

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

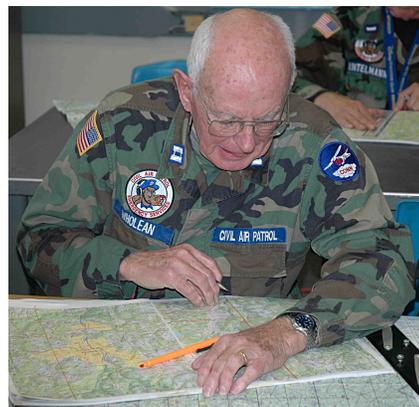
31 JAN-TRCS Meeting-Sr.-Table Top SAREX  
Cadet-film at Poquonnock Bridge F. H.

04-05 FEB-Unit commander's Course Course  
07 FEB-TRCS Meeting-TRCS Commander's Call  
14 FEB-TRCS Meeting-Independent Work  
15 FEB-Wing Staff Meeting  
21 FEB-TRCS Safety Down Day-Dickinson/Hanke  
28 FEB-TRCS Table Top SAREX-Neilson

03 MAR-CTWG Cadet Competition Day  
10-11 MAR-Squadron Leader's Course  
17-18 MAR-TLC Course (Seniors)-Camp Niantic  
21 APR-CTWG SAREX  
21-22 APR-Corporate Leader's Course  
04 MAY (FRI)-Ledyard A/S Festival  
16 JUN-CTWG SAREX  
23-30 JUN-PAWG RCLS Course  
11 AUG-CTWG SAREX  
19-21 OCT-CTWG Guided Training Evaluation

### BILL WHOLEAN MEMORIAL

Former member Capt William J. Wholean died peacefully at home on Sunday last. Bill graduated from the Kingswood School in West Hartford and earned a BA in Liberal Arts and the Classics at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. He earned his MA at Trinity College in Hartford.



A combat veteran of the Korean War, Bill was an intelligence officer and retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of Warrant Officer III. He also served as a reserve officer with the Westerly Police Department.

Bill was active in civic organizations and served on the board of the Visiting Nurses Association and the Red Cross. He was the first executive director of the Connecticut Catholic Conference.

While at Thames River, Capt Wholean flew as a scanner and served as public affairs officer and character development officer. His calm and reassuring demeanor was a role model for cadets and officers alike. Our community has been diminished by his departure.



*Capt Wholean after a mission flown with Maj Noniewicz and LtCol Kinch.*

## CAP ID CARD PHOTOS

All members must now have a “passport style” photograph on file at NHQ. If you do not have a photo identification card, please prepare to have a photo taken at the next meeting. Uniform may be of your choice but a uniform is required.

## CADET MEETING MINUTES

24 January, 2012

by

C/Capt Brendan Flynn

The meeting opened with a uniform inspection.

Capt Wojtcuk informed cadets of PT dates for the next four months. All will take place on a Sunday from 1300-1600 hours. The dates are January 29, February 12, and April 22. No PT is scheduled for March).

Capt Wojtcuk discussed the Search and Rescue Exercise to be held on February 4th at the squadron. If you plan on attending, dress for cold weather and bring water, lunch, your 24 hour gear (if you have it), and your 101 card. Cadets must have their 116 completed in order to attend. Email Capt Wojtcuk and Maj Bourque if you plan to attend.

Capt Wojtcuk talked to cadets about the new DDR program.

Col Doucette shared stories of his service in the Air Force with the cadets. A separate article summarizes his briefing.

C/Capt Flynn discussed the responsibilities of cadet command and support staff positions with all cadets. Cadets received copies of standard operating procedures for each of the positions.

In a flight time session, flight sergeants followed up on the responsibilities discussion with their cadets.

## BRIEF ON A LONG CAREER

*Col Doucette Addresses the Cadets*



LtCol Richard Doucette, USAFR (retired), presented a half hour talk about his many years in the service.

Col Doucette entered the Air Force in 1960 and received his wings after completing navigation school at Harlingen AFB in Texas. His first assignment was in the Boeing KC-97 tanker.



