



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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19 December, 2017

BONUS
SANTA SLED FLIGHT MANUAL
ATTACHED

CALENDAR

26 DEC-No Meeting
29 DEC-TASMG Tour

02 JAN-TRCS Meeting
09 JAN-Eaker/Mitchell Ceremony (Blues)
16 JAN-TRCS Meeting
23 JAN-TRCS Meeting
30 JAN-TRCS Meeting-5th Week

Erratum

Reader Eric Thompson pointed out the the picture
of the G4M Betty is actually a G3M Nell.

HOLIDAY PARTY

19 December, 2017

The TRCS annual holiday party was a festive occasion following the traditional salute to the flag, safety briefing, and benediction.

The party-goers were fortified by a cornucopia of food arranged by SM Michelle Martin. A half dozen entrees were accompanied by a wide selection of appetizers, beverages, salads, and desserts.

C/SMSGt Daniel Ramsey was game master and led the cadets and a few brave seniors in a number of rounds of pictionary and charades.



*Cadet Dan Ramsey
Constructing a Taco.*

*Diners Flying Right
Wing*



Port Wingmen

*Quizmaster Ramsey
Reveals the Drawing
Task*





Safety Officer Schantz Inspects His Food for Possible Hazards.

The Well Dressed Pictionary Player



Wreaths Across America is held on the third Saturday of December and coordinates the placing of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery with over 1,200 additional locations. The wreaths honor the fallen members of our armed services and merchant marine.



Cadets Donovan, Kirkpatrick, Martin, Race, Simmons, and Thornell and were SM Thornell and Lt Col Doucette participated.

TASMG PARTY



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

submitted by

Lt Col Richard Doucette (USAF Ret'd)

Eleven members of Thames River supported the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Waterford's Jordan Cemetery on Saturday, the 16th. The participants braved a Cadets Donovan, Kirkpatrick, Martin, Race, Simmons, and Thornell. Seniors participating were SM Thornell and Lt Col Doucette. 20° F wind chill for over two hours to place six wreaths at the entrance to the cemetery.

Squadron members worked with the staff of the 1109th Theatre Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group to prepare and assist serving food at their holiday party.



C/Lt Col Daniel Hollingsworth assisted in the placing of the wreath for the USAF.



Left: Cadet Martin, salad server Right: LTC Raymond Chicowski and Cadets Martin, Thornell, Johnson, and Trotochaud.

The 1109th is the Groton based Army National Guard Unit which provides depot level

maintenance to Army National Guard facilities in the New England and the mid-Atlantic states. The unit also sends detachments to operation sites both in the United States and overseas.

The TRCS liaison with the 1109th was Maj Stephan L. Nowakowski, the Facility Supervisor and Deputy Commander. Senior staff attending were Lt Trotochaud and SMs Martin and Thornell.

ICE PATROL INITIATED

Thames River flew the first Ice Patrol of the season on Saturday, the 16th of December. Maj Keith Neilson was mission pilot, Lt Adam Spreccace sat on the right and manned the radios and LtCol Stephen Rocketto handled scanner duties and the camera.



Lt Spreccace checks fuel quantity in port tank.



Maj Neilson checks in with the flight release officer.

Ice Patrol is a mission flow for the US Coast Guard on a twice weekly basis. Eastern and Western routes cover the Thames, Connecticut, Quinnipiac, and Housatonic Rivers and the state's harbors and coastlines. Determinations are made of the ice conditions on the navigable waterways.

The patrol photographs the ice conditions at key locations and transmits the photos to USCG Sector Long Island for evaluation.

Thinking themselves lucky, the trios preflight took place in a warm hangar. But the aircraft had to be returned to the cold outdoor transient parking line. And that's when they discovered that the airport plow had cut one of the tie-down straps. Cold fingers fashioned a suitable Boy Scout knot and the crew retired to the warm

environs of Mystic Jet to transmit the data to New Haven and enjoy the complimentary coffee and popcorn

CURRENT EVENTS

Boeing Action Threatens Blowback

Sometimes, an action can result in an adverse result, blowback. Recently, Boeing initiated proceedings to penalize Bombardier, claiming that the Canadian company dumping the C Series jetliner into the U.S. market at improperly low prices. Observers were puzzled by Boeing's complaint since they do not produce an equivalent model.



(Credit: Bombardier)

The suit which Boeing filed with the U.S. Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission claims that Bombardier is unfairly subsidized by the Canadian government.

