

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

28 OCT-USCGA Observatory Open House
01 NOV-TRCS Meeting
05 NOV-TRCS Cadet Orientation Flights
06 NOV-TRCS Cadet Orientation Flights
08 NOV-TRCS Meeting
11-13 NOV-Great Starts Weekend Encampment
15 NOV-TRCS Meeting
22 NOV-Cadet AHI Training
29 NOV-Third Annual TRCS Bowling Tourney

The Senior AHI Training originally scheduled for 15 November has been postponed. A new date will be announced.

ANNUAL CITRUS FRUIT FUNDRAISER



Members who have not picked up their sales packages should see Maj Rocketto as soon as possible.

CADET MEETING NOTES

25 October, 2011

submitted by

C/Capt Brendan Flynn

The meeting opened with PT. Cadets participated in the mile run, curl ups, push ups, and sit-and-reach.

C/SSgt Bourque held a safety class on flu-derived pandemics. He explained the difference between a pandemic and an epidemic, avoiding and recovering from a pandemic, and the BRAT diet (bananas, rice, apples, and toast).

Capt Wojtcuk spoke to cadets about O-flights. They will take place on November 5 and 6. To participate, one must have a full set of BDUs and a CAP ID. Capt Wojtcuk went over the priority list, and reminded interested cadets to email her with their weight immediately.

Capt Wojtcuk talked about the change of command schedule. C/Capt Flynn will become the cadet commander in November, and C/SMSGT Daniels will become the cadet commander in March.

New cadets were reminded to get their forms in for the Great Start weekend encampment (Nov 11-13).

C/2Lt Wojtcuk and C/SMSGt Daniels talked to prospective and new cadets about the EO, OPSEC, and Introduction to Safety courses. They also went over saluting and customs and courtesies.

Capt Wojtcuk asked new cadets to have their EO, OPSEC, and Introduction to Safety done by next week's meeting.

C/Capt Flynn held an AE current events discussion on coronal mass ejections, and the aurora on October 24th which was caused by one.

Awards from the wing conference were given to a few members who were not present last weekend. C/CMSgt Brendan Schultz was presented the achievement ribbon for his work on kitchen staff during the summer encampment. C/AB Keith Trotochaud was recognized for the best Alpha rocket at the Commander's Cup Competition, and C/SSgt Jeffrey Bourque was recognized for the highest scoring historical rockets

Capt Wojtcuk informed cadets about the cadets vs. seniors bowling night on November 29. RSVP no later than November 13th.

2011 COMMANDER'S CUP ROCKETRY COMPETITION

The Cadets of the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) held their annual rocketry competition this weekend at Gadbois Farm in Salem. The event, now in its fifth year, is supported by CATO, the eastern Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Rocketry.

Some 75 contestants and competitors were present to observe launches by both CAP and CATO. The cadet competition requires the building of rockets in three classes: elementary, load carrying or multi-stage, and models of historic or current vehicles.



Up, Up, and Away!

The tyro class, restricted to cadets who had never before competed was won by Cadet Keith Trotochaud, a member of Groton's Thames River Composite Squadron.

The Stratford Eagles took honors in the second event. A load bearing rocket with a cargo of candy coated chocolate constructed by Cadet Brooks of the Stratford Squadron, the 2010 defenders of the trophy.



In the last event, Cadet Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Bourque from Thames River flew a scale model of the USAF AGM-12 Bullpup air-to-ground missile

Bourque's Bullpup

A four foot tall model of the Saturn V moon rocket, team built by Stratford, won a special award for the best model of the day.



Stratford's Saturn

When the points were totaled, Thames River narrowly edged Stratford and was awarded the Commander's Cup for Excellence in Model Rocketry in 2011.

USCG AVIATION DAY

*submitted by
CPT Robin Wojtcuk and C/Capt Flynn
photos by
C/Capt Flynn*

Each year, the Aviation Branch of the US Coast Guard make a presentation to cadets who are attending the US Coast Guard Academy. This year, members of the Civil Air Patrol's Thames River Composite Squadron were invited to participate.



USCG Lineup: Guardian, Dolphin, and Texan

A number of aircraft from bases on the east coast deployed to Groton and aircrews were on hand to explain the missions and features of each of the aircraft.

In addition, the 1109th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (1109th TASMG) based at Groton, the Long Island Sector of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) put some of their equipment on display.

Some thirty odd members of the Squadron family attended: Cadets Adcock, Cathcart, Chartier, Flynn, Ray, Schultz, VanDevander, Cols Kinch and Mode, and the families of Cadets Bourque, Meers, Sanders, Stout, and Wojtcuk.

Former Wing Commander Peter Jensen flew in as a member of the USCG Auxiliary.

