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

02 DEC-TRCS Meeting-Change of Command
07 DEC-Ground School
09 DEC-TRCS Meeting
14 DEC-Ground School
16 DEC-TRCS Annual Holiday Party
21 DEC- Ground School
23 DEC-No Meeting
27 DEC-03 JAN-Cadet Leadership/NCO School
30 DEC-No Meeting

FRUIT DELIVERY

We are expecting to receive about 450 cases of fruit, five tons. This will arrive with one day notice and will be delivered to E.T. Grasso Technical School.

First Opportunity for Exercise-Unloading the “semi” at Grasso Tech.

We need volunteers to load the fruit at Grasso and unload at TRCS. Anyone with a vehicle which can carry cargo is needed.

Second Opportunity for Exercise-Unloading a “stake-body” at the Squadron.

Squadron members will be notified as soon as we know the delivery date.

CADET MEETING NOTES
25 November, 2014

The meeting opened with the customary drill session.

SM Joel Drost moderated a “jeopardy” game which reviewed the previous character development session.

Airman First Class Carter, USAF, brother of C/2Lt Carter, gave a speech on AF basic training and life in the military.
Lt Col Rocketto presented C/MSgt Daniel Hollingsworth with the Winchester-NRA Expert Medal.

Cadet Hollingsworth displays his medal.  
(Photo by SM Frank Crandall)

SENIOR MEETING NOTES  
25 November, 2014

No specific training was carried out. Officers worked on individual projects.

PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

The sixth session of the TRCS Private Pilot Ground School was held on Sunday, 23 November from 1300 to 1600. The course is designed to prepare students for the FAA Private Pilot Written Test. Lt Cols Bergey, and Rocketto worked with the students on weather forecasts and reports, preflighting an aircraft, and the concepts of pressure, density altitude, and magnetic variation.

NEW MEMBERS

The Squadron has two new members, SM Joel Drost and SM Frank Crandall. Both work with the Cadet section and both are veterans.

Drost has deployed to Zagreb, Croatia and Sarajevo, Bosnia. In 2007-2008, he served in Baghdad assigned to the Army’s 1st Cavalry and 4th Infantry Divisions.

In addition to campaign ribbons, Drost earned the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3 awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4 awards), Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation (2 awards), Good Conduct Medal (6 awards), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, NATO Medal, Sharpshooter Ribbon for Rifle and Marksman Ribbons for Pistol.

Employed since October 2011 by the VA Connecticut Healthcare System located in West Haven, Connecticut, he currently serves as a Program Analyst for the Quality Management Service.

Local community service has been active with the Baptist Church in Naples, Wilton, N.Y, Virginia Beach, and Groton.

SM Joel Drost

Frank Crandall is a US Army veteran. Severely wounded in Iraq by a land mine, Crandall was...
told he would never walk again due to nerve damage. He spent a year in rehabilitation, seven different hospitals, and within a year was walking!

During his time in the military, Crandall was awarded the Purple Heart, the Army Service Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters. One of which for saving the life of a fellow soldier. He is entitled to wear the Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Wings, Driver and Mechanic Badge for both tank and wheeled vehicles, and the Sharpshooter Badge.

After leaving the army, Crandall served as a firefighter and emergency medical technician of ten years. For the last 15 years, he has been a Project Manager at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft.

**AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS**

**ISS Good News**

Three crew members arrived at the International Space Station on Friday after a six hour flight in a Soyuz capsule from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Two are Russian and one is Italian.

What is unusual is that two of the cosmonauts are female. This is only the second time in the 16 years of ISS operations that two women have been aboard at the same time.

Capt. Samantha Cristoforetti is a fighter pilot in the Italian Air force. Elana Serova is a Russian engineer. The male who accompanied them is Alexander Samokutyaev.

**ISS Bad News**

The Italian built espresso machine, specially configured to work in a microgravity environment was removed from the cargo manifest and will not be sent up until 2015. The 20 kg machine manufactured by Lavazza is called the ISSpresso. The initial shipment will include 20 capsules which can be inserted into the machine and to produce the espresso. Neither Lavazza nor the European Space Agency will comment on the delay.

The cost for launching an object into space is $10,000 per pound. Given the mass of the machine, each of the twenty initial cups of espresso will cost about $2200 each excluding tax!

*Among the numerous luxuries of the table... coffee may be considered as one of the most valuable. It excites cheerfulness without intoxication; and the pleasing flow of spirits which it occasions...is never followed by sadness, languor or debility.*

-Benjamin Franklin-

**AVIATION HISTORY**

**MEMORIES OF DECEMBER'S PAST**

01 DEC, 1941-CAP BIRTHDAY Administrative Order 9, issued by Fiorello H. LaGuardia in his capacity as Director of the Office of Civilian Defense establishes the Civil Air Patrol.