



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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Vol. IX 9.09

04 March, 2015

### ERRATUM

*Correction to Coastwatcher 9.07*

From wherever his flying duties have take him, Lt Col Bill Dolan notes that the Beech Model 76 was the Duchess, not the Baron. *Mea culpa!*

### *SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENT*

10 MAR-TRCS Meeting -Commander's Call  
Guest Speaker-Promotions-Blues  
17 MAR-TRCS Meeting  
21 MAR-CTWG WWII Gold Medal Ceremony  
24 MAR-TRCS Meeting  
31 MAR-TRCS Meeting

18 APR-CT High Power Rifle Clinic  
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  
15-17 MAY-NER/PAWG Conference-Ft.  
Indiantown Gap, PA  
13 JUN-CTWG Op Eval TRANEX  
01-08 AUG-CTWG Encampment  
21-23 AUG-CTWG/USAF Evaluation  
15-23 AUG-NER Glider Academy@KSVF  
26-29 AUG-CAP National Conference  
12 SEP-Cadet Ball-USCGA

### CADET MEETING REPORT

*03 March, 2015*

*Submitted by*

*A.G. Bell, Founder*

*Aerial Experiment Association*

Due to inclement weather, the 03 March meeting was held as a telephone conference. The difficulty of scheduling all of the required activities and supplemental activities demonstrates that CAP has a embarrassment of riches when it comes to programs. Agreement was reached and Lt Ray, Deputy Commander of Cadets, will post a schedule.

### SOARING

The February issue of *Soaring Magazine*, the official journal of the Soaring Society of America, carried an article written by the Coastwatcher editor. The title is "Connecticut Civil Air Patrol Revitalizes Soaring Program" and relates the experiences offered to Cadets at Danielson last year and the plans of CTWG to cooperate with the Connecticut Soaring Association for further expansion of the program.

**CADET, AND OFFICER AND FRIENDS OF  
THE COASTWATCHER'S IMMATERIAL  
SCAVENGER HUNT II**

“The Hunt” is open to any TRCS Cadet, any CAP Officer, or any reader of the Coastwatcher who is neither a TRCS Cadet nor a CAP Senior Member. You are not looking for material objects but you are using your memories, publications, web searches, or any other investigative techniques to solve the conundrums.

A prize will be offered to a successful TRCS Cadet and Bragging Rights and recognition in *The Coastwatcher* will be the reward offered to Officers and Reader (unless they are in the witness protection programs). Special recognition will be granted to the senior entry who uses no references but answers the most question off the top of his head. Answers are due by midnight (EST), 15 March.

This week's contest requires you to do two things. First match the aircraft bearing the name to the aviator or aviators who are crewmen. Second, name the aircraft and its manufacturer. Both the crews and vehicles are listed in alphabetical order.

Hints.....

Remember Sherlock Holmes's dictum: “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, *however improbable*, must be the truth.”

If you are using the web, several search words might reduce the number of useless hits.

The Vehicles

1. Bockscar
2. Columbia (Command Module-solo)
3. Columbia (STS-first flight)
4. Enola Gay
5. Excaliber III
6. **جمل**. pronounced *Gamael or Gamal*
7. Glamorous Glennis
8. Hel'n Hiwater
9. *L'Oiseau Blanc*

10. Marge
11. Memphis Belle
12. Miss Veedol
13. Ole' Miss
14. Pudgy V
15. *Que Sera Sera*
16. Rosie O'Grady
17. Spirit of St. Louis
18. USS Shenandoah
19. Voyager
20. Winnie Mae

The Crew Member(s)

- A. Charlie Blair
- B. Richard Bong
- C. Michael Collins
- D. Keys Brothers
- E. Joe Kittinger
- F. Charles Lindbergh
- G. Thomas McGuire
- H. Robert Morgan
- I. Zachary Lansdowne
- J. Nungesser and Coli
- K. Pangborn and Herndon
- L. Wiley Post
- M. Harold Rocketto
- N. Rutan and Yeager
- O. Gus Shinn
- P. Snoopy
- Q. Charles Sweeney
- R. Paul Tibbetts
- S. Chuck Yeager
- T. Young and Crippen

**SENIOR MEETING REPORT**

*03 March, 2015*

*Submitted by*

*Seren Sheleg Nieve*

Due to inclement weather, the 03 March meeting was held as a telephone conference.

