



Missions for  
America

*Semper  
vigilans!*

*Semper  
volans!*

Publication of the Thames River Composite  
Squadron  
Connecticut Wing  
Civil Air Patrol

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Issue 14.19

05 May, 2020

### **TENTATIVE SQUADRON CALENDAR**

Virtual Meetings and Independent Projects to be Scheduled. Tentatively, Senior meet on Tuesday night and Cadets meet on Wednesday night. Zoom is the videoconferencing tool of choice.

05 MAY-Sr. Staff Meeting

06 AY-Cadet Meeting-Aerospace Module 6

12 MAY-TRCS Sr. Commander's Call

13 MAY-Cadet Meeting

16 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocket Contest

19 MAY-Sr. Meeting

20 MAY-Cadet Meeting

26 MAY-Sr. Meeting

29 MAY-Cadet Meeting

### **CADET MEETING**

*29 April, 2019*

Cadet 1st Lt Munzner presented clues and challenged the cadets to identify six different individuals for whom CAP cadet awards are named.

Cadet 1st Lt Thornell delivered a Staff Duty Analysis on the role and responsibilities of the cadet deputy commander.

C/SSgt Rathbone offered an illustrated presentation on the F-16.

C/CMSgt Martin instructed the cadets on CAP e-mail protocol.

Lt Thornell ran a contest which required answering questions about the Hughes AH-16 Apache.

### **SENIOR MEETING**

*05 May, 2020*

Lt Pineau functioned as Zoom Host and Maj Farley moderated the meeting. Department heads reported on the status of their committees. In most cases, committees reported normal activities.

Lt Col Rocketto's aerospace education lesson, *Death and Heroism* was a continuation of the story of the Watson crew's B-17 missions in Europe.

A round-robin allowed each of the attending officers to report about the pace of their life during the stand-down.

### **TRCS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

*Cadet Promotions*

Cadets Noah Bosse, Olivia Busher and Roan Schaeffer have earned the Rickenbacker Award and promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant.

Cadets Elizabeth Burton and Cameron Wischman have earned the Goddard Award and promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant.

Cadet Maria Ceniglio has earned the Feik Award and promotion to Cadet Senior Airman

Cadet Joseph Busher has earned the Wright Brothers Award and promotion to Cadet Staff Sergeant.

Cadet David Motherway has earned the Arnold Award and promotion to Cadet Airman First Class.

Cadet Daniel Martin has earned the Mitchell Award and promotion to Cadet First Lieutenant.

### *Cadet Activities*

Cadets Joseph Busher, Stephen Buchko and Nathan Dillon have all submitted essays to the American Institute of Aeronautics contest. The theme of the required essay was "How advanced can you envision space technology and exploration through the next 50 years? What do we need to do NOW to achieve that?" Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national level.

### *Senior Activities*

Lt Otrin has qualified to operate the DAART system. DAART, a thankfully adopted acronym for **Domestic Operations Awareness and Assessment Response Tool**, is a system that provides aerial and ground imagery and reporting and communications so incident commanders have improved situational awareness to support decision-making.

Otrin is also starting flight training for the instrument rating.

Lt Tina Gauthier has completed the Aerospace Education for Senior Members program and earned the Yeager Ribbon. 97% of our officers have qualified for the Yeager Ribbon.

Former squadron member Wild Bill Dolan, now with another squadron will have 50 continuous years in CAP as of June and 42 years as a

telephone colonel.

Lt Cantwell reported that he had painted sections of the supply trailer and detected a problem with one of the door frames in the cadet trailer.

Lt Kopycienski noted that the Squadron has a 79% ICUT qualification record. Seniors are at 89% and cadets are at 69% qualified. He also reported that our outdoor light system is performing well.

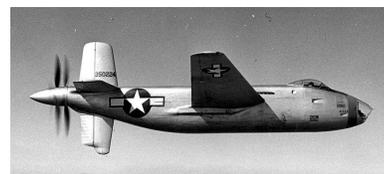
On Friday, May 1st, Lt Col Rocketto taught an aerospace lesson via Zoom to Hartford's Royal Charter Squadron.

