



Missions for America

Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!

The Coastwatcher

Newsletter of the Thames River Composite
Squadron
GON
Connecticut Wing
Civil Air Patrol
<http://cap-ct075.com/default.aspx>

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SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

February

21 FEB-Wing Change of Command-Robertson
23 February/Blues-TRCS Change of Command
27 FEB-1109th AVCRAD Field Trip
27-28 FEB-CLC Course-Middletown

For Future Planning

20 MAR-Pilot's Meeting-TBA
20-21 MAR-SLS-Danbury Conference Center
27-28 MAR-UCC Course-Middletown
09 APR-Fisher's Island School Visit
07-09 MAY-Great Starts Bivouac-Camp Rell
Spring-SLS Course-Date TBA-Middletown
18-26 June-NESA-Camp Atterbury, Indiana
22-24 OCT-2010 CTWG Conference
24-25 JUL-NER SAREX Competition-Westover
21 JUL-7 AUG-CTWG Summer Encampment
22-24 OCT-CTWG Conference

CADET MEETING MINUTES

16 February, 2010

Maj Bourque led the Cadets in a discussion of the weather hazards which one might encounter during an Emergency Services mission.

FIRST AID COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT THAMES RIVER COMPOSITE SQUADRON

Lt Owens requires a head count of all Cadets and Officers who wish to enroll in a proposed first aid and CPR course. The course will be on a Saturday yet to be determined, in about two months. Cost of books and supplies will be \$25.

Proficiency in first aid is not only a good skill to have but also is required for several CAP specialty tracks. Participants who successfully complete the course will be issued a card.

If you are interested, send an email to Lt Owens at: spatch709@sbcglobal.

This email is just a statement of interest and not a commitment. A final commitment and payment of fees must be made about two weeks before the course commences.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES ACADEMY

Each year, CTWG sends a contingent of Officers and Cadets to the NESA, Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Course are offered in both air and ground specialties. This year, the second session of the week long course runs from 19 to 26 June. Transportation will be provided but Academy fees, \$170 for early registration, are the attendee's responsibility. For information, go to the following website: <http://nesa.cap.gov/>.

Contact Maj Rocketto if you are interested in attending.

WASHINGTON, DC FIELD TRIP

For the last two years, Squadron members have participated in five day field trips to the Washington, DC area. In the past, visits were made to the National Archives and Washington Mall, both sites of the National Air and Space Museum, the USMC Museum at Quantico, the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover AFB, the National Security Agency's Vigilance Park, the National Firearms Museum, and other sites of interest.

Billeting has been at Bolling AFB where we prepared our own food. Past cost for the trip has been nominal and we expect a fee of approximately \$125 will cover the week. The most likely week will be during the April school vacation, 12-16 April. Any interested Cadets and Officers should contact Maj Rocketto. Please check your local school calendar for compatibility.

WING GREAT STARTS BIVOUAC AND SUMMER ENCAMPMENT

The Wing will sponsor a "Great Starts Bivouac" on the weekend of 07-09 May at Camp Rell. The bivouac will offer new Cadets a chance to sample the experience of the summer program. Details will be forthcoming

The Wing Summer Encampment will be held 31 July to 07 August at Camp Rell. The cost is \$125 and the TRCS Finance Committee will investigate the possibility of underwriting some of the cost for our Cadets.

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SQUADRON CLOTHING FOR SALE

The Squadron maintains a stock of uniform items for sale. These are the Squadron Ball Hats with the 6075 logo and black tee shirts with the Squadron insignia. Contact the Commanding Officer in order to purchase one or more of these items. All profits are returned to the Squadron coffers.

SENIOR TRAINING

16 February, 2010

Maj Neilson covered the Familiarization and Preparatory Training requirements which must be met to qualify for Flight Line Marshall.

CURRENT EVENTS

A. Boeing has completed tests of the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. The airframe is based upon the 737 design and the 177 proposed units will replace Lockheed P-3 Orions.

B. The US Army is studying the use of intelligence gathering blimps based upon the success of tethered balloons used in SW Asia. The design goals propose an airship which will cruise at 20,000 ft with a 2,500 lb payload and have a three week duration.

C. The observation deck has been installed on the ISS and the Endeavor mission has been extended on day, to 14 days, to allow work on a urine disposal system and various wiring and plumbing layouts.

