



Missions for  
America  
*Semper vigilans!*  
*Semper volans!*

## The Coastwatcher

Publication of the Thames River Composite  
Squadron  
Connecticut Wing  
Civil Air Patrol  
300 Tower Rd., Groton, CT  
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Issue 12.03

17 January 2018

20 JAN-Squadron UDF Training 0900  
23 JAN-TRCS Meeting  
30 JAN-TRCS Meeting-5th Week  
06 FEB-TRCS Meeting  
12-16 FEB-ICS 300/400 Course-Mystic  
13 FEB-TRCS Meeting  
20 FEB-TRCS Meeting  
24 FEB-CTWG TRAEX  
27 FEB-TRCS Meeting  
17 MAR-Geophysics Lecture  
07 APR-CTWG TRAEX  
17 APR-MIT/Hartford Club-Geophysics topic

### CADET MEETING

*16 January, 2018*

C/SSgt Wischman presented the safety briefing.

Capt Rob Guilliams directed a character development lesson.

### SENIOR MEETING

*16 January, 2018*

Lt Cols Doucette and Rocketto and Maj Farley held a quarterly finance meeting.

A decision to cancel a flight when conditions favored airframe icing was discussed by Maj Noniewicz, the squadron safety officer.

Lt Pineau handed out the forms which must be completed for the upcoming Staff Assistance Visit at the end of the fiscal year.

Lt Spreace explained the procedure for filling out ice patrol reports and submitting them to both the US Coast Guard and CAP

### PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

Five new cadets were welcomed into the Squadron, six cadets were promoted and six cadets and a senior member received awards.

#### *The Newbies*



*Cadets Elizabeth Burton and Silas Simmons salute Maj Farley, TRCS Commander.*



*Cadets Daniel Donovan and Jillian Irvine receive their insignia.*



*Cadet Madelyn Lussier is congratulated by Maj Farley.*

*Cadets Promoted to Airmen First Class and Recipients of the Arnold Ribbon*



*Mrs. Martin pins new stripes on C/AIC Daniel Martin and Maj Farley offers congratulations to C/AIC Jack Race.*

*Cadets Promoted to Senior Airmen and Awarded the Feik ribbon.*



*Welsh Name Celebration!  
C/SrA Rhys Thornell and C/SrA Owen Guilliams receive new insignia from Senior Member Jennifer Thornell and squadron chaplain Capt Rob Guilliams and Mrs. Guilliams*

*Cadet Promoted to C/Technical Sergeant and presented the Rickenbacker Ribbon*



*Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Maj Farley pin on C/TSgt Hayden Kirkpatrick's collar insignia*

*Cadet Promoted to Chief Master Sergeant and Recipient of the Goddard Ribbon*



*C/CMSgt Hannah Ramsey and C/SMSGt Benjamin Ramsey honor brother C/CMSgt Daniel Ramsey.*

*The General Chuck Yeager Award*



*Seniors Member Jennifer Thornell studies her Yeager ribbon, awarded for completing the Aerospace Education Program for Senior Members.*

*The Winchester-NRA Marksmanship Medal small bore rifle program.*



*Cadets Wischman, Guilliams, Munzer, Thornell, Martin, and Munzer display their medals awarded for completing the second phase of the*

## TRAINING

Nine squadron members engaged in Urban Direction Finding (UDF) Training on Sunday, the 14th. Maj Bouque led the exercise and Lt Schmidt served as ICUT evaluator and mission radio operator.

After receiving classroom training at the squadron trailer, the trainees tracked down and located a beacon hidden inside a vehicle in Groton City.



Trainees were SM Jennifer Thornell and Eric Diaz. Cadets Race, Martin, Munzer, Thornell, and Diaz completed the team.

## MISSIONS

Maj Farley, Lt Sprecace, and Capt Miller flew an ice patrol over the eastern portion of the state on Sunday, the 14th. Ice was forming on the Connecticut, especially along the banks, but the river was flowing. However, recent reports indicate ice dams and flooding.

## FLYNN FLIES

Our former cadet commander and USCG Academy Graduate Ensign Brendan Flynn has started flight training at the US Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida.



