



Missions for
America

*Semper
vigilans!*

*Semper
volans!*

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

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04 JUNE, 2020

9 JUN-Senior Meeting

10 JUN - Cadets/Aerospace / Leadership

16 JUN - Senior Meeting

18 JUN - Cadets/CD-Thursday

20-21 JUN-LISP

11-12 JUL-LISP

25-26 JUL-LISP

8-9 AUG-LISP

29-30 AUG-LISP

19-20 SEP-LISP

ATTENTION

**All officers should make sure to throw the lock
dead bolts before leaving the building.**

**Cadets must write thank-you notes to the
donors of the uniforms**

SENIOR MEETING

02 June, 2020

Staff Meeting

Lt Kopycienski reports that 87% of the TRCS office and cadet corps are ICUT qualified versus 40% wing-wide.

Lt Col Rocketto reports that 97% of the TRCS officers have earned the Yeager Award versus 63% in the Wing.

Department heads report that operations are nominal.

CADET MEETING

04 June, 2020

Lt Docker conducted a power point lecture on the subject of "followership."

C/Capt Schantz delivered a lesson on customs and courtesies.

REPORT ON WEEKLY OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Long Island Sound Patrol

The Squadron flew four Long Island Sound Patrol Missions over the weekend. The Saturday early patrol was manned by Maj Noniewicz and Lt Col Kinch. In the afternoon, Lt Col Doucette joined Noniewicz.

On Sunday, Maj Neilson and Lt Pineau took the early flight and Lts Spreccace and Otrin flew the sunset patrol.

Professional Training

Lt Pineau completed the on-line Corporate Leadership Course.

Major Farley instructed during one on-line session of the Squadron Leadership Course.

Cadet Bosse was promoted to C/MSgt.

A GRAND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Three members of Groton's Thames River Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, participated in a special birthday party for Robbie Porter of Mystic. Robby is intellectually disabled and deaf. His mother, Sherry Zummo, removed him from his group home because she would not be able to visit him during the COVID crisis. Unfortunately, the change in environment affected his behavior, causing anxiety and stress.

Lt Jay LaVoie heard about the family's problem and found out that Robbie's favorite car was the Ford Expedition and he enjoys seeing them. LaVoie took the initiative, consulted with Mrs. Zummo and finding out that it was his 22nd birthday. organized a parade using the Connecticut Wing's fleet of Expeditions. Word got out and some fire and police departments joined in.

On Tuesday afternoon, a line of over 30 service vehicles, sirens screaming, horns blaring and lights flashing passed in review of Robby. From time to time, the parade halted and someone disembarked from one of the vehicles and brought him a birthday present.



Robby Porter and his family watch the CAP vans pass in review.

Lt Jennifer Thornell and C/1st Lt Rhys Thornell drove the squadron's Expedition. Lt Col Rocketto took photographs for the Wing public affairs officer.

Lt Thornell and C/Lt Thornell manned our van.



CURRENT EVENTS

New Cessna Takes Flight

For the first time in perhaps ten years, a new medium twin aircraft has entered the market. The Cessna 408 SkyCourier made its first flight on May 17th. The aircraft is a clean sheet design matched to the requirement of FedEx. FedEx has contracted for the first 50 with an option of 50 more.



The aircraft can be configured to carry three tons of freight or 19 passengers. Similar designs already flying include the Viking DHC-6-400 Twin Otter, the Dornier Do 228NG and the PZL M28 Skytruck. Power is provided by two DHC PT-6 turbines and the aircraft will cruise at around 200 knots with a range of over 500 miles, depending upon loading.

Up, Up and Away! The first SpaceX Manned Mission

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the Crew Dragon capsule was successfully launched on Saturday afternoon, May 31st. The successful launch marks the United States re-entry into manned space flight under the terms of NASA's Commercial Crew Program. It also portends an end to the expensive dependence on Russia for astronaut transport to and from the International Space Program.

On Sunday morning, Crew Dragon successfully docked with the ISS Harmony module. Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley will remain on board the ISS for an indefinite time to evaluate the mating and study the performance of the attached vehicles. At mission's end, they will re-board Crew Dragon and return to earth. Touchdown will be by parachute off the Florida coast.



*Anatoli Ivanishin,
Ivan Vagner,
Christopher
Cassidy, Bob
Benhke, Douglas
Hurley*

The next planned, Crew-1, will take three NASA and one Japanese astronaut to the ISS. This is planned for late August.

The SpaceX Fleet

In all of the excitement about the United States re-entering the manned space game, little has been paid to a vital support operation, the SpaceX fleet of ships needed to recover the astronauts, capsule, and booster. SpaceX is offering competitive prices to its launch customers because much of the launched vehicles, the booster and capsule are reusable.

SpaceX maintains vessels in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans contracted for by Guice Offshore, a Louisiana company which supports offshore oil field rigs and various industrial and government clients.

