

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>

S. Rocketto, Editor  
srocketto@aquilasys.com

C/Capt Brendan Flynn, Reporter  
1Lt Scott Owens, Papparazzi

Vol. VI, No. 17

26 April, 2012

### *SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS*

27 APR-TRCS Officer's Banquet  
28/29 APR-Glider Orientation Flight Trip  
04 MAY-Ledyard A/S Festival-Juliet Long  
12 MAY- 'O Flights for the 103<sup>rd</sup> at Simsbury  
12 MAY-ASGH Star Party  
19 MAY-NER TRAEX  
19 MAY-USCG Sector LI Sound Open House  
02 JUN-Basic Communications Course  
03 JUN-Squadron Maintenance Day  
16 JUN-CTWG SAREX  
16-17 JUN-Quonset Air Show  
23-30 JUN-PAWG RCLS Course  
12-14 JUL-*Casa* Wojtcuk Bivouac  
21 JUL-04 AUG-Nat'l. ES Academy  
04 AUG-Basic Communications Course  
04-05 AUG-Westover Air Show  
11 AUG-CTWG SAREX/Cadet Ball

15 SEP-Advanced Communications Course  
19-22 SEP-CTWG Guided Training Evaluation  
03 NOV-Basic Communications Course  
10 NOV-CTWG Conference-Cromwell

### CADET MEETING MINUTES

24 April, 2012

by

C/Capt Brendan Flynn

The meeting opened with drill. Cadets worked on flanks, open/close ranks, and double time. Element leaders practiced leading the flight.

C/MSgt Bourque lead an Aerospace Education class on Satellites, from Chapter 1 of AE module 6. He discussed different kinds of satellites; their orbits, functions, and designations.

In an Emergency Services training session, C/Capt Flynn talked to cadets about a hasty search. A quiz followed the lecture.

Capt Wojtcuk reminded cadets attending glider flying on April 28 to meet in the Norwich commuter lot in BDUs at 0615 hours. Cadets must bring their CAP ID and a pair of sneakers.

The May 4 Juliet Long AE festival was discussed. Any cadet that wishes to attend and help out must email Capt Wojtcuk.

The Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be PT and held at Poquonnock Plains Park.

The Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will have a promotion ceremony. The uniform is blues.

### SENIOR MEETING MINUTES

24 April, 2012

Maj Noniewicz presented an instructional session on setting up the GX-55 GPS for waypoints and SAR grids. The assembled officers practiced on the five computers equipped with the simulation software.

## ASTRONOMY NIGHT

TRCS members and family are invited to attend a Star Party at Hurd State Park on Saturday, 12 May starting at dusk. The cloud date is 19 May. Dean Kavalkovich, a NASA Solar System Ambassador and the members of the Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford will set up their telescopes and guide the view of celestial objects.

## MODE HONORED AT CGA LUNCHEON

Coast Guard officers and cadets, fellow clergy, friends, and TRCS squadron officers gathered at the USCG Academy Officer's Club on Wednesday, 25 April, to honor Father Mode who is scheduled to join the USS George Washington in June.

Father Mode, a US Navy Commander and CAP Lieutenant Colonel has served as chaplain at the Academy for the last three years. His service to the USCG was recognized by the awarding of the Meritorious Service Medal. Mode was also awarded a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his contributions to the TRCS and CTWG of the Civil Air Patrol.



LtCols Kinch and Doucette, Majs deAndrade, Noniewicz, and Rocketto, and Capts Wojtcuk, Farley, Miller, and Petry attended.

## AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

### *NOVEL USE FOR HELICOPTER*

Public Service and Gas Corporation uses a modified McDonnell-Douglas MD369FF helicopter to repair high voltage lines. The technique involves hovering within a few feet of the 500,000 volt lines while a technician repairs them from a side mounted platform on the helicopter. The helicopter's modifications have been approved by the Federal Aviation and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to perform this type of task.

As long as the helicopter is in a hover and does not make ground contact, there is no possibility of establishing a circuit for the current so the danger of electrocution is minimal. The pilot and technician also wear conductive clothing which act as a barrier to any stray current. Physicists know this device as a Faraday cage and many of the readers may have seen a demonstration of its effect at a science museum. An operator sits unharmed inside a metal cage while high voltage discharges strike the metal.



*PSE&G PHOTO*

The most difficult part of the flight is maintaining a near stationary hover for up to a half hour while the repairs are underway. Any wind, and there is almost some wind, requires constant control inputs. In addition, as the technician works, he is in contact with the

relatively rigid structure of the power line and tower. If he should tighten a bolt or push a part into position, Newton's third law comes into play and an equal and opposite force is exerted on the helicopter. This requires further control corrections by the pilot.

The ship flies up to three missions each month, generally to hard to reach sites such as mountain top and swamp installations.

*CONNECTICUT'S OWN COAST GUARD  
ASTRONAUT RETURNS*

Dan Burbank, Capt., USCG, (ret.) and Manchester native landed with three comrades on the steppes of Kazakhstan at 0745 eastern time this morning. Burbank had spent 224 days onboard the International Space Station. The first 66 as crewman on Expedition 29 and the last 158 commanding Expedition 30.



*Burbank is assisted by ground team members just after touchdown of the Soyuz capsule. (NASA Photo)*

Burbank is a 1979 graduate of Tolland High School and earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at the US Coast Guard Academy. As a Coast Guard helicopter pilot he has logged over 4,000 hours and over 300 search and rescue missions. This was his third trip into orbit. As a NASA payload specialist, he flew on two shuttle missions.

In June of 2007, Thames River Composite Squadron was privileged to attend a private lecture by Capt. Burbank detailing his work on the two Atlantis missions which he had flown. At the time of our meeting, Burbank was teaching

engineering, physics, and astronomy courses at the Academy.



*Capt Burbank poses with 12 members of TRCS*

**AEROSPACE HISTORY**

USMC aviation is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Here are some Marine aircraft from the past. Not every Marine fighter was a blue Corsair.



*Boeing FB-5 Hawk, a mid 1920 fighter equipped with a 520 HP Packard engine.*

*Boeing's Mid 1930s F4B-4 with a P&W R-1340 550 HP engine and a life raft in the headrest.*



*The Grumman F3F-2 showed up in the late 1930s. This was the last biplane fighter delivered to the USMC.*