

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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Vol. VI, No. 39

18 October, 2012

### *SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS*

21 OCT-Orientation Flights  
27 OCT-USCGA Aviation Day  
03 NOV-Basic Communications Course  
10 NOV-CTWG Conference-Cromwell  
13 NOV-Fruit Sale Ends  
17 NOV-Commander's Cup rocket Contest  
18 DEC-Annual Squadron Holiday Party  
25 DEC & 01 JAN-No Meetings

### **CADET MEETING MINUTES**

*16 October, 2012*

*by*

*C/Maj Brendan Flynn*

The meeting opened with drill. Cadets practiced various movements.

C/1stLt Daniels led a leadership class on emotions in leadership. Cadets discussed how exhibiting different kinds of emotions can effect those you lead, and how to deal with those emotions.

The Groton-New London Airport manager, Catherine Young, and Maj Noniewicz talked to cadets about the Coast Guard aviation day on October 27. Cadets that wish to see the aircraft and help with a parking detail must contact Maj Bourque with what times they are available. Cadets that are not going must also inform Maj Bourque. TRCS squadron members will most likely gather at 0930, and the event will last until 1300.

During flight time, cadet flights were rearranged. Flight sergeants and commanders oriented their new flights.

Capt Wojtcuk appealed to cadets and cadet staff to support each other, promote, and keep the squadron moving forward.

C/1stLt Daniels instructed cadets concerning new correspondence procedures.

### **SENIOR MEETING MINUTES**

*16 October, 2012*

Ms Catherine Young, Groton Airport Manager, briefed the squadron on the plans for October 27th USCG Aviation Day. An invitation to the public has been tendered and TRCS will assume responsibilities for gate control and marshaling of the visitors.

Aircraft on display may include the CASA HCV-144A Ocean Sentry, Lockheed HC-130 Hercules, Dassault HU-25 Guardian, Sikorsky MH-60 Jayhawk, and the Aerospatiale HH-65 Dolphin. A CAP Cessna 182 will also be open for inspection and the 1109<sup>th</sup> TMSG, CT National Guard is also expected to provide aircraft.

Sonia Simpson has been appointed Squadron Historian.

Members spent the balance of the evening working on individual projects.

## NER CONFERENCE

Some two dozen CTWG officers and cadets attended the Northeast Region Conference on 11-14 October. Seniors attended various classes and cadets participated in a special program highlighted by a visit to the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airfield in Farmingdale. Former astronaut, Story Musgrave was guest speaker and the ceremonies were concluded when a special exhibit dedicated to CAP was unveiled.

Many CTWG personnel received honors at the awards ceremony. Held every two years, plaques and certificates were bestowed for accomplishments during 2010 and 2011. C/LtCol Margaret Palys received the 2011 regional Brewer Award for her dedication to aerospace education and C/Col Ryan Chapman, now in his second year at the US Military Academy, and winner of the National Cadet of the Year, received a plaque for his earning of the 2010 CTWG Cadet of the Year honor.

The following officers received Officer of the Year awards for 2010: Thames River's Capt Robin Wojtuck for Character Development, Maj Joseph Palys for Safety, and Maj Adma Ross, Chaplain.

The Silver City Cadet Squadron was recognized as 2010 NER Squadron of Distinction and the Stratford Eagles were names for 2011 honors.

Awardees for 2011 were Chaplain Adma Ross, 1<sup>st</sup>Lt Jonathan Luysterborghs, CISM, and Maj Jack Shapiro was named Senior Officer of the Year.

The meetings were highlighted two guest speakers. At the General Assembly, Dr. Mark Clampin, the James Webb Space Telescope Project Scientist discussed the results garnered from other space based telescope, the science and engineering problems incurred in developing and building the Webb, and details of the instrumentation which it will carry at the anticipated 2018 launch.

The banquet speaker was Dr. Story Musgrave. The retired astronaut delivered a motivational talk based upon his extraordinary career. Young Story left home without graduating from high school and joined the US Marine Corps where he served as a instrument and electrician. After leaving the Corps, he earned a baccalaureate in mathematics, a doctorate in medicine, and six other graduate degrees. He joined the astronaut corps and spent almost three decades at NASA, participated in six shuttle flights, and is the only astronaut to have flown into space aboard all five shuttles.

Maj Rocketto, the TRCS member present spent two and a half days attending the first ever, Northeast Region Aerospace Education School. He also participated in the cadet gathering at the American Airpower Museum and at conference end, spent the afternoon at the Cradle of Aviation Museum, located on the site of Mitchel Field.

## CAP EXTERNAL EDUCATION OUTREACH

Maj Rocketto delivered a lecture entitled *Investigating Ancient Astronomical Sites: Nazca, Kilmartinburn and Newgrange* on 17 October in Copernicus Hall at Central Connecticut State University.

The presentation discussed the methodology of archaeo-astronomy and their applications at three sites which have been researched by Major Rocketto. Photographs of the Nazca desert lines, the Kilmartinburn megaliths, and the Newgrange passage tomb were used to illustrate the manifold problems faced by both the field investigator and the data analyzer in reaching reasonable conclusions about the astronomical significance of prehistoric structures and artifacts.

A short informational briefing about CAP and its missions was held with an appeal for

recruits, especially those with an interest in aerospace education.