SOME SHORT HISTORY NOTES FOR THE SHORTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR

A. 03 Feb, 1959-The Day the Music Died-Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and the Big Bopper die in the crash of a Beechcraft Bonanza near Mason City, Iowa.

B. 18 Feb., 1947-The first launch of a missile from a submarine occurs when the USS Cusk fired a Loon from its deck while surfaced. The Loon was a copy of the German V-1 and an example is on display at the New England Air Museum.

C. 25 February, 1930-Ralph O'Neil, President of New York, Rio, and Buenos Aires Air Line, lands as Consolidated Commodore at Miami after a six day trip from Buenos Aires. The flight initiates air mail service between the Republic of Argentina and the United States.

OSHKOSH

by

C/MSgt George Abbiati

Thames River Composite Squadron

I set down James Patterson's latest thriller and recline back, enjoying the experience of flying with my unexpected complimentary Coca Cola as the Airbus A-320 cruises through the serene night air. I glance at the Rolex Submariner of my sleeping neighbor, a lawyerly figure, who has fallen victim to the tranquil cabin atmosphere and the comfy seats and perform a double take at the alarming rate at which time is seemingly passing as indicated by his brush steel watch. It's almost as if time leaped an hour between glances!

From our lofty perch, I survey the numerous lives being acted out beneath our craft and reflect upon the past few days experience at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, that grand salute to aviation and celebration of man's deep-rooted yearning to soar. Conceived in the minds of pioneers like Otto Lillienthal, George Cayley, and the Brothers Wright, aviation has grown into a major industry, making the world a small, more accessible place and composed many a chapter in history.

Our journey began when we parked our rented Buick at Wittman Regional Airport, traditional site of the Experimental Aircraft Association week long extravaganza known as Airventure and viewed much of this glorious history poised on the ramps and dancing in the clear blue sky.

Overhead, the Red Bull helicopter flipped and spun like no helicopter I had ever seen. Had this not been Oshkosh, I'd be reaching for my cell to dial 911. Wing-walkers followed as they and their biplane mounts performed an aerial ballet overhead.



*The EAA Welcomes
You With a Smile!*



As we strolled towards the nearby Warbirds area, the dull grey form of a "Tin Goose" droned overhead, fresh from a performance in a new Johnny Depp flick. This gray lady, number 146 of the 199 tri-motors produced on Henry Ford's assembly line first flew in August of 1929, honorably served several airlines, the Dominican Republic, and was associated with both Charles Lindbergh and Floyd Bennett.



Ford displays its "Stout" construction.

Arriving at the Warbirds ramp, we wandered among an all-star cast of World War II and more contemporary aircraft. A B-17 Flying Fortress rested next to its adversary of old, the Me-109.

Next sat a British Spitfire and its less well known stablemate, a Hawker Hurricane. A Mitsubishi Zero posed by a handful of P-40s, their ferocious painted teeth gleaming. A North American Mitchell bomber, P-47s, sat juxtaposed by a more modern T-28 trainers, the classic F-86 Sabre and Heinemann's "hot rod," the A-4 Skyhawk. The



Sabre shows its stuff.



P-40 Power!

Marines and Navy was represented by a Corsair and a covey of "Cats" from the Grumman Iron Works, the F4F Wildcat and the F6F Hellcat. Fronting the sleek "Cats" was a plump Grumman Albatross amphibian and a mighty Mustang, painted in the colors of the Tuskegee Airmen. As we watched, she awoke and we heard twelve cylinders of supercharged Rolls-Royce designed, Packard built Merlin engine for the first time, a singular sound which rocked the spectators



Hellcat shows its unique folding gear.

Many current USAF fleet members were present. Walking past a Connecticut built Air Crane helicopter, we approached two of my favorites, the massive C-5M Galaxy and an F-16 of the Thunderbirds. Two highlights of the week were a walk-through the belly of the Galaxy and the performances of the USAF Thunderbirds.

The displays seemed to never end. Over 350 planes were on display. After an ultralight and a Beechcraft to taxi past, we crossed the street and were drawn to an odd looking aircraft. An interesting piece of engineering, she was a combination of helicopter and airplane and a rare find. The vehicle was a Pitcairn PA-18 autogiro. Motive power was provided by a nose mounted engine and the lift was generated by a set of rotor blades which were set into motion by the forward movement of the autogiro.



Forty Foot Rotors and a 165 HP Kinner Provide Thrust and Lift to the PA-18.

