Virgin Islands Chapter

U.S. Virgin Islands

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
Giving History A Future!

"Tuskegee in Paradise"

Volume 3, Issue 2 – February 2015

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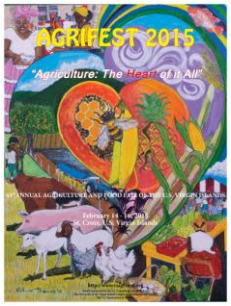
Piper J-3 Cub

Special points of interest:

Membership to the VI Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. is open to the general public. No military affiliation necessary.

Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m., bi-monthly on the last Wednesday at the St. Croix Career & Technical Education Center's (CTEC) Media Library, Room J200.



St. Croix Agriculture and Food Fair 2015

- by Carmen Heywood

The St. Croix Agriculture and Food Fair, also known as Agrifest, is an annual festival where the culture of the Caribbean comes together in the form of food, music, dance, agriculture, farming, and people of many backgrounds. It's our version of a county fair, only much more colorful and exotic in a fashion that only the West Indies can present. Celebrating its 44th year, this three day event, held typically at the Rudolph Shulterbrandt Agricultural Complex in Estate Lower Love, Federiksted, began on Saturday, February 14 and came to a close on Monday, February 16, 2015.

Visitors usually begin their trek through the fairgrounds by first heading to the big food hangar at the entrance where local cooks have a variety of cultural dishes and pastries to tempt the palates of adults and children alike. The building is crowded as people circulate shoulder to shoulder from vendor to vendor seeking out their favorite dishes. Continuing on, a walk across the small wooden bridge leads you down a path lined on both sides with vendors selling food, fashions, arts & crafts, music, books and toys. At the end of the trail stands another large hangar where the farmers are housed with their variety of locally grown plants and produce. The rear of this hangar is designated for schools and youth organizations to display booths with student projects in agro-science representing the yearly theme of the fair.

VICTAI and its youth arm, the Youth Aviation Club, occupy a booth in this same hangar, since the Youth Aviation Club is a student organization. For chapter participants and volunteers, the work begins days prior to the opening of the fair cleaning and decorating the booth. Saturday morning requires a very early arrival in order to set up the tables and merchandise. It's three long twelve hour days that involves standing on your feet advocating for the program in an effort to recruit adult and youth members. We also educate visitors regarding the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. At the end of each day you get to look forward to another day of the same ritual. It seems exhausting at times, but, it's well worth the effort. When all is said and done, the networking has provided new members, new contacts, more community support, and even a little profit from sales. Why not join VICTAI next year for this once a year opportunity?

"The Heart of VICTAI"

– *by Nisha Clavier*

An organization is only as strong as it's supporting members; and boy, do VICTAI members show their support! On February 25th, the first meeting of the year was held in the Media Library of the St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center. Although there were 23 members and one guest present, you were certainly missed! For those that don't know how interesting these meetings are, here is a recap of the last one.

Once Carmen Heywood (President) called the meeting to order, the Treasurer, President, and Service Officer gave their report. Following these officers, different committee chairpersons (Membership, Ad Hoc, and Scholarship) gave their reports. Last on the agenda was Other Business, which spoke of due dates for the Raffle Tickets, the Grand Gala, the Inaugural Parade, and the wearing of uniforms.

While it sounds like the meetings are all business, they certainly aren't! Yes, there is a typical order to them, but the President always finds the time to give two door prizes at each meeting. Don't think it's true; ask Natasha and Regine, our last winners. And as nice as that is, each member and guest who attends also gets a 'thank you for coming' incentive item. Don't you just love VICTAI!

Last meeting, the students looked spiffy in their red polos and VICTAI welcomed its newest and youngest member, 10 year old Haleem Charles. Also in attendance was Achille Heywood, a VICTAI member who was visiting from Queens, New York.

VICTAI has over 100 members, and while the meetings are not always large in numbers, they are fun and interesting. If you would love to show your support, but don't have the time in your schedule to attend the meetings, that's fine. There are many members who love what VICTAI is doing and prefer to be financial sponsors. So don't let your busy schedule stop you from becoming a member. VICTAI will gladly welcome you!!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"If not me, who? And if not now, when?" - *Mikhail Gorbachev*

New VICTAI Members

Dante Galiber, MD
Guyan Augustin
Haleem Charles
Joan Castor-Willock
Roxanne Forster
William Pollard

Understanding Roberts Rules of Order

What are Robert's Rules of Order?

