

Missions for America
Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!



The Coastwatcher

Newsletter of the Thames River Composite Squadron
Connecticut Wing
Civil Air Patrol

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SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

18 AUG-Rifle Event #5
18 AUG-CTWG SAREX
22-23AUG-CAP Nat'l A/S Ed Academy
24-26 AUG-CAP National Conference
15 SEP-Advanced Communications Course
15 SEP-CTWG Rifle Tournament
16 SEP-WWI Day at Olde Rhinebeck

21-23 SEP-USAF Compliance Inspection
29 SEP-Wings Over Westerly 1000-1500

10-11 OCT-NER A/S Education Academy
12-14 CT-NER Conference
20 OCT-Commander's Cup Rocket Competition
03 NOV-Basic Communications Course
10 NOV-CTWG Conference-Cromwell

CADET MEETING MINUTES

reported by
C/1Lt Daniels

24 July, 2012

The meeting commenced with extended drill under the direction of SM Gardner.

The character development session was based on the theme, "When the finish line is in sight."

31 July, 2012

Drill review consisted of flanks and columns. New cadets received stationary drill instruction.

Cadets VanDevander, Brouillard, and Johnstone assisted new cadets in the Redstone Stage of the rocket program

07 August, 2012

The meeting commenced with drill instruction.

A "customs and courtesies" session was conducted with emphasis on appropriate behavior at the upcoming CTWG Cadet Ball.

C/SMSGT Bourque transferred command of the squadron to C/1Lt Daniels.

14 August, 2012

No cadet meeting scheduled.

TRCS AWARDED AFA GRANT

The Squadron has been awarded an Air Force Association Grant of \$250 which will be used to complete the installation of the Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellite Receiver System. When fully operational, the system will receive imagery from NOAA's low altitude meteorological satellites in real time.

These satellites are in near polar circular orbits and produce morning and afternoon weather data in visual and infrared wavelengths and night-time infra red imagery.

Interested cadets will be trained in operating the system, basic orbital mechanics, and imagery interpretation.

SQUADRON HATS AND T-SHIRTS

A fresh supply of hats and shirts are now available from the squadron haberdashery. Hats are \$10 and shirts are \$13. Contact Maj Noniewicz if you wish to make a purchase.

SENIOR MEETING MINUTES

submitted by
Capt Scott Farley

24 July, 2012

The second part of the Airborne Photographer training session was conducted.

31 July, 2012

A first aid and CPR training session was conducted. Fifteen members attended.

07 August, 2012
Commander's Call

14 August, 2012

Capt Manner conducted a safety briefing on electrical circuits and lightning.

Maj Noniewicz explained and demonstrated the nuances of the SQTR entry system.

AIRBORNE PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING EVENT

21-22 July, 2012

Maj deAndrade served as Incident Commander Trainee and reported that seven sorties generated 5.3 hours of flight time. Forty-one photos were successfully uploaded. Thames River flight crew members on Saturday were Maj Paul Noniewicz, LtCol Richard Doucette, and Captain Scott Farley. Maj Noniewicz and Capt Lintelmann flew on Sunday.

SENIOR AWARDS



SM Sonia Simpson joins twenty other Thames River Composite Squadron members as a awardee of the Yeager Ribbon. The ribbon signifies completion of the senior program in aerospace education.



Maj Stephen Rocketto has earned the Gill Robb Wilson Award. The award, named in honor of a founder of CAP and its first Executive Officer recognizes professional development and leadership achievements.

GIIEP TRAINING

Cols Wisehart and Kinch flew a GIIEP training mission as pilot and observer. Sgt Katherine Keating of the Connecticut National Guard served as GIIEP operator.

GIIEP (pronounced “jeep” is an acronym for Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation – Portable. The system is comprising of A GIIEP "Go Kit" contains two sets and includes: two satellite phones, two laptop computers, one Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER)-4, one ROVER-5, two still cameras, two full-motion video cameras, two carrying cases, and necessary accessories.

Imagery was taken of the Norwich State Hospital and the Glastonbury microburst damage.

AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

Hypersonic Vehicle Flight Fails

A sub-system failure caused a loss of control and crash of the third Boeing X-51A Waverider. The Waverider is powered by a Pratt&Whitney scramjet and designed to reach speeds of Mach six. A Pratt engineer once described the combustion process as trying to keep a candle alight in a hurricane.

