



The Daedalean

Semper Discens

*Monthly Aerospace Education Newsletter of the Connecticut
Wing of the Civil Air Patrol*

*Stephen M. Rocketto, Capt., CAP
Director of Aerospace Education
CTWG
srocketto@aquilasys.com*

*Volume II, Number 1
January, 2009*

CALENDAR

JANUARY

05 JAN-Monthly AEX Report Due
07 JAN-Squadron Commander's Call
15 JAN-Squadron A/E Reports Due
21 JAN-Wing Staff Meeting
31 JAN-CAP Scholarship Applications Due

FOR FUTURE PLANNING

TBA APR-Wing DC Trip ((between 10-17 April)
TBA-APR, MAY, or JUN-Rocketry Contest
TBA-MAY or JUN-Wing Rifle Tournament

ANNUAL REPORTS COMING DUE

All Squadron Aerospace Education Officers are advised that the mandatory annual Squadron "Aerospace Education Activity Report" is due on January 15th, 2009. These reports form the basis for our Wing Report prepared by the DAE.

Many of the good programs which you have go unreported and we are hoping for a 100% response this year. The report may be found on pages 47 and 48 of the "Aerospace Education Officers' Handbook" which is CAPP 15. You may obtain a copy by going to the following web address:
http://level2.cap.gov/documents/u_082503081605.

CADETS EARN YEAGER AWARDS



The 143rd Squadron out of Waterbury reports that the following Cadets have earned the Yeager Award in the last month: C/Capt Cody Harris, C/CMSgt Benjamin Conway, C/SSgt Jerrell D. Little, and C/TSgt Eric Testman.

Earlier this year, C/1Lt Ashley LaPlante of Silver City also qualified for the Yeager.

WRITERS WANTED

The Daedalean invites the readers to submit articles for publication. The first such article, by Cadet Shawn East is part of a series, "The Golden Age of Flight." and discusses the Boeing P-25 Peashooter.

WING RIFLE COMPETITION

The Wing will hold a smallbore rifle competition in the spring. No details are set but most likely, the course of fire will be 20 shots for record at 50 yards from the prone position using metallic sights. The tournament will be held at the Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club. Firearms, ammunition, and targets will be supplied although Cadets may use their own approved rifles if they so desire. Prizes will be awarded by the Lewis System in which the entire field is broken into thirds and awards are presented in each third. Suggestions are welcome. Contact Capt Stephen Rocketto, DAE, at srocketto@aquilasys.com

2009 WING ROCKET CONTEST Tentative Draft Rules

In order to allow sufficient time for preparation, we are publishing a tentative set of "Rules of Engagement" for the 2009 contest and invite comments from the Squadrons. The Contest will provide a basis for some winter aerospace and AEX activity. Hopefully, the contest will again be held in conjunction with the Connecticut amateur rocketry club, CATO with a date to be announced, hopefully in the month of April, May, or June.

Here are the draft rules:

1. Novices who have not competed in a previous contest will construct an Estes Alpha (balsa fins). The rocket will be decorated with a Squadron theme design.
2. Squadrons will enter a kit built rocket which replicates a historical vehicle. The entry will include a 300-500 page essay, typed and double spaced on why the rocket is historically important.
3. A scratch built rocket will be constructed based upon the theme, "Comic Characters." These characters might include but are not limited to characters such as Superman, Mighty Mouse, Snoopy, or some other figure from newspapers, books, cinema, or TV.

Engine size for any entry is limited to D size engines.

Points will be assigned for quality of construction and decoration, flight, and uniqueness. A more complete list of criteria for judging will be forthcoming. If possible, we would like to expand the list of rockets submitted for judging but this may depend upon the participation and time available.

Readers are invited to submit suggestions for the 2009 contest. Email them to *The Daedalean* address on the masthead.

WING DC TRIP

The Aerospace Education Staff is setting up a Wing trip to the Washington, DC area which will take place during the statewide school vacation in the spring which occurs during the week of April 10-17 and will last four or five days.

