

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



## The Coastwatcher

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

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

Maj Stephen Rocketto, Editor  
srocketto@aquilasys.com

C/Maj Brendan Flynn, Reporter  
C/A1C Justin Ketcham, Cub Reporter  
Maj Roy Bourque, Papparazi

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### SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

- 16 APR-TRCS Meeting-G1000 training
- 19 APR-Senior Banquet
- 20 APR-CSRRA High Power Rifle Clinic
- 21 APR-Glider Orientation Flights
- 23 APR-TRCS MeetingG1000 Training
- 27 APR-PT at USCGA (0800-1000)
- 26-27 APR-CTWG Encampment Staff Training
- 30 APR-TRCS Meeting-Table Top SAREX
  
- 07 MAY-TRCS Meeting
- 10 MAY-Ledyard A/S Night (Friday)
- 14 MAY-TRCS Meeting-GX55 Training
- 18 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocketry Contest
- 21 MAY-TRCS Meeting-LISP Survival
- 28 MAY-TRCS Meeting

7-8 JUN-CTWG Encampment Staff Trainin09  
21 JUL0-03 AUG-NESA-Camp Atterbury, IN  
27 JUL-CADET Ball-USCGA  
10 AUG to 17 AUG-CTWG Encampment

### CADET MEETING

*02 April, 2013*

*submitted by*

*C/Maj Brendan Flynn*

*&*

*Justin Ketcham*

Cadets joined the flight for drill at the airport parking lot and practiced columns of files from the left and right.

Cadets then reported the rocket room worked on their rockets for the Commander's Cup Competition.

Cadets and senior members were treated to a special guest speaker, World War II veteran Ernie Treff. Mr. Treff shared many of his wartime stories. He started by explaining his training in aircraft like the P-40, after which he kept his audience spellbound with stories of operations in Europe flying the P-47 thunderbolt.

*Maj Neilson consults  
with Mr. Treff.*



*Curtiss P-40. Note the retracted but exposed main gear and the chutes for disposal of the 0.50 cartridge cases.*

*Republic P-Thunderbolt bearing the markings of Col Francis Gabreski, ace who fought in in WWII and Korea.*



A large promotions ceremony followed Mr. Treff's talk. Cadet Matthew Johnstone received the Wright Brothers Award and was promoted to Staff Sergeant. Cadets Justin Ketcham and John Meers were promoted to Senior Airman. Cadets Austin Foley and Sean O'Toole completed the Curry Achievement and were promoted to Airman. Cadet Thomas Ray was promoted to Master Sergeant. Cadet Brendan Schultz completed the Flight Commander Achievement, a lateral achievement that must be completed by Cadet Second Lieutenants before promoting to First Lieutenant.



*SSgt Johnstone receives his stripes from his father and Capt Noniewicz.*

*Capt Wojtcuk and Maj Noniewicz attach stripes to C/AB O'Toole's collar.*



*C/MSgt Ray enjoys his new stripes which are presented by Capt Noniewicz and Mrs. Ray.*

*C/2ndLt Schultz completes another step on the climb to C/1<sup>st</sup>Lt.*



*(All Cadet Photos by David Meers)*

*Cadet Foley reports to receive his promotion.*



**CADET MEETING**

*09 April, 2013*

*submitted by*

*C/AIC Justin Ketcham*



*2ndLt Meers pins on Cadet Meers new insignia of grade.*

Cadets mustered in the parking lot for drill and practiced columns.

Cadets then marched to the Columbia Building, now the main office of Mystic Jet Center, a joint enterprise of the old Lanmar and Columbia. The manager, Mr. Josh Theodore discussed the different departments of MJF: aircraft airframe and power plant maintenance, avionics repair, aircraft servicing, charter flights, aircraft sales, and aircraft storage

*One of TRCS's newest members, C/Amn Foley moves up one rank.*



Mr. Ryan Gauthier, operator of the Coastal Air, a flight school, spoke about requirements, legal and financial, necessary to obtain various levels of certification, from private to airline transport pilot.



*Mr. Gauthier addresses the cadets while Mr. Theodore looks on. (Photo by David Meers)*

Mr. Dennis Piscitello, a pilot for Whelen Industries, escorted the cadets through their new Cessna 680 Sovereign. The 18 million dollar aircraft carries can cruise at 40,000 feet at 5000 mph and has a range of around 3,000 miles. The cadets found that the two most amusing parts of the plane were the automatic shades in the windows, as well as the plush bathroom with a window seat.



*Mr. Piscitello responds to a cadet question. (Photo by David Meers)*

*680 Departing GON.*



Returning to the squadron, SM Ray kicked off the new DDR program with a Jeopardy game which tested the cadet knowledge about drug abuse.

