



CONNECTICUT WING / CIVIL AIR PATROL

399th DANBURY COMPOSITE SQUADRON NEWS

YANKEE HATTERS

OCTOBER 2014

399th Sends Squadron Patch into the Stratosphere

Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Sarah Eriksson & Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Joseph Waldron/CT-042

Most people usually wake up with the sun, or later than that, especially on a Saturday. However, that was not the case for some of the cadets and senior members of the 399th Danbury Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, who arrived at Danbury Municipal Airport at 6 a.m. on Saturday, September 13, 2014, to begin their day. This was a day of risk that had been planned for months. It started with a challenge proposed by Second Lieutenant Brian Waldron, 399th Assistant Deputy Commander for Cadets, who said, “I challenge all of you to get this patch past 90,000 feet, and retrieve it.” Now the cadets, with the help of fellow senior members, would be launching a weather balloon along with the squadron patch up into the large and rather cloudy sky. As soon as everyone was ready and accounted for they traveled to New Fairfield High School, New Fairfield, Connecticut, where the adventure began.

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As they arrived at the location, worries about the cloud layer began to arise as very few holes in the clouds revealed themselves. Lieutenant Waldron debated to either delay the launch until later that morning or to continue the project on another day. The cloud layer, however, began to break and 20 minutes later the decision was made. Squadron members made their way to the other side of the school to prepare the launch site for an 8:00 a.m. departure. The setup for

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launching the weather balloon then began with the help of all the cadets and senior members. While setting up the weather balloon cadets rotated to hold the helium tank for safety. Cadets were then instructed to put on blue medical gloves, while the balloon was being blown up. “The balloon's skin, made of latex, is very thin, so care needs to be taken



399th Danbury Composite Squadron Patch at 91,505 feet
(Photo: Second Lieutenant Brian Waldron, CT-042)

when handling it. Sweat from skin and the rubbing off of the balloons powdery outside coating, could lead to premature bursting” said Waldron. The group faced challenges in tying off the balloon, but by working together, the job was accomplished according to schedule.

As the balloon went up into the sky cadets began to pack into the vehicles to follow the GPS signal showing the location of the balloon on the spot tracker. The spot tracker began to send off notifications on the location of the balloon while members of the squadron drove towards Massachusetts in anticipation of the landing. For a while the squadron received the location of the balloon, until, as Lieutenant Waldron said, it hit the "Dark Side of the Moon." The balloon had reached 20,000 feet and the tracker was not able to work. Worries began to spur again with the anticipation of where the balloon would land. Due to the predictions, the expected landing site would be somewhere in eastern Massachusetts.

Two hours after signal loss, at 11 a.m., GPS location transmissions resumed and the squadron was able to identify the landing location of the weather balloon. It was found in a cul-de-sac in Northborough, Massachusetts. Cadet Airman Marc Loewengart (399th Danbury Composite Squadron) saw the weather balloon stuck in a canopy of trees, 150 feet up, and members began to brainstorm ways of getting it down. For the next two hours everyone used different techniques to attempt retrieval, to no avail. Finally a tree company was contacted and successfully retrieved the balloon for the squadron. Everyone then headed back to the 399th's hangar

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at Danbury Municipal Airport after a long, exciting day.

Review of the data revealed the highest altitude attained by the weather balloon was 91,505 feet with air pressure at 0.46 inches of mercury. This altitude placed the balloon with the squadron patch well into the stratosphere. Along with the data came video of the flight with spectacular views.

For additional photos and video of the flight visit Facebook

[399th Danbury Composite Squadron](#)

CADET AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT



Doolittle Achievement

Stephanie Logue



MASTER SERGEANT

Lindbergh Achievement

David Nolan



For Squadron Pictures Visit
[Squadron Picasa Web Albums](#)

And on Facebook

[399th Danbury Composite Squadron](#)

SCHEDULE & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Commander's Call & CAC Meeting
October 1: Middletown, CT

Northeast Region Aerospace Education Officers Course
October 16-18
Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT

Combined Connecticut Wing, Northeast Region Conference
October 17-19
Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks, CT

Northeast Region Staff College
October 18 to 25
Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst, NJ
<http://www.ner.cap.gov/nersc/>

Officers & Cadets

Submit your news and events for publication
to pao@399cap.org

Deadline for the November issue is Oct. 29



Chaplain's Corner

Captain James A. Solomon, Chaplain/CT-042



Who Have You Left Out That You Can Bring Back In?

