



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>

LtCol Stephen Rocketto, Editor
srocketto@aquilasys.com

C/SSgt Virginia Poe, Reporter
Lt David Meers & Maj Roy Bourque, Papparazis

Vol. VIII, No. 18 20 May, 2014

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

17 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocketry
17-18 MAY-Quonset Airshow
20 MAY-TRCS Meeting
27 MAY-TRCS Meeting
30 MAY-Ledyard Aerospace Festival
31 May-01 Jun-CLC Course-HFD

07 JUN-Bi-State SAREX (CT/RI)28 JUN-
Columbia Open House
04 JUL-GON Parade and Squadron Picnic
18 JUL, 2014-CTWG Golf Tournament
19 JUL-02 AUG-Nat'l Emergency Services Acad.
08-16 AUG-CTWG Encampment-Camp Niantic
23 AUG-Wing Wide SAREX-HFD
20 SEP-Cadet Ball-USCGA (tentative)
01 OCT-CTWG Commander's Call and CAC
17-19 OCT-CTWG/NER Conference
16-18 OCT-NER AEO Course at Conference
18-25 OCT-NER Staff College-New Jersey

CADET MEETING

20 May, 2014
submitted by
C/SSgt Virginia Poe

Cadets participated in a one and one half hour drill exercise.

C/Capt Shultz taught a lesson on rocketry to correspond with the Rocketry Competition held last Saturday.

Daniel Wadsworth was promoted to cadet airman.



Cadet Wadsworth beams as his father pins on his new insignia.

SENIOR MEETING

20 May, 2014
Submitted by
Col Gilmore Leon

The officers reviewed Long Island Sound Patrol procedures, water survival and ditching in preparation for the 2014 patrol schedule.

COMMANDER'S CUP

Six cadets and four officers were present at White's Farm in Durham for the eighth running of the CTWG Commander's Cup Model Rocket Competition.

The cadets were led by C/MSgt John Meers and the team consisted of C/SSgts Austin Eichelberg and Virginia Poe, and cadets Matthew Carsone, Ryan Schantz, and Mtthew Drost. In absentia, represented by their rockets were C/Capt Brendan Schultz and C/SrA Michael and Daniel Hollingsworth.



Cadets Eichelberg, Drost Schantz, Maj Bourque, and Cadet Poe and Meers prepare their entries.

The overall team was under the supervision of Maj Roy Borque accompanied by Lt David Meers and Capt Scott Farley. LtCol Rocketto was present, representing CTWG.



Project Officer, Capt Ralph Langham presents the Cup to the winning squadrons.

CORPORATE LEARNING COURSE OFFERED

The Wing is offering a Corporate Learning Course (CLC) at the Royal Charter Squadron in Hartford on 31 May-01 June. The cost will be \$25 and you may enroll by contacting Capt Heather Murphy at hlmurphy@cox.net.

The CLC is designed to explain how a wing operates in each of CAP's major mission elements and how mission support functions support these mission elements. Armed with this knowledge, senior members can learn how they and their respective organizations can best support the wing and fulfill the corporate role of CAP.

WING COMMANDER ANNOUNCES MID-YEAR PRIORITIES

Col Kenneth Chapman, CTWG Commander has listed ten priorities for wing action between now and the end of October.

The expectation of safe operations, financial control, property accountability, and professional leadership and behavior in all wing activities are the foundation upon which more specific actions will be based.

These specific goals are the addition of a wing glider program, the implementation of an excellent NER-CTWG conference, growth in wing membership by recruiting and retention of officers and cadets, accelerated development of the new group structure, expansion of training opportunities in emergency services, the restoration of fund raising activities, and expansion of contacts with outside organizations and the legislature.

During this period, Col Chapman will develop the a Wing Strategic plan for fiscal year 2014-2015 based on National and NER goals and objectives.

CTWG GOLF TOURNAMENT

Maj Conrd Rustek, of the 186th has been tasked with organizing the first annual CAP Fundraiser Golf Tournament. It will be held at Timberlin Golf Club in Berlin, CT on Friday, July 18th 2014 rain or shine. As this is one of the very few fundraising events this wing engages in as a whole and finances have been stretched to the limit, He asks all wing staff to participate in making this event a success. Wing members can support the event by signing up foursomes or getting businesses to sponsor a hole or donate an item or gift certificate to the raffle.

AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

“Skeets” Coleman Goes West

Test pilot James “Skeets” Colman, 95, filed his final flight plan on 20 May. Coleman was a USMC dive bomber pilot in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he attended UCLA and received a degree in aeronautical engineering. He maintained his flying status in the USMCR and became involved various aeronautical enterprises.

In 1954, Coleman signed on to test fly the Convair XFY-1 Pogo, a radical delta wing turboprop “tail-sitter” designed for vertical take-offs and vertical landings. Only one Pogo was ever built and it arguably is one of the world's worst aircrafts.

No one had ever flown an aircraft based on this concept, no simulator existed and no computer existed which could crunch the calculated performance predictions.



*Coleman is interviewed while the XFY-1 is serviced.
(Convair Photo)*

Initial tests took place in one of Moffett Field's airship hangars and the aircraft was tethered to assist in maintaining control. First free flight took place on 02 November, 1954 and demonstrations were arranged for the military and project engineers.

As the tests progressed, landing difficulties and the arrival of high speed conventional jet aircraft led to the abandonment of the “tail-sitter” concept.

Reportedly, take-off and the transition to level flight were relatively easy but landing was what pilots call a “sporty” maneuver. Coleman, whose position during landing placed him facing upwards had to twist around to visually guide the aircraft vertically downward. The difficulty of managing this maneuver on the pitching deck of an aircraft carrier at sea led to the retirement of the Pogo and its current residence in storage at the National Air and Space Museum.



The Pogo, circa 1975, perched in horizontal storage at the old Silver Hills Facility of the NASM.

Coleman was the only pilot to ever fly the XFY-1 through its entire flight regime and in 1955, he was awarded the Harmon Trophy for his contribution to a novel aviation experiment.

At the same time, Lockheed built the XFV-1 but it never achieved vertical landings and take-offs.

For films of the XFY-1 in flight, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0sYuheoPU>

AEROSPACE HISTORY

21 May, 1932-Amelia Earhart flies a Lockheed Vega from Nova Scotia to Ireland and becomes the first woman to solo the Atlantic.



At the Henry Ford Museum, Amelia Earhart Putnam mannequin poses with the actual Vega used for the historic flight.

22 May, 1912-The birth of USMC aviation-1st Lt. Alfred Cunningham reports for duty as Marine Aviation #1.



Cunningham in a Curtiss hydroplane at Annapolis, Md. (USMC Archives)

23 May, 1848-Glider pioneers Otto Lilienthal is born.



A typical Lilienthal glider on display at Long Island's Cradle of Aviation Museum.

24 May, 1936-First flight of the Feisler Fi-156 Storch.



A Storch demonstrates its amazing short field performance at the Collings Foundation airport in Stow, Massachusetts.

25 May, 1927-Lt Jimmy Doolittle flying a Curtiss P-1B Hawk performs the first outside loop over McCook Field, Ohio.



Curtiss P-1B Hawk (USAF Photo)

26 May, 1961-A Convair B-58 Hustler establishes a new record for the Washington to Paris flight, flying 3,833 miles in 3 hours, 39 minutes, 49 seconds for an average speed of 1,048 mph.



A Hustler displays its sleek lines at Tucson's Pima Air Museum.