

Missions for America  
*Semper vigilans!*  
*Semper volans!*



## The Coastwatcher

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

**300 Tower Rd., Groton, CT**  
<http://ct075.org>

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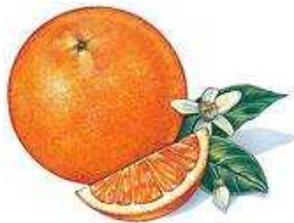
C/Maj Brendan Flynn, Foreign Correspondent

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27 September, 2012

### *SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS*

29 SEP-Wings Over Westerly 1000-1500  
25 SEP-Citrus Fruit Fund Raiser Commences  
  
10-11 OCT-NER A/S Education Academy  
12-14 OCT-NER Conference  
16 OCT-Citrus Fruit Fund Raiser Ends  
17 OCT-Rocketto Lecture-  
20 OCT-Commander's Cup Rocket Competition  
03 NOV-Basic Communications Course  
10 NOV-CTWG Conference-Cromwell  
18 DEC-Annual Squadron Holiday Party  
25 DEC—01 JAN No Meetings



### ANNUAL FRUIT SALE COMMENCES

Cadets and officers present were issued their sales packets. Each packet consists of invoices, a record sheet, envelopes, and a set of instructions. If you were not at the meeting, you can pick up the material next week.

This is our sole fundraiser and everyone is urged to exert a maximum effort in selling the citrus fruit. We are setting a goal of 500 cases which averages out to ten cases per member.

Some members prefer not to sell the fruit and have been generous enough to make a cash contribution instead. We thank you and encourage this practice.

The merchandise consists of 20 and 40 pound boxes of navel oranges, pink grapefruit, or a mix. The twenty pound boxes sell for \$25 and the 40 pound boxes cost \$37 each. Buyers can take a set tax deduction on each case as a charitable contribution.

We have been doing this for five years and the product has always been excellent. We guarantee each case unconditionally.

The fruit makes excellent gifts during the holiday season and we encourage you to use social media to reach out to your friends and business colleagues. You will be doing them a favor.

We have found that the fruit is long lasting. A case stored in cool conditions will last for a month or more. One of our customers squeezes the grapefruit and freezes it to make it last even longer.

Anticipate that the fruit will be delivered around 10 December. Notification will be given and sellers may make individual deliveries or the customer may pick up the fruit at the squadron.

## **CADET MEETING MINUTES**

*25 September, 2012*

*by*

*C/1stLt Drew Daniels*

The Meeting opened with drill. After a review of basic stationary and marching skills, the Cadre taught the flight sergeants how to call and conduct a Drill session.

The cadets returned to the squadron, where C/1stLt Daniels taught an Aerospace lesson. Topics covered were chapters 1 and 2 of the Rocket Module.

During flight time, the flight staff talked about the proper lines of communication, and began to talk about the fruit sale.

Cadets finished the night with a quiz on CAP and USAF grades, and a "treasure hunt activity" with Alpha and Bravo flights competing for bragging rights, which were won by Bravo.

Cadets received fruit sale materials, and were briefed on how to sell fruit successfully.

## **SENIOR MEETING MINUTES**

*25 September, 2012*

Senior members worked on individual training or special projects.

## **ASTRO-ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE**

Maj Rocketto will deliver a lecture entitle *Investigating Ancient Astronomical Sites: Nazca, Peru and Kilmartinburn, Scotland* on 17 October in Copernicus Hall at Central Connecticut State University.

The presentation will discuss the features of the desert lines and glyphs at Nazca and the megalithic formations in Scotland and their possible use as astronomical markers by the prehistoric builders.

CAP members are welcome to attend.

## **AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS**

*The Bugatti is Back*

In 1937, Ettore Bugatti employed a Belgian, Louis de Monge, to head a design team which would develop an advanced high speed aircraft. The aircraft had been completed but the Germans invaded and work was halted. After the war, the Experimental Aircraft Association gained possession of the aircraft, the Bugatti 100P, and it now resides at Oshkosh.



If you examine the picture, you will note many unusual features: twin counter-rotating propellers and an inverted "Y" tail in whose leading edges, the radiator intakes are located. Not apparent are the forward sweep of the wings' trailing edges, two engines aft of the cockpit, and automatic wing flaps which change the wing profile as a function of airspeed.

Now, over 70 years after its conception, the design will fly. Scotty Wilson, a Tulsa aviation enthusiast, heads up a project which has constructed an exact reproduction of the original aircraft. They are preparing to install the engines and hope for a first flight in a few months.

