

Missions for America

Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!



The Coastwatcher

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

<http://capct075.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>

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Vol. IV No. 22

09 June, 2010

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

June

15 JUN-Cadets-Rocketry Program-Testing
-Seniors-Emergency Services Training
19 JUN-SAREX-TBD
22 JUN-Color Guard-Team Building
29 JUN-Squadron Picnic-See article

For Future Planning

11 JUL-WAA Pancake Breakfast, 0900-1300
18-26 JUN NESAs Camp Atterbury, Indiana
31 JUL-7 AUG CTWG Encampment
21 AUG-Commander's Cup Rocketry (tentative)
09 OCT CTWG Olde Rhinebeck Trip (tentative)
22-24 OCT CTWG Conference

CADET MEETING MINUTES

08 June, 2010

The Cadet cadre led the Cadet Squadron in the opening ceremonies. PT testing was held and the following Cadets passed: Barbaran, Bourque, Daniels, Flynn, Herzog, Johnson, Orlando, Paquin, Ray, D. Rodriguez, Shultz, VanDevander, and Abigail Wojtcuk.

Cadets are urged to prepare for the testing on either the Redstone Stage of the Rocketry Badge Program or Module Four, "Rockets" from the textbook, *Aerospace Dimensions*.

The Redstone Stage test is based upon knowledge of four seminal figures in the development of rockets and some basic history.

The Module Four test requires a deeper knowledge of rocket nomenclature and history.

Any who have not done so should also build a "junk rocket" and one other rudimentary missile such as a "Goddard" or "Fizzy Flyer." Be prepared to launch them at the next meeting. Completing the Redstone Stage is a requirement before any Cadet will be issued a chemical rocket kit for construction, entry in the Rocketry Competition, and a partial requirement for the second stage of the Rocketry Badge.

The information may be found by referring to the Squadron website and following the links on rocketry under "Cadet Resources."

CT075 FAMILY PICNIC

The date is Tuesday, June 29 and the time is 6:00 - 9:00 PM

All Senior Members, Cadets, and all our immediate family members are invited. This is a good time for us all to get to know each other better!

To make arrangements for attending:

Email cadet mom Connie Bourque (pronounced "Berk") with CAP PICNIC in the subject line so she recognizes the email as from a CAP person.

kaylalozeke@aol.com

Tell her how many people are coming and what you would like to bring (hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, burger & dog rolls, munchies, salads, desserts, sodas, paper products). Connie will send out emails periodically with what we have so far and what we still need. In case of rain, we move indoors.

SM Wojtcuk is working on a grill (1/2 oil tank) but just in case it doesn't get done, could some of you bring your grills?

If someone has a volleyball net & ball that they can bring, that would be great too.

COMMANDER'S CALL

08 June, 2010

LtCol Doucette Long Island Sound Patrol (LISP) Coordinator reported on the current status of the Long Island Sound Patrol and the scheduling of future missions.

Lt Dickinson, TRCS LISP Project Office, presented the upcoming LISP schedules for Thames River Composite Squadron.

A safety discussion focused on take offs, landings, and wake turbulence was led by Lt Dickinson.

Lt Farley, Emergency Services Officer, presented suggestions for the 19 June SAREX. The exercise will be a combined ground team/air crew training session with emphasis on air to ground and ground to air communications. The scenario may be a search for a lost hiker or child without emergency location transmitter assistance. Four sorties are planned for a weekend and one for midweek.

Capt Noniewicz, Squadron Commander, briefed the Officers on the progress made on the Cadet trailer. Details are offered in a separate article.

Capt Noniewicz then reviewed topics covered at the CTWG Squadron Commander's Call.

- a. The use of WIMRS to record aircraft maintenance records was discussed.
- b. Procedures for uploading CAP ID photos were explained.
- c. Parade officials in Hartford are requesting Wing assistance for the Veteran's Day Parade. Details will be forthcoming.
- d. The need for female chaperones for female cadets were discussed.

Lt Owens, Webmaster, explained new features on the Squadron website

Lt Lintelmann, Finance Officer, reviewed the TRCS financial status.