After release from a B-52 mother ship off the coast of California, a rocket booster accelerated the vehicle to a speed necessary for the scramjet to operate. However, the loss of control caused by the systems failure meant that the hypersonic engine never started and the aircraft plunged into the ocean. This is the second failure in a row for the X-51A. The first test was successful and the plane flew for three minutes at Mach five.

AVIATION HISTORY

Piston Powered Trimotors

Maj Rocketto's recent 5,500 mile road trip took him to a number of interesting events and sites in the mid-west and Canada, among them being the International Vinegar Museum in Roslyn, South Dakota and the National Mustard Festival in Middleton, Wisconsin. He participated in vinegar tasting in Roslyn and after a stroll on the trollway in Mt. Horeb, original home of the National Mustard Museum, ate free hot dogs with mustard in Middleton. Participants who put ketchup on their tube steaks pay a \$10 surcharge.

Chief among the aviation museums visited was Greg Herrick's Golden Wings at Anoka County's Janes Airport in Blane, Minnesota. Open by appointment, the spacious and immaculate hangar houses around three dozen classic aircraft, most ready for flight. Chief among these gems of aviation's past are seven, yes seven, piston powered trimotors, one of which, *Ptarmigan II*, is a hulk.

Most well know of the aircraft are a trio of Ford's, both 4-AT models, better known as the “Tin Goose.”. One, N1077, is the oldest flying airliner in the United States. The aircraft was flown by such legendary aviators as Bernt Balchen, Charles Lindbergh, and Amelia Earhart. *Ptarmigan II*, shipped in from Alaska, may be restored.



N1077-Note the drip pans.



N9610 sits to the port of her sister 1077.



The Stinson 6000B moved outdoors for a washing.



Ptarmigan II fuselage and parts are stored against the hangar wall.

William Stout, the Ford designer, resurrected the 1929 airframe and it first flew in 1966 as the Bushmaster 2000. Somewhat modified, two were completed.



The Model A undoing maintenance.

The seventh trimotor is from the little known and short lived Joseph Kreutzer Corporation in Los Angeles, the K-5 Air Coach. The aircraft on display carries the colors of Navajo Airways. The legendary parachutist and balloonist Joe Kittinger once remarked that the K-5 flew like an Aeronca Champ.



Note the obvious changes in the Bushmaster 2000 which include fully cowled engines, a rectangular door, and empennage shape.



K-5 Air Coach

Stinson is represented by two aircraft, both different but both decked out in American Airline livery. The first is a high wing Stinson 6000B, one of only two remaining. The second is Stinson's last trimotor, a low wing Model A featuring semi-retractable landing gear.

Although Golden Wings was a cornucopia of trimotors, they were not the only ones observed on the trip. While competing in the National Rifle Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio, Maj Rocketto dropped by the nearby Keller Field and attended the grand opening of the newest aviation Museum in the United States, the Tri-Motor Heritage Museum.

Keller Field was the home base for Island Airways which flew Ford trimotors on regularly scheduled routes to the Bass Island archipelago in Lake Erie until 1986. The museum has acquired the wreckage of a Ford formerly owned by Johnston Flying Service in Missoula, Montana which was destroyed in a crash in 1953. Volunteers from the Port Clinton Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association volunteers have started reconstruction and the aircraft will become the centerpiece of the museum exhibits.



The partially reconstructed aircraft sits in its assembly jig.

Finally, a Fokker F.VIIIb/3m replica was on display in the Bush Pilot Museum in Sault Ste. Marie Canada. The aircraft was constructed for the film *Amelia* and carries the name *Friendship*. The *Friendship*, piloted by Louis Gordon and Wilmer Schultz carried Earhart as a passenger and she became the first woman to cross the Atlantic by plane.



The replica Friendship poses on its floats.

As fillers for the half-page left over, here is a eclectic group of three engined aircraft which were not observed on the recent road trip.



*Boeing Model 80
United Air Lines*

*No-so-stealthy
Northrop C-125
Raider*



*Britten-Norman
Tri-Islander*

*What Comes Around Goes Around
Jet "Three Hole" Airlines*

Boeing 727



Lockheed 1011

*Hawker-Siddeley
Trident 2E*



*And the Military
Adapt One for Tanker Duties*

*Douglas KC-10
Extender*



*Dassault Falcon 900EX
going about its
business.*

*Connecticut's own
Sikorsky produce the
CH-53E*



*And in conclusion,
the semi-rigid
airship,
Zeppelin-NT*