



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

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SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

14 FEB-TRCS SAREX
17 FEB-Blues
18 FEB-Wing Staff Meeting
21 FEB-TRCS Orientation Flights
21 FEB-TRCS SAREX
24 FEB-BDU
28 FEB-Wing-wide Orientation Flights

FOR FUTURE PLANNING

12-18 APR-RIWG Encampment
TBA-APR-RIWG Cadet Encampment
TBA APR-Wing DC Trip ((between 10-17 Apr02
02 MAT-WESTOVER TRIP
TBA MAY-Wing Rifle Competition
TBA-JUN-Rocketry Contest
27-28 JUN-RING Open House-Quonset, RI
4-11 JUL-CTWG Cadet Encampment
10-18 JUL-NER Staff College
16-17 OCT-CTWG Conference and Cadet Ball

CADET MEETING MINUTES

10 FEB, 2009

C/2Lt Jonathan Scannell called the Squadron to order and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the Cadet Oath.

Orientation flights are scheduled for 21 February. If you wish to fly, check the article on Orientation Flights in this edition and follow the directions.

Lt Wojtcuk led the Character Development Seminar-What Matters Most: Actions Speak Louder - Setting a good example, cadets as role models, and good first impressions.

A promotion and award ceremony was held. LtCol Thomas Wishart, Deputy Commander-Officers, presided. Cadet Abigail Wojtcuk was promoted to C/MSgt. Cadet George Abbiati was awarded the National Rifle Association Marksmanship Medal. Cadet Andrew Molinari was presented with an Orientation Flight Certificate and Cadet Kevin Roe received his Two Year Service Ribbon.



*Cadet Abigail Wojtcuk Reports for Promotion to
C/MSgt*



Col Wisehart Pins NRA Marksman Award on Cadet Abbiati

SQUADRON STAFF MEETING **10 FEB, 2009**

LtCol Thomas Wisehart, Deputy Commander-Officers, chaired the meeting. Participating staff and attending officers reported on pertinent items.

Maj deAndrade, Operations Officer, briefed the staff on the our new philosophy of operations. The Squadron has established and published an annual training plan. This plan assigns Squadron responsibilities to active members and is designed to relieve pressure on Officers who have been carrying a heavy work load, train deputies in leadership, develop a wider span of trained personnel, and ultimately, result in better execution of our assigned missions.

Maj deAndrade emphasized the importance of the Squadron Commander's Call which is held on the first Tuesday after the first Wednesday of each month. Members are urged to faithfully attend this meeting which will discuss the activities of the next two months and provide training to air and ground crews.

Maj Bourque, Deputy Commander-Cadets reported that the he brought the Squadron van to Wing HQ last weekend for upgrade of the radios but found out that the upgrade has been placed on

hold because it has been ascertained that not all of our Wing radios can be successfully upgraded and that if only some of them are modified, they will be unable to communicate with unmodified radios. Wing Staff are working on the problem.

Lt Farley, Emergency Services Training Officer, discussed the new training schedule and accepted feedback from the attendees.

Under Lt Farley's direction, the Staff organized the two SAREX's scheduled for 14 and 21 February. Details appear in a separate article in this edition.

SQUADRON COMMANDER'S CALL **10 FEB, 2009**

LtCol Wisehart convened the meeting.

LtCol Doucette reported that the 02 May field trip to Westover has been confirmed and canvassed Officers and Cadets about which facilities and activities most interest them.

SM Godfrey stated that he is investigating the possibility of obtaining the use of USCG Academy facilities for Cadet PT during the cold, dark months.

Capt Rocketto listed important dates which are now posted in the calendar in each edition of *The Coastwatcher*. He also reported that he is working on imagery and hands-on activities to support those Officers now assigned to teaching Cadet modules.

Capt Noniewicz discussed three safety issues.

The first item concerned the recent flurry of e-mail about ramp and taxi hazards. Special attention was paid to the particular problems: the State Police mobile helicopter pad at HFD, the ramp, runway, and taxiway damage at BDR and OXC, and debris on the AOA at GON. The remedies are to exercise vigilance, taxi at low engine rpms, and read the NOTAMS.

The last issue of The Sentinel reported that a large number of accidents have been reported and

a common factor has been that check pilots and instructors were on board at the time. Capt Noniewicz reminded us of the importance of crew involvement in all issues of flight safety and the danger of complacency due to repetitive tasks, the mistake of hurrying, and the effects of fatigue.

Finally, note was made to reduce the incidents of bodily injury, often due to rough play, tool use, and weather conditions such as ice.

Regarding our aircraft, van, building, and properties, Maj deAndrade urged that everyone adopt an attitude of "ownership." We have been entrusted with valuable national assets and their problems are our problems. Safety first but Squadron pride demands that we also be first in appropriate documentation of our operations and the appearance of our equipment.

Maj deAndrade presented a audiovisual account of the recent US Airways Flight 1549 ditching in the Hudson River.

The meeting concluded with a detailed presentation of how to use the Web Mission Information Reporting System (WIMRS). Since this system is used to validate our financial reimbursement, credit us with our missions, and support insurance claims, it is very important to follow procedures in a timely manner.



Maj deAndrade Illustrates Use of WIMRS

SQUADRON TEE SHIRTS FOR SALE

The Squadron has black tee shirts with the squadron insignia on the left breast. These are suitable for wear with BDUs, flight suits or as PT dress. Cost is \$10 each. Contact Col Kinch or Capt Rocketto if you wish to purchase some of them.

ORIENTATION FLIGHTS

Orientation flights are scheduled for 21 February between 0800 and 1200. Maj Neilson and Capt Noniewicz will be pilots.. Capt Manner is in charge of the project. Cadets who wish to fly should contact Capt Manner at wooster74@hotmail.com. Send a copy to Capt Noniewicz at pnoniewi@comcast.net.

SAREX

The Squadron has SAREXs scheduled for 14 February and 21 February. Details are listed below. Bring your SQTR forms. For further details

14 FEB Contact Maj Neilson for further information at 572-8939 (B) or 739-7566 (H)

0800 Neilson (P), Manner (O), Bridgewater (S)
1000 Wisheart (P), Doucette (O), Kinch (S)
1200 Neilson/deAndrade (P), Kinch (O), Godfrey (S)

21 FEB For further information Contact LtCol Wisheart at wisheart@adp.uchc.edu or 859-0999.

1300 Noniewicz (P), Jalbert (O), Godfrey (S)

Maj Bourque will lead a Cadet ground team with this mission.