by Capt Bourque*

## SPRINGFIELD ARSENAL VISIT

C/Msgt Michael Molinari, Cadets Shawn East and Kevin Roe and Capt Rocketto toured the Springfield Arsenal, Springfield, MA. They viewed a film depicting its 174 year history and the its most important contributions to manufacturing and national defense.

The exhibits viewed included key tools for the American System of Manufacturing and classic firearms including M1 Garand serial number one and President's Eisenhower's M14, s/n DDE1.

Cadet Molinari was particularly fascinated by the display, Organs of Rifles, a collection of 652 Model 1861 Springfield Rifles arrayed in mass to resemble the pipes of an organ. This is in tribute to the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Poem, *The Arsenal at Springfield*, the first stanza of which appears below.

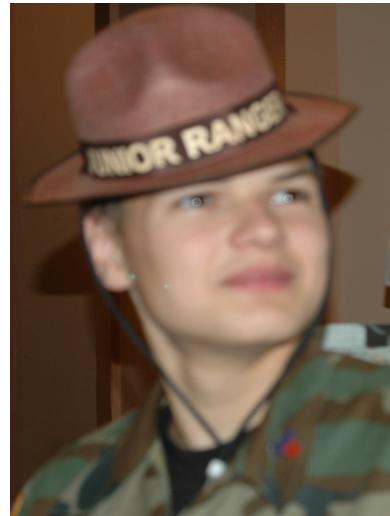
*This is the Arsenal. From floor to ceiling.  
Like a huge organ, rise the burnished arms;  
But front their silent pipes no anthem pealing  
Startles the villages with strange alarms,*

Indeed, Cadet Molinari was able to make the silent organ sing, pealing an anthem which startled both visitors, villagers, and the Ranger on guard duty.

Cadet Roe was drawn to the collection of semiautomatic military rifles, some of which he has fired in competition up to the national level.

Cadet East's favorite artifacts were bayonet lugs, flash suppressors, the trowel bayonet, and the cover worn by the Park Ranger.

Capt Rocketto was happy to escape without having his National Park Golden Age Passport permanently revoked and being forever banned from the precincts of those facilities under the custodianship of the Department of the Interior.



*Drill Instructor from Hell!*



*Cadets East, Roe, and Molinari pose with bust of John Garand, inventor of the M1 Rifle*

## WINGED ENTHRALLEMENT

*When skillfully rolled, slipped, spun, and dived, a plane could provide endless delight if not a bountiful income. For us, there was still enough glamour left in flying to relegate all monetary considerations far to the background. We did not begin to fly because we might make money with an airplane than we might have if otherwise employed.*

*We are, almost without exception, in love. It is more than love at this state; we are bewitched, gripped solidly in a passion few other callings could generate. Unconsciously or consciously, depending upon our individual courage for acknowledgment, we are slaves to the art of flying.*

Ernest K. Gann  
*Fate is the Hunter*

## **USCGA LECTURES**

### *Black Holes and the Big Bang*

Two topics of special interest to Cadets are scheduled for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Saul Krasner Memorial Lecture series.

On Monday, 29 October, Dr. Christine Jones of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics will deliver a talk on black holes in galaxy clusters based upon information gleaned from Chandra satellite observations.

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

Both lectures will be held in Dimick Hall at 2000 and will be preceded, if there is any interest, by pizza dinner hosted by Capt Rocketto.

## **MINI-QUIZ**

Can you dig up the answers to the following questions related to material in this edition of *The Coastwatcher*?

1. The hyphenated Brittain-Norman Aircraft and Saundar-Roe Aircraft Company shared an island headquarters. What is the name of the island?
2. What was the unusual cargo loading feature of the CL-44?
3. What was the designation of the original Republic Thunderbolt?
4. What does ELT stand for?
5. President Eisenhower's M14 had serial number DDE 1, his initials. What does DDE stand for?
6. In what Australian state is Woomera?
7. What was the nickname applied to the Martin M-130 flying boats, part of which became a PanAm call sign.
8. What was the nickname for the U.S.S. Langley?

E-mail Capt Rocketto answers and you may win a prize.