## SENIOR MEETING

*02 April , 2013*

*by*

*Capt Scott Farley*

John deAndrade led the squadron in a debrief of the weekend CTWG SAREX at which he served as Incident Commander. All agreed that this was an improved learning experience, especially in the way that trainees were aligned with trainers. Many were able to advance their quals.

Seniors continued to work on Airborne Photographer qualifications. The trainer was LTC Doucette and trainees included LT Meers, LT Looney, and Capt Farley.

Seniors then joined the cadets in listening to Mr. Ernie Treff, a WW II veteran describe his experiences.

## SENIOR MEETING

*09 April , 2013*

*Commander's Call*

Maj Paul Noniewicz, Squadron Commander, reviewed details of the CTWG Squadron Commander's Call. The addition of an additional aircraft to the CTWG fleet increases the possibility that TRCS will have one of the glass cockpit 182s for training pilots.

The van swap is underway and our 12 passenger van will be replaced by a seven passenger mini-van.

The water survival training has been scheduled. Officers should read the notice which will be sent out by Maj Noniewicz and comply with the instructions.

Maj Noniewicz provided a safety review on the subject of sterile cockpits and airport hot spots.

2<sup>nd</sup>Lt Meers discussed facets of computer security and the perils of operating on unsecured networks.

Any one who has completed ICUT training must present his SQTR to LtCol deAndrade for processing.

Capt Farley presented the agenda for the next month of training. This is posted on the TRCS schedule in this issue.

ICUT Training was conducted after Commander's Call.

### **THIRTEEN TRCS MEMBERS AT SAREX**

Twenty-one percent of the participants at the 30 March SAREX were from Thames River. LtCol John deAndrade served as Incident Commander. LtCol Doucette and Maj's Neilson and Noniewicz and Capt Farley performed trainer duties. Maj's Bourque, Welch, and Rocketto, Capt Lintelmann, 2ndLts Meers and Welch, SM Simpson, and Cadet Meers received specialty training.

A wide range of activities were provided. Both Maj Welch and Lt Welch were involved in sorties to crucial bridges over the Connecticut River. All the ground teams completed their photography tasks and returned to Mission Base with the required data.



*LtCol deAndrade, Incident Commander briefs the SAREX participants.*

A number of GMT trainees, mostly cadets reported to a classroom where they received instruction in the familiarization and preparatory training tasks. Both indoor academics and outdoor practical work were used to complete nine of the

eleven

requirements at the GMT3 level.

### **TRCS AT CUB SCOUTS ROCKET LAUNCH**

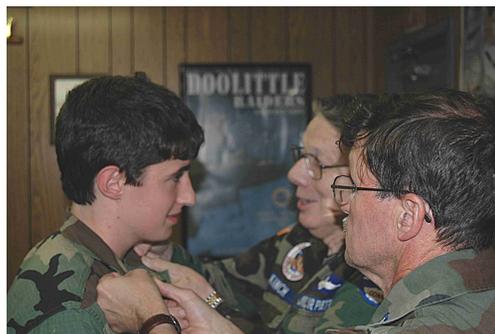
*Reported by  
2ndLt David Meers*

2ndLt David Meers and Cadet John Meers assisted Pack 34 Cub Scouts at their rocket launching activity at Washington Park in Groton on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. There were approximately two dozen cubs ranging in age from 6 to 9 years old and younger siblings. The event started with a 20 minute briefing on how the hydrogen fuel is produced by electrolysis. However the hydrogen rocket failed to launch.

There were five launching stations and each person fired their rocket two or three times: a mix of Estes rockets: Viking, Alpha, Alpha III, and Generic; all fueled with A8-3 engines. Three rockets returned to earth without fins, two parachutes failed to deploy, and one decided to stay at the top of a pine tree. All the Cubs had a great time and parents enjoyed the day as much as the scouts.

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

*GEORGE ABBIATI*



*Cadet Abbiati receives a promotion in October of 2007.*

Former TRCS Cadet George Abbiati is studying aerospace engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

He has completed his junior year and, in collaboration with 28 fellow students completed a humanitarian project in Namibia. The project entailed developing affordable insulation for desert huts and improvement of the transportation infrastructure and water filtration methodology.

George and his partners were also challenged to create a sustainable tourism industry in trophy hunting. The country has a 51% unemployment rate due to the lack of experience of the farmers. They hope that much of the fallow fields may be converted to a hunting environment, attract tourists, and provide jobs.

George has also followed up on his CAP career. He is commander of the WPI chapter of the Arnold Air Society and commander of the leadership training program last semester.

