

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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### SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

#### For Future Planning

Cadet meetings normally start with drill and end with aerospace history, current events, and Commander's moment. Blues are worn on the second week of the month and BDUs at other times. Main topics will be indicated on the schedule below. See website for updates.

01 FEB-Leadership/testing/Team Building  
08 FEB-Safety/DDR/Character Development  
12-13 FEB-Squadron Leadership School  
15 FEB-Col Stidsen lecture on SAC Missile Silo  
22 FEB-Emergency Services-theory and practicum  
26 FEB-Table Top SAREX

08 MAR-Pastor Chuck Tyree CD seminar  
01-03 APR-Tri-State SAREX  
13-15 MAY-CTWG Great Starts

21-25 JUN-National AEO School  
23 JUL-07 AUG-NESA (two sessions)  
08-14 AUG-CTWG Encampment  
17-20 AUG-CAP Nat'l Summer Conference  
22-24 SEP-AOPA Summit-Hartford  
22-23 OCT-CTWG Convention

### CADET MEETING

*25 February, 2011*

The meeting opened up with a uniform inspection. Cadet uniforms are seeing great improvement but the correct placement of the grade insignia must be learned.

Capt Wojtcuk taught a lesson on rocket-launch safety and the unique rules of CAP rocket launches. The criteria for a successful rocket were also stated. The rocket must launch, deploy its parachute, and be retrieved in re-flyable condition.

Capt Wojtcuk held a character development class. The subject was Aristotle's definition of character as moral excellence -- right conduct to ones self to others. This led to discussions on school bullying and related issues.

Capt Wojtcuk discussed the squadron's problems concerning drill. Since the parking lot that we usually drill on is unavailable in snowy-icy weather, we will have to find a new place to practice marching. The Norwich Alliance Church's gym is being considered.

Capt Wojtcuk determined at which stages individual cadets were in the rocketry program. If you have already done an "Alpha" rocket, then you may proceed to build a payload or an historical rocket.

Capt Wojtcuk discussed and answered questions concerning Cyber Patriot III, a competitive cyber warfare program designed for youth, 9th through 12th grade. In the competition, you are awarded

points for defending your "network" from simulated hackers. If at least five cadets will join (you must be in 9th Grade by next school year), our squadron can start a team. Entry is free, and registration opens May 10, 2011. You will need to have a couple of hours a week to practice. Any cadets who would like to join must email Capt Wojtcuk.

Capt Wojtcuk gave cadets tips for DDR, AEX, and team building classes; be creative and expand your resources. For DDR and AEX, you may even include a game of some sort. If you have a lesson coming up soon, make sure you are prepared.

Cadets Chartier and Herzog were awarded prizes for their wins in the past two Coastwatcher contests. Cadet Chartier chose the book, *From Maine to Mexico* by Louis Keefer. The book details CAP's role in fighting the German U-boat menace during the early days of World War II. Cadet Herzog chose a .30 cal ammunition can.

Any Cadets with ideas for future contests may email Maj Rocketto directly. This issue's contest aircraft were selected by Cadet Herzog. Since this year is the 100th anniversary of US naval aviation, Herzog has chose five aircraft used by the US Navy in World War II.

Maj Rocketto discussed the National Emergency Services Academy (NESA), a camp where you learn emergency services skills during an intense week of training. Encampment is prerequisite. if you are interested, look for it on the NHQ website. Cadets who sign up before January 30 receive a discounted price.

The summer 2011 Basic Encampment at Camp Niantic was discussed. Any cadets who have not yet gone to Encampment should consider going this year. It is getting an overhaul from last year and should be even more fun this summer.

Maj Rocketto explained that the library in the Cadet room has many books on aerospace topics in both history and technical issues. In addition, current aerospace magazines are stocked. Cadets are encouraged to borrow any of the volumes in stock or any magazine to read. Their return is expected.

## **SENIOR MEETING**

*25 February, 2011*

*Commander's Call*

Capt Noniewicz reported details of the Squadron Commander's Call. The types of training activities under a more austere budget were considered.