## **SQUADRON WEB LINK AND MORE**

The Thames River Composite Squadron web site is now up and running thanks to the efforts of C/MSgt Molinari and Cadets Scannell and Brohinsky. The site consists of announcements, a current calendar, contact information, a map to our trailer, links to Wing, Region, and National Headquarters, resource sections, back issues of The Coastwatcher, and soon, an album of pictures of Squadron activities.

Our squadron website may be found at:

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

Every Squadron member is urged to take a look at this web site and consider its utility. Webmaster Molinari eagerly awaits your comments, suggestions, and criticisms with an air of cautious optimism.

Other recommended organizational links are:

The Connecticut Wing:  
<http://www.ctwg.cap.gov/>

The Northeast Region:  
<http://www.ner.cap.gov/>

CAP National Headquarters  
<http://www.cap.gov/>

Some CAP specific educational links are:

A place to find out how to group your ribbons:  
[http://www.mer.cap.gov/ribbons/check\\_sr.htm](http://www.mer.cap.gov/ribbons/check_sr.htm)

A place to find practice tests in aerospace education and leadership:  
<http://www.mdln.hws.edu/cap/modules/index.asp>

A place to find references for model rocketry:  
<http://cap.mdickinson.com/ae/rocketry/htm>

A place to find information on emergency services:  
<http://www.cap-es.net/>

## **MEMORIES OF NOVEMBER'S PAST**

### *Highlights in the History of Aviation*

- 01 NOV 1931-Randolph Field's first class of cadets enters training.
- 02 NOV 1931-U.S.S. Akron, an aircraft carrying dirigible is commission by the U.S. Navy.
- 03 NOV 1922-Qantas starts first Australian scheduled service from Charleville to Cloncurry
- 04 NOV 1948-The USAF/Douglas Aircraft Corporation Project RAND is established as an independent non-profit organization.
- 05 NOV 1952-The first flight of a turbo prop powered light aircraft occurs when the XL-19B, a modified Cessna L-19 Bird Dog, flew with a Boeing XT-50-BO1 power plant.
- 06 NOV 1965-Ryan FR-1 Fireball piloted by Ensign Jake West is first jet plane to land on aircraft carrier under jet power when it alights on U.S.S. Wake Island.
- 07 NOV 1945-Hugh Wilson sets the first speed record of over 600 mph by averaging 606 mph in the British Gloster Meteor fighter.
- 08 NOV 1950-The first jet vs. jet dogfight takes place in the Korean skies. Lt Russell Brown, flying a Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star shoots down a North Korean MiG-15.
- 09 NOV 1905 Wilbur Wright sets world record by remaining in the air for a full five minutes.
- 10 NOV 1907-Louis Bleriot sets the style for the future with his No. VII, a monoplane with an enclosed fuselage and a tractor engine.
- 11 NOV 1949-The first long range rocket launches take place at Australia's Woomera Testing Facility.
- 12 NOV 1921-Wesley Mays accomplishes first air to air transfer of fuel by strapping a five gallon can on gasoline to his back and stepping from the wing of one airplane the wing of another.
- 13 NOV 1907-A helicopter built by Paul Cornu rises vertically in France.
- 14 NOV 1924-The U.S.S. Langley, our first aircraft carrier stands ready for duty.
- 15 NOV 1947-First hypersonic wind tunnel activated at National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) Langley Research Facility.
- 16 NOV 1959-Canadair's CL-44, a cargo carrying derivative of the Bristol Britannia makes its first flight.
- 17 NOV 1962-Dulles Airport is dedicated.
- 18 NOV 1930-First flight of the Boeing's first monoplane fighter, the XP-9.
- 19 NOV 1938-Construction commences on Washington National (now Reagan) Airport.
- 20 NOV 1953-Scott Crossfield becomes the first man to exceed Mach 2 in the Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket.
- 21 NOV, 1783-Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier becomes first human to achieve free flight when he flies a Mongolfier hot air balloon over Paris.
- 22 NOV 1934-A Pan Am Martin M-130 makes the first Pacific mail run from Alameda to Manila.
- 23 NOV 1942-Vought VS-173 "Flying Pancake" makes first flight.
- 24 NOV 1955-First flight of the Fokker F-27 Friendship.
- 25 NOV 1940-First Flight of the Martin B-26 Marauder.