Robert's Rules of Order is the short title of a book, written by Brig. Gen. Henry Martyn Robert, containing rules of order [*rules written by the body itself (often referred to as bylaws)*] intended to be adopted as a parliamentary authority [*a manual on parliamentary law, containing rules of order for the transaction of business in deliberative assemblies*] for use by a deliberative assembly [an organization comprising members who use parliamentary procedure to make decisions].

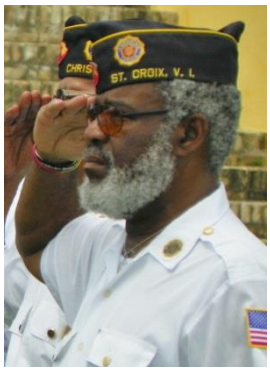
Parliamentary procedure is the body of rules, ethics, and customs governing meetings and other operations of clubs, organizations, legislative bodies, and other deliberative assemblies.

March 2015 Upcoming Activities

Christiansted Community Alliance's (CCA) Vintage Collectibles Fair on Saturday, March 7, 2015 in Limpricht Park, King Street, Christian-ted from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meet Our Member (Adult)
MONROE EDWARDS

- by Cenita Heywood



VICTAI Charter Member, **Monroe Edwards**, was born June 30, 1940 in Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. He attended St. Patrick Elementary School, Christiansted High School and Chicago Dunbar Vocational High School. Following high school, Monroe served 11 and one-half years in the U.S. Navy performing various jobs to include that as an Aviation Jet Mechanic aboard the USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. DD850. His military service included overseas tours to Europe, Asia, South America, and the Caribbean. Upon his departure from military service, Monroe relocated to New York living in the Bronx and Manhattan from 1968 to 1982.

Returning to his home in St. Croix, he held several security positions as an Assistant Supervisor of Security for Government Security Systems and the Department of Health guard company. In addition, he was employed as an Emergency Medical Technician for many years.

Monroe has been an American Red Cross volunteer since 1990 wearing many titles –and performing as many duties– as a CPR & First Aid Instructor and Disaster Team Member. As an American Red Cross Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) and FEMA volunteer, he provided emergency assistance to victims during various storms; tornados, floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters in New Jersey, Louisiana, Texas, New York, and South Carolina.

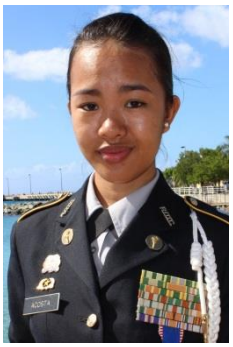
Monroe Edwards proudly reflects on his swearing-in ceremony in the basement of the Athalie McFarlane Public Library in Frederiksted by Senator Edgar Isles, a pioneer of the American Legion Post 133. He has since served Post 133 as Sergeant at Arms, Adjutant, and several other positions.

Being a noble beard-wearing gentleman, Monroe has been a regular participant in the Annual Beard Contest and has won several first place awards in the Curly Category.

Monroe is honored to be a VICTAI charter member because of his first experience having two Chicago high school teachers that were Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen; Commander Cornelius Coffey and Major Grover C. Nash instructors of the Aircraft Power Plant Mechanic program.

Meet Our Member (Youth)
REGINE ROSE ACOSTA

- by Janelle Isaac



Regine Rose Acosta was born on November 11, 1996 in the Philippines to parents Analine and Reynaldo Acosta. She has one younger sister, Hazel.

Regine attended the Country Day School on St. Croix in her early childhood years. She is now a senior at the St. Croix Central High School. Regine's career goal is to become a professional commercial pilot. Her desire for aviation is to fly, meet new people, and travel. Regine has accomplished much since her aviation training began.

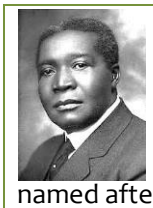
Regine takes off for her solo flight

She attended two Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) Summer Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academies in St. Thomas in 2012 and 2013, and the Charlton Camp for Aviation Science and Technology Training (CCASTT) ACE Academy in Jacksonville, Florida, in July 2013. Last year she had the opportunity to attend the OBAP and Delta Airlines sponsored Aviation Solo Flight Academy in Peachtree City, Georgia where she earned 40 hours of ground training and 15 hours of flight training. Thereafter, she successfully accomplished her solo flight and is now well on her way to earning her pilot's wings.

