

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

20 DEC-TRCS Holiday Meeting-civvies  
Subordinate Unit Inspection  
27-30 DEC-Orientation Flights

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

### ERRATA

Last week's guest speaker was Floyd R. Welch, not Paul M. Welch.

The correct date for Yeager's Mach 2.5 flight in the X-1A is 12 December, 1952, not 1925. He might have had the "right stuff" when he was two years old but the US Army Air Service did not have the X-1A.

### CADET MEETING MINUTES

*13 December, 2011*

*by*

*C/Capt Brendan Flynn*

Capt Wojtcuk held a character development lesson on "Your Future". Cadets discussed their lifetime career goals and their backup plans.

C/CMSgt Daniels led a leadership class on coaching and mentoring. He and cadets discussed what experience has to do with coaching and mentoring, knowing the important issues before you coach/mentor, similarities between the two roles, the two-way street in mentoring, the coach as a teacher, and your relationship with your coach.

*Capt Wojtcuk reminded cadets that everyone will meet at the academy for PT this Saturday at 0800 hours.*

Cadets were informed that they must take an online safety lesson sometime during December; otherwise, their safety rating will expire.

Cadets discussed drill procedures and promotion requirements with their flight sergeants.

### GLIDER FLIGHT ACADEMY APPLICATIONS DUE

Cadets who wish to apply for the Glider Flight Academy (GFA) next summer may do through eServices. For more information go to the National Cadet Summer Activities (NCSA) page and find the GFA website at:

[http://www.ner.cap.gov/ops/GCOE\\_academy.php](http://www.ner.cap.gov/ops/GCOE_academy.php)

Four regional GFAs are scheduled for next summer; two in Vermont and two in Pennsylvania.



*TRCS Cadets Prepare a Launch in Vermont*

## **SENIOR MEETING MINUTES**

*13 December, 2011*

### *Commander's Call*

Maj Noniewicz reported that the Squadron will receive training in the operation of the Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation Portable (GIIEP) go kits. The kit contains equipment and hardware that can provide real time video, digital imagery, and in-flight communications with emergency operation centers. The equipment will be operated in conjunction with members of the Connecticut National Guard. Thames River will supply a dedicated glass cockpit qualified mission pilot and observer.

Col Kinch reported on the status of the recently installed Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) installed on Runways 05023 at GON. The system is operational but seagulls have developed a fondness for the sealant tape and have been stripping it away from the EMAS. A long-term solution is being sought.

LtCol Mode reported that Orientation Flights have been scheduled for 27-30 December. Cadets will be notified.

Lt Dickenson presented safety briefings on holiday decorations and aircraft ground icing.

Capt Lintemann reported on the financial state of the Squadron.

Capt Petry presented a 12 question FAR quiz.

PDOs Major Rocketto and LtCol Doucette stated that year end counseling letters will be sent to all senior members reviewing the status of their profession development level, specialty track progress, and aerospace education achievement.

Maj Rocketto discussed recruiting and plans for a selective word-of-mouth campaign to draft new members for key positions.

Capt Miller, Logistics, announced that the DoD will be releasing large lots of woodland BDUs and that TRCS will apply for a range of suitable sizes.

Lt Looney noted that volunteers will be needed for snow removal this winter. He suggested that small groups form to work together.

Capt Farley reminded officers to check expiration dates of qualifications. They are posted on the main bulletin board.

LtCol Bergey reported on results from ELT experiments which he and Maj Noniewicz performed during a recent night practice exercise. A practice ELT was activated at the Squadron and signals were noted during taxi and in flight. While taxiing, strong interference was noted when hangars were between the aircraft and the plane. In flight, at 2,500 feet, the Becker detected the signal at eight miles. The aircraft navcom receiver detected the beacon at nine miles. Bergey suggested that whenever we are involved in flight training, we activate the practice beacon and gain experience in "reading" the reception as a function of flight and taxi conditions.

## **SENIOR AWARDS**



The following officers were presented with the Disaster Relief Ribbon with V device for their

participation in the Hurricane Irene operations: LtCol Richard Doucette, Maj Paul Noniewicz, Keith Neilson, Stephen Rocketto, and Capts Thomas Petry and Edward Miller.

The “V device” indicates that the disaster was Presidentially declared.