On Sunday, May 3, Maj Farley flew the USAF Proficiency Flight #10 profile. The 1.5 hour flight required completion of six different types of takeoffs and landings: normal, partial flap, short field, soft field, no flap and go-around. Major Farley doubled up on some with a total of 9 takeoff/landings. This still does not match the record of 13 takeoffs and landings by Lt Spreccace a few weeks back.

Five members of the Squadron took part in a CTWG training exercise on Monday, the 5th. The training involved five aircraft from three other squadrons. Lt Spreccace and Major Noniewicz served as Air Branch Operations Directors, Lt Kopycienski manned the communications room and Maj Neilson flew two sorties of the mission. The long absent Lt Humes came over from the TSMAG when he saw all of the CAP Cessnas on the ramp.

## **THE WEEK'S AEROSPACE ANNIVERSARIES**

May 6, 1944 – First flight of the Douglas XB-42 Mixmaster. The war time frenzy in the aircraft design community resulted in many radical aircraft.



Douglas put two engines inside the fuselage and used a drive shaft to turn a pair of counter-rotating propellers mounted in the tail. This produced a clean wing and fuselage which was free of drag-inducing features. The propellers could be jettisoned in case of a bail-out. But the double-bubble canopy did not help crew communications and the empennage's ventral fin which created a tail-strike danger were not plus factors.

As the war was coming to a close and the jet age was imminent, the Air Force stepped back and was no longer in a hurry to acquire propeller driven bombers. Even though it set a new transcontinental speed record of 433 mph between Long Beach and Washington, instability and engine cooling problems and the crash of one of the prototypes ended the program.

Douglas attempted to salvage their investment by using the basic features to design a propeller driven airliner which they called the DC-8. This is not to be confused with the turbine powered DC-8 which was built a decade later. Alas, another failure for Douglas. Cost and complexity ended the project before metal was ever cut.

May 7, 1986 – Aircraft designer Al Mooney Goes West at the age of 80. During his long career, he worked for about ten different companies such as Alexander, Bellanca, Culver, Monocoupe and Lockheed.



*Al and a Mooney M20J*

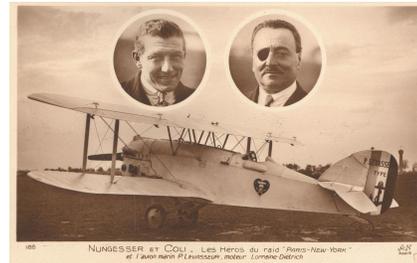
He also had two companies of his own. His most successful design was the extremely fast Mooney 20 series with their "trade-mark" forward swept tail. Over 11,000 were built.

May 8, 1983 – James Andrew Healy Goes West.

Healy was a WWI Ace with five victories while flying a Spad XIII and was awarded the Distinguish Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre. In 1927 he served as a technical advisor on William Wellman's WWI flying movie *Wings*. Healy also served in WWII and retired as a colonel.

The director, Wellman, was also a WWI pilot with three confirmed victories and five probables. He had a long successful career in Hollywood, directed 80 films and won two Academy Awards. Other aviation films include *Thunderbird*, *Island in the Sky*, *the High and the Mighty* and *Lafayette Escadrille*.

May 8, 1927 - Somewhere between Paris and New York betwixt the night of May 8th and the morning of May 9th, Charles Nungesser and Francois Coli disappeared.



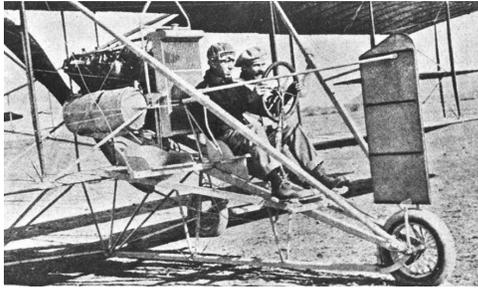
They were attempting to make the Atlantic crossing westward in a Lavasseur PL-8, *L'Oiseau Blanc* (The White Bird). Over the years, reports about their crash site came from Newfoundland to Maine but no conclusive evidence was ever produced.

May 9-11, 1904 – The empires of Japan and Russia are duking it out in what is now known as the Russo-Japanese War. The Russian armored cruiser *Rossya* is fitted out with an observation balloon and makes thirteen successful launches while cruising on the Sea of Japan. This marks the first time a balloon has been deployed at sea in a potential combat situation.

