



Missions for
America
Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!

The Coastwatcher

Publication of the Thames River Composite
Squadron
Connecticut Wing
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01 May, 2018

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
19 MAY-Touch-A-Truck Recruiting Effort
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

01 May, 2018

Personal fitness practice and testing preceded the formal meeting. The customary drill, pledge, oath, inspection, and GES testing opened the meeting.

C/2d Lt Schantz presented a staff duty analysis speech which reviewed his experiences as cadet safety officer and cadet personnel officer.

Maj Bourque, SM Michael Kopycienski, and Lt Col Rocketto assisted the TRCS Rocketeers in their rocket building endeavors.



SENIOR MEETING

01 May, 2018

Staff Meeting

Squadron Commander Farley conducted the monthly staff meeting. Staff officers briefed the Squadron on the status of their departments.

PROMOTIONS, ADVANCEMENTS, AND AWARDS

C/Col Daniel Hollingsworth has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. The award is for excellence in marksmanship and academics.



Cadet Burton was awarded a recruiting ribbon.

Maj Bourque attained the technician level in the logistics specialty track.

Lt Schmidt has been rated a mission pilot.

AVIATION TRIVIA CONTEST

Since Public Radio's Tappet Brothers, Click and Clack went off the air, The Puzzler has been out of work. *The Coastwatcher* has taken him on as a contract employee. Here is his first effort.

U.S. aircraft have official name. For example, the Grumman TBF is known as the Avenger. But aircraft have unofficial names generally referring to some characteristic of appearance or flight. The TBF is known as "The Turkey."

The Puzzle

The challenge is to identify the aircraft listed below by their official names.

1. Warthog
2. Old Shaky
3. Gooney Bird
4. Bone
5. Vibrator
6. Hun

7. Baltimore Streetwalker
8. Bugsmasher alias the Secret Navy Bomber
9. Dollar Nineteen
10. Jug

Entrants will have their names posted in the next issue.

AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY & HISTORY

2 May, 1964 – While the aviation transport ship *USNS Card* is unloading helicopters at Saigon, Lam Son Nao, a Vietnam saboteur, attaches explosives to the hull and sinks her at her moorings. It take over two weeks to patch and re-float the *Card*.



(left) Cocooned F-102s (Credit: Robert Hurst)



(above) A Cargo of Skyraiders (Credit: USN)

3 May, 1952– The US Navy had failed to be first to land an aircraft at the North Pole and was planning another attempt. But the US Air Force got there first. Operation Oil Drum used a ski and wheel equipped Douglas C-47 flown by Lt. Col. William P. Benedict and Lt. Col. J. O. Fletcher to land a small science party for a three hour stay.



Benedict and Fletcher asking the navigator for directions. Are we there yet?



Party at the Pole. Missing is A2C David Dobson who took the pictures.

04 May, 1969 – The first day of the The Daily Mail Transatlantic Air Race. The race commemorates the 50th anniversary of the first trans-Atlantic flight by John Alcock and Arthur Brown which was sponsored by The Daily Mail. The race starts or end at the General Post Office Building in London and ends or starts at the top of the Empire State Building in New York. A distance of 3,500 miles. Competitors have a choice of directions. There were prizes for the shortest time, sub-sonic aircraft, scheduled passenger aircraft, boat, chartered business jet, and light aircraft (women and men).

Competitors had to use aerial transportation for at least on leg and chose motorcycles, classic and modern sports cars, and taxis, buses, or trains for the land legs. The initial and final legs had to be completed on foot. The event was held during a one week window closing on 11 May.

The first competitor to depart from London was Anne Alcock, niece of Sir John Alcock. A westward route was chosen by the Royal Air Force and they entered a Hawker Siddely Harrier GR.1 which the pilot completed the trip in 6 hr 11 min. Celebrity chef Clement Freud, the grandson of Sigmund Freud took 8 hr 4 min on a scheduled Aer Lingus passenger flight via Shannon, Ireland. The well known aviatrix, Sheila Scott flew her own Piper Comanche and took 26 hr 3 min for the journey. Other competitors include Formula One racing driver Stirling Moss and Tina the Chimp, a flack for Brook Bond Tea Tina will fly on a BOAC VC-10.



Harrier departing from St. Pancras Station and arriving on on a Hudson River wharf at 23rd St. The USMC provided the landing pad.



First day cover with a stamp honoring Alcock and Brown.



Sheila Scott held over 100 distance and speed records.

Eastward, a Vickers VC-10 chartered by Michael Fallon, a British politician took 7 hr, 3 min. A Royal Air Force Phantom FG.1 was the over-all winner. The Phantom departed Floyd Bennett Field and landed at Wisley Aerodrome. The back seater of the Phantom, Commander Paul Goddard was the “runner” who started and completed the race with the wining time of 4 hr, 47 min.



Goddard heads for the General Post Office Building finish line.

Films of the race highlights are available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDgJbOzDDU0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbACUVYdqOs>

05 May, 1961- Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr., U.S. Navy, aboard the Mercury Freedom 7 capsule is propelled into sub-orbital flight by a Mercury-Redstone rocket. The 15 minute ballistic flight take him to an altitude of 115 miles and 350 miles downrange from Cape Canaveral.



Upsy-Daisy Alan, Upsy Daisy Shepherd demonstrates two methods to gain altitude.

(Credits: NASA and the US Navy)

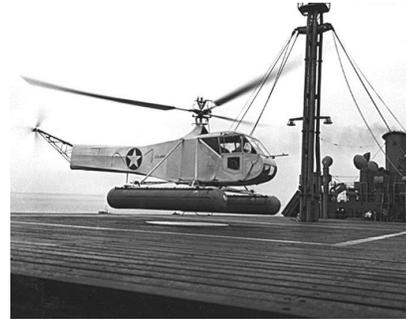
06 May, 1943 – Colonel Frank Gregory made the first helicopter landing aboard a ship. The experiment was to determine the feasibility of landing helicopters on ships. The military were considering their use for anti-submarine work.



Col. Gregory chats with Igor Sikorsky.

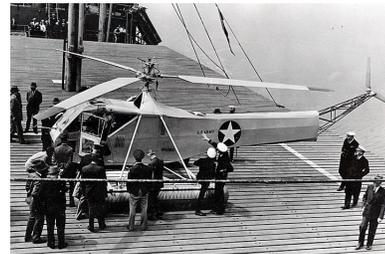
A T-2 tanker, the *S.S. Bunker Hill* was equipped with a platform and cruised in Long Island Sound just offshore from the Sikorsky factory in

Bridgeport. Gregory flew a Model 316A, XR-4 in military nomenclature, and made a number of landings and take-offs. Gregory conducted a number of flights over the next two days to explore how variations in relative wind direction and ship speed affected operations.



Deck Landing-S.S. Bunker Hill

Two months later, the feasibility of landing helicopters on ships in the open ocean was tested. A flight deck was installed on the *S.S. James Parker* and a coterie of Sikorsky and Army aviators used wheel and float equipped XR-4s for the tests.



(Credits: Sikorsky Archives)

07 May, 1937 - The first aircraft specifically developed with a pressurized passenger cabin is tested in the Lockheed XC-35, a specially modified Lockheed Electra. The production Electra had a flat sided fuselage. The XC-35 had a fuselage with a circular cross-section which reduced the number of points of high stress concentrations. The large windows were reduced in size for a similar reason



(Credit: National Air and Space Museum)