He also promoted the upcoming SLS for those lacking this training.

Squadron objectives were discussed. These included: the citrus fruit fund raiser, six face to face safety briefing each year, a vigorous Senior participation in Cadet activities, a rationalized senior training program in which the squadron would schedule two major training programs per month for Tuesday meetings, a planned and coordinated training program for new members, 100% attendance at Commander's Call, and one SAREX per month.

Squadron personnel authorizations will be announced in the next week. Assistants will be appointed in key Squadron positions to increase efficiency and train replacements.

Maj Rocketto reported on the plans to generate funding by means of a CTWG grant from a major corporation.

Capt Petry presented a safety briefing which considered the possibilities of engine failure on take-off at Groton. Noting that "luck favors the prepared," Capt Petry led a spirited discussion of the options available to a pilot given runway choice, wind, and altitude at which the engine failure occurs.

**PENDING SENIOR AWARDS AND  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ADVANCEMENTS**

The search for the source of an emergency beacon led to the launch of a TRCS aircraft on Thanksgiving Eve. The beacon was traced to a Long Island Airport where a wrecked plane which had crashed some months prior was disturbed, probably by wind, which activated its beacon. A Find Ribbon has been approved the aircrew members, LtCol Doucette, Maj Neilson, and Capt Noneiwicz.

Level Two Professional Development Awards have been approved for Lts Farley and Owens.

Maj Mode has been awarded credit for ECI-13, Regional Staff College, and National Staff College based upon Professional Military Equivalent Coursework.

**SCHULTZ WINS RIFLE PRIZE**

Cadet Brendan Schultz took 2nd Place Class C honors, Sub-Junior age group, in the annual Niantic Rifle Club's David Thompson Shoreline Classic Rifle Tournament.

**AVIATION LECTURE AT MYSTIC MARINE  
MUSEUM**

*20 January, 2011*

Maj Rocketto attended a lecture in the museum's Adventure Series in which Seattle pilots Mark Schoening and Doug DeVries circumnavigated Canada in two float equipped Dehavilland Beavers. The trip took a month and a half and covered 12,000 miles. Of especial interest to pilots was the careful planning using techniques of operational risk management which took place for over a year before the actual voyage was launched. Spare parts had to be managed, fuel cached, and practice flights made in order to increase the probability of a safe journey.

**AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS**

*Kepler Discovers Small, Rocky Exoplanet.*

The smallest planet outside of our solar system has been discovered using the Kepler Telescope. The planet is about 1.4 earth radii in size and 20 times closer to its star than Mercury so it is too hot for life as we know it.

*New Generation Of UAVs Coming On Line*

The Global Observer, an experimental UAV with a wing span which approximates that of a Boeing 747 has been flown at Edwards AFB.

Two other exotic robot aircraft stand ready for testing. Northrop-Grumman's X-47B has the capability to be launched from an aircraft carrier with a load of laser-guided bombs. The third drone is Boeing's Phantom Ray, designed to attack radar sites.

Lockheed's RQ-170, the so-called "Beast of Kandahar," is operating in Afghanistan. The role of the RQ-170 is not known but it is suspected to be involved in electronic intelligence missions.

*NASA Desires to Retain T-38 Talons for Astronaut  
Training*

NASA hopes to retain some of its fleet of Northrop T-38s, based at Ellington Field near the Johnson Space Flight Center. The four Grumman Shuttle Training Aircraft and the two Boeing 747 shuttle transporters will become surplus with the cessation of the shuttle program but NASA officials believe that some of the T-38s are necessary as an essential part of future astronaut training.



*A Brace of  
Talons Poised  
on the Ramp*

### *Foundation Flies Fulcrum*

The Historic Flight Foundation based at Paine Field, Everett, Washington completed a two year restoration project and flown a MiG-29UB Fulcrum. The two decade old aircraft, formerly with the Ukrainian Air force was purchased, shipped to Washington, fully disassembled, inspected, repaired, and had its engines replaced with two specially built Klimov turbofans.

