

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>

S. Rocketto, Editor
srocketto@aquilasys.com

Vol. IV No. 18

06 May, 2010

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

May

08 MAY-Squadron Aircrew SAREX
08-09 MAY-Great Starts Encampment
11 MAY-Cadet PT
 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 NESA Camp Atterbury, Indiana
24-25 JUL NER SAREX Competition
31 JUL-7 AUG CTWG Encampment
09 OCT CTWG Olde Rhinebeck Trip (tentative)
22-24 OCT CTWG Conference

CADET MEETING MINUTES

04 May, 2010

Due to rain, the PT training session was postponed until next week, 11 May. Cadets are reminded to wear PT garments at the next meeting.

In lieu of PT, Lt Wojtcuk offered the Character Development seminar on the subject of "Deception."

Sgt Abbiati instructed the Cadets on details and protocols for the upcoming debate on US foreign policy.

Maj Rocketto's briefed the Cadets on current events.

C/2Lt Alexis Wojtuck received a silver star for the Goddard Ribbon for completion of the Mitchell and Rocketry programs.

C/2Lt Jonathan Scannell completed the requirements for Flight Commander and is laterally promoted to Administrative Officer duties.

Captain Noniewicz briefed the Cadets on the status of repairs to the Cadet trailer and the plans for flight training of interested Cadets.

PROMOTIONS

04 May, 2010

1Lt Robin Wojtcuk was promoted to Captain. Capt Wojtcuk serves as Deputy Commander of Cadets and Character Development Officer.



1Lt Wojtcuk salutes Squadron Commander Noniewicz upon promotion to Captain.

GREAT STARTS ENCAMPMENT

07-09 MAY

Cadets Hall, D. Rodriguez, Schultz, and VanDevander are scheduled to attend.

Capt Wojtcuk will get the van and meet everyone Friday evening at 6 PM AT THE SQUADRON- NOT THE FIREHOUSE! Eat dinner before you report. There is no food service at Camp Rell that evening. Parents may get last minute questions answered at this time.

Maj Rocketto and C/2Lt Wojtcuk will be in residence at Camp Rell for the weekend. Capt Wojtcuk will return home that evening but report to Camp Rell in the morning.

Parents will pick up their cadets at Camp Rell on Sunday morning at 9 AM (8:30 is closing formation if you'd like to watch).

Parents are welcome to come on post. If a parent would like a tour of the barracks they just need to ask a staff member. Parents are also welcome to come on post during the day on Saturday and observe the training.

Directions to Camp Rell may be found at :

<http://www.ct.gov/mil/cwp/view.asp?a=1345&q=257140>

Cadets need a \$12 check, NO CASH, made payable to CAP-CT011. This covers the cost of food. Do not forget your CAP ID and Form 60.

Uniform is BDUs. Please make sure they are neatly and well ironed, that you have the proper patches, tapes, insignia/cutouts in the proper places, a cover, the correct blue belt with black open-face, highly glossed and shined boots, black socks, and black tee shirts with NO writing. Don't forget undies and the normal toiletries that you would need for a two-night stay. In addition, bring 2 FLAT sheets, a pillow case, a blanket, towel, and washcloth.

PT clothes are black/navy/grey basketball shorts or sweat pants; black tee shirts, sneakers, and a black/navy/grey sweatshirt for cool mornings - NO WRITING on anything please. Bring 2 sets in case you do situps in the damp grass and get wet.

Also bring your CAP binder with the Leadership book and all AE mods, pencils, and extra paper

Do not bring watches, knives, sunglasses, cameras, gum or other food, cell phones or iTouches, iPods or MP3s, computers, TVs, portable DVD players, or other electronic devices.

Pack everything neatly in a duffle or bag that can be easily carried. Label all personal property.

CADET CHANGE OF COMMAND

27 April, 2010

In a short ceremony, Cadet command of the Squadron has been transferred from C/2Lt to C/CMSgt Abigail Wojtcuk.