The aerospace/military venues for the trip are the NASM at both the Mall and Dulles, the USMC Museum, the NRA National Firearms Museum, the USN Test Pilot Museum at Pax River, the USAF Air Transport Museum at Dover, the USA Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen, the NSA Museum and Vigilance Park, Goddard Space Flight Center, the Air Circus at Bealton, VA. All are located within 1.5 hours of the DC area.

Additionally, we might think of the FBI, Bureau of Engraving, National Archives, Holocaust Museum, and all of the Mall' other buildings and monuments.

These are just a few ideas and I have not touched on the full range of possibilities.

The idea would be to split up into special interest groups during a four day period and have the Cadets follow their own interests. We might also consider setting up some special events in advance by prior arrangement with staff at the sites.

Suggestions are welcome. Contact Capt Stephen Rocketto, DAE, at srocketto@aquilasys.com and send a copy to CAPT Art Dammers,. Wing Internal Aerospace Officer at art327@cox.net.



Let's Go to Washington!

THE GOLDEN AGE OF FLIGHT I The Boeing P-26 "Peashooter"

by

Cadet Shawn East
Thames River Composite Squadron

The first historic aircraft in our series is one that holds a unique place in United States aviation history, the Boeing P-26. Nicknamed the Peashooter, this single engine pursuit plane was built by the Boeing Corporation from June 1932 until August 1934. The Peashooter was an innovative plane. It was the big step up from the fabric covered biplanes of the First World War and led the way to the sleek fast fighters of the Second. The P-26 was the first all metal monoplane and the last fixed gear open cockpit fighter to enter service with the United States Army Air Corps.

The plane's armament consisted of either two 30 caliber or one 50 caliber and one 30 caliber machine gun mounted in the nose and it could carry 200 pounds of bombs. The 600 horse power Pratt and Whitney radial engine could push the diminutive plane to a top speed of 234 mph.

The P-26 saw little combat while serving with the United States military. They were used to equip units both within the United States and in the Panama Canal Zone. The P-26 was produced for export also.



USAF Museum Reproduction in the Colors of the 19th Pursuit Squadron, Wheeler Field, Territory of Hawaii, 1936

Eleven went to China and one was sent to Spain.

Serving with the Chinese Air Force, the P-26 saw some action over Nanking when a few P-26s intercepted a formation of Japanese bombers and caused heavy damage while sustaining none of their own. Peashooters piloted by Filipino pilots also scored some of the first victories against Japanese opponents during opening days of the attack against the United States

After the war the United States sold its remaining P-26s to other countries. Guatemala employed them until the late 50's when they were replaced with Mustangs.

Planes of Fame P-26, Chino Field, California



There are three P-26's remaining in museums today. Two of these planes were serving with the Guatemalan Air Force until they were retired and returned to the United States Air force in 1957. One of these planes is currently on display at the Planes of Fame Museum in Chino California. In 2004 this plane was restored to flying condition and participates in the Planes of fame Air show. Another is on display in the National Air and Space Museum. The third is a replica built to original standards at the US Air Force Museum.



Peashooter at Udvar-Hazy Annex, NASM

The P-26 is a plane that has been overlooked and forgotten in the slipstreams of the faster and larger planes that followed but the truth is that the P-26 was a great American fighter that earned its place as a crucial link between the fabric fixed gear biplanes and the metal retractable gear monoplanes.

MEMORIES OF JANUARYS PAST

01 JAN, 1914-According to the U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission, the Airboat Line initiates the first scheduled airline passenger service in the United States flying between St. Petersburg and Tampa. Curiously, The Commission also lists 15 January, 1914 for the same honor, stating that the Benoist Company starts the first *regularly* scheduled passenger service.

02 JAN, 1967-Col Robin Olds shot down a MiG-21 to become the first and only USAF ace to score kills in both World War II and Vietnam.

03 JAN, 1981-Pan American World Airways retires its last Boeing 707.



Boeing Stratoliner in PanAm Livery

04 JAN, 1989-Two Libyan MiG-23s are shot down by USN F-14s over the Gulf of Sidra.

05 JAN, 1943-Maj. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz is appointed Commander in Chief of Allied Air Forces in North Africa.

