



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*

21 FEB-CTWG SAREX  
24 FEB-TRCS Meeting-Ground Team Training  
28 FEB-Ground Team Training-Danielson  
  
21 MAR-CTWG WWII Gold Medal Ceremony  
18-26 APR-Ground SAR at McGuire  
25 APR-2 MAY-Aircrew School at McGuire  
25 APR-CTWG TRAEX  
14-15 MAY-NER Aerospace Education School-  
Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA  
15-17 MAY-NER/PAWG Conference-Ft.  
Indiantown Gap, PA  
13 JUN-CTWG TRAEX  
TBA-JUL CTWG Encampment  
AUG 22-23-CTWG/USAF Evaluation  
15-23 AUG-NER Glider Academy@KSVF  
26-29 AUG-CAP National Conference

### CADET MEETING REPORT

*17 February, 2015*

*Submitted by  
C/CMSgt Virginia Poe*

The meeting was cancelled due to snow. The squadron motto for this year is appropriate. We meet less and shovel more.

### SENIOR MEETING REPORT

*17 February, 2015*

*Submitted by  
Col Bernt Balchen*

The meeting was cancelled due to snow.

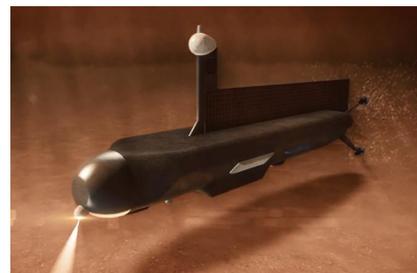
But for a middle initial, TRCS has another author among us. I refer to:

Andrade, John M. 1979. *US Military Aircraft Designations and Serials since 1909*. Midland Counties Publications

### AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

#### *Submarines in Spaaaaaaace!*

It warms the hearts of all the local retired Chief Petty Officers who earned their silver dolphins with the submarine force. The National Aeronautics and Astronautics Administration has been studying the design of a robot submersible which could be used to explore *Kraken Mare*, Titan's largest sea.

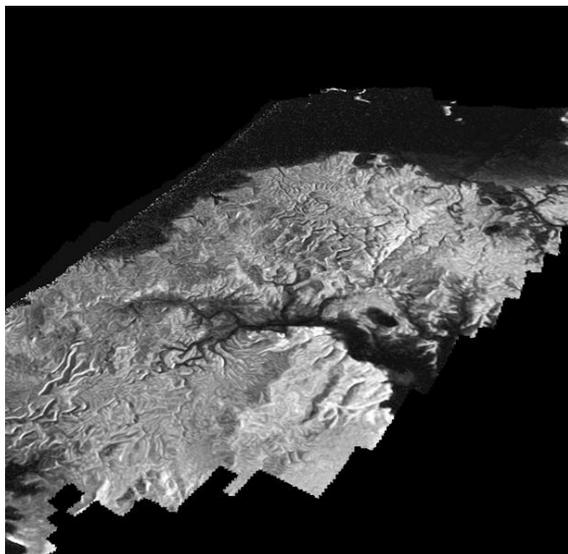


*One NASA Conceptualization of the Titan ocean explorer. (NASA Image)*

Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is the only planetary satellite which has clouds and a relatively dense atmosphere. Almost the size of Mars and 50% larger than the Earth's moon, Titan's -290° Fahrenheit surface temperature is cold enough to liquify methane.

In 2007, radar signals from the Cassini probe enabled planetary scientists to identify liquid, albeit methane, on Titan's surface. The largest body of liquid has been named *Kraken Mare*.

Kraken Mare has an area of about 160,000 mi<sup>2</sup>. This is comparable to the size of California or the Caspian Sea! The maximum depth is around 500 feet and waves, currents and tides have been observed.



*Synthetic Aperture Radar image of features on the eastern shoreline of Kraken Mare. (Nasa Image)*

Design and construction of such a radical vehicle which must undergo not only a launch and a five year interplanetary journey, and a splashdown into an inhospitable environment, is an engineering challenge of the first magnitude. Some details have been considered but as of this time, the “Titan” submarine is only a conceptual design.

## AVIATION HISTORY

### *LAST WEEK'S CONTEST-ANSWERS AND WINNERS*

Cadet Winner: C/SMSGt Daniel Hollingsworth (90%)-Cadet Hollingsworth did not name “royal” aircraft for the Beechcrafts. He also named the Sea Urchin as one of the Supermarine aircraft. The Sea Urchin was a proposal and never built.

CW Reader Winner: Eric Thompson, Capt (MC) USNR (ret) (90%)-Capt Thompson picked Short as the Southhampton firm. As far as we can determine, Short manufactured in London, Rochester, and Belfast, never in Southhampton.

Honorable Mention: Tony Goulart, Hap Rocketto

Here are the answers with a picture of each one of the planes named by a contestant. Unacceptable answers are in red. A correction is in blue.