The two seat fighter which is capable of speeds in excess of Mach 2 and altitudes of 60,000 ft will join the Foundation's stable of other historic aircraft including a Grumman Tigercat and a Bearcat, a North American Mustang and a Mitchell, two DHC Beavers, and a WACO UPF-7.



*Soviet MiG-29A at the USAF Museum*

### **AEROSPACE HISTORY** **EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

27 JAN, 1967-Gus Grissom, Edward White, and Roger Chaffee, the crew of "Apollo One" lost when a fire breaks out inside their capsule during a training exercise.

28 Jan., 1986-The crew of Challenger, Space Shuttle Mission 51-L are lost when, just after launch, exhaust leaking from a faulty joint in a solid rocket booster ignites the fuel in the external fuel tank.

30 JAN, 1948-Orville Wright goes West.



*31 JAN, 1958-The Army launches the first successful U.S. satellite, Explorer I, aboard a Jupiter-C vehicle.*

### **GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX** **CONTEST WINNER AND ANSWERS**

Cadet Herzog won the last contest which had been designed by Cadet Chartier. LtCol Carl Stidsen and Attorney Bernie Steadman also submitted correct answers.

Cadet Herzog's answers to Coastwatcher 5.03 are followed by some additional comments from Col Stidsen and Attorney Steadman.

1. Hawker Hurricane: The Hawker Hurricane and the Supermarine Spitfire was responsible for winning the Battle of Britain. The RAF Hurricane had a partial canvas covered fuselage.

Col Stidsen points out that "this is a Mk II version of the Hurricane. " Atty Steadman noted that "more Hurricanes were produced than Spitfires."

2. Consolidated B-24 Liberator: The B-24 was more widely produced than any other Allied heavy bomber during WWII. The Liberator was used in every branch of the US during the war.

Col Stidsen adds that it is "a Consolidated B-24J Liberator (a late -J, judging from the additional windows behind the nose turret...in a British Museum (RAF?) -note the CBI/Pacific insignia (No red ball in the cocarde, so it won't be mistaken for a Japanese machine - a fine comment on the recognition standards of the time. ) Came out of the Indian AF bunch of ex-RAF Lend Lease B-24's that the IAF recovered from the jungle and flew until 1969)."

3. Bell P-59 Airacomet: The P-59 was the first American jet fighter. Although built during WWII, the Airacomet never saw combat because the USAAF was not happy with its performance.

Again-Col Stidsen The Bell P-59B is found "at the NMUSAF. Located and salvaged from a scrap yard/ dump in New Mexico (Walker AFB?) around 1956, (by Rhodes Arnold, who later helped found the Pima Air & Space Museum) and brought to the revived AFM at WPAFB."

4. Curtiss Wright C-46 Commando: The Commando can carry more cargo at a higher altitude than a C-47 Skytrain, but the Commando wasn't as popular as the C-47. Its greatest claim to fame was carrying cargo over the Himalayas for American forces in China.

From Atty Steadman-"The Pima Air Museum has one with the engines name "Moan" and "Groan"



*The Pima Museum's Commando with engines named "Moan" and "Groan." Enlarge the picture to read the name.*

Col Stidsen states that he has "no idea why they hung that moniker (Commando) on the airplane. At the time of its first flight, it was the largest twin-engined transport in civil service (1938 - as the CW-20). The CW-20 had twin tails, but the production version changed to the single large fin/rudder we see today. "

5. Republic P-47 Thunderbolt: The Thunderbolt was the largest American fighter aircraft of WWII. Its large air-cooled radial engine could take a lot of damage and still bring the pilot home. My Grandfather, who served in the USAF from 1947-1968, had worked for the most famous P-47 ace of WWII, Col. Francis Gabreski, at Selfridge Field, MI.

Both Atty Steadman and Col Stidsen pointed out that its nickname was "the Jug."

Col Stidsen's final gloss is that "the RAF called the D Version the Thunderbolt II - (yeah, yeah, the A-10 is also the T-Bolt II, but - different country, different time.) Also in CBI markings."