His contributed to the community by developing a CAP program in the Worcester area, working with high risk teens, providing them with an appropriate role model which they might use to govern their actions.

He is looking towards a posting as an Air Battle Manager, one of the crew of the airborne command ships which direct USAF and US Army forces in the modern battle space.

This summer, George will be employed at Hamilton Sunstrand in the jet propulsion laboratory.

We hope to have him visit the Squadron and personally relate some of his experiences and how they have been related to his cadetship in Groton.

**LOCAL CHAPTER OF BLACK PILOTS OF AMERICAN TO FEATURE PIONEER AIRMAN AS SPEAKER.**

The Flight Officer Connie Napier, Jr. Chapter of the BPA will hold their first annual awards dinner. The guest speaker will be Lester Morris, the first African-American pilot for Eastern Airlines.

The luncheon will be held at noon on April 4<sup>th</sup> at

the Groton Motor Inn. Tickets are \$30 and may be obtained from Maj Bourque or by going to one of the following sites for information:

[Info@bpact.org](mailto:Info@bpact.org) or Web:

<http://www.bpact.org> or 860-710-0199

**AIRPORT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

The US Department of Agriculture' Wildlife Service presented the mandatory annual briefing on wildlife management hazards at airports on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Capt Willi Lintelmann represented TRCS.

Some 9000 bird strikes were reported in 2011, the last year in which a full report has been generated. Most strikes occur below 1,500 feet. All strikes must be reported and any avian remains must be sent to the Smithsonian Institution for DNA analysis to identify the species.

The most damage by a bird strike is done by larger birds with the turkey vulture leading the flocks. On the ground, deer present a significant hazard at local airports.



*Two of the three juvenile bald eagles flying parallel to runway 02 at Brainard. These were spotted by Maj Noniewicz and his crew at the last CTWG SAREX.*

**TRCS PERIODICAL LIBRARY**

Cadets and Officers are reminded that the Aerospace Section maintains a library of current periodicals next to the sign-in station. All members are invited to peruse the rack and take

any publication which interests them. They are generally kept on display of a month and then transferred to the CTWG library in Middletown. Here is a partial list of what is available: *Aviation Week and Space Technology, AOPA Pilot, Air Force, Sport Aviation, Flying, Naval Institute Proceedings, Naval History, and Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine.*

## AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

### *Small UAVs Used to Study Volcanoes*

NASA's Ames Research Laboratory have obtained three Aerovironment Dragon Eye drones to study the ash concentrations and gas outputs of volcanoes. The drones are powered by electric engines so they are not affected by volcanic ash.



*NASA Technician Launches a Dragon Eye*  
(NASA/Matthew Fladeland)

The drones flew over Costa Rica's Turrialba Volcano, measuring the output some 2,000 feet over the mouth of the 10,000 foot volcano. The volcanic plume, made up mostly of carbon dioxide, water vapor, and sulfur dioxide is relatively stable and a good object for the study,

### *NOAA/NASA Team to Study Hurricane Genesis*

Manned aircraft and a UAV have been deployed to the North Atlantic Ocean. The aircraft, a Douglas DC-8, a Martin WB-57 Canberra, and a Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk will carry special instrumentation to investigate on wind profiles, water droplet distribution, sea and air temperatures, and other pertinent meteorological data.

*NASA Global Hawk*  
(NASA/Dryden)



The scientists will focus on tropical storm formation and hope to use the information to improve the computer models used to predict hurricanes.



*The USAF converted a number of B-57s to the WB-57 variant. The wings were extended and some models carried two auxiliary jet engines on underwing pods. They were capable of reaching 60,000 feet. NASA maintains two of these aircraft at Ellington Field in Texas for use in their high altitude research program. The aircraft pictured is a retired AF plane now at Warner-Robins AFB, Georgia.*

## AEROSPACE HISTORY

12 April, 1961-*Vostok I* carries Flight Major Yuri Gagarin from Tyuratán to orbit.

13 April, 1960-The USN launches Transit 1-B, the first navigational satellite using a Thor-Able-Star vehicle.

14 April, 1960-The first launch of a Polaris missile from a submerged tube occurs off San Clemente Island, California.

15 April, 1928-Australian explorer George Hubert Wilkins and US pilot Lt Carl Ben Eielson fly a Lockheed Vega in the first successful crossing of the Arctic flying from Point Barrow, Alaska to Spitzbergen, Norway

16 April, 1923-Lts John A. Macready and Lt. Oakley A. Kelly lift off in a Fokker T-2 on a record breaking 36 hr, 2,500 mi. flight carrying a 10,899 lb. payload.

17 April, 1926-Three Army Air Corps aircraft led

by Lt Harold R. Rivers take the first aerial photographs of an erupting volcano.