Chief Wojtcuk accepts command of Cadet contingent from C/2Lt Scannell.

Chief Wojtcuk has announced the following formation changes.

Cadet First Sergeant: C/CMSgt Flynn

Cadet Staff: C/2ndLt Scannell (Deputy Commander

C/2ndLt Wojtcuk (CAC Rep)

1 Element Leader: Herzog, Assistant: Orlando

Members: Johnson, VanDevander, M. Rodriguez, Daniels

2 Element Leader: Hall, Assistant: Barberan
Members: Bourque, Terpe, Clewell

3 Element Leader: Abbiati, Assistant: Molinari
Members: Schultz, D. Rodriguez, Chartier

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

04 May, 2010

The Finance Committee held their quarterly meeting and discussed disbursement of the recently received grant funds.

S/M Looney, Project Officer of the Cadet Trailer Refurbishment activities and Capt Noniewicz discussed the steps needed to complete the work. A work part will carry out as much of this as possible during the SAREX on 08 May.

LtCol Bergey and Lt Farley coordinated the discussion on the activities scheduled for the aircrew SAREX on 08 May. Qualifications and recurrency training of aircrew members will be carried out in three sorties. Each sortie will be tailored to the needs of the participating crew members. First briefing is at 0700.

LtCol Doucette announced that the Long Island Sound Patrol will commence on Memorial Day weekend. Flight schedules will be posted.

LtCol Bergy has posted the emergency call list for the month of May. All members should consult their email for the details,

FORMER TRCS CADET COMMANDER NEARS GRADUATION AT US AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The Superintendent of the USAFA has announced that Cadet Eric Nelson is a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Systems Aeronautical Engineering and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Eric has also received special acceptance to the Euro NATO Joint Pilot Training Program (ENJTP) at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas.



Cadet Nelson at Shaw AFB

The ENJTP is a 55 week course which uses a mixture of USAF and European instructors to teach the fundamentals of military flying to students from 13 different nations. Instructional aircraft are the T-6 Texan II and the T-38 Talon.



Texan II



Talon

GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE TABLETOP
EXERCISE
04 MAY, 2010

LtCol Doucette attended a meeting of airport tenants to discuss responses to a situation in which an aircraft arrives at Groton with a passenger onboard who is suspected of having a communicable disease.

The objectives of the exercise were to identify the roles and responsibilities of airport personnel and local and state responders and describe the resources needed to facilitate an appropriate response.

The scenario postulated that a regional jet was inbound with a 20 minute ETA and requesting EMS for three ill passengers complaining of fever, nausea, and coughing.

Participants discussed the possible responses including the request for more information about the passengers, activation of emergency medical responders, possible quarantine measures, and the steps needed to take care of the healthy passengers.

Complications were considered and included a spread of the symptoms and recalcitrant passengers who refused medical assistance.

The exercise concluded with a discussion of public information releases, disinfecting the aircraft and terminal, and required reports.

AVIATION CURRENT EVENTS AND
HISTORY MILEPOSTS

Current Events

BACK TO THE PAST

Limitations on advanced technology are not new

to pilots. No matter what equipment an aircraft has aboard, flight checks often simulate failures and the pilot is forced to revert to back-up devices and manual control.

The automatic docking system of the Progress spacecraft carrying supplies to the International Space Station failed and the ship had to be docked by manual control.

Airbus has announced that it will use a physical mock-up for its A350 fuselage design and layout. The use of digital mock-ups (DMU) on the A350 revealed shortcomings in DMU technology which led to costly production delays. Airbus Program Manager Didier Evrard stated that

The DMU is a fantastic tool, but the lesson learned from the A380 was that we needed to go further to anticipate system installation problems...to test the installation of wiring and other systems...DMU was inadequate at replicating the reality of the actual assembly effort...leading to major production delays.

AH, THE WONDERS OF A GLOBAL ECONOMY!