When last seen by *The Coastwatcher* staff, Flynn was flying a Stearman PT-17 Kaydet, a World War II trainer. His new steed will be the Beechcraft T-6 Texan II turbo-prop.



*PT-17 and Panel*



*Texan II and Panel*



## GONE WEST

*John Watts Young*



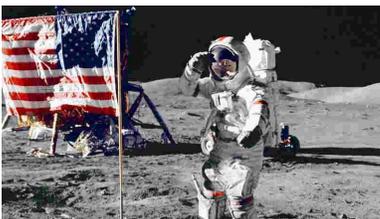
John Young, age 87, the only astronaut to fly on Gemini, Apollo, and Shuttle missions flew west on the fifth of January.

Young graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in aeronautical engineering. After graduation, he served shipboard and then applied for and was accepted for flight training. He once commented that he "...almost decided against becoming a pilot, because as a knowing engineer you have to wonder about the safety factor."

His early aviator service was flying fighters in the fleet. Afterwards, Young served three years at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland as a test pilot.

After retiring from the Navy as a Captain, he joined NASA where he flew as pilot on Gemini 3 and as commander on Gemini 10.

Young was command module pilot on Apollo 10, the test for flying the lunar module while orbiting the moon. He commanded Apollo 16 and became the ninth person to walk on the moon.



*Charlie Duke's photo of Young rendering honors to our national ensign.*

The first flight of the Space Shuttle was commanded by Young and he also commanded STS-9 which carried the first Spacelab module in its cargo bay.

During his 43 year career with NASA, Young served as Chief of the Space Shuttle Branch and Chief of the Astronaut Office.

From time to time, Young provoked the ire of his superiors. He caught the attention of the Chief of Naval Operations when during a test, he and another pilot flew head-on with a closing speed of Mach 3. The CNO sent a telegrams suggesting that we'll have no more that.

The Gemini 3 mission involved testing of specially formulated space foods. While in orbit, Young offered Gus Grissom a corned beef sandwich which he had smuggled aboard. The sandwich was from Wolfie's, an astronaut watering hole in Cocoa Beach. Some members of Congress, perhaps while dining on the famous bean soup served each day in the Senate dining room.

For some reason, some members of Congress were upset and called NASA administrator George Mueller to explain this malfeasance before an Appropriations Committee meeting. Action was taken and it was announced that "We have taken steps...to prevent recurrence of corned beef sandwiches in future flights."

As an engineer who wondered about safety factors, Young and he had a history of writing critical reports about safety practices in the space program. After *Challenger* blew up, Young's internal memos were leaked to the press. Immediately after, Young was given a lateral transfer to a less influential post. The bureaucracy denied that this was a punishment to discourage the others. Make of it what you will.

Young went west with 16,000 hours logged, 835 of them in space. His NASA career included 15,000 hours of training, mostly simulator time!

He joins the pantheon of great aviators: Bob Hoover, Scott Crossfield, Winkle Brown, Mutt Summers, Bill Bridgeman, and Tony LeVier to name a few.

We are diminished.

*K-9 Piper Goes to Doggydom's "Big Rock Candy Mountain."*



*K-9 Piper in the USCG Picture of the Year*  
(Credits: airportK9.org)

K-9 Piper, aged 9, died in the arms of his owner and handler Brian Edwards.

K-9 Piper was a border collie, internet star, and protector of pilots at Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City, Michigan.

During a three year career, K-9 Piper worked as a wildlife control officer, logging 2000 patrol miles and 6,000 duty hours. On his last day, he hounded a snowy owl off the airport runway, his 8,367th victory over the avian species.



*K-9 Piper Ousting a Mallard.*

He now resides in the canine version of the "Big Rock Candy Mountain, where there ain't no fleas, the water dish is always full, liver treats, biscuits, and rawhide are there for the having, there are birds to chase, and the fire hydrants are conveniently located.

## AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY

7 January, 1949 – A British South American Airways Avro Tudor IV, *Star Ariel*, disappears without a trace between Bermuda and Jamaica. An earlier disappearance of another BSSA Tudor IV, the *Star Tiger* is used to support the myth of a "Bermuda Triangle."



18 January, 1911 – Eugene Ely, a civilian, lands on a make-shift platform on the cruiser, USS Pennsylvania. The landing took place in San Francisco Bay and marks the first time an aircraft landed on a ship.



