



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/CMSgt Virginia Poe, Scribe
C/SMSgt Michael Hollingsworth, Printer's Devil
Lt David Meers & Maj Roy Bourque, Papparazis

Vol. VIII, No. 456 18 December, 2014

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENT

21 DEC- Ground School
23 DEC-No Meeting
30 DEC-No Meeting

06 January-TRCS Meeting
07 JAN-CTWG Commander's Call
13 JAN-TRCS Meeting-Commander's Call
20 JAN-TRCS Meeting
21 JAN-CTWG Staff Call
27 JAN-TRCS Meeting

FRUIT DISTRIBUTION

Most of the fruit has been distributed. We have some extra cases if anyone needs more: two 20 lb navels, one 40 lb grapefruit, and four 40 lb navels. Contact LtCol Rocketto if you either want one or have a prospective customer.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Squadron held its annual holiday party under the leadership of Deputy Commander of Cadets 1stLt Emily Ray assisted by 2d Lts Susan Poe and Joel Drost, and SM Frank Crandall.

The food was pot luck and featured pulled pork, chili, meatballs, and a wide variety of sides and deserts, a veritable cornucopia of good eating.



Entrées Y Postres

The party was come as you are with festive garb. The meal was followed by a series of seasonal games and some awards.

Drost received his 2dLt bars and Cadets Ian and Ryan Poe and Ryan Schantz received the First Orientation Flight certificates.. Squadron Commander John deAndrade also presented the Aerospace Excellence Award Plaque which the Squadron has earned for the past decade due to the work of Maj Bourque.



2d Lt Drost has his new bars pinned onto the uniform of the day.



Ian and Ryan Poe and Ryan Schantz accept their First Flight Certificates.

GON RWY 05 IFR APPROACH

Recently Maj's Noniewicz and Neilson flew a two hour plus practice flight in instrument flight conditions. The weather was such that they had to fly missed approaches at both Brainard and Danielson. They returned to Groton and took the photo below on their ILS-5 approach to Runway 05.



Enlarge this picture and you will get a much clearer view of the Medium Approach Lighting system, the green Runway Alignment Indicator Lights, and the Precision Approach Path Indicator.

TRCS PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

This week's session of the ground school was dedicated to a study of aircraft systems and a review of meteorology.

The systems section paid particular attention to preflight inspection and steps to take to solve problems such as a failed pitot static system or an opened circuit breaker.

The time dedicated to meteorology was used to take the review quiz and then correct it to 100%.

Questions about thunderstorms and precipitation static were raised and answered.

AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

A New Fuel Proposal

Recent articles in The Coastwatcher has discussed aviation fuels and the search for one which is lead free. Boeing and two South African companies, SkyNRG and Sunchem SA are collaborating on using a nicotine-free tobacco plant to produce jet fuel. The fuel will be “clean” which might mean that it is lead-free and perhaps smoke free. It will certainly be nicotine free.



An early B-52s using General Electric J-79 engines. Smoke 'em if you got 'em.

AVIATION HISTORY

Weather Satellites and Florida Citrus Fruit

The Florida citrus industry is high dependent upon weather satellites for forecasts, especially freezing weather. Although the temperature in Florida rarely gets below 20° Fahrenheit, long periods of frost can damage the crops.

There are numerous difficulties to prediction weather. Florida is fairly flat but low lands where groves might be tend to cool down at night by the process of advection cooling. Florida is also a peninsula surrounded by water which has a moderating effect as does Lake Okeechobee. A slight central ridge affords good air drainage and reduces the possibility of a freeze.

During the 1960s, a long cold spell with temperatures in the teens caused enormous damage and led to the groves being moved further south where they were less subject to advection cooling but can be damaged if wind drops and radiational

cooling occurs. This leads to crop lost and tree damage.

Florida citrus growers have a number of strategies , many of which are based upon data received from the NOAA weather satellite system.

When freezing is likely, they can heat their groves with smudge pots. They might also spray their trees with water which then freezes. Ironically, this protects the crop because when water freezes it releases heat!

At any rate, the meteorological data from the satellites allows time for preparation and is credited with multi-million dollar savings for the farmers.

SANTA AND THE FRIENDLY AVIATION AGENCY

It was that time of year again and Santa had to take his annual biennial flight review. The need or a biennial each year was due to Santa's advanced age. The only man from the FAA rated in eight reindeer powered aircraft was assigned and made the cross-country to the boreal regions to administer the requisite oral, written, and flight testing and to conduct an inspection of the vehicle.

Santa was queried about the alphabetic zoo of airspaces, limitations on flight, and the complexities of transiting international air space. His documentation was examined: airworthiness certificate, registration, placarding, POH, waivers for unusual aspects of the annual flight, and radio certificate and restricted radiotelephone license were all checked. Finally, after a walk-around, they were ready for the flight check.

The FAA official briefed Santa on what might be expected, especially short and rough field operations. As they prepared to board the sled, Santa noticed that the FAA man was carrying a short barreled shotgun. “Hey,” Santa said,” why the shotgun?” “Oh,” answered the FAA man, “You're going to lose one on departure.”