



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

## The Coastwatcher

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

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### *SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENT*

23 NOV-Ground School  
25 NOV-TRCS Meeting  
  
02 DEC-TRCS Meeting-Change of Command  
07 DEC-Ground School  
09 DEC-TRCS Meeting  
14 DEC-Ground School  
16 DEC-TRCS Annual Holiday Party  
21 DEC- Ground School  
23 DEC-No Meeting  
27 DEC-03 JAN-Cadet Leadership/NCO School  
30 DEC-No Meeting

### **CADET MEETING NOTES**

*18 November, 2014*

C/2dLt Keith Trotocaud presented an aerospace lesson on the fundamentals of flight.

Flight sergeants led flights in lessons about promotion, customs, courtesies, and uniform.

### **SENIOR MEETING NOTES**

*18 November, 2014*

No formal training was scheduled. Maj Farley conducted a hands-on session exploring the many facets of WIMRS 2.0

### **PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL**

The fifth session of the TRCS Private Pilot Ground School was held on Sunday, 16 November from 1500 to 1700. The course is designed to prepare students for the FAA Private Pilot Written Test. Lt Cols deAndrade, Bergey, and Rocketto presented examples of communicating with control towers, flight service stations, and non-tower airports.

### **TRAINING EXERCISE**

*15 November, 2014*

Six members of TRCS attended the Wing-Wide Training Exercise on Saturday last.

Lt Col deAndrade headed the Planning Section. Lt Col Wisehart and Maj Noniewicz were Mission Pilots. Lt Col Doucette was a Airborne Photographer, and Lt Col Rocketto and Major Lintelmann were Mission Radio Operator trainees.

From departure to return, the participants worked a ten hour day, eight hours on their various duties.

Danbury Mission Base provided three Ground Teams and one aircraft. Meriden provide one Ground Team. Hartford served as headquarters and dispatched two aircraft.

The scenarios were mixed: ELT searches and photography of structures and Connecticut River ferries.

The entire exercise was planned to both train search crews and test new command and control techniques provided by a new version of the Web Mission Information Reporting System (WIMRS 2.0). The consensus or opinions indicated that the exercise was useful and provided a wealth of new experiences which will serve well in fulfilling future missions.

### **LEDYARD MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER DAY**

Lt Col John deAndrade met with middle school students in Ledyard during the “career day” activity. He discussed the requirements for becoming a professional pilot and demonstrated the phenomenon of gyroscopic stability.

### **AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS**

#### *Tale of a Comet*

The recent success of the European Space Agency (ESA) in deploying the *Philae* Probe from the Rosetta orbiter for a soft landing on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. The trip took 10 years and some of the scientists, engineers, and technicians have worked for over two decades to make this extraordinary event possible.

The astronomer Fred Whipple postulated that they are akin to dirty snowballs. Most orbit the sun in both short and long period elliptical orbits which are thought to originate in the Kuiper Belt or Oort's Cloud.

The Kuiper belt is a region of the solar system which extends for about 50 astronomical units outward from Neptune. (An astronomical unit is the distance from the sun to the earth, about 93 million miles.) Oort's Cloud is believed to extend from the sun for a distance of 50 thousand astronomical units.

Some scientists hypothesize that comets, which contain solid minerals and gaseous materials such as carbon dioxide, water vapor, ammonia, and methane in a solid state are the detritus of materials left over from the original formation of the solar system some 4.5 billion years ago and may have seeded the earth with water and organic chemicals.

For most of their lives, comets range far from the sun and are solid objects. As they approach the sun and warm up, some of the gases vaporize, form the coma which reflects the light which might make them easily visual and is referred to as the “tail” of the comet. Actually, the vaporized gases are acted on by solar winds and point away from the sun so that on their outbound journey, the tail leads the more or less spherical “head.”

Many folk tales associate comets with portents of calamity or disaster. For instance, the Bayeux Tapestry, a medieval embroidery over 200 feet long depicts the Battle of Hastings in which the English King Harold was killed and his lands fell to the Normans under William Duke of Normandy. The ancient Chinese believed comets brought bad luck. Native Americans regarded comets as omens of disaster.