In retaliation, the Canadian government may back out of its deal to acquire 18 of Boeing's F/A-18E/F Super Hornet with a possible follow-up order for 47 more. Canada may now consider the Lockheed F-35 Lightning II.



Maybe No!



Maybe Yes!

Boeing has long engaged with Europe's Airbus in a similar feud. However, Airbus argues that military support of Boeing aircraft development is akin to a subsidy.

AEROSPACE HISTORY

The Flying Santa

In the late 1920s, William H. Wincapaw, a floatplane pilot from Friendship, Maine flew a charter, freight, an air taxi service along the New England coast. As is well known, winter flying conditions in New England generally range from fair to abominable. And in the 1920s, air navigation was pilotage and dead reckoning since radio aids were non-existent. And the instruments and techniques for instrument flying conditions were also non-existent.

Often, Wincapaw would launch into marginal conditions, especially if injured islanders needed mainland based medical attention. His technique was to fly low and use lighthouses for guidance. He realized that the lonely lighthouse keepers provided a valuable service for him and for coastal shipping as they maintained their lonely vigil. So he decided to show his appreciation.

Starting on December 25th 1929, Wincapaw loaded his plane with a dozen packages containing newspapers, magazines, coffee, candy, and other items - small luxuries that brightened the lives of those living on the isolated islands more bearable and dropped his gifts to the lighthouses in the Rockland, Maine region. The title of Flying Santa was bestowed to Wincapaw by the grateful recipients.

The early delivery aircraft consisted of a Travel Air A-6000-A, Fairchild 71 floatplane, Bellanca Airbus, Stinson Reliant, Fokker Trimotor and a DC-3.



Father and son crew the Reliant

During the war years, 1943-1945, Major Paul Dudley of the Civil Air Patrol and Edward Snow flew the missions in a Rearwin Cloudster and a Stinson 10A Voyager.



Snow & Dudley prepare to load the Cloudster.

The first flight started a tradition. Wincapaw increased his efforts and expanded his reach to even more lighthouses and then Coast Guard stations. His son, Bill, Jr. and Edward Rowe Snow, a noted author, journalist, and historian. Snow continued to fly "Santa" missions for the next 40 years.

With the exception of one year during WWII, the flights have continued uninterrupted. The non-profit Friends of Flying Santa was established in 1917 and continue the tradition using helicopters.

There are many ways to express thanks and Bill Wincapaw's grateful example stands as a model of gracious and generous action.



*Picture Credit:
Friends of Flying
Santa
Donation Address*

<http://www.flyingsanta.com/Donations.html>

AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY

21 DEC 1990– Lockheed Skunk Works founder Kelly Johnson goes West.



Johnson first worked on the Lockheed Orion and led design teams producing 20 different aircraft types including the USAAF's first operational jet and the “ground breaking” U-2 and SR-71 reconnaissance planes



First and the Last: Lockheed Orion and Lockheed's D-21 mounted on a CIA A-12 variant of the SR-71



(Photo Credit: USAF)

Is the Winter Solstice a Time for Factory Clearances?

While trolling for some items to publish in the Aerospace Chronology, the Editor noted that an extraordinary number of aircraft has first flights on December 22nd. *The Coastwatcher* decided to list them and use a picture and a short description of some of the more interesting ones.

22 DEC- Big First Flight Day

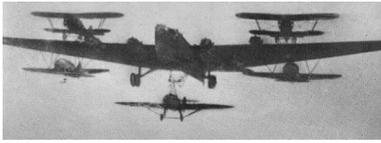
At least 15 aircraft made their first flights on this day: 1930-Tupolev TB-3 (1930), DeHavilland Flamingo (1938), North American XB-21 and Petlyakov VI-100 (1939), Edo TBY Seawolf and Fairey Firefly (1941), Beech Bonanza (1945), North American F-86 Sabre (1949), Lockheed SR-71, Lockheed D-21 and Dassault Mirage F-1 (1964), Northrop HL-10 (1966), Ilyushin Il-86 “Camber”(1976), and the Antonov An-72 “Coaler” and Socata TB-30 Epsilon (1979).

Perhaps the most interesting plane in this melange of aircraft is the TB-3. It was the first cantilever wing four engine bomber and served throughout WWII.

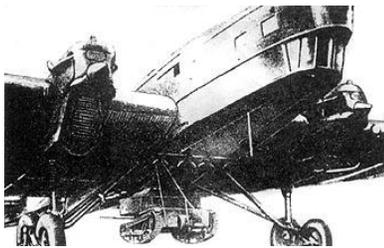


A painting of the TB-3 in its bomber configuration

But most interesting were the unusual variations.



