



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](mailto:srocketto@aquilasys.com)

C/CMSgt Virginia Poe, Scribe  
C/SMSGT Michael Hollingsworth, Printer's Devil  
Lt David Meers & Maj Roy Bourque, Papparazis  
Hap Rocketto, , Feature Editor

Vol. IX Issue 9.14

31 March, 2015

### *SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENT*

31 MAR-TRCS Meeting

18 APR-CT High Power Rifle Clinic  
18 APR-Pilot Meeting-MMK  
21APR-TRCS Meeting-Guest Speaker  
18-26 APR-Ground SAR at McGuire  
25 APR-2 MAY-Aircrew School at McGuire  
25 APR-CTWG TRAEX  
25 APR-O Flights at GON

14-15 MAY-NER Aerospace Education School-  
Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA  
16 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocket Contest  
15-17 MAY-NER/PAWG Conference-Ft.  
Indiantown Gap, PA  
13 JUN-CTWG Op Eval TRANEX  
01-08 AUG-CTWG Encampment

TBA-NER Cadet Competition  
21-23 AUG-CTWG/USAF Evaluation  
15-23 AUG-NER Glider Academy@KSVM  
26-29 AUG-CAP National Conference  
12 SEP-Cadet Ball-USCGA

### CADET MEETING REPORT

*31 March, 2015*

Drill tests were held. The second part of the meeting was run by Ground Team Leader Maj Roy Bourque. Maj Bourque introduced the Cadets to the preliminary steps in earning a Ground Team 3 rating.

### SENIOR MEETING REPORT

*31 March, 2015*

Seniors either attended ground team training or worked on individual projects.

### NEAM SPACE EXPO FEATURES FORMER NASA ASTRONAUT

On Sunday last, the New England Air Museum runs its annual "Space Expo. Thousands, many young children crowded into the museum and participated in a wide range of activities sponsored by aerospace organizations.

The highlight of the day was a talk by Dr. Don Thomas, a payload specialist who flew on four space missions. Thomas focused his presentation on STS-70. Four members of the crew were from Ohio so the Ohioans got the Governor to make Tom Henricks of Amityville, N.Y an honorary "Buckeye" and they flew the first All-Ohio Space Shuttle Crew.

The mission gained notoriety because of the attack on the Shuttle by a yellow shafted flicker, a single woodpecker which persistently pecked holes in the insulation covering the external fuel tank.

The Kennedy Space Flight Center is a federal

wildlife sanctuary so the woodpecker was protected from the use of deadly force. Ultimately, the damage forced the launch crew to move the shuttle back to the Vehicle Assembly Building for repairs.

To prevent further mischief, models of owls, a woodpecker predator, were placed on site. They also used balloons with “large eyes” resembling hawk or eagle eyes to fool the woodpecker into thinking that the area was thickly populated with predators. The scheme seemed to work.

To illustrate the damage, Dr. Thomas got nine kids from the audience to volunteer. Each was issued a chunk of material used in the external tank and a golf pencil. They were then given one minute to poke as many holes in the insulation as they could.

The “Woodpecker” theme continued for the entire mission. Wake up music was the “Woody Woodpecker” theme, patches were manufactured with a woodpecker and shuttle superimposed, and at one point in the mission, when a supply draw was open, a large woodpecker doll popped out.

The major scientific goal of the mission was a launch of a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS) into high orbit. The radio frequencies used by the space program are line of site so TDRS is used to relay messages from space missions in low orbit to ground stations.

Much of the mundane details of a week aboard an orbiter were covered in the question period at the end of the talk.

### AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

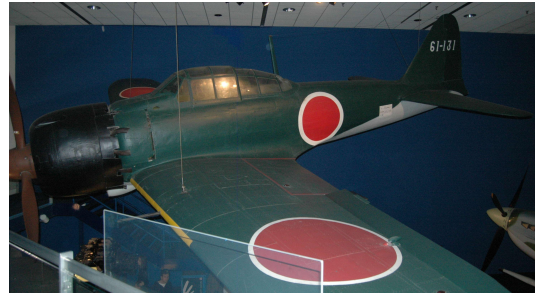
Lt. Col. Robert Hite, one of the famed World War II "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders," died Sunday at 95.

Hite was co-pilot of Crew 16. He was captured by the Japanese and held prisoner for 40 months. He returned to active duty and served during the Korean War, retiring in 1955.

Hite's death at 95 leaves two Doolittle Raiders still alive: Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole and Staff Sgt. David Thatcher.

### AVIATION HISTORY

01 April, 1939-First Flight of the prototype of Jiro Horikoshi's masterpiece, the Mitsubishi A6M Zeke, better known as the Zero.



*Carrier Fighter Model 6, Mitsubishi*

02 April, 1937-Svenska Aeroplan Aktiebolaget (SAAB) established in Trollhattan, Sweden.

03 April, 1933-Two modified Bristol aircraft make the first flight over Mt. Everest.

04 April, 1933-Rear Admiral William A. Moffett and 72 officers and men go West when the USN dirigible, USS Akron crashes off the New Jersey coast.

05 April, 1937-The Douglas Aircraft Company absorbs the Northrop Aircraft Company.

06 April, 1953-First Flight of the North American T-28B Trojan.



*Privately Owned Trojan in Navy Livery*

07 April, 1959-First operational flight of the Northrop Snark.