



Missions for America

*Semper vigilans!*  
*Semper volans!*

09 OCT CTWG Olde Rhinebeck Trip (tentative)  
22-24 OCT CTWG Conference

### CADET MEETING MINUTES

*27 April, 2010*

## 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

#### May

- 04 MAY-Cadet PT/Testing  
Senior Recurring Training\
- 08 MAY-SAREX-information pending
- 11 MAY-Cadet Character Dev./Ldrship-Blues  
Senior Commander's Call/Safety
- 15-16 MAY-Orientation Flights-See article
- 18 MAY-Cadet AE-Mod 4, Rockets-BDUs  
Senior Emergency Services Training
- 22 MAY-Squadron SAREX-details pending
- 25 MAY-Cadet AE Mod 4-Color Guard-BDUs  
Senior Specialty-Finance Officer

#### For Future Planning

- 07-09 MAY Great Starts Bivouac-Camp Rell
- 15-16 MAY TLC Course-TBD
- TBA-MAY Joint Danielson-TRCS Activity
- 18-26 JUN NESAs Camp Atterbury, Indiana
- 24-25 JUL NER SAREX Competition
- 31 JUL-7 AUG CTWG Encampment

Volunteer US Coast Guard Academy Cadets continued a training program in drill for the Thames River CAP Cadets

Capt Wojtcuk briefed the Cadets on upcoming events and emphasized the importance of responding to emails and taking responsibility for their own future as CAP members.

Maj Rocketto explained the requirements for the Rocketry Badge and detailed what is required for each stage of the program. TRCS is heavily invested in this phase of aerospace education and all Cadets will participate with the goal of winning the Commander's Cup in the Wing Rocketry Competition in August.

Maj Rocketto reported on the first launch of the USAF X-37B space vehicle. The ship is a small vehicle resembling the space shuttle orbiter with a cargo bay about two meters long and one meter wide. It is unmanned and fully automatic and capable of 270 day missions in orbit after which it will be recovered for refurbishment and reuse. No details of the mission of the X-37B has been revealed.

The Cadets were also briefed on the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland and its effects on air transportation in Europe.

Volcanic dust is largely a silicate and may damage an aircraft in many ways. Ingestion into the engine might cause flame-outs and interruption of the flow of cooling air in the turbine vanes leading to major engine failure. Pitot tubes may be blocked and this leads to false instrument readings. Wind screens may be pitted.

A NASA DC-8 recently flew through a cloud of volcanic ash and incurred millions of dollars worth of damage. As a precaution, many European carriers grounded their aircraft causing major disruptions in travel. Financial losses are estimated in the area of two or three billion dollars.

Cadet Schultz reported that he and his family were in Europe and had to make their way from Germany to Naples, Italy in order to secure passage home.

Cadet Hall reported on the recent five day trip which he took with took to Washington with Maj's Bourque and Rocketto.

A wide ranging discussion among the Cadets and Maj Rocketto followed. Among the many subjects touched upon were the difference between cruise missiles and ballistic missiles, the Canadian aerodynamic genius, Gerald Bull, his dream of using a 16 inch naval rifle to launch payloads into space and his work on the Iraqi "Super-Gun, Geoffrey Pike, pykrete, and his unsinkable ice aircraft carrier.

### **MAY ORIENTATION FLIGHTS**

*15-16 May*

O Flights are scheduled for the weekend of the 15th and 16th of May. Cadets who are interested in flying should contact Capt Wojtcuk and inform her of their weight and whether they wish to fly in the morning or afternoon of Saturday or Sunday.

### **SENIOR MEETING**

*20 April, 2010*

Lt Farley led a discussion on the use of laptop computers in air and ground search and rescue

operations. The Officers contributed ideas on the best utilization of the computers and considered certain problems which have been encountered in recent experiments.

Lt Owens presented his experiences after his use of the air card during the last SAREX. Owens also circulated his pamphlet of flood imagery and talked about the use of the Nikon camera for aerial photography.

### **SQUADRON LEADERSHIP SCHOOL**

*24-25 April, 2010*

2Lt Scott Owens completed the Wing Squadron Leadership School (SLS) over the past weekend.