A TB-3 mothership carrying 2 Polikarpov I-5s on top of the wing, two Polikarpov I-16s under the wing and a Grigorovich IZ-2, recoverable with a trapeze mechanism under the fuselage.



A TB-3 used to transport a 2.7 ton T-27 tankette



The wing gets crowded when 36 paratroopers exit from a dorsal hatch and then slide off the wing.

23 DEC 2002 – An Iraqi Mig-25 Foxbat engaged in an aerial duel with a U.S. General Atomics MQ-1B Predator over the northern “no-fly” zone imposed by the U.S., the U.K., and the French to protect the Kurds from Sadaam Hussein's air forces.



Foxbat and Predator Prey

The Predator was on a reconnaissance mission and armed with the AIM-92 Stinger and the Foxbat probably carried the R-40 Acrid. The aircraft fired at each other. The Stinger missed but the Acrid did not. The best analysis of what happened is that the Stinger's infrared homing system was “confused” by the Acrid's exhaust plume.



Stinger vs. Acrid

24 DEC 1995 -The North American Air Defense command (NORAD) tracks Santa for the first time. This began when a Colorado-based Sears store had published a number for children to be able to call Santa Claus. A typo was made, and the number instead led to the hotline for the Director of Operations at Continental Air Defense Command. Realizing the mistake, the director told his team to give the position of Santa to whomever had called in.

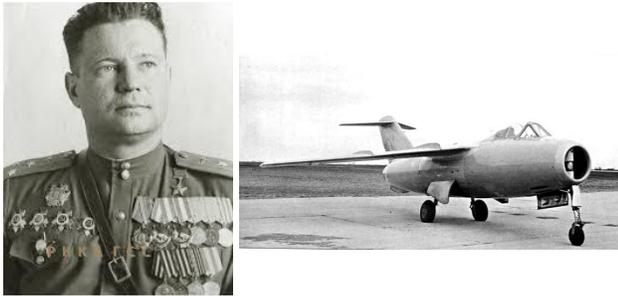
Welcome Present on Christmas Eve

25 DEC 1981 – The *Odyssey*, a fishing boat, hauls USAF lieutenant Thomas Tiller from the Atlantic Ocean. Tiller, a weapons system officer, had ejected from his F-4E seven days earlier.



*An Air Force One Man Life Raft
Imagine seven days afloat in the winter Atlantic Ocean
(Credit: Switik)*

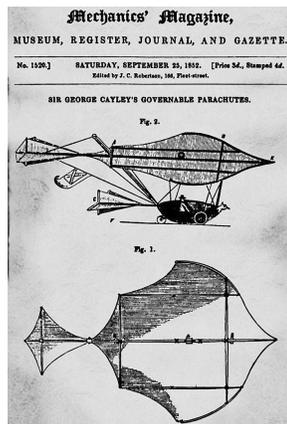
26 DEC 1948 – Col. Ivan E. Fedorov is the first Soviet pilot to break the sound barrier diving a Lavochkin La-176.



Fedorov was a Soviet fighter pilot who fought in the Spanish Civil War on the Nationalist side, against the Japanese in the Battle of Khalkhin Gol, the Finns in the Russo-Finnish Wars, the Germans in what the Soviet Union calls the Great Patriotic War, and the United States in Korea. Depending on the source, he is credited with between 49 and 135 aerial victories.

In 1941, he was on an exchange program with Nazi Germany. Fedorov so impressed Hitler with his flying that he was awarded an Iron Cross from the hands of *Der Fuhrer* himself! Four days after he returned to Russia, the Germans launched Operation Barbarossa!

27 DEC 1773 – George Cayley born. Cayley is claimed by some as the “father of aviation” because of his early glider experiments. In 1853, his coachman “danced aloft” on a Cayley glider, perhaps the first manned fixed wing flight in history.



28 DEC 1945 – First flight of the Edo XOSE-1, prototype of the Edo SOE. Edo is now known as a leading manufacturer of floats for seaplanes.



29 DEC 1939 – First flight of the Consolidated B-24 Liberator. The homely sister of the glamorous B-17, almost 20,000 were produced compared to 12,000 Flying Fortresses.



(Credit: Consolidated Aircraft)

30 DEC 1970 – Jeanne Holm became the first female General in the United States Air Force, also the first of that rank in any military branch.