*Col Doucette's first aircraft, the KC-97K Stratotanker and a picture of his office.*



Subsequent aircraft included the Douglas C-124, and the Lockheed C-141 and C-130, his favorite aircraft. Much of his base time was spent at Westover AFB in Massachusetts and Dover AFB

in Delaware and his assignments took him to such diverse locales as Sondarstrom, Greenland and Peshawar, Pakistan.



*Old Shaky, a Douglas C-124A Globemaster II at the Dover AFB Air Mobility Museum. Note the clamshell doors in the nose which the Colonel mentioned in his talk.*



*On to turbojets and the Lockheed C-141B and C-141 A Starlifters.*



*Navigation station in his favorite plane, the C-130 Hercules*

He mentioned the difficulties in maintaining a solid family life during his many deployments but this was somewhat mitigated when he transferred to the reserves. Col Doucette was employed by Pratt and Whitney during much of his 33 year service career. His final assignment was with Air Force Intelligence during the Southwest Asian Campaign.

## SENIOR MEETING MINUTES

*24 January, 2012*

Maj Noniewicz announced that the CTWG will sponsor a Cadet Competition Day on 03 Mat. Events will include drill team and honor guard events and an aerospace knowledge test. Volunteers are sought to assist. Email Maj Noniewicz if you are willing to take part.

A Mission Air Crew School is tentatively scheduled for 17-18 March at Camp Niantic. Officers seeking new ratings and instructors are urged to apply. If you are interested, contact Maj Noniewicz by email. Details will be forthcoming.

LtCol Doucette, who is a graduate of the National Emergency Services Academy Aerial Photography School and the only airman so qualified in CTWG, ran an instructional session on aerial photography. He discussed the roles of each photo reconnaissance crew members and the flying and photo techniques used to obtain usable imagery.

A discussion ensued as to how to best determine what the customer not only wants but needs and how to develop a mission plan to acquire a satisfactory product.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCED

The following programs have been announced by Maj Kenneth Chapman, CTWG Director of Cadet Programs.

### *Region Cadet Leadership School*

This school is required for the Eaker Award and promotion to C/LtCol and certain staff positions.

There will be at least one RCLS this year in the Northeast Region. Information for the RCLS (South) in Pennsylvania follows:

Region Cadet Leadership School (RCLS-South)  
June 23-30, 2012

Cost: \$200 -- includes most expenses and room/board

The application process for basic (first time) cadets for RCLS will open no later than March 1. You can keep posted by checking the PA website at: <http://www.pawgcls.org/joomla/> Staff applications -- window is now open and will be open until 25 January 2012. Out of state cadets can interview by Skype or phone. Graduation from RCLS or COS is requirement to be on staff. Staff can apply online at: [http://www.pawgcls.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=57](http://www.pawgcls.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=57)

### CT Wing Cadet Competition

Saturday, March 3rd in New Fairfield, CT

Color Guard Entries are the 103rd Composite Squadron, 801st Cadet Squadron, Royal Charter Composite Squadron, and Stratford Eagles Composite Squadron.

The drill team entry is from the 143<sup>rd</sup> Composite Squadron.

### Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) Course Senior Members Only

Tentative Date/Location -- Weekend of March 17-18 at Camp Niantic. This will be a two day activity. Overnight accommodations at Camp Niantic may be available if requested in advance.

## **AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS**

### **Random Notes on Tactics to Reduce Fuel Costs**

As the price of crude oil over \$100 per barrel, the local price of 100LL Avgas now runs between \$5 and \$6 per gallon. The cost of petroleum based fuels affects all phases of our economy and as a

result, alternate sources are sought.

Biofuels are one alternative but nothing is free and the diversion of crop lands to growing ethanol producing plants can impact the price of food.

Hydrogen has been used in rockets and Boeing has tested hydrogen fuel cells in small test vehicles.

Airlines and governments have launched a number of experiments in possible alternatives. Aircraft have flown on hydrogen based fuels, Alaska Airlines and Lufthansa have flown proving flights using blends of kerosene and alternative fuels derived from waste cooking oil or biofuel.