Many products, aircraft included, are not built in one place. In order to satisfy economic and political demands, the sub-systems are often constructed in widely separated places and then shipped to a common assembly point. If suppliers fail to meet production schedules or quality control specifications, the entire wide spread system can bog down. Such is the case with Boeing's 787 Dreamliner. Last year, Boeing purchased Vought Aircraft Industries in Charleston, S.C., after experiencing failures of that supplier to meet production criteria. Dreamliner production is spread among about 135 sites around the world. More recent difficulties with international suppliers will result in a 24 day delay on the production of the next two aircraft.

History Milestones

06 May, 1937 The *Luftschiff Hindenburg, LZ 129*, upon completion of its first trans-Atlantic crossing of the season, catches fire and is destroyed as it attempts to land at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station.

08 May, 1942 In the first naval engagement carried out solely by carrier aircraft, the US Navy engages Japanese forces in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

09 May, 1932 Capt. A.F. Hegenberger, US Army Air Corps, makes the first unassisted "blind" landing at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

11 May, 1926 An expedition commanded by noted explorer Roald Amundsen makes the first airship flight over the North Pole in the semi-rigid ship *Norge*.

FAVORITE FLYING MOVIES

Part One

Films reviewed in this section cover the early years of aviation, from World War One through the barnstorming decade.

The Coastwatcher's flying flicks feature opens with two films nominated for music. Capt Art Dammers at the 103rd, a motorcyclist, has his passions aroused by the rendition of "Danger Zone" from 1956's *Top Gun*. Dammers forwards these lyrics:

*Revvin' up your engine
Listen to her howlin' roar
Metal under tension
Beggin' you to touch and go*

The second film nominated was *Dr. Strangelove (1964)* for its artful climax which is an artful

juxtaposition of anti-war sentiment and the devotion of a USAF crew struggling to fly their battle damaged B-52 to its target as the rousing strains of the song "Johnny Comes Marching Home" plays in the background.

Ironically, this song is a joyful US Civil War piece celebrating the safe return of soldiers but is based upon the anti-war Irish song, "Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye, " a lament to the many Irish maimed in the service of Great Britain.

Another film was nominated and then selected by the editor for a singular reason. This film is the 1955 release, *The McConnell Story*, starring Alan Ladd and June Allyson. Ladd plays Joseph C. McConnell, Jr. The nominator, Alcino Almeida, served with the protagonist of the film. They served together in Korea in the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron.

McConnell was a Dover, New Hampshire native who served as a B-24 navigator in World War II. After the war, he earned his pilot's wings and distinguished himself during the Korean Police Action, flying the F-86 Sabre and shooting down 16 MiGs to become both the top scoring US ace in the Korean conflict and the top scoring US jet ace.

Returning from Korea, McConnell was assigned to test duties. On 25 August, 1954, Capt. McConnell was test flying an F-86H Sabre when a maintenance mistake resulted in the loss of elevator control. McConnell attempted to land the aircraft using power and trim but was killed when forced to abandon the aircraft at an altitude which did not allow his parachute to fully deploy.



North American F-86H Sabre

Ironically, a movie about McConnell, tentatively entitled *Tiger in the Sky*, was just going into production when he was killed. The film was rescripted and renamed *The McConnell Story*.

Strategic Air Command, released in 1954, was nominated by LtCol Anthony Vallilo, Wing Standards and Evaluation Officer. LtCol Vallillo is a retired American Airlines Captain and USAF Air Mobility Command veteran.

In this movie, Jimmy Stewart, a USAF Reserve Brigadier General who flew B-24s in Europe in the Second World War plays a WWII vet and St. Louis Cardinals ballplayer, Dutch Holland, who is recalled to fly the B-36 and B-47 during the Cold War. June Allyson plays the same role which she did in *The McConnell Story*, the loving and supportive wife. Oddly enough, Stewart and Allyson reprised their roles in an earlier baseball movie, *The Stratton Story* (1949), about a ballplayer who loses a leg but struggles to continue a career in baseball.



