



Missions for
America
Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!

The Coastwatcher

Publication of the Thames River Composite
Squadron
Connecticut Wing
Civil Air Patrol
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21 APR-Rocket Building (0900-1400)
Cadet PT (Poquonnock Park-0800)
24 APR-TRCS Meeting
28-29 APR-Corporate Leadership Course
01 MAY-TRCS Meeting
07 MAY-Special Wing Exercise (USAF)
08 MAY-TRCS Meeting-Commander's Call
12 MAY-Connecticut Aviation Day
15 MAY-TRCS Meeting
19 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocket Contest
22 May-TRCS Meeting
27 MAY-Memorial Day Parade
29 MAY-TRCS Meeting
19 AUG-Groton Airport Day
22 SEP-Preston Scarecrow Festival
29 SEP-Glider Flights-Springfield, Vt.
06 OCT-Groton Fall Festival

CADET MEETING

17 April, 2018

The customary drill, pledge, oath, inspection, and GES testing opened the meeting.

Rocket building was supervised by SM Kopycienski and Lt Schmidt.

SENIOR MEETING

17 April, 2018

A number of fundamental skills involving tasks for aircrews flying on Long Island Sound Patrol were reviewed: marine charts, monitoring Marine 16 on the Becker direction finder, and using the GPS effectively.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PRESENTATION

16 April, 2018

Lt Col Larry Bright, a third generation member of the Civil Air Patrol, appeared before the Adventures in Life Long Learning group at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, Connecticut.

The presentation topics covered included a brief history of the Civil Air Patrol, its national and local organization, resources, and missions. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Approximately 15 people attended the presentation.

CTWG & THE SALEM PROPBUSTERS

17 April, 2018

Lt Col Rocketto, CTWG UAV Project Officer and Lt Jay Lavoie, Assistant Wing Communications Officer met with the members of the Salem Propbusters radio controlled aircraft club.

The purpose was two-fold: to request permission to use their flying field to practice flying our

experimental search and rescue unmanned aerial vehicle and the ask them to render assistance in the operation of the hex-copter.

The Propbusters are researching their bylaws and insurance and the requirement of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY & HISTORY

18 APR, 1943 – U.S. code breakers intercepted a message detailing the plans for an inspection tour of some Solomon Islands bases by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the commander of Japan's Combined Fleet. Sixteen P-38 Lightnings led by Major John Mitchell intercepted Yamamoto's aircraft and shot it down.



Artist Jack Fellows rendering of Lt. Rex barber's shoot-down of Yamamoto's Mitsubishi G4M Betty.

19 APR, 1972 – The Battle off Đông Hới-In a once only incident, the Vietnam People's Air Force attacked U.S. Navy warships. Two MiG-17 Frescoes dropped 500 pound bombs,, heavily damaging the destroyer *USS Higbee* and causing minor damage to the guided-missile light cruiser *USS Oklahoma*.



One of the MiG-17 Frescos involved in the bombing attack is on display at the Vietnamese Air Force Museum, Hanoi.

Damage to the aft turret of the Higbee.

(Credit: US Navy)



20 APR, 1942– Forty-eight RAF Spitfire Mk.VBs are launched from the USS Wasp in an attempt to reinforce the besieged island of Malta. On the 9th of May, *Wasp* completed a second delivery mission.



Spitfire being loaded aboard the Wasp.

(Credits " US Navy)

Spits staging for take-off runs. Note the long range belly tanks.



21 APR, 1928– After a week long journey from Point Barrow, Alaska, Australian explorer Hubert Wilkins and American pilot Carl Ben Eielson land their Lockheed Vega in Spitzbergen, Norway. This is the first air crossing of the Arctic by an airplane.



Eielson, Wilkins, and the Vega

What the well dressed Arctic aviation wears.



Twelve hundred miles after take-off, they encountered a blizzard which forced them to land. The managed to land on Dead Man's Island in winds so strong that the landing “slide” on skis was 30 feet! Well equipped for arctic survival, they waited for a week for the storm to blow out after which they took off and completed the journey.