Lt Miller, Logistics Officer, reported that he has been unable to discover the location of the missing personal flotation devices which were in 04E when it was flown to the maintenance facility by another squadron.

Col Kinch, Personnel Officer, reported on the status of the awards applications which have been forwarded to Wing.

Maj Rocketto, Aerospace Education Officer, offered a current events briefing the details of which are covered in another article in this edition.

Rocketto, in his role as Public Affairs Officer, also noted that a set of five photographs credited to TRCS are now on display in the multimedia section of New London Day's website. Click on the "Thames River" feature to view the photos.

CADET TRAILER PROGRESS

05 JUNE, 2020

A work detail consisting of Capt Noniewicz, LtCol Doucette, Lt Wojtuck and Cadets Abigail and Alexis Wojtuck painted the ceiling in the main room, respackled the side office, ran a general cleanup, washed the floors, installed lights and vents, and moved furniture. Tasks which remain to be done are painting the ceiling in the old storage room, washing the floors in the Cadet meeting room, installing one more light fixture, and rearranging the furniture.

Squadron Commander Noniewicz commends the Squadron for their group effort and singles out out SM Bob Looney who has has been instrumental in providing leadership, effort and work driving this fix-up work.

NELSON GRADUATES

Eric Nelson, former Cadet Commander at Thames River Composite Squadron, graduated from the US Air Force Academy in the Class of 2010. He received a Bachelor of Science in Systems Aeronautical Engineering, a commission as Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force

and special acceptance to the Euro NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas.



While at the USAF Academy, Cadet Nelson served as a sailplane instructor in the Academy flight program.

COL STIDSEN ON THE "MANTZIAN" AIRFORCE

Our Wing Inspector General, LtCol Stidsen, Research Librarian at the New England Air Museum, sent a gloss on the "Favorite Aviation Movies" feature.. His knowledge of aviation lore is encyclopedic and if he does not know some detail, he knows where the information may be found.

His comments refer to details about Paul Mantz and his post-war purchase of a fleet of airplanes. from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, a government agency whose charter included the disposal of surplus military aircraft.

Col Stidsen relates that

Paul Mantz and associates bought 475 planes from the Stillwater, Oklahoma storage yard in February of 1946, drained

the fuel, and recovered only half of their expense. The cost of rendering the aircraft airworthy was such that they had to sell all but 10 of those aircraft to the scrappers to return those 10 to the sky. Among the survivors was Mantz's famous P-51C and the B-25's later used for Cinerama filming and other aviation filming.

A partial rundown of the haul at Stillwater was : 1 B-18, 1 A-20, 78 B-17, 145 B-24, 10 B-25, 22 B-26, 6 P-39, 90 P-40, 31 P-47, 7 P-51, 8 PB4Y-1, 2 F-7.

Research indicates that the price which Mantz paid for this fleet was \$55,000! He was heard to say that he owned the sixth largest air force in the world.

Three of the saved aircraft were notable for the missions which they performed in the civilian life.

Two of the P-51Cs were converted to racing aircraft and Mantz won three successive Bendix transcontinental races with them.

One of the P-51s, NX-1202, was eventually purchased and flown by Charlie Blair. As *Excalibur III*, Blair flew here on the first solo flight across the North Pole, pioneering new navigation techniques required by the unusual conditions of polar flight. *Excalibur III* is now displayed at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Annex at Dulles Airport.



Excalibur III at Udvar-Hazy

Winner of the 1946 1947, and 1948 Bendix Transcontinental Air Races as Race Plane 46 and holder of the piston engine transcontinental speed record.

Another of Blair's aircraft, but with no connection to Mantz, the Sikorsky VS-44A, *Excambian*, sister ship to the original *Excalibur*, may be seen at the New England Air Museum.



Sikorsky file photo.

The three VS-44As operated by American Export Airlines were named after American Export Lines ocean liners. Excalibur crashed in Newfoundland in 1942 and Exeter was lost in Paraguay in 1947.