### FRUIT SALE

Most of the fruit has been distributed to our contributors at this time and a full report on the sale will be forthcoming in a future issue.

### AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

#### *F-22 Production Ends*

Economic woes and Congressional concerns about future military requirements has brought an end to production of the Lockheed F-22 Raptor. The last aircraft leaves the assembly line on December 13<sup>th</sup> and will be delivered to the USAF in 2012, the 187<sup>th</sup> of what was planned to be a fleet of 750.

Produced in Marietta, Georgia, the Raptor first took wing in September of 1997. For its 150 million dollar price tag, the aircraft delivers super-cruise in a stealth package and is widely regarded as the most capable of the recent generation of fighter aircraft.

#### *NASA Probes Surveil Vesta and Dione*

The Dawn spacecraft, launched in 2007, is now in a close orbit around Vesta, the second largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. The low orbit is expected to provide high resolution imagery of the surface and extremely sensitive measurements of the gravitational field. A gamma ray and neutron detector will also analyze reflected energy which will assist in identifying the kinds of atoms on the surface. Dawn will depart Vesta in July of 2012 and head for another large object in the asteroid belt, Ceres.

The Cassini spacecraft has finished a flyby of one of Saturn's moons, Dione, after searching for heat emissions from surface fractures and signs of an atmosphere. Cassini is now in the vicinity of Titan, Saturn's largest moon. Infrared spectrometers will examine the wind patterns near Titan's north pole as Titan transitions from spring to summer.

### AEROSPACE HISTORY

16 DEC, 1951-First Flight of the Kaman K-225, the first turbine powered helicopter. Charlie Kaman's Bloomfield, CT company pioneered the concept of intermeshing rotors and servo flaps as an alternative to the tail rotor and rotor head of more conventional machines. (And let us not forget Ovation guitars and guide dogs for the blind.)

*K-225 on Display at NASM Udvar-Hazy Center*



17 DEC, 1935-First Flight of the Douglas DST (Douglas Sleeper Transport), known as the DC-3 in its 21 seat version. (See tribute at issue's end.)

18 DEC, 1970- Aerospatiale, Fokker, Hawker-Siddeley, and Deutsche Airbus amalgamate to form Airbus Industries.



*First of the line, the Airbus A300-B4*

19 DEC, 1930-Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to pilot an autogiro.

*Earhart and the Pitcairn PCA-2 (Purdue University photo)*



20 Dec., 1928-Pioneer high latitude aviation Carl Ben Eielson and Australian explorer George Wilkins started the first aerial survey in Antarctica in a Lockheed Vega.



*This Vega, at the San Diego Air & Space Museum was flown by Amelia Earhart on the first solo by a woman across the Atlantic Ocean and the first non-stop solo by a woman across the United States.*

21 DEC, 1964-First Flight of the General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark.



*F-111A at Octave Chanute*

## TRIBUTE TO THE DC-3



*In '51 they tried to ground the noble DC-3,  
And so some lawyers brought the case before the  
CAB,  
The Board examined all the facts behind their  
great oak portal,  
And then pronounced these simple words, "The  
Gooney Bird's immortal."*

...  
*They patch her up with masking tape,  
with paper clips and strings,  
and still she flies, she never dies.  
Methuselah with wings.  
from  
The Gooney Bird  
by  
Oscar Brand (Elektra Records)*



*DC-3  
Major Airlines  
Eastern*

*C-47  
USAF Cargo*



*C-53 Skytrooper  
Glider Tug and  
Troop Transport*

*Tell it to the  
Marines!  
R4D-8*



*Missionary Flights  
They Shall Mount Up with Wings like Eagles  
Isaiah 40:31*



*Magnetometer  
Equipped Mineral  
Exploration Ship*



*FAA Flight Check-Navigation Inspection Program*



*Peruvian Air Force*



*Regional Carriers  
Naples-Provincetown-Boston Airlines*



*R4D-1  
Naval Air Transport Service*



*The North Dakota Air National Guard*



*AC-47 Gunship*



*Varig Airlines*



*Columbian Air Force*



*Duggy-The Smile in the Sky*



*Brazilian Air Force*



*Northwest Airlines*



*Chilean Navy*



*Paraguay's Military Air Transport Service*



*Bolivian Military Air Transport Service*



*Happy 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*