26 NOV 1945-A Douglas C-54 Skymaster carries, for the first time, two horses across the Atlantic Ocean.

27 NOV 1912-U.S. Army Signal Corps receives a Curtiss Model F hydroplane.

28 NOV 1921-Ludwig Prandtl publishes seminal text *Applications of Modern Hydrodynamics*.

29 NOV 1945-Over Long Island Sound, A U.S. Army Sikorsky R-5 Dragonfly crewed by Sikorsky chief Pilot Jimmy Viner and Capt Jack Beighle, USAAF, accomplishes the first air-sea rescue by helicopter.

30 NOV 1925-Morrow Board submits report to President Coolidge which leads to the adoption of the Air Commerce Act of 1926.

#### **GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX**

The unusual float plane displayed in the last edition was a World War II vintage Japanese Kawanishi N1K1 *Kyofu* (Mighty Wind), code named Rex by the Allies.

Seaplane fighters has a somewhat unusual and checkered history. The lack of land bases in the early days of aviation and the rapidly expanding empire of Japanese in the early days of World War II gave rise to the need for aircraft that could operate off forward bases in the littoral environment. The logistic challenges at such bases was daunting to say nothing of salt water corrosion and weather extremes. The performance of these aircraft were reduced by the necessity of using the weighty and drag producing central float and wing tip stabilizing floats. Nonetheless, the need for such aircraft resulted in the Japanese producing two examples of monoplane fighters, the Rex and as an interim, a modification of the Mitsubishi Zero, produced by Nakajima as the A6M2-N called Rufe by the Allies.

The closest the United States got to producing a similar monoplane type was the Curtiss SC-1 Seahawk. Great Britain did produce some variants of the Supermarine Spitfire on floats, a few of which saw action.

The concept of a seaplane fighter did not die in World War II but ultimately resulted in jet powered designs such as the Convair XF2Y-1 and YF2Y-1 SeaDart, a delta planform mounted on hydroskis, and the British Saunders-Roe SRA/1 configured with a flying boat hull.

The particular example shown in last week's edition was photographed at the The Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association's display, now known as the Harold F. Pitcairn Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum located at NAS-JRB Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. It has since been transferred to the National War of the Pacific Museum in Fredericksburg, TX. The only other known surviving specimen of the Rex is in the custody of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

Let's try to identify the aircraft pictured below. A picture of this mark appeared in a previous *Coastwatcher*.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PUPILS TOUR AIRPORT

On Thursday, 21 pupils and eight parents visited our airport. The group was the Aerospace Adventurers Club from the Juliet Long Elementary School in Ledyard, led by Stuart Sharack. Sharack recently flew with our Squadron as part of CAP's Fly-A-Teacher Program.

The program opened up with a safety briefing by Capt Rocketto and a review of what would be shown to the group.

The students visited the Columbia Air Services Hangar where Dennis Piscatello, a Whelen Engineering pilot, invited them on board the Cessna 680 Sovereign, a twin engined jet transport used by Whelen, the noted producer of strobe lights, to move engineers and technician as part of their service and manufacturing enterprise.



*Pupils Board Whelen Jet Under Supervision of Pilot Dennis Piscatello*

Hugh Teel gave the students and parents a guided tour of the Survival Systems, Inc. facility and demonstrated how a fuselage section can be submerged in a water tank in order to train the crews how to escape from a ditched aircraft. The visitors were briefed on the various types of survival equipment including rafts, flares, signal mirrors, water purification devices, sea anchors, and survival rations.



*Fuselage Section is Lowered Into Pool in a Simulation of a Ditching*

Col Kinch discussed the details of the one of our Cessna 182s, focusing on the search and rescue aspects of our work.



*Col Kinch Demonstrates Personal Flotation Device with Student Help.*



*Col Kinch Points Out Features of 73X Panel*

The Connecticut State Police brought *Trooper One*, a Bell 407, to GON and landed in on the Lanmar #1 ramp near our aircraft. The students then were able to speak to the Troopers and view their aircraft.

The groups were guided from site to site by C/MSgt Michael Molinari, Cadets Alexis and Abigail Wojtcuk, S/M Robin Wojtcuk, and Adam Wojtcuk of the Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department.