Mantz also achieved fame with a North American B-25H. The plane became a state-of-the-art camera plane and many of the pictures covered in the recent *Coastwatcher* series "Favorite Aviation Movies" were filmed from this aircraft. The B-25 also pioneered the use of the cinerama cameras for aerial work. Maj Rocketto still remembers the extraordinary scenes from the first cinerama production, essentially an aerial tour of the United States. In one sequence, the aircraft is "flat-hatting" over a featureless and flat desert and suddenly flies over the rim of the Grand Canyon! The change in the giant wide-screen format's depth and width of field brought a collective gasp from the audience.



Mantz B-25 with modified camera nose

Dusty Carter Photo-
Aerovintage.com

If you wish to see a B-25H, the New England Air Museum has one on display. *Dog Daize* is unusual in that it is equipped with the large 75 mm cannon, one of the largest rifled weapons ever fitted to a warplane.



NEAM B-25H and its 75 mm cannon on display.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
WESTERLY AIRPORT ASSOCIATION
11 JULY, 2010

The Westerly Airport Association will sponsor a pancake breakfast at Dooney's Aviation, 63 Tom Harvey Rd, Westerly Airport to benefit their scholarship fund. Cost is \$6/adult and \$4/child under 12.

The *carte du jour* will include blueberry, strawberry, or plain pancakes (with real maple syrup flown in from Vermont!) bacon, sausage, coffee, juice

Tickets are available at Dooney Aviation, from WAA members or at the hangar door! See www.wstaa.net for directions.

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

The United States Marine Corps visited the 1109th AVCRAD at Groton last Friday in the *personae* of

a flight of two Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters. The Super Stallion is the largest helicopter in US military service and is a three engine, seven rotor blade variant of the CH-53 Stallion.



Marine Super Stallion Departs Runway 15 to Taxi to AVCRAD

The aircraft can carry up to 55 passengers and is capable of lifting the M198 howitzer and a variety of light armored vehicles. Its aerial refueling probe adds to its versatility.



CH-53Es have performed a number of notable missions. Two of them were employed to rescue Air Force Capt Scott Grady, shot down over Bosnia in 1995. The evacuation of the US Embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1990 was carried out by Super Stallions. As a rescue vehicle, the aircraft carries on the tradition of its forbearer, the HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant, the first helicopter specifically designed for the combat search and rescue role.



HU-53Es Depart as a Flight of Two

AVIATION CURRENT EVENTS

Friday, 04 June-The SpaceX Corporation successfully launched its Falcon 9 rocket and placed an experimental capsule into a 180 mile high orbit. The 180 foot two stage rocket is fueled by kerosene with a liquid oxygen oxidizer. The first stage is powered by nine SpaceX Merlin engines generating just over one million pounds of thrust. The second stage uses a single Merlin engine. SpaceX has received a 1.6 billion dollar contract from NASA for future staging of up to 12 flights to resupply the International Space Station.

Tuesday, 08 June-CAP is involved in a number of direct support missions for the US military. It has just been announced that CAP aircraft will serve as test targets for the new aerostats being evaluated at the Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah. The aerostats are tethered balloons which carry sensors capable of detecting cruise missiles and low flying aircraft.

In addition, Squadron in Wisconsin, Maryland, DC, and the Northeast Regions are flying "intruder" missions to train the F-16 interceptor force to find light aircraft flying in restricted and prohibited airspace.

On the Gulf Coast, several CAP 182s have been outfitted with the sensing balls used on the Predator and Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles. The aircraft are then flown over simulated battle zones and the images transmitted from them are used to train ground operators.

AVIATION HISTORY MILESTONES

11 June, 1937-Reginald Mitchell, Chief Designer of Supermarine and Spitfire designer goes West.



Spitfire Mk.1

13 June, 1944 - The first operational V-1 cruise missile is launched from France against England.



Vergeltungswaffe Eins

14 June, 1919-Royal Air Force Capt. John Alcock and RAF Lt. Arthur Whidden Brown pilot a Vickers Vimy from Newfoundland to Ireland, the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by aircraft.



The commemorative postal cover celebrates the 60th anniversary of the "first non-stop crossing. An RAF Phantom followed the same route flown by Squadron Leader A.J.H. Alcock and by Flight Lieutenant W.N. Browne!