*The Rossya with a captive balloon secured aft.*



May 10, 1933 – The French mercenary pilot Didier Masson and Captain Joaquín Bauche Alcalde are employed by Venustiano Carranza's revolutionary forces to bomb gunboats of the Mexican Federal Navy in Guaymas. This is the first time that ships have been bombed from the air. Didier and Bauche score a second first when they dumped propaganda leaflets on the Federalist forces.



*Didier at the controls of bomber, La Sonora.*

Later that month, he also attacked the cruiser *General Guerrero*. Ordnance consisted of pipes stuffed with dynamite and rivets. A crude impact detonator and guidance fin completed the weapons package.



*The target, Mexican cruiser General Guerrero*

Masson had been working as a flight instructor for Glenn Martin when the Carranza's paid him \$5,500 for a Martin airplane and equipment, \$350 dollars base pay, \$50 per flight in Mexico and \$250 for each bombing sortie. *Coastwatcher* believes that this is the start of the tradition in which an underpaid flight instructor jumps to a higher paying position, sometimes of dubious morality.

May 11, 1960– A record breaking night altitude ascent is made when an Army Signal Corps balloon reaches 144,000 feet.



*NASA rig to launch stratospheric balloon. (Credit: NASA)*

May 12, 1953 – Bell test pilot Jean "Skip" Zeigler Goes West when the Bell X-2 Starbaster rocket plane exploded in the belly of the EB-50 mothership. Bell was engaged in a test in which the oxygen tank aboard the X-2 was kept topped off as it boiled by pumping more liquid oxygen into it from the mothership.



*Zeigler and the X-1A*

The aircraft with Zeigler inside fall into Lake Ontario and the bodies of Zeigler and Frank Wolko, a flight test engineer who was blown overboard are never recovered. The tanker makes it home but was a write-off.

X-craft had been plagued by a series of unexplained explosions. Ultimately, the cause was found to be deterioration of a leather gasket when exposed to liquid oxygen. The cost of aeronautical advances is sometimes paid in blood.

### Masks: Past, Present, And Future

by

*Stephen M. Rocketto*

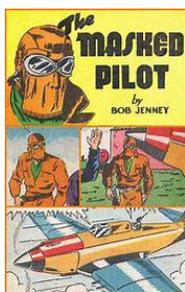
Mrs. Pineau's briefing last week on the donning and care of face mask awakened dormant memories in the fevered mind of The Editor. A favorite story of mine is Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death." A plague called the Red Death is sweeping the land so Prince Prospero decides to take refuge in his castle. He invites other wealthy aristocrats to wait out the plague in

his fortified castle and amuse themselves by attending a masquerade ball. Well, you can run but not hide and as John O'Hara and W.Somerset Maugham have warned, We all have an "Appointment in Samarra."

So I have decided to take a look at masking in our popular culture. This will not cover the masking done by a house painter nor masking tape nor that accomplished by camouflage experts.

The craze for the superhero is not new. My boyhood was filled with superheros and many of them had a penchant for wearing a mask. Some masks provided the protection demanded by our state Governor but others were lacking in the necessary coverage aptly demonstrated by Mrs. Pineau.

Since this is an aviation oriented publication, we ought first to mention *The Masked Pilot, circa 1939*. He and his faithful mechanic Tim used their fighter, "The Bullet" to battle aerial evil doers, especially "The Phantom Raider of the Sky."



*Maverick Approves.*

The Masked Pilot was not only a combat ace and expert pistol shot but also a scientist and master of disguise. Isn't every pilot? Just ask one of them. Once while unmasked, he was recognized as an expert and eccentric aviator who could have been Howard Hughes.

A famous masked aviator was Wiley Post. Arguably, he devised the first pressure suit for high altitude operations. His flights to 50,000 ft. and the discovery of the jet stream were early contributions to high altitude flight.



*Snoopy Approves.*

A bit of a bad boy early on, he was arrested for armed robbery and spent time in the grey-bar hotel. Perhaps if had worn a mask.....

