



Mission for America

*Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!*

The Coastwatcher

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

S. Rocketto, Editor
srocketto@aquilasys.com

website:

<http://cap-ct075.com/default.aspx>

Vol. II No. 46

11 December, 2008

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

November

Long Term Planning

16 DEC-Squadron Party
19 DEC-Aerospace Festival-Gales Ferry School
22 DEC-30 DEC-O Flights and Rifle Practice
23 DEC-No Meeting
27 DEC-Encampment Staff Applications Due
30 DEC-No Meeting

CADET MEETING MINUTES 09 DEC, 2008

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

The Cadet turnout was excellent. Lt Wojtcuk led a group discussion about the appropriate behavior demanded from a Cadet and the necessity for taking the Cadet Oath seriously. Cadets were very positive about their obligations.

A major problem faces us for conducting physical training during the cold, dark months. All efforts to find an alternate indoor site have failed. We are considering using Saturday sessions.

Cadet Herzog, once again, won the Coastwatcher Quiz Contest and selected a laptop computer for his prize.

Cadet Jacob Schlauder was promoted to Cadet Airman and received his Curry Award.



Cadet Schlauder Receives Grade Insignia from the Squadron Commander

Lt Robin Wojtcuk was presented with the Benjamin O Davis Award and a Certificate of Proficiency for completing Level II of the CAP Professional Development Program and the Aerospace Education Program for Senior Members course of study.



Lt Wojtcuk and Col Kinch Admire the Davis Certificate

Cadets were informed about Col Herbert's Pearl Harbor Lecture at the Preston VFW.

Capt Rocketto reminded everyone that on this day, in 1951, the Fiat G.80 fighter made its first flight. Designed by Giuseppe Gabrielli she is the first in a successful line of light fighter and trainer aircraft. Gabrielli also designed the G.222 transport which has

since morphed into the Alenia C-27 Spartan, purchased by the USAF, the US Army, and many foreign nations.

The Current Events Topic was the utilization of the financial method of commodity buying. Southwest Airlines purchased fuel contracts before the rise in the cost of oil and were able to operate at a profit during the spike in energy prices. Several other airlines, emulating Southeast's strategy recently entered the market, unfortunately before the recent drop in prices and this will seriously affect their profitability over the next year.

CADET SAREX

A Search and Rescue Exercise was held on 6 December. The scenario postulated a mid air collision between two aircraft. The Ground Team, under the direction of Maj Bourque and consisting of Cadets Jacob Schlauder, Patrick Daugherty, Lexie Wojtcuk and Alexis Wojtcuk headed out. Aircraft and Mission Base communications were simulated by Col Kinch.

The team was successful in locating both crash sites and assisting the victims, Capt Noniewicz and Lt Wojtcuk at one location and Col Doucette at a second location.

Participating Cadets received credit towards their Ground Team Rating for accomplished tasks performed during the exercise.

Lessons were learned and plans are being made to conduct a full scale exercise with an aircraft in the near future.

COMMANDER'S CALL

Col Kinch convened the meeting at 1915.

The Colonel made the following announcements:

The New York Sectional is now current and awaits gridding. He pointed out the activation of more Military Operating Areas in the vicinity of Fort Drum.

Col Herbert has donated \$200 which he has received as speaker fees. The Mohegan Tribal Nation has given us a \$250 grant.

The HVAC system in the new trailer has failed and we are investigating replacement.

The Squadron has recovered 73X from its Hartford exile and sits on our ramp, awaiting an oil change.

The changeover in communication frequencies and the implementation of a full state-wide repeater system is in flux and the completion time for these projects is indeterminate.

New duty assignments will be posted at the first of the year.

Col Kinch will speak at a meeting of the Emergency Service Dispatchers in the Groton area and explain details about the CAP mission and structure of CAP's emergency services program.

Maj deAndrade presented a draft plan for training for the coming year. He announced that he has received his NIMS 300 certificate.

Capt Noniewicz's safety briefing focused on night aviation operations. Topics included physiology of the eye and techniques for scanning and dark adaptation, nighttime optical illusions, and aircraft exterior and interior lighting.

Lt Jalbert reported that he is in the process of updating the regulations.

Capt Rocketto reported on the Professional Development Program, mentioned in a separate article, and delivered the same history and current events report which he gave to the Cadets. Col Kinch noted that some C-27's will also be modified into a ground support aircraft by the addition of 20mm and 40 mm armament. He notified attendees about Col Herbert's Wednesday lecture at the Preston VFW.

THE HERBERT LECTURES

Col Fred Herbert, former CT Wing Commander and a Squadron member, has been giving a series of lectures about the Pearl Harbor attack and its aftermath. He has generously donated the *honoraria* which he received to the Squadron.

FRUIT SALE

On Friday, the 5th, Squadron volunteers and the Grasso Regional High School Information Technology Shop unloaded 360 cases, just short of five tons of citrus fruit and transferred 275 of them to the Squadron trailer. Volunteers were Lt and Mr. Wojtcuk, Cols Kinch and Doucette, Capt Rocketto and Hap Rocketto, Cadets George Abbiati, Lexie Wojtcuk, Abi Wojtcuk. Fruit was distributed that night and on Saturday and Sunday. C/2Lt Jonathan Scannell assisted Capt Rocketto on Sunday. All fruit has been removed from the trailer and final distribution will be completed by Friday.

SENIOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Senior members have been or will be receiving a letter from the Professional Development Officer which outlines the next steps which they must take to advance in the CAP Professional Development Programs. Please scrutinize the information and act accordingly. If you have questions, contact the PDO, Capt Rocketto at srocketto@aquilasys.com.

GALES FERRY AEROSPACE FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.

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.

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.

1. These planes are very similar in a very important 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? All of these aircraft were composite powered aircraft, utilizing both piston and jet engines.

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

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

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

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

Cadets Abbiati and Abi Wojtcuk are interviewing two Officers for our "Meet a Senior" feature. Cadet East is researching the Boeing P-26 for a possible new series, "Golden Age of Flight."