

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>

S. Rocketto, Editor
srocketto@aquilasys.com

C/Maj Brendan Flynn, Reporter

Vol. VI, No. 44

21 November, 2012

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

25 DEC & 01 JAN-No Meetings

CADET MEETING MINUTES

20 November, 2012

The meeting opened with drill. Cadets practiced cadence, flank movements, and "to the rear" movements.

C/2Lt Schultz led a leadership session on "Transformational Leadership." He discussed the four categories of transformational leadership: individual consideration, intellectual stimulation, idealized influence, and inspiration motivation.

C/TSgt Trotochaud led a team-building exercise in which cadets constructed two "large thank you" posters for Capt Wojtcuk.

The Cadet Cadre, Capt Wojtcuk and Lt Gardiner, conducted a planning session for future leadership

training in the squadron. Subsequently, the Cadre conducted interviews with a number of cadets, discussing future improvements in developing leadership skills.

Cadets ascertained who needed to be issued "bear coats" for the impending cold weather.

Cadets were reminded about the importance of following the chain of command.

SENIOR MEETING MINUTES

20 November, 2012

Members worked on individual qualifications.

Squadron Commander Noniewicz, LtCol Kinch, Majs deAndrade and Rocketto, and Capt Farley participated in a Wing conference call lead by Maj Michael Heath. Five squadrons contributed their opinions on the recent severe weather missions led by Northeast Region. Future training exercises will be organized to rationalize our organizational network and further improve operational performances.

CTWG RECOGNIZES QUAKER HILL R&GC

The Connecticut Wing of the Civil Air Patrol presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club for extending support to the CTWG Rifle Safety and Marksmanship Program over the last five years. During that time, approximately 250 cadets have received training and 125 have earned NRA medals.

C/Maj Brendan Flynn presents Award Certificate to QH Club President John Holmes.



Quaker Hill support includes free use of its facilities, equipment and targets. During the 2012 season alone, Quaker Hill sponsored five half day sessions and a tournament on the 50 yard Abe Rocketto Range. In addition, five members of the local Thames River Composite Squadron are also members of the QH Junior Team.

A/S HISTORY & CURRENT EVENTS

CLUSTER BALLOONING

The Coastwatcher has long has a “soft spot” for lighter than air activities starting with our feature on “Lawn Chair Larry's” 1982 california flight to 15,000 feet, seated in a lawn chair suspended under some 40 helium balloons. Equipped with a sandwich and a Coke, parachute and life jacket, a CB radio for communications, using water ballast and a BB gun to control altitude, Larry Walters survived a fourteen hour flight culminating in a landing on power lines which caused a local 20 minute blackout.

Walter has had a plethora of successors. Kent Couch may have been the first to cross state boundaries when in 2008, he launched from Oregon and landed in Idaho, covering 240 miles in 9.2 hours.

Mention must be made of John Ninomiya, a chronicler of cluster ballooning whose adventures have appeared on both the Learning Channel and the History Channel. Nonomiya is working on a project to complete a cluster balloon flight over every state in the Union. You can learn about his Connecticut adventurer at his website: www.clusterballoon.org.

Nonomiya drifts over an iconic Connecticut landscape in the vicinity of Canaan. (photo credit: clusterballoon.org)



The sport has claimed some of its practitioners. In 2008, the Brazilian priest Adelir Antonio de Carli ascended from coastal Paranagua intending to fly inland. Caught in a storm, he was carried out to sea. His body was recovered by the Brazilian navy. His 19,685 foot altitude stands as the cluster balloon record.

Japanese balloonist Yoshukazu Suzuki lifted off near Lake Biwa, Japan's largest freshwater lake located in Shiga Prefecture, northeast of Kyoto. He was last spotted by an aircraft over the Pacific. No evidence of his demise have ever been recovered.

The latest foray into cluster ballooning is a plan by Jonathan Trapp to cross the Atlantic! He has already flown across Lake Michigan, the English Channel, and the Alps. His equipment, if he ever raises the funds, will consist of a gondola doubling as a lifeboat, 365 balloons carrying over 100,000 cubic feet of helium, oxygen, survival gear, and food and water. The planned altitude is 25,000 feet.