Lt Col John deAndrade reminded the Staff that safety currency is required to participate in any CAP activity. Any member who reports to a

meeting or activity who is not safety current will immediately take and on-line safety course of satisfy the Safety Officer that he or she has completed an equivalent course at school or work within the past month.

A review of CAP drivers was made and all were notified about the location of the key and the van. The van will be started and inspected at each meeting. During the current parking crisis and when Cadets drill on the airport parking lot, the van will be used to shuttle personnel back and forth.

All members are required to complete the new Cadet Protection Program by 01 July, 2015.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

CTWG is sponsoring a *Training Leaders of Cadets* course on 28-29 March at Brainard Airport. CAP Professional Development bills *Training Leaders of Cadets* as “the premiere venue for Cadet Programs Officers to learn how to become better mentors of cadets and more effective managers of cadet squadrons. The 2-day course is a component of the Cadet Programs Officer Specialty Track in the Senior Member Professional Development Program.”

The cost is \$25. Information and an application may be found at the following web address:

<http://ctwg.cap.gov/tlc-registration-form.html>

### **FORMER CADET COMMANDER REPORTS**

Eric Nelson, former TRCS Cadet Commander who earned his private pilot certificate under Maj Keith Neilson, is flying the B-52H and is stationed at Minot AFB in North Dakota. He is a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, 23<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron. The last B-52H left the factory in 1962, about two decades before Eric was born!



*Eric during Air Force flight training.*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> has an interesting history dating back to its formation in WW I as the 18<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. In 1935, they were stationed in Hawaii when Mauna Loa erupted. Six Keystone B-5A bombers from the 23<sup>rd</sup> dropped twenty 600 pound bombs on the lava flow, diverting it away from the city of Hilo.



*Above: The Keystone B-5A bomber. (Credit: National Museum of the USAF)*



*Right: The insignia of the 23<sup>rd</sup> refers to the bombing of Mauna Loa's lava flow in 1935.*

During World War II, he flew the B-17E later switching to the B-24. In 1944, he flew a 2600 mile round trip bombing mission, the longest ever flown at that time.

Their Cold War missions included flying the RB-

29 on strategic reconnaissance missions. Their Superfortresses were eventually replaced by the Convair RB-36F/H.

Eric is currently at the at the much warmer Nellis AFB in Nevada participating in Red Flag 15-2.

The official Air Force media statement describes Red Flag 15-2 as

*...a realistic combat training exercise involving the air, space, and cyber forces of the United States and its allies. The exercise is hosted north of Las Vegas on the Nevada Test and Training Range -- the U.S. Air Force's premier military training area with more than 15,000 square miles of airspace and 2.9 million acres of land. With 1,900 possible targets, realistic threat systems and an opposing enemy force that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world, Nellis AFB and the NTTR are the home of a simulated battlefield, providing combat air forces with the ability to train to fight together in a peacetime environment, and to survive and win together.*



*A B-52H from Minot's 23<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron identifiable from the MT tail code and the red stripe on the vertical stabilizer. (Credit: USAF)*

When Eric returns to Connecticut, he will be invited to address the Squadron on his experiences and on USAF careers.

The Coastwatcher Editor was Eric's physics teacher at Montville High School and Eric enlisted him in CAP.

## AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

### *High Tech Devices Search Underwater*

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is still on-going. Last March, the Boeing 777 disappeared from the air traffic control radar while traveling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.



*The missing plane photographed in happier times. Credit: Laurent Errera, AP)*

Data acquired from satellites showed that the aircraft continued flying for more than six hours and most likely crashed into the Indian Ocean west of Australia.

Investigators hope that the mystery of what happened to MH370 might be solved if the wreckage is located. However, locating an object no larger than a 777 is a daunting task when the most probable search area is a 40,000 square mile swatch of ocean, about eight times the area of Connecticut. Moreover, the ocean in the suspected region is 20,000 feet.