*The Texan Grows Teeth*

Hawker Beechcraft wishes to place an "A" prefix in front of its T-6A Texan II designator. In the latest phase of testing, the aircraft has been tested with a variety of bombs, rockets, and the venerable 50 caliber machine gun.

The company is seeking a contract to provide counterinsurgency aircraft for the Afghan Air Force. Embraer's Tucano had originally been selected but the award was cancelled after the USAF decided to void the contract.

The pictures below show the trainer versions of the two aircraft.



*The Texan is used by all US services except the Army as a trainer. Here is one in USAF livery taxiing at Pensacola.*

*This US registered Tucano at Oshkosh is a license built Short T.Mk.1 formerly in RAF service.*



Hawker Beechcraft's T-6A Texan began life as a trainer, but has reversed its letters to become the AT-6 bad boy of the ground attack fleet. A successful third round of testing shows that the former student plays well with existing weapons systems including .50-caliber guns, bombs, and rockets. The company hopes its successes on the testing ranges boost chances of winning a U.S. Air Force contract, and continues to attract nations hungry for economical defense systems.

The contract will provide counterinsurgency aircraft for the Afghan air force.

Hawker's entry faces the Embraer Tucano that won the contest before the Air Force reevaluated its decision and reopened the competition.

### *ER-2's Test Potential Satellite Laser Systems*

NASA has relocated two Lockheed ER-2 aircraft from Dryden to Wallops Flight Facility on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The aircraft are variants of the U-2 and will carry two experimental laser systems: CATS, the Cloud-Aerosol Transport System and MABEL, the Multiple Altimeter Beam Experimental Lidar.

The systems are designed to acquire data about clouds, the materials in aerosol vapor plumes, sea ice, and vegetation.

### **THIS WEEK'S AVIATION HISTORY**

27 SEP, 1946-Geoffrey de Havilland goes West when his D.H. 108 Swallow disintegrates over the Thames Estuary.

28 SEP, 1923-U.S. Navy Curtiss CR3s take both first and second place in the Schneider International Seaplane Race.

29 SEP, 1949-First flight of the Fairey Gannett. This carrier borne anti-submarine and airborne early warning aircraft had two turboprop engines connected through a gear box to drive the two counter-rotating propellers.



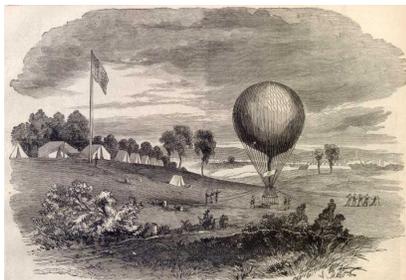
*AEW.3 Gannett at New England Air Museum, now at the Pima A&S Museum in Arizona*

30 SEP, 1957-A Trans World Airlines Lockheed 1649A Constellation flies from Los Angeles to London using the polar route.



*The Model L049 in TWA livery.*

01 OCT 1861-The United States Army Balloon Corps is formed. Prof. Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, the grandfather of famed aviatrix Pancho Barnes, is named Chief Aeronaut.



*Reconnaissance Balloon at First Bull Run (sketched by Edward Pietsch for Harper's Weekly.)*

**NOSE ART**

Pictures on the noses of aircraft have been a way in which pilots or crews personalized their planes. The themes might be lovely ladies, girlfriends, wives, or mothers, and patriotic or comic themes. Here are a few nose art examples in which cartoon animals are used.



*The flying pup carrying a bomb is depicted on the Spirit of Latana, a CAP Stinson 10 at the New England Air Museum.*

*This cutlass wielding, torpedo riding bird of prey adorns a Grumman TBM-3D Avenger at WST.*



*Smoky Bear guided a Hawkins & Powers Consolidated PB4Y-2 firebomber out of Greybull, Wyoming.*

*The Blasted Event's bomb carrying stork maybe be seen on a B-24J at Lackland AFB.*



*An impudent burro astride a bomb decorates a Consolidated B-24J Liberator. Bungay is a Suffolk town which was a 464<sup>th</sup> BG base in World War II.*

**LATE ARRIVING NEWS FROM 1st LT ERIK NELSON, USAF**

Erik was cadet commander some six years ago. Since then he has graduated from the USAF Academy and the Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

He is currently assigned to the 11th Bomb Squadron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Wing, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force of the AF Global Strike Command at Barksdale AFB, Boosier City, La., where he is receiving his final checkout in the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress. Upon completion of training, he expects assignment to the 23 Bomb Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Erik will be marrying classmate and fellow B-52 pilot Kristin Henry at the US Coast Guard Academy on 13 October. Chapel ceremony commences at 1630



*Kristin and Erik on Northrop Talon Wing*