The classic film *Twelve O' Clock High* has USAAF crew in their A-6B masks.



*It's Gen. Savage's prerogative not to wear a mask. Note social distancing from the B-17 to starboard.*

And recall the Robin Hood toby jug used to indicate an upcoming mission. His inadequate mask resulted in a subpoena issued by the Sheriff of Nottingham.



Then there is *The Phantom of the Opera*. His desire to make his sweet patootie, Christine, a diva wreaks havoc in the Paris Opera House.



*He almost got it right. Maybe he wants an audition as a masked singer?*

Masking meets the Governor's specs but political incorrectness will not be tolerated Even the Trumpster disapproves..



*Nurse Pineau renders her opinion on the inadequate masks done by super-heroes.*

The masked comic book, radio, and movie super-heroes of the fifties and sixties, The Lone Ranger, The Phantom, The Shadow, Zorro.and Batman and Robin

Maybe not your idea of a super-hero but Darth Vader knows how to mask. But I would not get in his way at the supermarket when he comes in to pick up the toilet paper supply for the Death Star.



*Nurse Pineau approves!*



*The Coastwatcher* is proud to issue a disclaimer that "no animals were infected in the writing of this article." Veteran vets supervised our production unlike the care not taken to protect 27 goats and sheep waiting in the green room for the filming of *The Hobbit* (Look it up and the producers also equivocated on the disclaimer.).



*A mustard gas attack is not a fit place for man or beast unless one adopts a modicum of protection.*

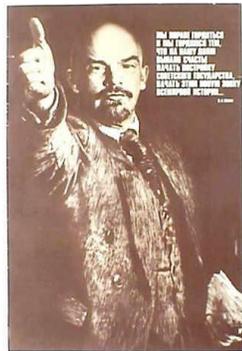
But if you enjoy being skewered by Zorro, punctured by the The Shadow's .45s or one of the Lone Ranger's silver bullets, face down the fangs of the Phantom's dog or pummeled by Batman's fists, feel free to chastise any one of them for violating mask etiquette or be safe and call on Mayor DiBasio to sic the New York Police Department on the offenders

However, *The Coastwatcher* accepts no responsibility for raccoons and black footed ferrets.

*Rocky Raccoon. get back to you room And find the rest of your mask! At least he washes his paws before eating.*



*Full masks are in short supply so he is ferreting one out.*



*No matter where you place it, a Groucho mask it will not protect you. Vladimir Ilyich Lenin does not concur: He says that "If its Marxist, I approve."*

*The kid has read too many comic books and gone to the wrong movies. Hollywood has poisoned his mind.*



"LOOK, DAD! IT'S A MASKED, SUPER HERO."

But the ultimate in cool is the aviator, real super-heroes, not comic book super-heroes. Just ask anyone of them. CAP icons wear the mask.



*Armstrong, Crossfield and Yeager*

The Deputy Skypilot of CAP's Chaplain Corps got his good offices to get the Vatican's good offices to show these efforts to their Chief and as you can see, He approves.

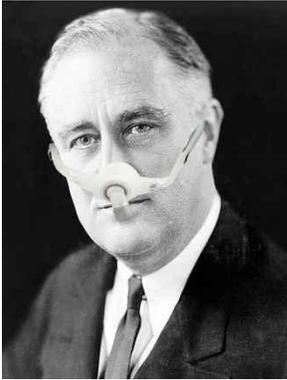


### *Masked Politicians*

Fear is corrosive so remember Franklin D. Roosevelt's words from his first inaugural as the Great Depression reached its height.

This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is

**fear itself—nameless, unreasoning,  
unjustified terror which paralyzes needed  
efforts to convert retreat into advance.**



*The Secret Service  
insists that I wear it  
after my history of  
contracting the  
Spanish Virus in  
1918.*

And in conclusion, let us remember FDR's English  
buddy, Winston Churchill.



*A masked Winnie  
ordering five bottle of  
grappa from a Roman  
take-out place. No  
sense it taking  
chances on  
contracting the flu or  
running out of brandy.*

Churchill wrote very few poems in his long life.  
One of his earliest was entitled *The Influenza*. He  
was fifteen years old and its twelve verses were  
published in his school magazine, *The Harrovian*.