Two young girls had discovered a new word to use when upset with each other. Their mother was shopping with them when suddenly they became angry with each other. "I hate you!" and "I hate you, too!" they yelled back and forth. "That's not very nice," their mother said. "I'm certainly not going to take two little girls who hate each other to Friendly's for lunch." Five-year-old Jessica quickly backed down. "I don't really hate you McKenzie." But McKenzie, with the clear logic of three years, responded, "Well I still hate you! *I'm* not hungry."

It's so easy to go from accepting to rejecting others based on our interactions with them and our feelings towards them. Yet, in Civil Air Patrol, with one of our core values being respect, we are called to accept and also include others in what we do as a team whether we "like" them or not. As a result, we put the higher goal of teamwork ahead of the lower concerns of personal feelings. Sure, it is good if we seek to understand rather than to be understood when it comes to our differences with others, forgiving them for how they may have intentionally or unintentionally hurt us, rather than repaying hurt with hurt, getting revenge which only hurts ourselves in the long run. Yet, if we don't get to that level, we can at least include them when we are tempted to exclude them, growing in true character, as actions speak louder than not only words but also feelings.

Every person has potential to contribute something good to the betterment of the whole. Whether we are at odds with someone or we just aren't "drawn" to someone due to something about them that is not appealing to us, let's rise above what would hold us below in our thoughts, words, actions, attitudes and behavioral patterns by including them rather than excluding them, reaching out to them, especially if there is a chance that they've felt excluded by us.

Serving with you!



See and Be Seen

Captain Johnny Burke, Stan/Eval Officer/CT-042



When flying under Visual Flight Rules, it is the Pilot in Command's responsibility to maintain visual separation from other aircraft.

Two lives were lost Saturday, September 27, 2014 near Buffalo, NY when two light aircraft collided six miles southeast of the Buffalo-Lancaster airport. The two planes were part of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles program.

The investigation has just begun, so we don't know what happened. Both planes were operating under visual flight rules (VFR) out of the Buffalo-Lancaster airport, giving young people rides to expose them to aviation. We know there was an adult pilot in command (PIC) and a young person in each aircraft. One aircraft managed an off field landing and the two passengers walked away. The other aircraft was lost.

There are many distractions that can keep us from looking outside as often as we should when we're flying. Spending a lot of time entering data in the GPS system, lengthy extraneous conversation, instructing a student, explaining what's going on to a passenger new to flying; these are just a few ways we can be drawn inside the cockpit and not look outside enough to "see and be seen."

Let's re-dedicate ourselves to be vigilant about "see and be seen." Scan frequently, leave some lights on, and brief passengers about the importance of everyone looking outside for other aircraft.



Access back issues of 399th Danbury Composite Squadron News online.

- [399th NEWS](#) -

See page [10](#) for meeting date details, including uniform of the day!



Aerospace Education 2013-2014 Review

Captain Ralph Langham, Aerospace Education Officer/CT-042



The 399th started its 2013-2014 aerospace season in September of 2013. The goal was to hold aerospace meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, and with the exception of holidays that fell too close to an aerospace meeting night and some snow days, we were able to accomplish this.

We welcomed Second Lieutenant Brian Waldron and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Mathew DiBlanda to our Aerospace Education team. Cadet DiBlanda was responsible for in class AE training and successfully brought his presentations to life for the cadets. Second Lieutenant Waldron developed a small air powered straw rocket that cadets fired in a target competition. Captain Ralph Langham had cadets build and fly “fizzy rockets.” Cadets also built rockets for competition against other squadrons at the CATO Rocket Club in Durham, Connecticut. The squadron was also presented with rather large rockets from the estate of Civil War re-enactor Ed Zeiner. A number of these were chosen and flown at the rocket competition strictly for the enjoyment of those in attendance and not in competition.

