



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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10 March, 2015

### *Errata*

*Erik, not Eric. Is the correct spelling of Erik Nelson's first name.*

*The last edition, 9.10, was dated 17 March, 2015. It was a template for edition 9.11. I thought that I had not sent out the 4 March edition due to confusion caused by the recent snow clearance program and meeting cancellations. So I sent out a second edition for the 03 meeting dated two weeks early. I did have some vague apprehension that something was wrong but wrote it off for when you are young and waiting for school to end, time drags. And when you are old, waiting for extinction, time flies.*

### *SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENT*

17 MAR-TRCS Meeting  
24 MAR-TRCS Meeting  
31 MAR-TRCS Meeting

18 APR-CT High Power Rifle Clinic  
18 APR-Pilot Meeting-MMK  
21 APR-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  
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**

*10 March, 2015*

2d Lt Joel Drost presented a character development session involving the interrelationship between two squadron members.

Ms Rachael Manzer, a CAP Aerospace Education Member (AEM) and teacher selected to fly on one of the first commercial space rides told the cadets about the training which she has undergone. Details of this part of the evening are presented in a separate article in this issue.

Cadet Virginia Poe and Cadet Daniel Hollingsworth received the Goddard Achievement Award and promotion to C/CMSgt.



*Cadets Poe and Hollingsworth receiving their promotions to C/CMSgt.*

Cadet Alec deAndrade was promoted to C/SSgt.



*AEM Manzer pins Cadets new Sergeant stripes onto his collar.  
Bottom:*



*Lt Col deAndrade congratulates C/Lt Col Schultz*

Cadet Brendan Schultz received the Eaker Achievement Award and promotion to C/Lt Col.

C/2d Lt Keith Trotochaud received the Winchester-National Rifle Association Expert Medal.



*Cadet Lieutenant Trotochaud displays his new medal earned for marksmanship proficiency.*

For his encouragement and assistance over the years, Ms Manzer presented Lt Col Rocketto with a painting of a CAP C172S patrolling Launch Complex 39 at Kennedy Space Flight Center.



*Lt Col Rocketto and C/CMSgt Poe hold the painting of CAP at Canaveral. (Credit: Maj Roy Bourque)*

## **SENIOR MEETING REPORT**

*10 March, 2015*

*Submitted by  
Rocky Petauristini*

*Commander's Call*

Lt Col John deAndrade, Squadron Commander opened the meeting with a reiteration of the new CAP safety regulations. Basically, no CAP member is permitted to participate in any CAP activity unless the records show that they have completed a safety briefing of some type within the last month.

Maj Paul Noniewicz presented a safety briefing about hazards using home appliances ranging from electrical shock to lint accumulation in clothes driers.

Maj J. Scott Farley explained the differences in funding between Air Force assigned A missions and B missions flown for another agency. Money currently available for A missions is used for pilot training or assigned operations. Money available for B missions may not be used for training but must utilize fully trained aircrews.

The current state of the Cadet Orientation Flight Program was discussed. Money is available but unfavorable weather is hampering the CTWG scheduled flights. Better weather will bring better results.

### **TEACHER IN SPACE FLIGHT SELECTEE SPEAKS AT TRCS**

Rachael Manzer is the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Coordinator at Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School in Hartford and works with both teachers and students to integrate STEM activities in aerospace, robotics, and engineering design challenges to classroom activities.

At the present time, Manzer is also a Teachers in Space Astronaut Selectee, one of 7 teachers selected from across the nation to fly on commercial spacecraft.

Viewing of Space Shuttle (STS) launches while still a pupil led to a dream of one day flying into space. Manzer was a finalist in the NASA competition to become one of the final three selectees to earn a position. She was not selected and afterwards at a meeting, Bert Rutan jokingly referred to them as NASA-rejects but encouraged them to follow their dream, never giving up. She did and has been selected as one of the Pathfinder 7 teachers, all of whom will ride one of the commercial spacecraft now under development.



*The experience is designed to make each of the participants a better ambassador for aerospace education.*

The presentation explained the training which she and the six other teachers selected have undergone for their space flight. The training includes glider flying, parachuting, zero-G flights, centrifuge rides, and meeting with aerospace luminaries.

Manzer has flown gliders out of the Mountain Valley Airport in Mojave under the tutelage of Rick Searfoss, a three time pilot and commander of space shuttle missions. She commented on the specificity of the curriculum and Searfoss's professional approach, demanding precision and good judgement in every maneuver and flight.

Next, she mentioned the zero gravity training. The Zero G Corporation operates a modified Boeing 727. The aft portion of the cabin is padded and as the aircraft flies parabolic arcs, positive and then negative forces either press the riders to the floor or allows them the freedom of floating in free fall. Videos of her experience in free fall did nothing to improve her hair-do but allowed for uninhibited gymnastic displays.



*Manzer explains the physics and joy of Zero G*  
(Credit: Maj Roy Bourque)

The “lightness of being” in free fall is then contrasted with +3 g loads while riding a centrifuge at the National Aerospace Training and Research (NASTAR) Center in Pennsylvania. There she received training in techniques to minimize the effects of high-g loads on performance.