The Civil Air Patrol award for the CAP Aerospace Officer of the Year is named in her honor. (Credit USAF)

31 DEC-Bad Day for Celebrities

1985 – Singer-songwriter and actor Ricky Nelson is killed with six others when his leased DC-3 crashes near DeKalb, Texas.



The Duke critiques Ricky's performance

1972 – [Pittsburg Pirate](#) player [Roberto Clemente](#) dies in the crash of a DC-7CF off the coast of Puerto Rico. Clemente had chartered the aircraft to deliver relief supplies to Nicaragua after a devastating earthquake.



Pittsburg's Roberto Clemente pirates New York Met batter Cleon Jones of a hit in a game played at Shea Stadium.

01 Jan 2003 – Congressional Medal of Honor winner Joe Foss goes West. Foss earned The Medal flying for the USMC in WWII. He later served as a brigadier general in the South Dakota ANG, Governor of South Dakota, and president of the National Football League and the National Rifle Association.



Foss , Marion Carl, and Lindbergh in the Pacific.
(Credit: USMC)

02 Jan 1975 – Theodor Osterkamp goes West. Osterkamp was one of the few pilots who earned ace honors in both WWI with 32 kills and WWII with six kills



Osterkamp and his Fokker D.VIII

03 JAN 1909 – The first pitot tube airspeed indicator is patented by Alec Ogilvie, a pioneer aviator and inventor.



(wright bros.org)



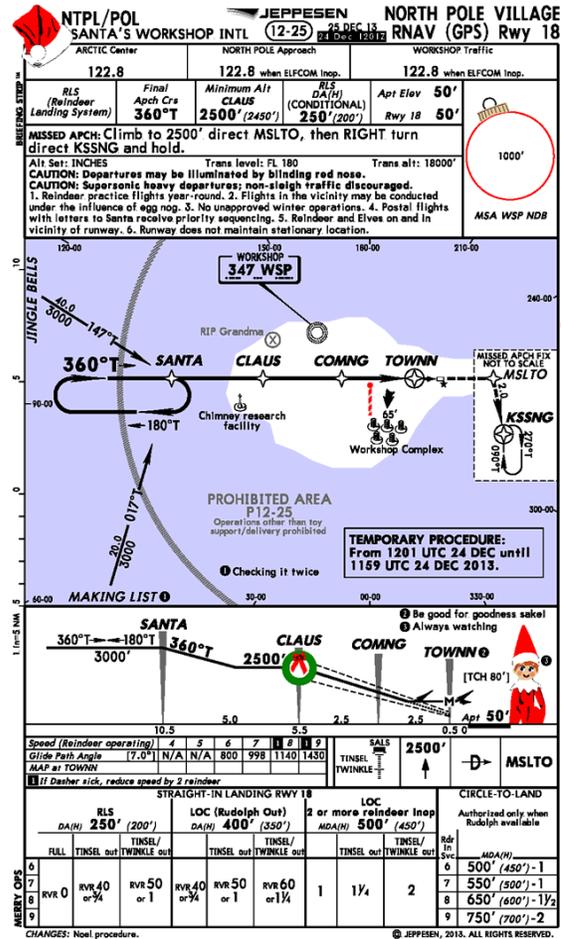
Alec Ogilvie with Wilbur Wright probably during the latter's visit to Eastchurch in July of 1911. An early example of an Ogilvie spring-loaded airspeed indicator is visible to the left center.

THERE IS NO ESCAPING THE LONG ARM OF THE FAA BUREACRACY

The FAA Sikorsky S-76 showed up at Santa's Workshop last week. An FAA inspector, cart-wright, and veterinarian disembarked and met with the jolly old elf, notifying him that the time for his biennial check ride and aircraft inspection was due.



While the cart-wright and veterinarian went out to check the sleigh and power plants, the inspector went over Santa's paperwork, and conducted a brief oral exam, focusing on short field landings flight in impossible instrument conditions, and the North Pole Village approach plate.



The review completed, the cart-wright and vet reported that the sleigh and all nine power plants passed inspection. The inspector sent Santa out to make the preflight while he enjoyed a last cup of Mrs. Kringle's hot chocolate and munched the remainder of the sugar cookies.

He then went out and returned to the chopper, removed a shotgun from the baggage compartment and climbed into the sleigh's right seat. Santa, somewhat bemused ask the inspector the reason for the shotgun. The inspector replied, "Your going to lose an engine on take-off."