Consolidated B-24 Liberator at the American Air Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, England



Stewart's World War Two blouse displaying his wings, Distinguished Flying Crosses, and Air Medals.

As you might expect from a Std/Eval Officer, LtCol Vallilo has four criteria for a good aviation movie. It treats aviation realistically, both visually and procedurally, has an interesting and compelling story, has a maximum use of real airplane footage versus models or computer generated visuals, and has good acting and good casting. He is critical of this film for some use of models but he admits that "...they are well done, and the real ground and air photography is outstanding, especially if you like the B-36 and B-47. Solid acting by a great supporting cast brings the story to life, and there is more than one dramatic moment along the way."



Convair B-36 Peacemaker

LtCol Carl Stidsen, Wing Inspector General and a former member of the Strategic Air Command agrees with LtCol Vallillo. His favorite scene is

...the startup / taxi out / run-up/takeoff /climbout/flight of the B-36. The later B-36 crash scene is obviously a model, but is well done. The B-47 taxi and takeoff scenes later in the movie are also impressive. Great music throughout, but "Bombers High" is ever so true a reflection of the 1950's cold War attitude.



Boeing B-47E Stratojet

Tom Morehouse of the New England Air Museum also lists Strategic Air Command as a favorite.

The early days of aviation are represented by *Wings*, *Dawn Patrol*, *The Blue Max*, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, and *The Great Waldo Pepper*.

John LaMonica, an old New Mexico flying buddy of the Editor used to say that the only good aviation pictures had airplanes with axles between the wheels and these five pictures come close to fulfilling that criterion.

Roger McQuiggan, a retired Connecticut Guardsman and a teacher of film and Latin reminds us that the silent film *Wings* (1927) won the first Oscar ever awarded for best picture and a second for best effects. William Wellman, a World War I aviator with the *Lafayette Flying Corps*, directed the picture. The writer was flyer John Monk Saunders who also has credit for *Dawn Patrol* (1930 version), *The High and the Mighty* and *Island in the Sky*.

Maj Rocketto recalls a powerful scene. Buddy Rogers and Richard Arlen have just reported to a

training base. In their tent they meet a senior cadet named White played by Gary Cooper. White has just awakened from a nap and they question him about good luck charms. He says that when your time is up, it is up and charms are useless. Cooper is eating a candy bar and says that he must leave to do some flying. He tosses the half eaten bar on his bunk. Shortly thereafter, his plane crashes and as the ambulances race to the burning wreckage, Rogers and Arlen stare at the half eaten candy

The Dawn Patrol was made in two versions, one in 1930 and one in 1938. The 1930 version starred Richard Barthelmess and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and won the Oscar for best writing for John Monk Saunders. It has been retitled *Flight Commander* for television to avoid confusion with the 1938 version. The 1938 version stars Errol Flynn, David Niven, and Basil Rathbone.

The story centers around the loneliness and the strain of command for a Royal Flying Corps

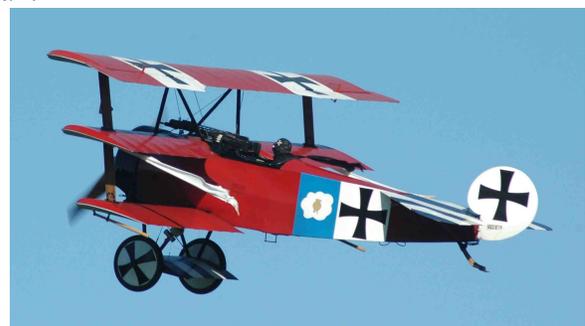
Squadron leader who must send half trained boys into combat in inferior aircraft. When the Commander's chief critic inherits the squadron and must make the life and death decisions for his subordinates, he comes to understand the awesome responsibility of authority, a what St. Exupery called the "heavy load of victory." This same theme recurs in the World War Two drama, *Twelve O'Clock High*.

