

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

29 NOV-Third Annual TRCS Bowling Tourney
06 DEC-TRCS-Parents Meeting/Guest Speaker
07 DEC-CTWG Staff Fest
13 DEC-TRCS Meeting
20 DEC-TRCS Meeting

04-05 FEB-Unit Commander's Course
10-11 MAR-Squadron Leader's Course
21-22 APR-Corporate Leader's Course



*Pavo Grande y quatro Escopltas Atterizan en
Aerpuerto Casa Sinverguenza.*

CADET MEETING NOTES

22 November, 2011

submitted by

C/Capt Brendan Flynn

Following a uniform inspection, C/2Lt Wojtcuk conducted an Aerospace quiz using materials taken from the six cadet AE modules.

C/Capt Flynn led an AE current events discussion on Curiosity, NASA's Mars rover scheduled to launch on 26 November.

Col Larry Kinch spoke to cadets concerning his early Air Force career and his life as a cadet in Civil Air Patrol. Col Kinch talked about what WWII was like at home, the CAP Certificate of Proficiency, which he was the first cadet to earn, CAP's early foreign exchange program that sent him to Chile and Peru, CAP's jet orientation course, where he flew T-33's, navigator school, electronics school, and life as an officer. Col Kinch concluded with a story from the Vietnamese War entitled "A Pig and a Pack of Cigarettes", which detailed his fellow aviators efforts to bribe a Vietnamese anti-aircraft gunner into not shooting!

The cadet cadre talked to cadets about customs and courtesies, focused on saluting.

Flight sergeants, aided by the first sergeant, talked to their cadets about the leadership tests, promoting, element leaders, and the phone tree.

The Christmas party on Dec 20 was discussed. Cadets were reminded to buy a "fun" \$10 gift for the party.

Capt Noniewicz spoke to cadets about Thanksgiving

A promotions and awards ceremony ended the meeting. Cadet Trevor Sanders received the Curry award and was promoted to Airman. C/A1C Barbara Paquin received the NRA/Winchester Junior Rifle Program Expert qualification and

badge. C/Amn Keith Trotochaud received the Sharpshooter qualification and badge. Cadet Jeffrey Bourque received the rocketry award and his first sergeant diamond pin.

USCGA OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE

Majs deAndrade and Rocketto attended the open house hosted by the USCGA Observatory on 18 November. The 20 inch Ritchey-Chretien reflector telescope was open to visitors and a number of members of the Thames Amateur Astronomical Society who set up their telescopes for the viewing enjoyment of the visitors. Among the celestial objects viewed were Jupiter and its four major moons, the Ring Nebula in Lyra, Uranus, and a number of globular clusters and nebulae.



Cadet Sanders reports.

SENIOR MEETING

22 November, 2011

The session was devoted to individual work assignments by individuals and departments.

Cadet Bourque receives rocketry award and "first sergeant" diamond.



AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

Landsat 5 Fading

One of two primary earth observation satellites which support the US Coast and Geodetic Survey's land imager is nearing the end of its service. Launched in 1984 with an anticipated three year life, the remarkable satellite has been providing useful information for 27 years!



Cadet Trotochaud reports for his NRA Marksman medal.

An amplifier in the transmitter is degrading and engineers are not sanguine about its prospects for improvement. Landsat 7, launched in 1999 continues to provide a steady stream of earth resource information and the next generation satellite, the Landsat Data Continuity Mission, is scheduled of launch in January of 2013.



Cadet Paquin receives her NRA Expert medal from Major Rocketto

The Landsat missions are important not only in that they supply information on storms, large scale fires, droughts, and floods but in that they are accumulating a standard data base for research by earth resource scientists.

ISS Crew Return Safe

A *Soyuz* capsule carrying NASA's Mike Fossum, Japan's Satoshi Furukawa, and Cosmonaut Sergei Volkow landed in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, the 23rd leaving three crew members aboard the International Space Station. Their replacements, Russian Oleg Kononenko, European Space Agency astronaut Adrei Kuipers, and NASA's Donald Pettit are due to arrive at the ISS on 23 November.

Plutonium Problems Plague Planetary Probes

An ongoing controversy has engaged experts about the safety factor in using plutonium power sources in space vehicles. Plutonium is one of the most toxic substances known and there has been fear that a failed launch might spread the fine plutonium particles in such a way that they might be ingested or inhaled.

Plutonium is valued as fuel source for deep space probes and night-time missions on planets such as Mars where solar radiation is so weak that solar panels cannot supply the necessary energy to operate the spacecraft.

Plutonium-238, the primary isotope used in the electrical generators of spacecraft has been used for a half century and include well known successful missions such as the Mars Vikings and the two Voyagers which explored the major trans-Mars planets.

All technologies carry risk and NASA estimates that the danger to a single human being from a launch mishap is around one in a million.

Fear of mishap is not the only problem which threatens the program. Budgetary constraints mean that plutonium-238 is no longer being produced and the 50 or so pounds remaining will not suffice to fuel the planned future missions.

Scientists are working on alternate power sources but little time would be available to fully test their ability to perform to a required standard. A

second option is to design an engine that will operate with less plutonium than present models. A Stirling cycle engine is now under consideration. It will use one third of the plutonium that the current Cassini-Huygens mission uses, about 10 pounds versus 30 pounds

AVIATION HISTORY

25 Nov., 1956-USAG Sgt Richard Patterson makes the first successful parachute jump in Antarctica to test equipment in sub-zero weather.

26 Nov., 1939-British Overseas Aircraft Corporation is formed by the amalgamation of Imperial Airways and British Airways.

27 Nov., 1931-The Australian Lone Eagle, Bert Hinkler becomes the first man to solo the South Atlantic when he flies a DeHavilland Puss Moth from Brazil to Senegal.



28 Nov., 1946-The U.S.S. Norton Sound is assigned as an experimental rocket firing ship and will serve to test the Loon, Lark, and Aerobee missiles.

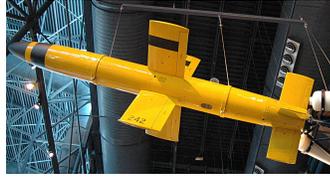


*USS Norton Sound displays an Aerobee Launch Tower on the Fantail.
(US Navy photograph)*

Early Missiles Tested on USS Norton Sound



Aerobee Sounding Rocket



The Consolidated-Vultee Lark was an early navy surface to air missile.



The Ford JB-2 Loon cruise missile was a copy of the German Feisler V-1.

29 Nov., 1958-First Flight of the Pratt and Whitney J75 powered Douglas DC-8.



30 Nov., 1907-The Curtiss Aeroplane Company is founded.



*US Navy's First Aircraft, the Curtiss A-1 Triad
Lt Theodore G. Ellyson, Naval Aviator #1*

CONTINUING OUR SALUTE TO NAVAL AVIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Lesser Known Navy and USMC Bomber and Patrol Planes in WW II



Consolidated PB4Y-2 Privateer, a single tail mod of the Liberator, displays its unique Emerson bow turret.



Lockheed PV-1 Ventura, a military version of the Model 18 Lodestar.



Lockheed PV-2 Harpoon, a modified Ventura



"Devil Dog," North American PBJ Mitchell, a USMC version of the B-25.