The developing class of unmanned aerial vehicles was represented by a Predator. The U.S Border Patrol Officer in charge explained how visual and infrared cameras are employed in order to provide surveillance of our borders.

Scaled Composites out of Mojave, brought the four engined WhiteKnightTwo carrier aircraft the vehicle which will carry a SpaceShipTwo on the first stage of its sub-orbital flights. WK2 is powered by engines manufactured by Connecticut's Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. She has been named *Eve* in honor of Richard Branson's mother. Branson is the music impresario who founded Virgin Galactic and sponsored the construction of the composite aircrafts. This was the first public appearance of this avant-garde vehicle and cameras clicked and spectators strained to catch the details of her display flight.



WK2 displays its unique Rutan form in fly-by.

Airbus arrived with its "ginormous" A380. a two decked, four engined wide-body capable of seating from 525 to 853 passengers. Its sheer size was imposing but the nimbleness exhibited in the turns it made during multiple flybys was equally impressive.



Another Airbus challenge to Boeing, the A380.

Aviation personalities abounded. Sully Sullenberger and Jeff Skiles, Richard Branson, the Doobie Brothers, and Jeff Dunham made appearances. Harrison Ford, the Hollywood voice for general aviation was there and I got to shake hands with Dick Rutan, former USAF Hun driver and pilot of Voyage on its record breaking non-stop unrefueled around the world flight in 1986.

Far more exciting than the celebrities and static displays which surrounded us was the constant action above us. Scores of champion pilots flew solo acrobatic acts and acrobatic teams dazzled us with adrenaline pumping performances, soaring and looping a rolling formations of aircraft separated one from the other by mere feet.

Warbirds flew heritage flights in which different generations of military aircraft joined in formations. A P-51, F-86, and A-10 were one such act. T-28 Trojans trailed white smoke in the blue sky. Fighter and bombers made low passes as explosions were triggered on the ground leading to the illusion that the aircraft were strafing and bombing.



T-28 formation but is the red-nosed Trojan on the right wing an impostor. It is labeled USAF but the USAF T-28As all had two bladed props and this model bears a three bladed prop?

I thoroughly enjoyed my Oshkosh experience. After hearing so much about these fabled and rare aircraft, it was thrilling to see really see them not only on the flight line but in the air. Oshkosh is nothing short of the Hajj to Mecca for aviation enthusiasts.

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

Cadet Doughety won the last contest with a score of 100%. And as usual, Col Stidsen got all of the answers right.

The answers, using the more common names, in order, are Stearman PT-17 Kaydet, Naval Aircraft Factory N3N-3, Boeing 80A-1, Sopwith F.1 Camel, Fokker D.VIII, Beech C17B-1 Staggerwing, Curtiss JN-4 Jennie, Curtiss NC-4 Nancy, DeHavilland DH-60 Gipsy Moth, Grumman G-22 Gulfhawk II.

This week's quiz will be aircraft crewed by Officers in our Squadron.

1. Col Wisehart thinks this glass cockpit steed is neater than a polo pony.



2. Maj Neilson can do maneuvers, forbidden by CAP 60-1, in a version of this craft.



3. Col Kinch says that even though it says "Pope" on the vertical stabilizer, this plane is not used by The Vatican.



4. Lt Heard may be old enough to remember that Straight Arrow was a member of the tribe for which this airplane is named.



5. C/2Lt Scannell soloed this Wichita product.



6. Col Doucette would lead this flying gas station to thirsty fighter planes.



7. Col Bridgewater has strong positive feelings for this plane but does he feel the same way about University of California mascot?



8. Col Bergey followed an old CAP tradition of hunting subs in this plane, named for a hunter.



9. Maj deAndrade has a bone to pick with anyone who casts aspersions upon this sleek craft.



10. Maj Rocketto says that this long-nosed plane, like Pinocchio, will be lying to you when you sense that the landing rollout is complete and it is safe to relax.



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SECOND NOTICE TRCS AIRCRAFT CREW PROJECT

The Squadron History Section is assembling a document which will include aircraft which have been crewed by Squadron members. Crewing entails an assigned position as pilot, navigator, bombardier, flight engineer, gunner, steward, or any other possible position. If you have not submitted a list, send it by email to srocketto@aquilasys.com.

FROM OUT OF THE PAST



A New England Region DHC-3 Otter.