Mark Twain, born in the year of 1835 when Halley's Comet made a appearance predicted that he would die when Comet Halley reappeared. He stated that:

*I came in with Halley's Comet... It is coming again ... and I expect to go out with it... The Almighty has said, no doubt: 'Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together.'*

Twain died in 1910, seventy five years later when Halley's Comet made its third pass around the sun as predicted by the scientist Edmund Halley in 1758.

A psychological explanation of these beliefs probably lies in the fact that comets appear in the relatively stable sky, often considered the abode of the gods, and change can be upsetting to a relatively stable social group.

The quest for knowledge, not superstition, drove the ESA team who sought information about the composition of the elements and minerals, the topographic features, and the gaseous environment which surrounds to nucleus of 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, all of which might then help answer fundamental questions about the early solar system and the formation of the earth.

Data has been recovered from both the *Rosetta* Orbiter and the *Philae* lander. Unfortunately, the final position of the lander on the rocky surface placed it in a unfavorable position for its solar panels to receive enough light to recharge its batteries and all contact was lost after about 33 hours on the surface. It is hoped that the orbit of the comet will place the solar cells in a more advantageous position around August and *Philae* can be awakened.

During its short life, *Philae* did manage to provide valuable data and photographs. *Rosetta* will continue to travel with the comet and acquire information about the gravitational field and gases

which make up the coma.

## **AEROSPACE HISTORY**

### *The Last Week in November*

20 Nov., 1953 -Scott Crossfield flies the Douglas D-558-2 Sycroket past Mach 2, the first flight to reach this speed. The world airspeed record is now set at 1,291 mph.

21 Nov, 1917-In an effort to supply the troops of *Generalmajor Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck*, the Zeppelin LZ-104 "Das Afrika-Schiff" makes a 6,757 km journey to the Sudan and back in 96 hours. Unable to land, the airship had return to Germany, setting a long distance record not surpassed for many years

22 Nov., 1929-Robert H. Goddard received a phone call from Charles Lindbergh setting up a meeting to discuss rocketry. Ultimately, this will result in funding from the Guggenheim Aeronautical Fund for Goddard's experiments.

Robert Goddard and his first liquid fueled rocket at Woburn, Massachusetts. The rocket reached an altitude of 41 feet. (Credit: NASA)



23 Nov., 1947-First Flight of the Convair XC-99, the cargo version of the B-36.



*C-99 at San Antonio but Since moved for restoration to the Museum of the USAF*

24 Nov., 1959-First Flight of the Convair 990 Coronado..



NASA's 990, Galileo Galilei

26 Nov., 1939-British Overseas Aircraft Corporation is formed by the amalgamation of Imperial Airways and British Airways.



Vickers VC-10 in BOAC livery

28 Nov., 1946-U.S.S. Norton Sound (AVM-1) is assigned as an experimental rocket firing ship and will serve to test the Loon, Lark, and Aerobee missile.



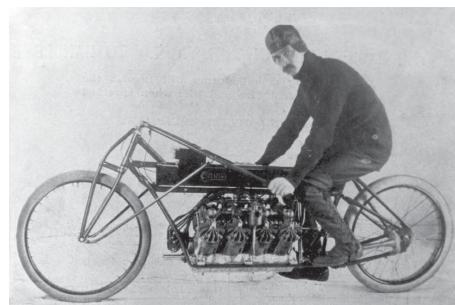
Norton Sound with Aerobee in launch tower on aft deck. (Photo Credit: US Navy History and Heritage Command )

29 Nov., 1958-First Flight of the Pratt and Whitney J75 powered Douglas DC-8.



Cutaway J-75 at the New England Air Museum

30 Nov., 1907-The Curtiss Aeroplane Company is founded.



But before the aeroplane there was the motorcycle! Glenn Curtiss on his V-8 powered bike set the world record of 136.3 mph at Ormond Beach, Florida, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1907.