



Mission for America

*Semper vigilans!*  
*Semper volans!*

# The Coastwatcher

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

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

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## SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

### March

04 TUE Blues/Grasso Tech Computer Room  
08-SAT Rocket Building 0900-Noon  
11 TUE BDUs-Commander's Call  
18 TUE Blues/USCGA Lecture  
25 TUE BDUs

### Long Term Planning

12 APR-SAT-SAREX  
19 APR-CSRRA High Power Rifle Clinic  
26 APR-SAT Wing Convention  
28 APR-5 May-USAF Graded Training Event  
10 May-SAT-ACUT  
21 JUN-SAT Wing Rocket Competition  
4-13 JUL Encampment  
19 JUL SAREX  
20-24 JUL AIAA Power Plant Conference  
25 JUL-03 AUG NER Cadet Academy

## CONTEST WINNER

Cadet George Abbiati won the last Coastwatcher quiz and will receive an award and points for Cadet of the Cycle

## CADET MEETING MINUTES

26 February, 2008

C/MSgt Molinari conducted the opening ceremonies and uniform inspections.

The meeting was divided into two halves. During the first half, we reorganized the Cadet Meeting Room. Much of the material was moved into other parts of the trailer and a larger and neater space is now available.

The second part of the meeting was a discussion of upcoming contests, especially the Wing Convention display and the rocketry competition for the Commander's Cup. Our rockets, materials, and supplies were inventoried. Cadets were informed about what parts they might play in the preparations and competition. Over \$100 of new kits and materials have been ordered.

## GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

The mystery aircraft in the last edition of *The Coastwatcher* was a Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, the portly sister to the more well-known North American P-51 Mustang.



*Thunderbolt  
with Razor-Back  
Canopy*

Bob Hoover's  
Mustang with  
Bubble Canopy



The Thunderbolt was the creation of Alexander Kartveli, chief designer of Republic, formerly Siversky Aircraft. He built the design around the 2,000 horsepower Pratt and Whitney R2800 Double Wasp, arguably one of the best radial engines ever developed. The large air cooled

radial made the Thunderbolt rather beamy and may have led to its nickname, "The Jug." Some say this referred to the shape of the container in which "moonshine" was delivered, others claim that it is a reference to the word "juggernaut." It was the heaviest single engine fighter of the war and carried an impressive armament of eight Browning 50 caliber machine guns. Originally, the P-47 has a razor-back canopy which reduced vision to the rear. Eventually, in the P-47D, a bubble canopy was substituted.

The combat record of the P-47 was exemplary. LtCol Francis Gabreski was the top scoring ace in the European Theater with 31 victories. The 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, a P-47 outfit in the Eighth Air Force was the top scoring group. It also achieved some fame as a ground attack aircraft. Its air cooled Pratt was far less sensitive to battle damage than the liquid cooling systems of other contemporary fighters. The Thunderbolt also saw service in the Pacific and flew with a number of allied air forces. In 1969, a dispute over a championship soccer match between Honduras and El Salvador served to ignite a long simmering dispute between the two nations. The brunt of the aerial battle was carried by Honduran Vought Corsairs and Salvadoran Goodyear Corsairs and there is some rumor that Thunderbolts were involved also. There is no doubt that CIA supplied Thunderbolts, flying out of Honduras, participated in the overthrow of the Arbenz government in 1954.

Here is the next mystery aircraft. Can you name this sleek medium bomber of World War II?



## COASTWATCHER QUIZ OF THE WEEK

1. State the manufacturer, designation, and name of the mystery aircraft.
2. When Chuck Yeager first broke the speed of sound, who flew chase?
3. What was the relationship of the A-36 to the P-51?
4. What is the name of the Colonel who commands CTWG, CAP?
5. In which Connecticut city was the factory in which the Vought Corsair built?
6. The Corsair used a P&W R2800 engine. So did the Republic P-47, the Grumman F6F, the Martin B-26, the Douglas A-26, the Douglas DC-6, the Lockheed Constellation, the Martin 4-0-4 and the Convairliner piston series. What does the R2800 designation mean?

## CADET OF THE CYCLE

C/MSgt Michael Molinari is the first winner of the new Cadet of the Cycle Competition. This new program is designed to award the outstanding cadet during each trimester and to assist us in nominating a Cadet-of-the Year for Wing, Region, and National honors. Cadet Molinari received a Silva compass as a prize.

The next cycle has started. A Cadet may only win the prize once in each year but will still be in full competition for the annual award.

Points are awarded for attendance, promotions, participation in special events such as training exercises, contests, work parties, conferences, and fund raisers. Points may also be awarded for special achievements such as attaining a specialty track or certification in communications. Special contributions to the CAP are also considered for merit points. Just about everything that you do that is part of the CAP program will be considered. Demerits may be awarded for uniform discrepancies or misbehavior.