22 APR, 1911– Charles Hamilton, a New Britain, Connecticut native was demonstrating a Burgess-Wright biplane over the Stanley Quarter of New Britain.



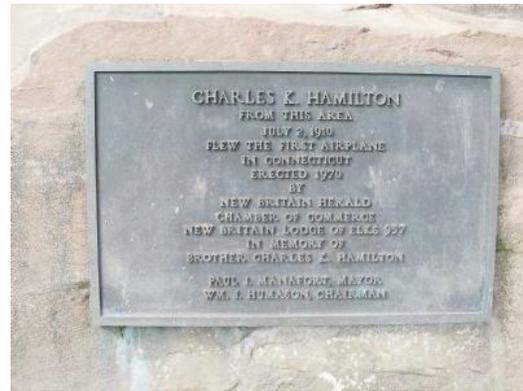
Hamilton and his Burgess-Wright F

A loss of control led to a crash after a short flight.



He was a New Britain native and made the first public flight in Connecticut on July 2nd. 1910.

Hamilton was on of the Aviation Early Birds, American aviation license No. 12 and nicknamed the “crazy man of the air” based upon his record for death defying dives and drinking habits. He survived over 60 crashes but was taken down by tuberculosis at the age of 28.



This historic marker is located at the intersection of Park Place and Walnut Hill Park. (Credit: Michael Herrick)

23 APR, 1956– First flight of the Douglas C-133 Cargomaster. Like the A-10 Warthog, the Cargomaster's design was dictated by the mission.



Cargomaster at the Air Mobility Command Museum, Dover AFB

The A-10 was built around GAU-8 Avenger cannon. The Cargomaster was built to transport the first generation of intercontinental missiles. It is the largest turbo-prop aircraft ever used by the USAF. Only fifty were built and nine were destroyed in crashes.

24 APR, 1946 – Winged Cargo Inc. opens an unusual freight service in which goods are carried in a Waco CG-4 A glider towed by a DC-3. The first flight was from Philadelphia to Miami and then on to Havana. No passengers were carried but 7,500 pounds of freight was delivered, about 2,500 pounds more than the usual C-47 payload.

The idea was to maximize the passenger and cargo load using the extra lift provided by the glider. The C-47 would utilize normal airports but the glider was generally used to service rural areas since the air traffic control people could not sequence their arrivals into the flow of powered traffic.



Rural Cow Delivery Service

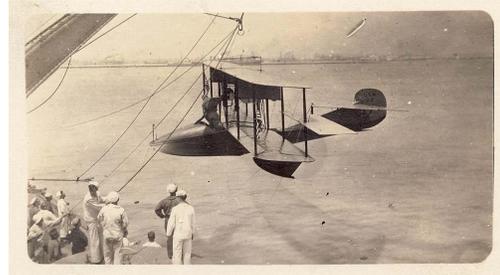
Start-up cost for the equipment was minimal. After the war, a surplus C-47 could be obtained for under \$1,000. The CG-4 could be had for \$75. The glider was delivered in its original shipping crate. Purchasers trashed the glider and used the crate as a small building!



Winged Cargo ran a specialist operation at one time using their DC-3s to move cows from Canada to the Caribbean Basin.

The novel airline prospered for a time. but a crash of one of its three C-47s in Central America and subsequent government investigations led to its demise.

25 APR, 1914 – The first combat flight by a U. S. Navy aircraft takes place. A naval aviation section accompanied US forces to Vera Cruz, Mexico in response to a breakdown in diplomatic relations over a minor incident in Tampico.



Curtiss AB-3 being loaded aboard the USS Mississippi (Credits: US Navy Archives)



One aircraft, a Curtiss AB-3 is on the deck. A Curtiss AH-3 is visible on the aft 12 inch gun turret.

Two pilots, Lieutenants (junior grade) Patrick N. L. Bellinger and Richard C. Saufley, ground crews, and Curtiss AH-3 and Curtiss AB-3, both hydroplanes, are launched from the USS Mississippi. They flew reconnaissance missions and on May 6th, Bellinger's AB-3 with Saufley as observer was struck by rifle fire.



Bellinger and Saufley after returning from the flight in the AH-3 which had been struck by enemy rifle fire.