Capt Sanders, USCG, held a raffle in which cadets won models of Coast Guard aircraft. To end a superb experience, lunch was served compliments of the USCG.



The CT National Guard's Prancing Chinook

The Civil Air Patrol cadets were allowed to board the various aircraft and briefed on the special features of each of them. Afterwards, the participants dined together and aircraft models were awarded to CAP cadets who have distinguished themselves.



Cadet Thomas Ray Observes Cadet Andrew Cathcart in T-6 cockpit

Cadet Staff Sergeant Austin VanDevander mounts pilot position in Dolphin



TRCS OFFICERS RECOGNIZED AT CTWG CONFERENCE

Six officers from Thames River attended CTWG's Annual Conference on 21-22 October. They split their time among the FAA Safety Seminars, CAP specific seminars, and Maj Rocketto's aerospace education seminar.

At the evening banquet Capt Wojtuck was recognized as Character Development Officer of the Year. Capt Lintelmann received the Finance Officer plaque, Captain Miller was selected as the outstanding Logistics Officer, Maj Mode was recognized as Outstanding Squadron Chaplain, Col Kinch was chosen as Personnel Officer of the Year, and Maj Rocketto received the Aerospace Education Officer award.



Col Hucko presents Cmdr. Mode with his plaque



Capt Lintelmann's citation is read by Major Travers

In addition, Capt Wojtuck, C/2Lt Wojtuck, and C/CMSgt Schultz received CAP Achievement Awards for outstanding duty performance maintaining high standards in the kitchen during the summer encampment.

USCGA OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE

The USCG Academy Observatory is holding an open house on 28 October, 2011 from sunset to 2200. Their 20 inch telescope will be available for observations. Family and friends are invited.

A cloudy skies date is 04 November. If in doubt about the weather, call Lt Jennifer Konon at 860 444-8635.

The Observatory is located at 391 Taugwonk Rd, Stonington, CT.

THIRD ANNUAL TRCS BOWLING TOURNEY

The Squadron's Third Annual Bowling Competition is set for the last meeting of the month, Tuesday, November 29th. The event will be held at the Norwich Bowling and Entertainment Center, 188 West Town St., Norwich. The cost is \$10 per person which includes shoe rental.

Families are welcome to watch and cheer on your favorites, or, if there are other open lanes, stay and bowl!

Please RSVP CPT Wojtuck no later than Tuesday, Nov 13 to get on the roster.

Money will be due on or before Nov 22.

SENIOR MEETING

26 October, 2011

Maj Noniewicz reviewed the highlights of the CTWG Conference. Col Hucko's "State of the Wing" presentation, given at the CTWG Conference, was shown.

Capt Farley and Maj Noniewicz briefed the squadron on the specific details needed to fill out CAPF 104 and the Tactical Risk Matrix

AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

Light Attack Aircraft Proposal Stalled

The USAF and USN have exhibited interest in fielding a light attack aircraft based upon a turbo-prop trainer.

Hawker Beechcraft and Brazil's Embraer have both offered versions of their popular trainers, modified to carry precision guided munitions to use in close air support with friendly ground troops in enemy contact.

The Embraer entry is a version of their Super Tucano and Beechcraft wants to field an upgraded version of the Texan II.



An RAF Short Tucano Mk. 1, a licensed built version of the Embraer Model 312.



A USAF T-6A, a modified version of the Pilatus PC-9 build by Beech.

Both US Congressional houses have rejected the \$17 million dollar proposal to send four of the aircraft to Afghanistan for field testing. A counter proposal suggests that the Convair OV-10 Bronco might fulfill the requirements.



A Vietnam Era USMC OV-10 Bronco

A number of arguments have been used to scotch the proposal. Primarily, the current strain on the US budget is probably a chief reason for the rejection. Others claim that the proposed single-engine aircraft, not hardened for combat and slower than current attack aircraft will be too vulnerable to ground fire.

US Dismantles Largest Nuclear Weapon

Those who follow weapons development have noted a trend to use smaller and smaller warheads, a result of the development of precision guided munitions. The USAF is now using bombs with warheads in the 25 pound range, designed to do the job but limit collateral damage.



B-53 at Pantex

(photo by Nuclear Security Administration)

At the same time, obsolete nuclear warheads are being disassembled. The B-53, a 10,000 pound hydrogen bomb, is currently being eliminated from the inventory as technicians at Pantex, near Amarillo, separate the 300 pounds of high explosive from the nuclear material. The high explosives are used to "crush" the nuclear material into a dense mass in order to initiate the chain reaction.

The B-53 was first manufactured a half century ago and was deliverable by the B-52 Stratofortress. Its massive size was necessary to destroy underground bunkers, a problem which still faces our bomber tacticians. The reclaimed materials will be reprocessed.