Rolls-Royce is establishing a program to provide advice to governments on cutting fuel costs in their fighter aircraft fleet. A typical jet fighter might consume five to ten thousand dollars worth of fuel per hour so even a small saving becomes significant when one considers the size of the fleet over a fiscal year's operations.

The decisions on which path to follow are not easy. Factors which must be considered are cost per gallon, the energy density of the fuel and its cost per energy unit, fuel volatility, ease of production, rate of production, and availability of sufficient amounts.

The US Navy plans on deploying the "Great Green Fleet," a parody on Teddy Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet." The "Green Fleet" will be a aircraft carrier battle group deployed in the Pacific this year. The carrier and submarine components will be nuclear powered, some cruisers and destroyers will use hybrid power plants or biofuels. The F/A-18 "Green Hornets" on board the carriers will test biofuels.

### **Spirit is Gone but Opportunity Exists**

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004, NASA's *Opportunity* rover landed on Mars and commenced its its exploration of the Red Planet. Eight years later, the vehicle is still active!

Its twin, *Spirit*, which had landed three weeks earlier, was declared dead after it got trapped in

some soft terrain and could not maneuver so as to keep its solar cells in an adequate orientation to the sun. The Martian winter sapped its stored electrical energy and it stopped communicating in March of 2010.

*NASA/JPL depiction  
of one of the gold  
cart sized rovers on  
the surface of Mars.*



The original mission continues: an investigation of Mars for signs which water may have left in the past. The pair of rovers have discovered evidence of hydrothermal systems and signs of flowing water on the rim of Crater Endeavour.

As the Martian summer starts, *Opportunity's* controllers are awaiting the time when the sun up long enough and high enough to provide sufficient energy to continue the mission of exploring Crater Endeavour.

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[http://www.pawgcls.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=57](http://www.pawgcls.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=57)

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#### **Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) Course Senior Members Only**

Capt Glen Dains, CTWG Director of Professional Development has announced that a Training Leaders of Cadets (TLC) course will be held during the Cadet Great Start weekend at Camp Niantic, Niantic, CT on March 17-18, 2012.

Training Leaders of Cadets is the premiere venue for Cadet Programs Officers to learn how to become better mentors of cadets and more effective managers of cadet squadrons.

The two-day course is a component of the Cadet Programs Officer Specialty Track in the Senior Member Professional Development Program. TLC attendance is needed for the Senior Rating and to obtain the Master Rating, one must "serve as a staff officer responsible for planning and conducting a significant portion of the Training Leaders of Cadets seminar."

Additionally, every unit with cadets should have at least two graduates of the Training Leaders of Cadets course assigned. If a unit does not meet this requirement, the commander must develop a plan for doing so. This is a SUI compliance item.

Maj Joseph Palys of the 143rd Composite Squadron in Waterbury is the course director. If you are interested in attending the course, or assisting with running the course, please contact him directly at [jpalys@circle1marketing.com](mailto:jpalys@circle1marketing.com).

This program will be conducted at Camp Niantic, an active National Guard facility. Seniors may stay overnight in the barracks or commute to this class. Anyone participating in the program is required to be listed on the Military Support Authorization (MSA).

The MSA needs to be processed through Air Force and National Guard channels, which is a time-consuming process. Therefore, if you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Maj Palys no later than Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

## AEROSPACE HISTORY

26 JAN, 1953-Chance-Vought of Stratford, Connecticut produces the last F4U Corsair after a 13 year production run.



*Fleet Air Arm Corsair at Imperial War Museum, Duxford, England*

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 lost when, just after launch, exhaust leaking from a faulty joint in a solid rocket booster ignites the fuel in the external fuel tank.



*Challenger on its penultimate launch*

29 JAN, 1953-The 22<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Wing, equipped with the Boeing B-29 Superfortress, receives its first Boeing B-47 Stratojet.



*B-29A Raz 'N Hell at Castle Air Museum. The aircraft is a composite of three B-29s recovered from the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake, California*



*B-47B at Grissom Air Museum*

30 JAN, 1948-Orville Wright goes West.