A scene in the mess highlights the pathos of the war. One of the officers starts singing the pilot's mournful and cynical toasting song:

*So, stand to your glasses steady,
This world is a world full of lies.
Here's a toast to those dead already,
And here's to the next man to die.*

Meanwhile, all around, the Squadron is engaged in tom-foolery as they drink and try to forget the horrors of the past day and those which await them tomorrow.

The German side of "The Great War" is portrayed in *The Blue Max* (1966). George Peppard plays Bruno Stachel, an ambitious, cunning, and ruthless fighter pilot of a low social class, eager to earn Germany's highest military honor, the "*Pour le Merite*," a blue enameled Maltese Cross. The first aviator to earn the medal was Max Immelmann for downing eight enemy aircraft. Thereafter the medal was known as the "Blue Max."



Olde Rhinebeck Aerodrome Fokker Dr. I reproduction similar to planes flown by Stachel and von Klugermann

Peppard engages in a rivalry with the aristocratic Willi von Klugermann, played by Jeremy Kemp. In one of the great scenes, a favorite of LtCol Stidsen, Stachel and von Klugermann engage in multiple passes under a low bridge until von Klugermann misjudges and is killed. After the crash, Stachel claims a victory for himself which, in fact, belongs to his dead rival. He earns the "Blue Max." When his dishonesty is discovered, a superior officer, offended by Stachel's ungentlemanly behavior, arranges for Stachel, now a national hero, to test fly a defective aircraft in which he suffers a "hero's" death.

The punishment of evil satisfies the normal moral code of the cinema but in the original story, written by former US counter intelligence officer, Jack Hunter, Stachel survives and as the war ends, is making friends with Hermann Goering!

The Great Waldo Pepper (1975), a film directed by George Roy Hill, a USMC transport pilot in WWII and a Marine fighter pilot in Korea, takes place during the barnstorming era. Pepper, played by Robert Redford, is an ex-Army pilot who regrets the fact that he never got overseas to fight and is therefore somewhat inventive about his military past. His friend Ezra Stiles constructs a monoplane which leads to one of the most chilling scenes in cinema. Stiles aircraft suffers a structural failure, crashes, and he is trapped in the wreckage. A gaggle of gawkers rushes to the scene. One of them has a cigarette in hand which ignites the fuel. Ezra is trapped in the flaming wreck and screams for help. Waldo rushes to his aid but is unable to free his friend. To end Ezra's suffering, Waldo seizes a piece of timber and strikes him over the head, either killing him or rendering him unconscious.

Another character, Dillhoeffler, is a classic huckster who employs Pepper in his flying circus as they barnstorm the midwest. Eventually, Pepper meets Ernst Kessler, an Ernst Udet-like German ace from the war. Waldo, like Miniver Cheevey, longs for

the days gone by and Kessler, disillusioned, his glory days past, suffering from the ennui of civilian life, arranges to meet Pepper in a duel in the sky. In an ambiguous ending, their aircraft severely damaged, both fliers fade into a milky sky.

The Spirit of St. Louis (1957) stars James Stewart as Charles Lindbergh and relates the details of Lindbergh's famous solo trans-Atlantic flight. The film is a series of flashbacks which delineate the "Lone Eagle's" aviation career, from his days barnstorming and flying the air mail to his struggle to gain support for his New York to Paris flight. Lindbergh's success captured world attention and his good looks and modesty made him a icon of the age.

LtCol Vallilo applies his criteria to "Spirit" and comments that

Stewart fought hard to get this role, despite being several decades older than Lindy was at the time of the Paris flight. Stewart's acting is superb, the cinematography is outstanding and all of the airplane shots are real. As for he story - what could be more compelling than that famous flight!



The original Spirit of St. Louis enshrined in the National Air and Space Museum, The Mall, Washington

The next edition of *The Coastwatcher* will discuss films which portray aviation from World War II to the Space Age.