*In a video taken during the centrifuge ride, Manzer is still smiling at 1.6G, equivalent to about a 55 degree bank but 3 G is coming up and that is what is experienced in a 70 degree bank.*

One of the highlights of these experiences is meeting and conversing with some of the personalities who have contributed to major advances in aviation and space travel. One particular example is Dick Rutan, Burt's brother. Rutan was a leader in the development of the USAF Fast Forward Air Controller specialty and flew 325 missions in Vietnam as a FastFAC. A holder of the Silver Star, the third highest medal awarded for gallantry in combat action, Rutan has also been recognized for his pioneering flights.

Most notable is his round-the-world non-stop, unrefueled flight in Voyager, an aircraft built by his brother's Scaled Composites Company. Accompanied by Jeana Yeager, no relationship to Chuck Yeager, Voyager departed Edwards AFB and nine days and 26,000 miles later, landed back in California.

When meeting with such men and women, teachers develop stores of knowledge based upon the testimony of those who have made real accomplishments and can carry this back to a classroom.

Manzer concluded her talk by stating that one should always follow one's DREAMs, noting that the actualization of dreams requires the **Dedication, Risk taking, Education, Attitude, and Motivation.**

Manzer is past president of the Connecticut Science Teachers Association, has been a Distance Learning Education Specialist for NASA at the Langley Research Center in Virginia, and has also taught in the New Hartford, Granby, and Suffield public schools.

Past achievements have included the 2009 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Educator Achievement Award, 2010 Civil Air Patrol Teacher of the Year, 2013 New England Magnet School Teacher of the Year, and the National Aeronautics Association's 2014 A. Scott Crossfield Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award which was presented at the Aviation Hall of Fame in the USAF Museum, Dayton, Ohio.

Ms Manzer graduated *Cum Laude* from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and holds a Master of Science in Science Education from Central Connecticut.

## AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS

### *Harrison Ford Crash*

As Harrison Ford recovers from the fractures and battering which he received in the crash of his World War II Ryan PT-22 Recruit trainer, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued a preliminary report.



*A Ryan Model STK, known to the military as the PY-22 hangs on display at Pima.*

The NTSB report states that after an engine failure, "The pilot initiated a left turn back towards [sic] the airport; the airplane subsequently struck the top of a tall tree prior to impacting the ground in an open area of a golf course, about 800 feet southwest of the approach end of runway 3."

Ford landed on eighth green and fortuitously, a golf-playing doctor, spinal surgeon Sanjay Khurana, was playing on the seventh and arrived immediately, stabilized Ford, and with the help of friends moved him away from the aircraft which was leaking fuel



Ford's Recruit off course on The Course (Credit: Gaz Shirley/PacificCoastNews)

In time, the NTSB will release a report about the cause of the engine failure and the responses which Ford took afterwards.

This is Ford's second crash. In 1999, while under instruction in a Bell 206 Long Ranger helicopter, power was applied too slowly during autorotation practice and although both pilots escaped injury, the machine was seriously damaged.

Ford is rated a private pilot and maintains a stable of aircraft: a Bell 407 helicopter, WACO Taperwing, Cessna 208B Grand Caravan, Beechcraft Model 36 Bonanza, Aviat 1B Husky, a Gulfstream IV named *Han*, and his favorite, a de Havilland of Canada DHC-2 Beaver.

An advocate and promoter of aviation, Ford is Chairman of the Experimental Aircraft Associations Young Eagles Program and active

with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and Wings of Hope.

He has also been featured as a pilot in films: *Six Days Nights*, the Indiana Jones series, and of course, as Han Solo, owner, operator, and pilot of the blockade running smuggler ship, *Millennium Falcon*.

An ironic note is that the aircraft recently crashed was built by Ryan. One of Ford's most well known roles is that of the fictional Jack Ryan from the Tom Clancy novels and movies. Ryan is a former US Marine, retired on medical grounds, after a helicopter crash. This, and his parents death in a plane crash, leads Ryan to develop a fear of flying.

## AVIATION HISTORY

### *Looking Back on the Coming Week*

**11 March, 1912**-Lt. Frank P. Lahm opened an Army Air School at Fort William McKinley, Philippines,. One student, Cpl Vernon Burge becomes the first enlisted pilot.



*Cpl. Burge in the left seat of No. 1*

Cpl. Vernon L. Burge became the first enlisted pilot three years after the Army bought its first airplane. He was Lt. Benjamin Foulois' mechanic on Signal Corps Airplane No. 1 at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, in 1910, and Lt. Frank Lahm taught him to fly in the Philippines two years later. In August 1912, Burge received aviator's certificate No. 154 from the *Federation*

*Aeronautique International* and also was promoted to sergeant.