Regine currently serves as the VICTAI Youth Aviation Club (VYAC) President. During the 2013-2014 school year, she held the position as VYAC Service Officer. In addition to VICTAI and VYAC, Regine enhances her outstanding portfolio as a member of several other organizations to include: the National Honor Society, Interact Club, JROTC, 99s St. Croix Paradise Chapter, Boy Scouts Aviation Explorers, and the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals.

Regine wishes to thank all of the individuals who have positively impacted her life and contributed to her many opportunities for which she is most grateful.

Tuskegee Airmen History: Moton Field - *Adopted by Natasha Sinanan*



Dr. Robert Russa Moton (August 26, 1867 – May 31, 1940) was one of the most prominent black educators in the United States in the first decades of the twentieth century. He was a close friend of Booker T. Washington, the founding principal and first president of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. After Washington's death in 1915, Moton became the second President of Tuskegee Institute. Moton Field, the only primary flight facility for African-American pilot candidates in the U.S. Army Air Corps (Army Air Forces) during World War II, was named after him. Moton had died the year before the Army commenced formal training of African-American military pilots at Tuskegee Institute. But under his leadership, the school had established a commitment to aeronautical training with facilities, engineering, and technical instructors. These resources were a factor in Tuskegee Institute's participation in the Civilian Pilot Training Program, a nationwide endeavor which eventually led to the training of African-American pilots at Tuskegee.

Cadets arrive at Moton Field

The Army Air Corps assigned officers to oversee the training at Tuskegee Institute/Moton Field. They furnished cadets with textbooks, flying clothes, parachutes, and mechanic suits. Tuskegee Institute, the civilian contractor, provided facilities for the aircraft and personnel, including quarters and a mess for cadets, hangars and maintenance shops, and offices for Air Corps personnel, flight instructors, ground school instructors, and mechanics. Over 10,000 men and women served as Tuskegee Airmen, they served in many positions such as flight instructors, officers, bombardiers, navigators, radio technicians, mechanics, air traffic controllers, parachute riggers, and electrical and communications specialists. Tuskegee Institute was one of the very few American institutions to own, develop, and control facilities for military flight instruction.

After pilot cadets passed primary flight training at Moton Field, they transferred to Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) to complete their training with the Army Air Corps. TAAF was a full-scale military base (albeit segregated) built by the U.S. military. The facility at Moton Field included two aircraft hangars, a control tower, locker building, clubhouse, wooden offices and storage buildings, brick storage buildings, and a vehicle maintenance area. The base at Tuskegee Army Air Field closed in 1946. In 1972, a large portion of the air field at Moton Field was deeded to the city of Tuskegee for use as a municipal airport which is still in use today.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Russa_Moton

AIRPLANES OF THE TUSKEGEE EXPERIENCE

Piper J-3 Cub The Piper J-3 Cub is a small, simple, light aircraft that was built between 1937 and 1947 by Piper Aircraft. It was intended for flight training but became one of the most popular and best-known light aircraft of all time. The aircraft's standard chrome yellow paint has come to be known as "Cub Yellow" or "Lock Haven Yellow". A curiosity of the J-3 is that when it is flown solo, the lone pilot normally occupies the rear seat for proper balance, to balance the fuel tank located at the firewall.

The outbreak of hostilities in Europe in 1939, along with the growing realization that the United States might soon be drawn into World War II, resulted in the formation of the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP). The Civilian Pilot Training Program was a flight training program (1938–1944) sponsored by the United States government with the stated purpose of increasing the number of civilian pilots, though having a clear impact on military preparedness. The Piper J-3 Cub became the primary trainer aircraft of the CPTP and played an integral role in its success, achieving legendary status.

In March 1941, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, while touring Tuskegee Institute, took a historic flight with chief flight instructor Charles "Chief" Anderson in a Piper J-3 Cub. (cont.)

This momentous occasion would lead to her endorsing the efforts of the proponents for black inclusion in the CPTP.

The manufacturing capacity that churned out record numbers of Cubs during the war was quickly exploited to satisfy the consumer demand for light aircraft in the subsequent years. Piper Aircraft ceased production of the venerable Cub to concentrate on the development of more popular and advanced models. The era of the Piper Cub was over but its influence on aviation will not be forgotten.

- Adopted by Carmen Heywood

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piper_J-3_Cub

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