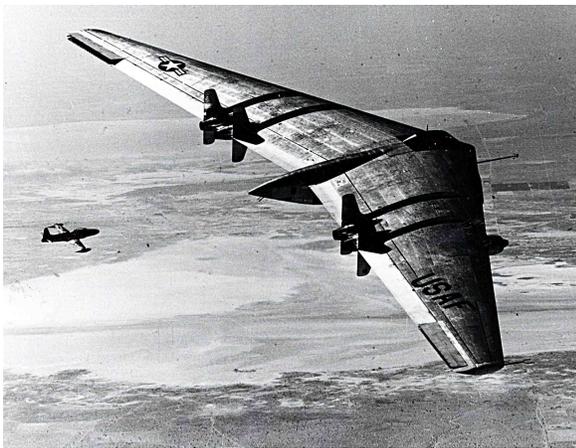
## AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

### *New Evidence About Origins of Moon*

Scientists studying the ratio of light to heavy isotopes of zinc in moon rocks discovered that the results differed markedly from those found on earth. They suspect that this occurred due intense heat which would only be possible if a Mars sized object had collided with Earth to form the moon. The evidence was based upon analysis of Apollo era moon rockets and meteorites, originating from lunar material, and found in Antarctica.

## AEROSPACE HISTORY

21 OCT, First flight of the Northrop YB-49.



*Accompanied by T-33 chase plane, YB-49 banks right over Muroc Dry Lake.*

*(USAF Photo)*

22 OCT, 1934-Charles W.A. Scott and Thomas C. Black pilot a specially built deHavilland 88 Comet racer to win the MacRobertson England to Australia air race. What is also notable is that two standard commercial airliners, a KLM Douglas DC-2 piloted by legendary Dutch aviators K. D. Parmentier and J.J. Moll and a Boeing 247 piloted by the colorful Roscoe Turner and Clyde Pangborn placed second and third. Other participants included aviation luminaries Jackie Cochran, Jim and Amy Mollison and Donald C.T. Bennett.



*The winning Comet still survives and is displayed at the Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden Aerodrome*



*A C-39, the military version of the DC-2 on static display at the Museum of the USAF.*



*Turner's 247, retired from United Airlines, at the Smithsonian*

23 OCT, 1943-The Battle of Leyte Gulf commences. (See last article.)

24 OCT, 1942-Charles G. Abbott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, concedes that Langley's Aerodrome, which failed to fly in 1903 but did fly in 1914 had been radically

modified. This established priority for the Wright Brothers as the inventors of the first successful heavier than air, powered, man carrying, and controllable aircraft.

The acrimony which developed when the Smithsonian gave priority to Langley over the Wrights caused the Wrights to move their Flyer to Great Britain. It was not given to The Smithsonian until after Orville's death in 1948.



*The Aerodrome hangs from the ceiling at the Udvar-Hazy Annex at Dulles.*

25 OCT, 1939-First Flight of the Handley Page Halifax.



*Recovered from the 750 ft depths of Lake Mjosa in Norway, Mark 7 Halifax undergoes restoration at RCB Trenton, Ontario, Canada*

### **THE GALLANT CHARGE OF TAFFY 3** *THE BATTLE OFF SAMAR*

In late October of 1944, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched Sho-go (Operation Victory), an attempt to destroy the invasion fleet of the US forces in the Philippines. A Japanese decoy force lured Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet of fast battleships and carriers north, leaving San Bernardino Straits unguarded, an open door to the US landing forces in Leyte Gulf.

Admiral Takeo Kurita led a force of four battleships, six heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and 11 destroyers through the Straits straight at the beachheads and the light covering force left behind by Halsey. Taffy 3, consisting of six escort carriers, three destroyers, and four destroyer escorts stood directly in their path.

The surprised US ships reacted. The destroyers and destroyer escorts laid down smoke screens to cover the withdrawal of the vulnerable escort carriers which sought cover in a nearby squall.

Commander Ernest Evans, *USS Johnston* turned and charged the Japanese fleet, intending to launch a torpedo attack, the only effective weapon against battleships on board the escorts. Her torpedoes struck a cruiser but return fire heavily damaged the *Johnston* and she turned back.

The rest of the escorts now headed for the Japanese force, firing their torpedoes and scattering the Japanese formation. On board the *Johnston*, damage control parties restored power and Evans turned her back, once again charging into what had become a melee.

Evans then led his ship against a light cruiser and four destroyers which were closing on the US escort carriers. He broke up their attack and the Japanese abandoned their pursuit of the carriers and concentrated their fire on the *Johnston*. Evans ordered "Abandon ship!" and the survivors entered the water. In an extraordinary tribute from the Imperial Japanese Navy, the survivors saw Japanese sailors come to attention and salute them as they passed by. Capt. Evans was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for his "indomitable courage and brilliant professional skills."

Destroyer *Hoel* and Destroyer Escort *Samuel B. Roberts* were also sunk as they tried to protect the carriers. Their captains received Navy Crosses.

Kurita, in the fog of battle, thought he was encountering the main US force and turned away, leaving the beachhead secure. The bold attack by the 'small boys' of Taffy 3 and harassment by the aircraft from the carriers saved the transports of the invasion fleet.

The US lost two destroyers, a destroyer escort, and two escort carriers. The Japanese lost the battle and their last chance to change the course of the war.