The Atlantic flotilla consists of an autonomous autonomous spaceport drone ship (ASDS) and its support tugboat and a crew recovery ship. The ASDS is equipped with a landing platform about as big as a football field and an engine control system which will keep the vessel in a fixed position to receive the rocket first stage which will land autonomously.



The ASDS vessel Of Course I Still Love You



*Successful Landing of
Falcon First Stage on
ASDS*



*Falcon
secured to
ASDS
(Credits:
NASA/SpaceX)*

Once aboard, a crew from the accompanying tug boat will come aboard and secure the rocket for the sail back to base. The Atlantic based ASDS is named *Of Course I Still Love You*, the name of a sentient spaceship in an Iain Banks science fiction novel.



Recovery Vessel GO Quest

Recovery of crew and Dragon capsule will be by the traditional NASA method, a parachute descent into the ocean. *GO Quest*, equipped with a helicopter, crane and medical facilities will take the capsule and crew aboard and return to Port Canaveral.

THE WEEK'S AEROSPACE ANNIVERSARIES

3 June, 1965 – Gemini 4 launched. This was the 2nd US 2-man flight and carried James McDivitt & White aboard. White became the first American to “walk” in space, during this flight.



*Ed White, First
US Spacewalker*

4 June, 1932 – William G Swan, at Bader Field, Atlantic City, New Jersey, makes the first rocket-powered glider flight.



William G. Swan and the rocket glider he successfully flew recently at Atlantic City, N. J.

The glider carried 10 solid fuel rockets producing 50 pounds of thrust each. On the first flight, he ignited one rocket and flew 1,000 feet at an altitude of 100 feet.

The next day, Swan ignited all the rockets. At 35 mph he lifted off, got to 200 feet and stayed aloft for eight minutes.

5 June, 1969 – The Tupolev Tu-144 supersonic airliner becomes the first aircraft of its class to fly through the sound barrier when it exceeds Mach 1 at an altitude of 36,000 ft.



Fifteen years ago, NASA and major U.S. aerospace firms teamed with Russia's Tupolev Design Bureau to study the technology which might be needed to develop a second generation of supersonic transports. The aerial workhorse was a modified Tu-144D. The last production Tu-144 was given more powerful engines, digital electronics and a wide range of data recording equipment and sensors and renamed the Tu-144LL.



(Credits/NASA)

Between 1996 and 1999, about two dozen flight and extensive ground testing studied thermodynamic characteristics of the airframe and engines, shock wave development, acoustics and handling in various flight profiles. Data gathered was used for comparison with other aircraft and to validate computer modeling.

6 June, 1942– Adeline Gray, an employee of the Pioneer Parachute Co. of Manchester made the first jump using a nylon parachute.



Gray at work at Pioneer Parachute Co.

Gray, a licensed parachute packer and rigger was 24 years old and made her first jump at the age of 19. She was the only licensed parachute jumper in Connecticut. This was her 32 jump.

7 June, 1938 – First flight of the Douglas DC-4E. The single DC-4E, not to be confused with the later DC-4/C-54, was paid for by a consortium of United, Eastern, American Airlines. Pan American Airways and Transcontinental and Western Airlines as a DC-3 replacement.



The triple tail allowed it to fit inside hangars then in use and provided more yaw control in an engine-out situation.

The aircraft was complex and expensive and PanAm and T&WA dropped out and adopted the Boeing 307. The work done on the DC-4E led to the development of the highly successful C-54/DC-4.



Berlin Airlift Commemorative C-54

Imperial Japanese Airways brought the aircraft and had it shipped to Japan. There, Nakajima

Aircraft studied its features and used them to produce its unsuccessful G5N *Shinzan*. Only six were manufactured.



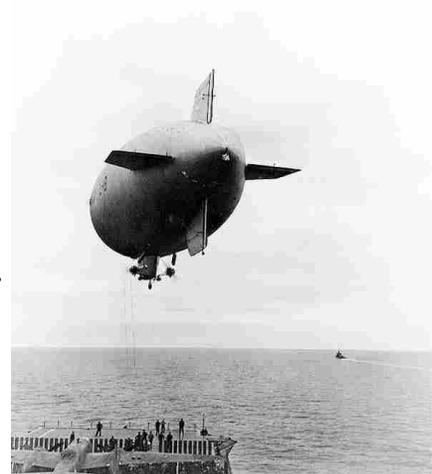
Shinzan means "Deep Mountain" in Japanese and was code-named Liz by the U.S. military.

08 June, 1942 – Two Navy blimps collided and crashed off the New Jersey coast. They were conducting night visual and photographic tests. One was the prototype G-1. The other was the L-2. Of the 12 aboard, only one survived.