*Ely's Curtiss pusher just before touchdown. Note the cross-deck pendants and sand bags used to arrest the landing. Canvas is rigged outboard to prevent the aircraft from going overboard if it swerves.*

19 January, 1946 – Bell test pilot Jack Woolams flies the Bell XS-1 on its first flight. The flight is unpowered, a gliding test held at Pinecastle AAF Base near Orlando, Florida. The joint NACA-US Arm/USAF supersonic research project will achieve fame when the XS-1, renamed the X-1, becomes the first manned aircraft to exceed the speed of sound. Two were built and 19 pilots flew one or both of them.



20 JAN, 1937-Howard Hughes, flying his H-1 racer, sets a new transcontinental speed record of 332 mph.

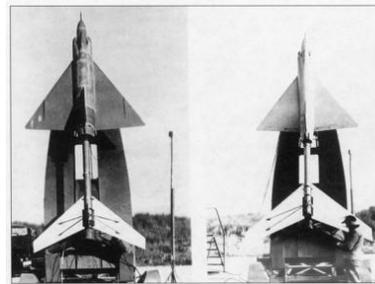


21 JAN, 1950 – First flight of the Tupolev Tu-75, a Soviet 4 engine military transport prototype based on the Tu-4 Bull. The TU-4 was an almost perfect copy of the Boeing B-29. Several landed in Russia after bombing Japan. The Russians had a neutrality pact with Japan so the aircraft could be confiscated.

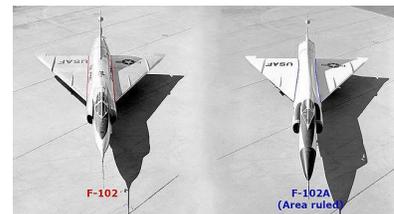
Boeing used B-29 features to build its B-50, Model 377 Stratocruiser and the C-97/KC-97 models.



22 JAN, 1952- NACA engineers at Wallops Island, Virginia run the first test on a rocket propelled vehicle incorporating the Whitcomb Area Rule. Simply put, the drag is reduced if the frontal area of the design is constant. A narrow waist compensates for the wider wing.



*NACA test rockets at Wallops.*



*The F-102, unable to reach Mach 1 in its original configuration became a supersonic aircraft after the “pinched waist” Whitcomb area rule was applied*

Jan 23, 2007 – First flight of the Lockheed-Martin CATBird. The CATBird is a specially modified 737 used to test avionics.



*CATBird, an acronym for Cooperative Avionics Test Bed*

Modifying an existing aircraft for experimental purposes is relatively common. In many cases, the aircraft cannot be returned to its original configuration. The USAF uses the letter “N” as a prefix for such an aircraft.



*The Total In-Flight Simulator (TIFS) is a Convair C-131 designed to imitate the responses of different aircraft.*



*The NKC-135 is an airborne laser lab. The Air Force was experimenting with a laser capable of targeting another airborne target.*

24 JAN, 1962 – Two U.S. Navy F-4 Phantoms are transferred to the U.S. Air Force in preparation for adopting the type. The services have a history of adopting aircraft designed for another branch of the military.



*USMC F-4B at San Diego's Flying Leatherneck Museum*

*Air Force F-4C at USAF Elgin Armaments Museum*



Other examples of Navy aircraft adopted by the USAF are the Douglas AD Skyraider, and the Chance-Vought A-7 Corsair II.



*A USAF “Spad” bearing the tail code for the 56th Special Operations Wing, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand.*



*An A-7D “SLUF” of the Virginia Air National Guard*



*An A-7 at Fantasy of Flight with the colors of the squadron VA-12, Carrier Air Wing 7.*

## COASTWATCHER GUARDIANS

### *Erratum Section*

The eagle eyes of Lt Cols Carl Stidsen and Wild Bill Dolan noted that Hap Arnold and Bebe Daniels were standing in front of a P-12, not a P-26.

Phil Kortesis from Tucson reports that Ham, the Astrochimp dies on 19 January, 1983. The launch was on 31 January, 1960. And by the way, Ham is an acronym for **H**olloman **A**erospace **M**edical Center, his home of record.