*Ninety Six years later, Space Shuttle Endeavor is launched on STSW-123 on an International Space Station (ISS) assembly flight.*

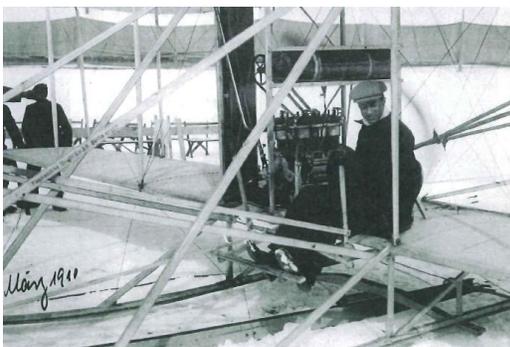
**12 March 1908**-The AEA Redwing, designed by Thomas Selfridge, destined to become the first man person killed in the crash of a powered aircraft, takes off from Lake Keuka, N.Y. on the first public demonstration of powered flight in the United States.

*Ninety years later, the NASA Crew Recovery Vessel, X-38, makes its first flight. The X-38 is designed to be a "life boat" for the ISS.*



*X-38 During a Test  
(Credit: NASA)*

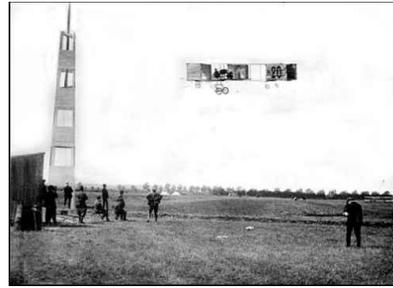
**13 March, 1910**-Paul Engelhard (German Pilot Certificate #3) flies a Wright biplane at St. Moritz, the first heavier than air, powered, manned, controllable flight in Switzerland



*Engelhard in a Wright biplane at St. Moritz*

*Fifty nine years later, Apollo 9 lands after ten days in orbit testing the Lunar Module.*

14 March, 1910-Louis Paulhan flies from Orleans France to Trois, a distance of 87 miles.



*Paulhan flying a Farman at Rheims.*

*(Credit: Library of Congress)*

*Seventy four years later, Marc Garneau is named to be the first Canadian astronaut.*



**15 March, 1916**-The First Aero Squadron commences operations in Mexico during the US punitive expedition against Pancho Villa.

*A First Aero Squadron Curtiss JN-3 in Mexico.*

*Sixteen years later, Alan Bean, the fourth man to walk on the moon, is born.*

**16 March, 1905**-Daniel Maloney is launched by balloon flying a glider designed by John Montgomery.

*Twenty seven years later, Walter Cunningham. Apollo 7 lunar module pilot is born.*

**17 March, 1911**-Lt. John Rodgers, Jr., USN, reports to the Wright Company in Dayton, Ohio under an agreement that the Wright's would train one pilot if the Navy purchased a Wright aircraft for \$5,000. Rodgers was designated Naval Aviator No. 2.

Rodgers was born with salt water in his veins. He was the great grandson of Commodores Oliver Hazard Perry and John Rogers and the son of Adm. John Rodgers. His grandmother was the daughter of Adm. Matthew Perry. His cousin was "Cal" Rodgers, pilot of the first transcontinental flight.

Not all his time was spent flying. In 1917, he commanded the New London Submarine Base!

One of his most famous feats was commanding the flying boat PN-9 on a flight from San Francisco to Hawaii. The aircraft was forced down short of the archipelago and Rodgers and his crew were reported lost. But they fashioned a sail from aircraft fabric and for nine days sailed the aircraft towards Hawaii until rescued by a submarine. Billy Mitchell used this incident and the *Shenandoah* crash to attack both the Navy Department and the War Department.



*Roger's crew*

*Lt. B. J. Connell, pilot; W. H. Bowlin, 1st class Aviation Mechanic's Mate; S. R. Pope, second pilot; and O. G. Stantz, radio operator.*

*(Credit: Government of Hawaii)*



*The PN-9 moored in Naswilliwili Harbor after its epic journey. The crew have signed the photograph.*

In a public statement, Mitchell said the following:

*"I have been asked from all parts of the country to give my opinion about the reasons for the frightful aeronautical accidents and loss of life, equipment and treasure that has occurred during the last few days.*

*"This statement therefore is given out publicly by me after mature deliberation and after a sufficient time has elapsed since the terrible accident to our naval aircraft, to find out something about what happened.*

*"About what happened, my opinion is as follows:*

*"These accidents are the direct result of the incompetency, criminal negligence and almost treasonable administration of the national defense by the Navy and War Departments.*

*"The bodies of my former companions of the air molder under the soil in America and Asia, Europe and Africa, many, yes, a great many, sent there directly by official stupidity."*

Col. Mitchell's court martial followed and his Army career ended. Cmdr. Rodgers continued to fly as a naval aviator, rose to be Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics and was killed in a 1926 crash on the Delaware River.

*Ninety years later, James Irwin, the eighth man to walk on the moon, was born.*

*James Irwin,  
Apollo 15  
(Credit: NASA)*