The ill-fated G-1, formerly the Goodyear Flagship Defender working as a jump platform at the parachute school at Lakehurst

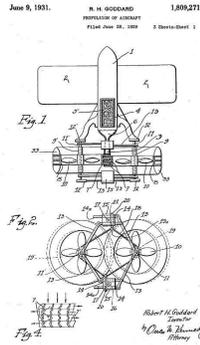
Right: The Class L-8 delivering special equipment to the USS Hornet for the Doolittle Raiders.



and had it shipped to Japan. There, Nakajima

9 June, 1931– Robert Goddard patented the first rocket powered aircraft design.

The Mystery of the Missing Prop



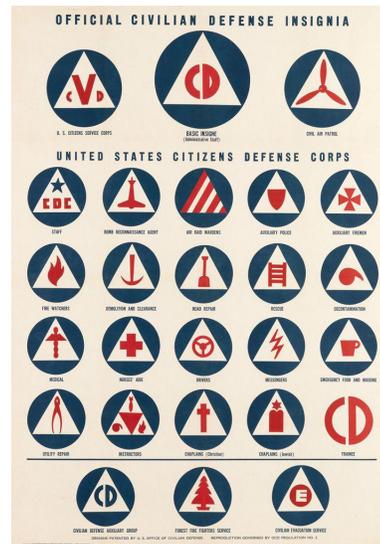
In regard to *Coastwatcher* comments implying that the red propellor had been removed from CAP roundels, Lt Col Carl Stidsen adds the following about WWII civil defense organizations. He recalled a poster for a *National Geographic* magazine c. 1944 with a color spread on CD insignia. A web search brought up the image below.

OH, THE SHAME!

It was humiliating two weeks ago when a reader pointed out the inexcusable mistake of using the plural paparazzi for paparazzo on our masthead.

But this week, faithful *Coastwatcher* watchdog Dr. Eric Thomson and Col James Ridley pointed out that a Grumman Hellcat had been mis-identified as a Grumman Wildcat. There is no argument at the editorial end. Col Ridley was once commander of the Leroy RS. Grumman Cadet Squadron on Long Island and Thompson has a history of catching *The Coastwatcher's* mistakes.

The Editor has ordered that our proof reader be chained for three days in the sub-basement of the print house and will be given only acorn coffee, and ham and lima C rations for subsistence while loud rap music is piped into his cell during the entire 72 hour incarceration.



He notes that the basic Civil Defense insignia was a white triangle within a blue circle and the various organizations within civil defense were denoted by special devices, mostly red within the triangle.

CAP Lt Col Sean Neal of the NYWG opines that the red prop was removed from some CAP aircraft to indicate that they were "eligible for support services from the Army or Navy. Fuel, oil, parts, equipment, etc. Coastal Patrol, Southern Liaison Patrol (Border Patrol with Mexico) and possibly Tow Target and Tracking. Other aircraft conducting missions for local civil defense and the like weren't eligible for direct support...."



Herding Cats

Lt Col Neal has almost a half century with CAP and flies big iron with a major airline. He is on CAP's National History Staff and lectures on CAP history. He and his wife fly a CAP marked Fairchild 24R and a CAP marked Stinson 10 to

airshows and present the history and traditions of CAP to the general public so his credentials are in good order.



Lt Col and Maj Neal's CAP Themed Fairchild and Stinson
 (Credit: Middle Atlantic Air Museum)

A search of pictures of CAP's WWII aircraft show them bearing the white triangle only. Two examples, a Stinson 10 and Sikorsky S-39 may be seen at the New England Air Museum. He opines that these may have been applied early in 1942 before CD set up the "devices" plan.

The white triangle symbolized the 3-step Civil Defense philosophy, However, a search has not turned up what these three steps are. If any readers can help out, please write to the Editor.

Another organization, the Ground Observer Corps stood watch for enemy aircraft. The GOC was disestablished in 1944 but was reformed during the Cold War. It will be the subject of a future article. If any readers served with the Cold War GOC, please write and tell us about your service.

The poster of "Official Civilian Defense Insignia" indicates that there are two primary organizations, the U.S. Citizens Service Corps and the Civil Air Patrol.

The United States Citizens Service Corps was charged with leading efforts to reduce inefficiency, insecurity and poor health so as to maintain a strong home-front.

The Civil Air Patrol originally deployed light aircraft on anti-submarine patrols and later assumed duties for a variety of air-borne task.

The United States Citizens Defense Corps

assumed ground based efforts, primarily air raid wardens but included a wide range of other skills needed for homeland defense.

Lt Col Stidsen did point out of all the many organizations established for civil defense, only one survives, the Civil Air Patrol.

TMU AND GON

Established in 1929, Groton-New London Airport was the first state airport and was originally called Trumbull Airport after Jonathan Trumbull, Connecticut's flying governor.

During WWII, the Army put in hard-surfaced runways and name it Groton Army Airfield.

In 1944, the Navy took possession and it was an auxiliary field for Quonset Naval Air Station.

The airport reverted to the State in 1946 as Trumbull Airport and in 1980 became Groton-New London Airport.



Post-War



Cold War-Take note of the three scheduled airlines in front of the terminal.