06 JAN, 1925-The German air carriers, *Junkers* and *AeroLloyd* amalgamate to form *Deutsche Lufthansa*.

07 JAN, Major Carl Spaatz and his crew land their Fokker C-2 trimotor in Los Angeles after using aerial refueling to set a new endurance record of almost 151 hours. Other members of the crew included Capt. Ira Eaker, Lt. Harry Halverson, Lt. Elwood Quesada, and Sgt. R. W. Hooe.



08 JAN, 1933-First Flight of the Boeing 247.

Boeing 247, Nip and Tuck which Roscoe Turner and Clyde Pangborn Flew to a Third Place Finish in the 1934 MacRobertson England to Australia Air Race.

09 JAN, 1943-First Flight of the Lockheed C-69 Constellation piloted by Eddie Allen and Milo Burcham, Burbank, California.



The Glamorous Connie in its Twilight Hours, Relegated to Transporting Sheep from Argentina to Peru.

10 JAN, 1961-First Flight of the Bell 206A JetRanger.



JetRanger at WST

11 JAN, 11945-Capt. William A. Shomo sets AAF record of seven enemy air victories in a single engagement.

12 JAN, 1866-The Aeronautical Society of Great Britain founded, forerunner of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

13 JAN, 1908-Henri Farman sets an absolute speed record of 32.74 mph flying a Voisin-Farman biplane.

14 JAN, 1953-Lt Joseph M. McConnell, Jr., flying an F-86 Sabre Jet records his first aerial victory, shooting down a North Korean MiG-15. McConnell, a WW II B-24 navigator, went on to become the leading USAF ace of the Korean War with a total of 16 aerial victories.

15 JAN, 1991-The first hot air balloon to cross the Pacific launches from Japan to land, eventually, in Canada. The crew of Per Lindstrand and Richard Branson average about 140 mph and fly as fast as 245 mph in the westerly jet stream.

16 JAN, 1926-The Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics is founded. The Fund will support Goddard's rocket research, the development of blind flying instrumentation, and the promotion of aeronautical engineering among its many projects.

17 JAN, 1966-A "Broken Arrow" event occurs when a B-52 and KC-135 collide near Palomares Spain with the loss of seven crewmen but the four hydrogen bombs will eventually be recovered.

18 JAN, 1942-First Flight of the Sikorsky VS-44A

19 JAN, 1910-At Los Angeles, Lt Paul Beck, flying a Farman biplane drops sandbags in the first U.S. Army experiment in aerial bombardment.

20 JAN, 1937-Howard Hughes, in his H-1 racer, sets a new transcontinental speed record of 332 mph.



The Hughes Racer at NASM on the Mall

21 JAN, 1974-First Flight of the YF-16. During a

high speed taxi test, the aircraft accidentally lifts off and test pilot Phil Oestreicher makes a decision to take it around the pattern.

22 JAN, 1952-At Wallops Island, Virginia, NACA engineers run the first test on a rocket propelled vehicle incorporating the Whitcomb Area Rule.

23 JAN, 1970-NASA launches the first Improved TIROS Operational Satellite (ITOS), the forerunner of the the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's polar orbiting meteorology satellites

24 JAN, 1972-Singapore Airlines is formed.

25 JAN, 1983-First Flight of the Saab-Fairchild 340.



Swedish Designed Regional Airliner, Saab 340

26 JAN, 1953-Chance-Vought produces the last F4U Corsair after a 13 year production run.

27 JAN, 1967-Gus Grissom, Edward White, and Roger Chaffee, the crew of "Apollo One" lost when an fire breaks out inside their capsule during a training exercise.

28 Jan., 1986-The crew of Challenger, Space Shuttle Mission 51-L lost when, just after launch, exhaust leaking from a faulty joint in a solid rocket booster ignites the fuel in the external fuel tank.

29 JAN, 1953-First Flight of the Morane-Sulnier M.S. 755, prototype of the M.S. 760 Paris.

30 JAN, 1948-Orville Wright goes west.

31 JAN, 1958-The Army launches the first successful U.S. satellite, Explorer I, aboard a Jupiter-C vehicle.