It was about the Asiatic Flu Pandemic that was  
ravaging Asia and Europe and which ultimately  
killed one million people between 1889 and 1890.

The poem cites China as the source and his  
recounting of the path of transmission of the virus  
is not a bad geography lesson.

### THE INFLUENZA

*Oh how shall I its deeds recount  
Or measure the untold amount  
Of ills that it has done?*

*From China's bright celestial land  
E'en to Arabia's thirsty sand  
It journeyed with the sun.*

*O'er miles of bleak Siberia's plains  
Where Russian exiles toil in chains  
It moved with noiseless tread;  
And as it slowly glided by  
There followed it across the sky  
The spirits of the dead.*

*The Ural peaks by it were scaled  
And every bar and barrier failed  
To turn it from its way;  
Slowly and surely on it came,  
Heralded by its awful fame,  
Increasing day by day.*

*On Moscow's fair and famous town  
Where fell the first Napoleon's crown  
It made a direful swoop;  
The rich, the poor, the high, the low  
Alike the various symptoms know,  
Alike before it droop.*

*Nor adverse winds, nor floods of rain  
Might stay the thrice-accursed bane;  
And with unsparing hand,  
Impartial, cruel and severe  
It travelled on allied with fear  
And smote the fatherland.*

*Fair Alsace and forlorn Lorraine,  
The cause of bitterness and pain  
In many a Gaelic breast,  
Receive the vile, insatiate scourge,  
And from their towns with it emerge  
And never stay nor rest.*

*And now Europa groans aloud,  
And 'neath the heavy thunder-cloud  
Hushed is both song and dance;  
The germs of illness wend their way  
To westward each succeeding day  
And enter merry France.*

*Fair land of Gaul, thy patriots brave  
Who fear not death and scorn the grave  
Cannot this foe oppose,  
Whose loathsome hand and cruel sting,  
Whose poisonous breath and blighted wing  
Full well thy cities know.*

*In Calais port the illness stays,  
As did the French in former days,  
To threaten Freedom's isle;  
But now no Nelson could o'erthrow  
This cruel, unconquerable foe,  
Nor save us from its guile.*

*Yet Father Neptune strove right well  
To moderate this plague of Hell,  
And thwart it in its course;  
And though it passed the streak of brine  
And penetrated this thin line,  
It came with broken force.*

*For though it ravaged far and wide  
Both village, town and countryside,  
Its power to kill was o'er;  
And with the favouring winds of Spring  
(Blest is the time of which I sing)  
It left our native shore.*

*God shield our Empire from the might  
Of war or famine, plague or blight  
And all the power of Hell,  
And keep it ever in the hands  
Of those who fought 'gainst other lands,  
Who fought and conquered well.*

### **Lt Col Stidsen's Comment's on Cadet Buchko's Last "Featured Airplane" Column**

The MC-200 pictured at the Air Force Museum was one of a number of examples captured in North Africa . It could not be flown out so it was abandoned, captured and sent to the United States for evaluation. It then became a prop for War Bond rallies. When the war ended, it was in Worcester, Mass. and ended up at a local scrap yard.

It was then purchased by the Princeton (Mass.) Auto Museum and dumped near a kiddie railroad ride. That is where I saw it. It was saved from vandalism because large colonies of bees and hornets made their home there. However, it could be accessed in the winter and that is where I, aged eight, first saw it and managed to climb into the cockpit.

The Princeton Museum closed in the mid '50s and it was acquired, sometime in the mid '60s by the Connecticut Aeronautical Historical Association, the predecessor of the New England Air Museum.

As with many such institutions, it operated on a thin financial margin made worse when the collection suffered severe damage in the 1979 tornado. I was sold to a private owner in Canada who couldn't afford the restoration either.

The U.S. Air Force Museum acquired the remains in the mid-1980's and arranged a deal with Aermacchi who had built the aircraft in 1942 to restore it and display it in the Italian Air Museum for a few years . The restoration was completed in 1991 and it came back to the Air Force Museum a few years later where it sits next to the desert pink B-24D.

Lt Col Stidsen sent to interesting photos of the airplane at PAM and the Italian Air Force Museum and a third has been added from *The Coastwatcher* files.