1. This company had a line of six aircraft named after animals indigenous to Canada but then changed its policy, dash it all! **Dehavilland of Canada: Beaver, Otter**



*DHC-2 Beaver  
Harbour Air's fleet,  
at last count,  
numbered 26  
Beavers.*

Go to:

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/3w\\_v0k57Kh](https://www.youtube.com/embed/3w_v0k57Kh) to hear *The Beaver Song* by the Fretless Bar Girls.

*DHC-3 Otter  
Navy NU-1N in  
Antarctic livery. The  
“N” prefix indicates  
that the aircraft is in  
permanent special test  
status.*



2. The “Sachem of the Board” had his marketers name his line of aircraft after American Indian tribes. **Piper: Cherokee, Pawnee, Apache, Comanche**



*PA-23 Apache, the “Double Breasted Cub” was originally a Stinson design.*

*This PA-24 Comanche was Pilgrim Airlines founder Joe Fugere’s personal hack.*



3. A company established by two brothers whose surname had to be spelled phonetically produced many aircraft whose names bore astronomical/mythological significance. **Lockheed born as Loughhead: C-141, C-5, Orion, Sirius**



*NASA 428 was a Navy P-3A Orion. The civil variant is the L-188 Electra.*



*Lockheed’s Model 8 Sirius was designed by Jack Northrop and Gerald Vultee. This particular aircraft was flown by Charles and Ann Lindberg on two long distance expeditions and bears the name, Tingmissartok, “one who flies like a bird.”*

4. This St. Louis firm selected spooky names for its products. **McDonnell: Phantom, Voodoo, Demon**

*An RF-101C Voodoo bearing a USAF serial number and Nationalist Chinese markings.*



*Armed with four Sparrows, the subsonic F3H-2M Demon was underpowered and had unreliable engines*

5. Started by an aviation pioneer, the line featured the names of birds, especially predatory birds. **Curtiss: Hawk, Goshawk, Condor**



*P6-E Hawk bears the markings of Capt. Ross G. Hoyt, Commanding Officer of the 17th Pursuit Squadron, 1st Pursuit Group, based at Selfridge Field, Mich. In 1933.*

*Curtiss T-32 Condor II sleeper saw only three years of service as it was replaced by the Boeing 247 and the Douglas DC-2*



6. Walter and Olive Ann's company favors royalty for its line of business aircraft. **Beech: Duke, Duchess**



*Filling a sales notch between the Baron and the Queen Air, the Model 60 Duke suffered from high maintenance costs.*

*A light twin engine trainer, the Model 76 Baron was equipped with counter-rotating props.*



7. A line of transport aircraft, this manufacturer, like Cessna, used the prefix Sky- for many of its models. **Douglas: Skyhawk, Skyshark, Skytrain, Skywarrior**

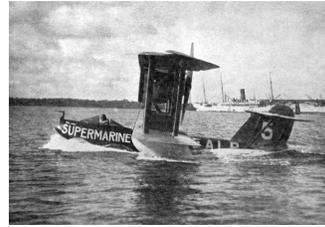


*This invasion marked C-47B Skytrain is at Fort Bragg's 832<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Museum.*



*NSA's Vigilance Park honors the crew of an EA-3B Skywarrior from Fleet Reconnaissance Squadron Two, lost on operations.*

8. From Southhampton in the United Kingdom, a company which started by producing seaplanes used the initial letter "S" in the names of many of their aircraft. **Supermarine: Sea Lion, Sea Urchin, and Stranraer**



*The Sea Lion I was the first in a line of three racers designed for the Schneider Trophy competition.*

*The Stranaer, an anti-sub and coastal patrol plane was a product of R.J. Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire.*



9. Chauncy's company favored rouges and recognized by CAP as freebooters who "sailed the ocean blue in saucy ships of beauty." Chance Vought: **Pirate, Cutlass, Corsair**



*A Stratford Connecticut product, the F6U Pirate's airframe consisted of thin sheets of metal with a balsa wood core. Although equipped with an afterburner, the Pirate was so underpowered that she was derisively known as the "Groundhog."*

*(USN Historical Center Photo)*



Another underpowered Navy carrier plane, the radically designed, twin engine F7U-3 was known as the "Gutless" or "Ensign Eliminator."

10. As this company swallowed up many of its competitors, it lost its panache and now uses numbers when it once used the prefix "strato-" and the suffix "-fortress. **Boeing: Stratoliner, Superfortress**



The Boeing Model 307 was the first pressurized airliner and the first 4 engine airliner in commercial service.



Two USAF planes bore the name Superfortress, the B-29 and the B-50. The picture is of a KB-50J aerial tanker, equipped with an additional two turbojet engines.



The first Superfortress, the B-29. Razin' Hell at Castle Air Museum.

*Some Additions*

Some other aircraft were selected as candidates for recognition in the contest. Here are a couple of the interesting ones.



Douglas A2D-1 Skyshark (US Navy Photo)

*Some of the Corsairs*



SBU-1

O2U



F4U-4

A-7D Corsair II

