



Mission for America

*Semper vigilans!*  
*Semper volans!*

# The Coastwatcher

Newsletter of the Thames River Composite Squadron  
GON  
Connecticut Wing  
Civil Air Patrol

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## SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

### November

#### Long Term Planning

05 DEC-Tentative Fruit Delivery  
06 DEC-TRCS SAREX for Cadets  
06-07 DEC-Training Leaders of Cadets Course  
09 DEC-AEX/AEO-BDUs  
16 DEC-Squadron Party  
19 DEC-Aerospace Festival-Gales Ferry School  
23 DEC-No Meeting  
30 DEC-No Meeting

### CADET SAREX

A Search and Rescue Exercise will be held on 6 December and participants should report to the Groton Airport Terminal at 0900 for a briefing. Bring your gear and a lunch. Uniform is BDUs. Expect to return in the mid afternoon.

## GALES FERRY AEROSPACE FESTIVAL

Mr. Stuart Sharack, an Aerospace Education Member who teaches at the Juliet Long School and his Aerospace Adventurer's Club is sponsoring an Aerospace Festival at the Gales Ferry School on Friday evening, the 19th of December.

Our Squadron will participate with a table top display, a recruiting station, and some simple hands-on activities for the attendees. A briefing will be conducted at a forthcoming meeting.

Those willing to participate will meet at the Trailer at 1700 to pick up equipment. Notify Capt Rocketto if you wish to attend. Uniform for Cadets is BDUs. Uniform for Officers is either Blues or Flight Suits.

## CADET MEETING MINUTES 02 DEC, 2008

C/2Lt Scannell called the Squadron to attention and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Cadet Oath.

Lt Wojtcuk conducted the first part of a leadership training session in which the Cadets engaged in a spirited discussion about the qualities necessary in leaders and followers.

## CADETS HERZOG AND DOUGHERTY COLLECT AWARDS

The Fabulous Chest of Treasures and Trash was somewhat depleted when, over the past two weeks, Cadet Doughety and Cadet Herzog collected their prizes for winning the weekly *Coastwatcher* quizzes. Cadet Doughety earned two prizes for two successful contest entries and Cadet Herzog away one.

## LT WOJTCUK ADVANCES

Lt. Robin Wojtcuk achieved Level II with a Certificate of Proficiency in the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program.

## ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ OF THE WEEK

Cadet Herzog won last weeks contest. Here are the answers.

1. Not all planes with hooks on top were Brodie Gear aircraft. Tell me about one of the two aircraft illustrated below. The Editor regrets that the two pictures were not posted last week so we are publishing the now.



*McDonnell XF-85 Goblin*

The Goblin was an attempt by the USAF to allow a long range Convair B-36 to carry its own fighter escort. The short range Goblin would be carried in the bomb bay and launched and recovered by means of a trapeze like arrangement. The experiment failed because of the difficulty of rejoining due to turbulence. You can see a video of this experiment on "YouTube" at

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=PisUjsXSUZU>

Another attempt by the Air Force allowed fighter type aircraft to be coupled to the wing tips of bomber type aircraft. This effort also met with little success.

Moderate success was gained by the "Fighter Conveyor" (FICON) system in which different marks of the Republic RF-84 were launched and recovered from the bomb bay of an RB-36. This allowed the less vulnerable reconnaissance fighter to carry out missions too dangerous for the large and slower RB-36. To see the FICON work, go to "YouTube" at

[http://youtube.com/watch?v=RcLjnK\\_cik](http://youtube.com/watch?v=RcLjnK_cik)



*Curtiss F9C-2 Sparrowhawk*

Sparrowhawks were carried by the U.S.S Macon and Akron, Navy dirigibles during the 1930s. They could be launched and recovered in flight and were used for reconnaissance and defense.

Coincidentally, while an aeronautical engineering student at Boston University in the early 1960s, Capt Rocketto worked on a design for a dirigible aircraft carrier. The government had experimented with an airborne nuclear rocket and aircraft propulsion under the title *Project Kiwi*. An operating reactor actually flew on a number of test flights aboard the NB-36 but never actually powered the aircraft.

The World's Fair was approaching and Prof. Francis Morse conceived of the idea of utilizing the nuclear power plant in a dirigible which would be part of the fair celebration. It could easily contain the power plant in its 960 foot length and lifting it would be trivial. The hull was streamlined with the control cab built into it rather than suspended and the vehicle would be driven by two 58m foot counter rotating propellers mounted in the stern.

Capable of carrying 1000 passengers on the short haul and 400 over a distance, one feature would be the carriage of two twin engined shuttle craft so that passengers could be embarked and disembarked at way points without landing the airship. As I recall, the design also called for boundary layer control vents on the hull.

Anyway, funding was not found but the project was an interesting exercise in design for a group of students

and not entirely impractical since the dirigible type aircraft, in a less ambitious form, is once again being constructed and operated both in the United States and Europe.

2. To what does O.S.S in the Brodie article refer. Be specific? The OSS was the Office of Strategic Services, the US intelligence service in WWII and the forerunner of the CIA.

3. What was the "civilian" designation and name of the aircraft which the Army called the L-4 Grasshopper? The L-4 was basically a Piper J-3 Cub.

4. Brodie was misidentified as a Navy captain. What is the USAF equivalent rank? Colonel

5. Trying to beat a deadline and not doing a proper proofread could be called "pulling a Brody" and perhaps, the editor, a Brooklyn boy misspelled "Brodie as Brody due to his youthful environment. We know who James Brodie is. Who was Steve Brody? Steve Brody achieved fame by jumping off the Brooklyn Bridge into the East River and surviving.

6. According to Vonnegut, the natives of which island worship the god Bokonen? San Lorenzo

7. Vonnegut was a World War II POW. He wrote a book called *Slaughterhouse Five*. A central theme of the book is an account of his survival of the firebomb raid on which city? Dresden

8. What does the "Y" in YL-15 signify? The "Y" indicates that the aircraft is a service prototype. The aircraft are pre-production and used for operational testing.



*Curtiss XF-15C-1*



*Convair RB-36H*

1. These planes are very similar in a very important design but somewhat unusual design feature shared by a few other aircraft such as the North American AJ Savage and the Ryan FR Fireball. What is that feature?

2. What is the popular name for the B-36?

3. The B-36 design was initiated during WWII. What was the name of Convair at that time?

4. The Quonset Air Museum is located on the grounds of the former Quonset Naval Air Station. In what state is the museum located?

5. The Curtiss company is named after what famous motorcycle racer, pilot, and inventor and where was he born?

6. The B-36 was operated by a former Air Force command called SAC. What does SAC stand for?

### **QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

The aircraft identified in this article are the Curtiss XF15C-1 formerly of the New England Air Museum and now found at the Quonset Air Museum and a Convair RB-36H at the former Castle Air Museum, Atwater, California.

Answer the following questions and submit your answers by email to [srocketto@aquilasys.com](mailto:srocketto@aquilasys.com).

### **CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED**

The Coastwatcher invites readers to contribute news and articles. Contact The Editor of suggestions.