



Missions for America

*Semper vigilans!*  
*Semper volans!*

# The Coastwatcher

Newsletter of the Thames River Composite  
Squadron  
GON  
Connecticut Wing  
Civil Air Patrol

<http://cap-ct075.com/default.aspx>

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## SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

22 DEC-Squadron Holiday Party  
29 DEC-NO MEETING

## FOR FUTURE PLANNING

08 JAN-LEDYARD A/S FESTIVAL  
22-29 JAN-Danielson Bivouac  
27-28 FEB-CLC Course  
27-28 MAR-UCC Course  
Spring-SLS Course-Date TBA

## CADET MEETING MINUTES

*15 December 2009*

Under the direction of Cadet Abi Wojtcuk, the Cadet Room was rearranged. Basically, the seating pattern was rotated ninety degrees counterclockwise as seen from above and the Cadet Commander's desk is now in the rear of the room.

Cadets Wojtcuk<sup>2</sup> then team taught the fine points of boot polishing.

Maj Bourque conducted an aerospace lesson based on *Aerospace Dimensions Module 4, Rockets*.

A current events report was presented by Major Rocketto and follows in a separate article.

Cadets were reminded to plan to attend the Ledyard Aerospace Festival on the 08 January and the Danielson Bivouac on 22-23 January

## CADETS

**CHECK OUT THE CONTEST ON THE  
LAST PAGE OF *THE COASTWATCHER*.**

## CURRENT EVENTS

### *GEMINIDS*

Maj Rocketto reviewed his observations of Monday mornings Geminid meteor shower. A thin overcast obscured stars dimmer than magnitude three so very few meteors were observed.

### *FIRST FLIGHTS*

Two long delayed aircraft made first flights this week.

In Seville, Spain, the Airbus A400M military airlifter flew on 12 December. Slated by Common Market and the Malaysian Air Forces as a replacement for the Lockheed C-130 and the Transall C-160. The A400M is noted for its carbon fiber wings, eight bladed scimitar shaped propellers, and four of the second most powerful turboprop engines produced.

On 15 December at Everett, Washington, the long awaited Boeing 787 Dreamliner took flight. Approximately fifty percent of the structure of the 787 is composed of composite materials. Both Rolls-Royce and General Electric have been chosen to supply the fuel efficient engines and

Interestingly, both of these aircraft were flown well behind schedule due to technical and production difficulties. The Dreamliner was first conceived of in 2003, rolled out in 2007, and took flight, after six delays, today, a time span of about

seven years. Compare this with two remarkable aircraft, the war-time North American P-51 Mustang and the Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star.

From conception to first flight, the Mustang took about four months and the Shooting Star took about four and a half months.

NASA's Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer departed Vandenberg Air Force Base for polar orbit today aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta II vehicle. The satellite will spend about a year and a half performing a sky survey in the infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum with the anticipated result of many new discoveries.

The atmosphere is opaque to infrared radiation due to its moisture content so a 329 mile high orbit will be used for the survey.

### **SENIOR PROMOTIONS**

SM Charles Dickenson was promoted to Second Lieutenant.

### **THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

The CTWG Inspector General, LtCol Carl Stidsen and his assistant, Maj Chris Kelling conducted the biennial review of the Squadron facilities and records. They interviewed Department Heads and examined pertinent documentation and equipment. A report on their findings will be submitted to Wing, Region, and National Headquarters.



*Col Stidsen Reviews SUI Documents*

### **THE CONTEST**

#### **GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX**

This issue revises the periodic contests for our readership. A prize will be offered to the Cadet who emails in the best answer by the Monday night following publication. All members are eligible to compete but Seniors, Col Stidsen, pictured above always gets it right. And now for the contest.

In his wanderings, Maj Rocketto finds the usual and the unusual in aircraft. Here is last week's findings at Skylark Airpark, Warehouse Point, CT.

Use your computer capabilities to blow up the pictures and research the clues.



*Mystery Aircraft #1  
Go the the "FAA  
Registry Inquiry"  
on the Internet*

Mystery Aircraft #2  
"The Flying  
Bathtub" but which  
one?