SLS is a two day course covering basic CAP operations at the squadron level and how those operations affect CAP's national missions. Additionally, members learn more about CAP customs, core values, and communications.

The course is a requirement for attaining Level II of the CAP Professional Development Program.

### **AVIATION CURRENT EVENTS AND HISTORY MILEPOSTS**

*Current Events*

Pratt and Whitney is counting on the adoption of its new geared turbofan engine by Boeing and Airbus. The new engine is more fuel efficient, runs cleaner and quieter than those available on today's market.

*History Milestones*

1 May, 1960-A Lockheed U-2 flown by Francis Gary Powers is shot down over the Soviet Union.

3 May, 1952-The first aircraft landing at the North Pole is accomplished when USAF Lt. Col.

William Benedict and Lt. Col. J.O. Fletcher land a ski-equipped Douglas C-47.

7 May, 1937-The first pressurized cabin in a US aircraft is flown by the Army Air Corps using a Lockheed XC-35 out of Wright Field, Ohio.

## **FAVORITE FLYING MOVIES**

### *Part One*

The request for reader submission about favorite flying movies brought the greatest number of replies ever received by *The Coastwatcher*. Around a dozen and a half readers submitted candidates and comments. The final tally indicates three movies nominated for music, eleven movies cited for a "great scene," one listed for a "personal reason," and twenty listed in the "best/favorite" classification.

Here is a detailed breakdown. Numbers following a title indicate the number of nominations.

Music nominees are *Top Gun*, *Strategic Air Command*, and *Dr. Strangelove*.

Movies with "great scenes" are *Flyboys*, *The Right Stuff* (2), *The Great Waldo Pepper* (2), *Strategic Air Command*, *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, *The Blue Max*, *Always*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Catch-22* (2), *Forever Young* (2), and *Dr. Strangelove*.

The "Best/Favorite" category list is *Twelve O'Clock High*, *The Sound Barrier*, *The Battle of Britain*, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, *The High and the Mighty* (2), *Airport*, *Airplane*, *Strategic Air Command* (2), *Memphis Belle*, *Top Gun*, *We Were Soldiers*, *The Great Santini*, *The Bridges at Toko-Ri* (2), *Sayonara*, *The Blue Max*, *Island in the Sky* (2), *Wings* (2), *Dawn Patrol* (2), and *Tora, Tora, Tora*,

Movies which have been nominated for "best scenes" are *Flyboys*, *The Right Stuff* (2), *The Great Waldo Pepper* (3), *Strategic Air Command*,

*The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, *The Blue Max*, *Always*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Catch-22* (2), *Forever Young* (2), and *Dr. Strangelove*.

The movie nominated for a "personal" reason is *The McConnell Story*.

A preliminary count indicates that over-all, Strategic Air Command was cited four times, *Twelve O'Clock High*, *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, and the *Great Waldo Pepper*, thrice, and *The High and the Mighty*, *Island in the Sky*, *The Right Stuff*, *Catch-22*, *Forever Young*, and *Dr. Strangelove*, twice each.

Jimmy Stewart, a retired USAF Brigadier General appears in two of the movies and John Wayne in two of them. Stewart starred in *Strategic Air Command* and *The Spirit of St. Louis* and Wayne in *The High and the Mighty* and *Island in the Sky*.

Ernest Gann, the dean of US aviation writers and arguably one of the best ever, wrote both of the books from which the Wayne films were adopted.

At least two of the movies were remakes of earlier versions, *Dawn Patrol* and *Always*. The original of *Always* was *A Guy Named Joe*.

*Memphis Belle*, nominated, should not be confused with the wartime documentary, *Memphis Belle*, bearing little resemblance to the original on which it is putatively based.

Except for British *The Sound Barrier* and *The Battle of Britain*, the provenance of all of the films are Hollywood.

A non-scientific survey indicates that choices were heavily based on age of the nominator and the vocational or military background of the nominator.

The next *Coastwatcher* will continue this series with commentary on each film. You may still nominate a favorite by emailing the editor.