Lieutenant Waldron took the initiative to get cadets involved in the building, launching and recovery of a weather balloon. This took a certain amount of time to develop and involved cadets learning how to use a computer to decide where to stage the launch and accurately determine where the balloon would land. A caravan of two CAP vehicles and two privately owned vehicles went to recover the balloon’s camera package in Northborough, Massachusetts. Accompanying the cadets were Major Jim Vigar (399th Squadron Commander), Lieutenant Colonel Sandy Sanderson, First Lieutenant Jeff Jenkins and Senior Member Christine Posca.

The weather balloon project was extremely successful. Cadets were able to see the results of the project by viewing video taken by the camera package. Part of the results showed that it reached a height of 90,505 feet and took photos of the 399th Squadron patch at that height. We

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are of the opinion that this is the highest any CAP patch has gone, unless one was sent to the moon or the space station.

As we approach the 2014-15 CAP season we want to thank Cadet Chief Master Sergeant DiBlanda for his fantastic work in motivating his fellow cadets. He will be replaced by Cadet First Lieutenant Scott Padron for this season.

We are in the process of preparing to enter the “What Will Space Look Like in 20 Years” contest to be held on October 18, 2014 at the joint Connecticut Wing/Northeast Region Conference at Bradley Airport. We will provide updates to include those competing and how they did in next month’s news. The cadets will be judged on a two page essay, a visual presentation and their ability to discuss the project with judges from Northeast Region.

We intend to continue our monthly meetings, which will be run by Cadet First Lieutenant Padron, and continue to challenge cadets in the building and launching of rockets, to include the competition in Durham again.

We will also be launching another weather balloon using the knowledge we gained from our first launch. One of the challenges we will give cadets will be to see if there is anything else we could send on the ride without changing the dynamics of the launch and recovery. This goes along with our efforts to continually challenge our cadets and involve them in aerospace projects.

399th Staff

Commander	Major James Vigar
Advisor to Commander	Lt. Col. Peter Sanderson
Chaplain	Captain James Solomon
Administration	SM Christina Posca
Aerospace Education	Capt. Ralph Langham
Communications	1 st Lt. Jeffrey Jenkins
Deputy Commander	Capt. Joseph Bisnov
Deputy Cmdr. Cadets	Capt. Greg Sweeney
Drug Demand Reduction	2d Lt. Andrew Luckey
Emergency Services	Capt. Greg Sweeney
Finance	Capt. Joseph Bisnov
Maintenance/Operations	Capt. John Freeman
Professional Development	Major Glen Dains
Public Affairs/Editor	Major Peter Milano
Recruiting/Retention	1 st Lt. MaryEllen Trohalis
Safety	Capt. James McLaughlin
Supply Officer	2d Lt. Gabriel Florio
Standardization/Eval	Capt. Johnny Burke
Transportation	1 st Lt. Jeffrey Jenkins



Heads Up! for October 2014

Bob Kelly, EPA Meteorologist



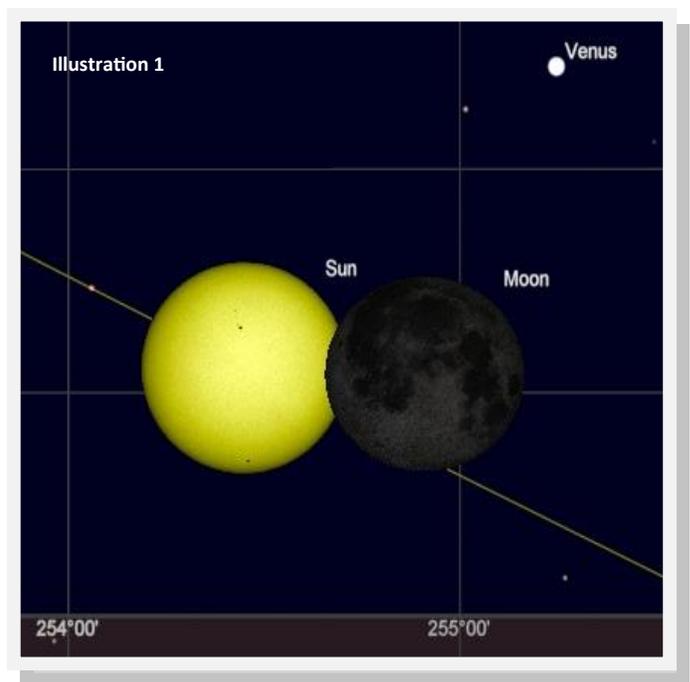
This month has several unusual events people will be interested in watching. Before sunrise on October 8 is the “commuters’ eclipse” western sky. Early morning commuters will be able to watch as the Earth’s shadow will start to cover the Full Moon about 5:15a.m. The Moon will be low in the west and sinking lower as the Moon slides totally into the Earth’s shadow by 6:25a.m. By this time, the twilight will make the Moon harder to find until it sets just after 7 a.m. However, investing in an early rise will have large dividends of beauty for the beholder. You’ll only need your eyes to see this event. Observers with binoculars (or a telescope) may notice the distant planet Uranus close and to the upper left of the Moon. Uranus will twinkle less than a star, and you may be able to detect a bluish tint to the planet.