Consider the search for Air France 447, an Airbus 330, which went into the water 3330 miles northwest of Natal, Brazil. Floating wreckage and bodies were found near the St. Peter and St. Paul Archipelago which narrowed the search area to a few thousand square miles but in that region, the South Atlantic Ocean is 15,000 feet deep. A fleet of aircraft, surface vessels, and submarines joined in the search. The submerged hulk of the aircraft was located two years after the crash!

Currently, three ships are engaged in the search. They are towing unmanned submarines which travel about 30-500 feet over the ocean floor and use side-scan sonar and echo sounders. Foul weather has hampered the one year search efforts which are scheduled to end in two months.

### *Pilot's Bill of Rights 2*

Legislation has been introduced in Congress which will allow recreational flying without holding a third class medical certificate. The bill will allow pilots to operate aircraft under 6,000 pounds with six seats or less in non-commercial VFR and IFR flight. The passage of this bill will be a boon to the suffering general aviation community.

The bill also includes provisions to improve the dissemination of "Notices to Airmen" and would make the NOTAMs more easily accessible. Information collected by the FAA will be subject to Freedom of Information requests and new liability protections for FAA employees, contractors, aviation medical examiners and perhaps pertinent to CAP, non-profit volunteer pilots who fly for the benefit of the public.

The bill has strong bi-partisan support and is being promoted by the Experimental Aircraft Association, Flying Physicians Association, General Aviation Manufacturers Association, Helicopter Association International, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Air Transportation Association, and National Business Aviation Association.

## **AVIATION HISTORY**

01 MAR, 1924-First flight of the semi-rigid airship N.1 at Ciampino, Italy. Renamed *Norge*, she was the first airship over the North Pole.

02 MAR, 1969-First flight of the Sud Aviation/British Aircraft Corporation *Concorde*.



*Concorde in company with first Boeing 707 and the Boeing 307, the first pressurized airliner.*

03 MAR, 1911-In a Wright Type B owned by magazine magnate Robert Collier, pilot Philip Parmalee, an employee of the Wright Flying School and navigator Capt. Benjamin Foulois, US Army Signal Corps, set a US distance record flying the 106 miles between Larado, Texas and Eagle Pass, Texas in 2<sup>hr</sup> 10<sup>m</sup>.



*Wright Model B Reproduction*

04 MAR, 1957-First flight of the Grumman WF-2 Tracer, an airborne early warning aircraft, later renamed the E-1B.



*Willie Fudd on a USS Intrepid*

05 MAR, 1936-First flight of R. J. Mitchell's Supermarine Spitfire, piloted by "Mutt" Summers.



*Spitfire Mk I displays its beautiful elliptical wing tips at RAF Hendon.*

06 MAR, 1953-Boeing delivers the last of the piston engine bombers to the USAF, a TB-50 Superfortress.



*B-50 Lucky Lady II, on display at Planes of Fame, Chino, set world record with 25,452 miles, 94 hr 01 min flight around the world.*

07 MAR, 1963-First flight of the Hughes OH-6A.



*CTANG Loach in the Hover*

08 MAR, 1917-Count Ferdinand Zeppelin goes West.

09 MAR, 1971-First flight of the TF-8A, a NASA modified Vought Crusader, designed to test Richard Whitcomb's supercritical airfoil.



*NASA Test Vehicle-Dryden Flight Research Center*

10 MAR, 1956-Flying a Fairey Delta 2, Peter Twiss is the first aviator to exceed 1,000 mph

11 MAR, 1941-President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act which allows for the transfer of armaments to other nations whose defense is important for US security. Approximately 43,000 aircraft will be transferred to nations fighting the Axis powers.



*Over 7,000 lend-lease Kobrastochkas, The Bell P-39 Airacobra and the P-63 Kingcobra, fought in the "Great Patriotic War."*

12 MAR, 1946-The Army Air Force School at Maxwell Air Base, is renamed Air University.



*Muir Fairchild Library, Maxwell AFB*