Trappe on his way from France to Italy. (photo credit: clusterballoon.com)

ECONOMICS TO GROUND EUREKA ZEPPELIN

For five years, Airship Ventures based at Moffet Field. California have been flying the German designed airship, Eureka, on advertising and tour flights. However, the force of economics have apparently overcome the force of bouyancy and the company has announced that, unless a corporate sponsor is found, the Zeppelin will be dismantled and

shipped back to Germany.

CEO Brian Hall has stated that the cost of a one minute SuperBowl commercial, about 5-6 million dollars would be enough to keep the airship afloat but no offers are forthcoming.

NASA'S WILLIAMS AND CREW MATES RETURN TO EARTH IN RARE NIGHT LANDING

After 127 days on board the International Space Station, Sunita Williams and two Russian crew mates rode their Soyuz space capsule to an unusual night landing in Kazakhstan on Monday local time.

DRONES AS AIRBORNE COMMO RELAYS

The last two years of natural disasters have indicated a need to provide back-up communications links to replace damaged landlines and cell towers. CAP maintains a nationwide network of radios but even these may be lost unless they are supplied with emergency power generators.

The cellular industry does have short term battery back-up on cell towers and some portable relay towers but wide spread emergencies have rendered these lacking in capacity.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has operated an unmanned aerial vehicle which carried communication relay equipment. They have served in three states struck by a variety of natural disasters.

A fleet of these unmanned airborne relays would prove beneficial as emergency communication equipment by many problems need be solved. The cost is one consideration. A technique would have to be developed to ration usage to prevent swamping the transponders and preventing important messages from getting through. Finally, the ongoing problem of operating drones in the National Airspace System must be resolved.

EAGLES TAKE 2012 COMMANDER'S CUP ROCKETRY CONTEST

The sixth meeting for possession of the Commander's Cup was held on Saturday, 17 November at White's Farm in Durham. The Stratford Eagles showed up with a strong five cadet squad and all were surprised when no other squadrons appeared to challenge. The event had been postponed for a week and recent emergency service work may have influenced the poor turnout. Taking the Trophy by default, Stratford has now earned the honor three times and is tied with Thames River, also a three time winner.

Nonetheless, the enthusiastic members of CATO, the Connecticut section of the National Association of Rocketry, were out in force and some of their unique vehicles were launched throughout the five hour session.

Dean Kavalkovich of CATO and Maj's Art Dammers and Stephen Rocketto from Wing Staff served as judges.

At the end of the day, on behalf of CTWG, C/CMSgt Riccio presented a Certificate of Appreciation to CATO President Al Gloer thanking them for their years of support for our contest.



*C/CMSgt Riccio
presents a framed
Certificate of
Appreciation to
CATO President
Gloer.*

Plans are to hold the next competition in the spring of 2013, perhaps April. This will allow construction during the winter months.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY

The Society of Cincinnati was formed, in 1783, by former officers of the American revolutionary army. They took their name from the Roman Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus who, on two separate occasions when Rome was threatened, was granted absolute power by the Senate. He successfully resolved both crises by military and political means, and then, immediately resigned office and returned to his farm. Would the professional politicians of today follow this noble example.

Anyway, the Society adopted the bald eagle as part of their insignia. In a 1784 letter to his daughter, Benjamin Franklin noted that the emblem more resembled a turkey than an eagle and opined:

For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River; where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.

With all this Injustice, he is never in good Case but like those among Men who live by Sharping & Robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank Coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the District. He is therefore by no means a proper Emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our Country...

I am on this account not displeased that the Figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks more like a Turkey. For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America...

He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on.

By coincidence, while ambling through the woods today, the *Coastwatcher* Editor came upon a flock of wild turkeys. Yes, they can fly faster than he could run (and he was so hungry). And they can roost higher in a tree than he could climb. So tomorrow he must be satisfied with his annual pilgrimage to Westerly where Margaret, his sister-in-law, will give him the bird (and side dishes) and later, provide a doggy bag to him take home to his modest bachelor digs.



The domestic butterball (registered trademark?) suffers from a weight if not a balance problem and is more like a kiwi or penguin than an albatross so we doubt that the domestic bird can "slip the surly bonds of earth."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

AIRCRAFT CALLED TURKEYS

Two US naval aircraft, both Grummans, have both been called Turkeys by the cognoscenti: the WWII TBF Avenger and the Cold War F-14 Tomcat.



Tomcat

Avenger