The other Moon/Sun lineup is also better viewed in the western United States. On October 23, a partial eclipse of the Sun starts just minutes before sunset from our area. Any obstruction on the horizon (especially the Palisades) will prevent us from seeing this glancing pass by the Moon, as the eclipse will start with the participants a few Moon-widths or less above the horizon (see illustration 1).

Another astronomical event in October that will have the public’s attention is when Comet

Siding Spring passes only 84,000 miles from Mars’ surface on October 19. The comet may be visible in our skies as well, but we’ll need binoculars, at least. Will magnitude +0.9 Mars wash out the much fainter comet? What will be the view from the rovers on Mars and the spacecraft in orbit around Mars? Will the comet’s coma be so close and spread out so far

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On October 23, 2014 a partial eclipse of the Sun starts just minutes before sunset from our area.

(Illustration: Bob Kelly)



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across the sky that it will fade into the background?



The Moon will be high in the predawn sky, in the waning gibbous phase around October 13.

Venus will dive deep into the Sun's glare in October. Check out the SOHO C3 telescope's field, where Venus will reside all month. Mercury joins Venus in the C3's view from October 13 through 20. They are closest on October 18. Then, Mercury scoots into the morning sky, getting high enough to rise at the start of morning twilight by the end of the month; that'll be the best chance to see it all year.

High in the pre-dawn sky, Jupiter is well worth a good close look, rising 4½ to 6 hours before sunrise. Back in the evening sky all the bright planet action is low in the southwest. How low can you go and still see Saturn's rings in your telescope? Saturn sets during the middle of evening twilight by the end of the month. Mars craftily avoids the solar glare, sneaking past the Scorpion and hiding in the Teapot of Sagittarius.

The Great Square of Pegasus rises high in the evening Prime Time sky, dragging M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, with it. The Milky Way stretches from the northeast to southwest, passing north overhead after evening twilight ends. Someday, a couple of billion years from now, Andromeda will be close enough to look like a second Milky Way in our skies.

The Pleiades lead the Hyades into the midnight and morning sky, followed by Orion which rises well before dawn, warning us of the coming of winter. The Orionid meteor shower peaks on October 21. It doesn't have much Moonshine to contend with, but it's a small shower, adding a few meteors to the morning sky on October 21.

The International Space Station gives us an alternative bright object to see in the evening twilight sky from October 4 through October 29. Plan ahead by checking websites for over-flight times.

For more sky news visit Bob's blog bkellysky.wordpress.com



OCTOBER 2014 CALENDAR

10/07	Squadron Meeting	BDUs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
10/14	Squadron Meeting	PTs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
10/21	Squadron Meeting	Blues	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
10/28	Squadron Meeting	BDUs	399th HQ	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



399th Contact Information

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399th Danbury Composite Squadron
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Danbury, CT 06810



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/399DanburyCAP>

Website: <http://399cap.org/> **E-mail:** pao@399cap.org

Submission Guidelines

Send submissions in Microsoft Word format or in the body of your email.

Edit copy according to Associated Press Style.

Photos should be sent as attachments in JPG format and must meet uniform compliance.

Identify all persons in photo's and include credits.

Deadline for the November 2014 issue is 29 October

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 60,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Its unpaid professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 25,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. Performing missions for America for over 70 years, CAP will receive the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans.

www.gocivilairpatrol.com www.capvolunteernow.com www.capgoldmedal.com