**NEW CONTEST**  
**GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX**

ANY READER IS INVITED TO SUBMIT A SET OF ANSWERS TO THE CONTEST. SENIORS NEED ONLY IDENTIFY THE MAKE, MODEL, AND POPULAR NAME OF THE AIRCRAFT. CADETS WILL DO THE SAME AND SUPPLY A SHORT STATEMENT CONTAINING SOME INTERSTING FACTS ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT.

ONLY TRCS CADETS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES. SENIORS WIN A MENTION IN THE COASTWATCHER AND A WEEK'S WORTH OF "BRAGGING RIGHTS."

The following aircraft honor the US Navy in its 100th year and consist of World War II planes. Cadets should use the hints provided to assist in identification of each aircraft.

*Mystery Aircraft #1*



Mystery Aircraft #1 was designed as a flying boat patrol bomber but later metamorphosed into an amphibian. Her nickname, "the Cat" derived from the name of the island of the California coast for which she was named. "The Cat" had an unusual parasol wing which helped keep its props out of the spray during take-off.. The flight engineer, who handled the engines sat in the pylon which supported the wing. She was one of the most versatile aircraft of WWII and served with every service and many other countries

*Mystery Aircraft #2*



This "cat, " a fighter, is displayed as it nimbly touches down on the deck of a simulated carrier. The display honors a home town boy who became a navy ace and was lost, possibly by friendly fire during a night mission. The local airport, Orchard Beach, was renamed in his honor and the display is there, at ORD.

*Mystery Aircraft #3*



The extended dive brakes indicate that this aircraft is a dive bomber. She was the hero of the Battle of Midway, sinking four Japanese aircraft carriers, a defeat which marked the beginning of the end of the Japanese Empire's dreams of a "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere."

*Mystery Aircraft #4*



Aircraft #4 was designed as a torpedo bomber. The company which designed and built them first turned the manufacturing over to the Eastern Aircraft Division of General Motors in order to free resources and concentrate on higher priority projects. Later in the war, the main use of these planes were as bombers and anti-submarine aircraft. George Herbert Walker Bush, the youngest naval aviator at that time, was shot down while flying this plane.

*Mystery Aircraft #5*



Aircraft #5 was designed as a scout plane which could be launched by catapult from battleships and cruisers and then recovered by crane. The manufacturer was a division of a Connecticut aircraft company. The presiding officer of a fictitious fraternal lodge known as "The Mystic Knights of the Sea" bore a title, a which was almost the same as the name of this aircraft, a species of bird.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES  
ACADEMY**

Session One is scheduled for 24-30 Jul 2011 and Session Two will run between 31 Jul - 6 Aug 2011.

NESA is CAP's most well attended summer activity and is held at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury. The following are the prerequisites for Cadet enrollment taken from the NESA website:

- Age 13 by start of school
- Complete Basic Encampment Recommended
- Completed Level One and CPPT
- Completed GES and OPSEC training
- Complete IS100a & IS700a
- Wing Approval

The Basic Course is an intensive combination of classroom and field training that provides students with the opportunity to complete all requirements for a Basic Ground Team Member rating, including Basic First Aid and Basic Communications User Training.

The first day training day will include an inspection of each student's field gear. No student will be allowed to interrupt training to go shopping for new or replacement gear. Students must ensure they arrive with the gear, as specified in the National Emergency Services Academy Gear List. There are no opportunities for students to acquire gear during the activity. It is imperative that students use the task guide and NESA's packing list to insure they have all required gear.

This course will include overnights in the field, search operations, and cross-country travel. Students will be required to construct and sleep in field expedient shelters; no tents are allowed.

Graduation requires completion of 100% of the task requirements. This course will include some overnights in the field, wilderness search operations, cross-country travel, etc. Those completing the course successfully will be eligible for their CAPF 101 ground team qualification (GTM3) and ground team badge.

Last year, Col Doucette and Maj Rocketto attended aircrew courses. A wide range of options are available for Senior members in aircrew, incident command, and ground search and rescue programs.