



Dirigo Flyer

NEWSLETTER OF THE MAINE AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Volume XXIX, No. 4

October – December, 2021

Editor's Note: I edited the *Dirigo Flyer* newsletter for five years from spring 2014 through the fall edition in 2018, ending with Volume XXVI, No. 3. In my absence, two editions were produced in 2019, but there were no editions of the *Flyer* in 2020. As I resume editing, I will number this edition Volume XXIX, No. 4 as it would have been numbered had there not been an interruption.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

I am John Nelligan, the new president of the Maine Aviation Historical Society, and I would like to introduce myself to you. I am from Bangor, Maine. I had two cousins who were members of the MAHS/Maine Air Museum: James McCarthy from Dallas, Texas who spent his vacations in Bangor, and James Nelligan, USN Retired. Both have passed away. I am a retired US Air Force Veteran with 29 years of service. After retirement I worked 14 years part time at the old Bangor Auditorium in Events Services. I have also been working part time for the Bangor City Clerk for 23 years during early voting and election day. Never missed a day at either job.



Over the past 20 years I found enough time in between jobs to research my genealogy. I have Irish & American citizenship because my grandmother and grandfather were born in Ireland. I am one of the founding members of the Penobscot County Genealogical Society.

I love traveling. Like Johnny Cash "I Have Been Everywhere Man." I have toured Ireland (seven times and counting), England, Scotland, Wales, Germany (on a river boat cruise), Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Nuremberg, and Italy. I am going to Paris, France in September 2022 for four days, then taking a river boat throughout France. In September of this year, I went on a 10-day tour to Branson, Missouri with Cyr NorthStar Tours out of Old Town. Just ask me, I would love to tell you all about this tour, the places we went, and the many shows and other events we attended.

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The Maine Air Museum is located at
98 Maine Avenue adjacent to
Bangor International Airport

Minutes of Board Meeting held October 9, 2021

The final meeting of MAHS's 2021 season was held at the museum on October 9th. Besides being the end-of-the-year gathering & cookout, a brief business meeting was convened by Bob Umberger on behalf of the Board of Directors for the express purpose of electing officers for the Society, plus one new Board Member [Les Shaw], to address recent resignation(s). The elected officers are:

John Nelligan - President
Leslie Shaw - Vice President
Joseph Quinn - Treasurer (re-elected)
Robert Umberger - Secretary

In addition, Andrew Constantine was appointed to the position of "Facility Manager" for the Museum Building and Systems, reporting to the President and the Board of Directors as developing requirements may dictate, in particular expense items.

It was decided that all current Board Members would retain their positions through the 2022 season.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Joe for 2021 (operating expenses & revenue from Jan. - present) as well as the "pre COVID" line by line statement for 2019 for comparison purposes. This clearly highlights several areas of concern related to our financial health, and warrants further attention when the organization resumes operations in 2022. Year 2021 Income as of October stands at \$567.08 with Expenses year to date at \$2,868.75.

Post Meeting: A most tasty cookout was held with bright sun, light wind, and several aircraft coming and going out of BGR to entertain us. Once again, we owe John Nelligan a special thanks for planning, organizing, and providing us with a meal for all in attendance to share for their hard work as volunteers this season.

As a thanks to the Byrums, Chuck & Deanna were presented with a Goodbye card and basket of Maine related Goodies for their contributions to MAHS and in particular the Museum over the past five years.

Submitted for the record.
Bob Umberger - Secretary
10/10/21

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For 18 years in a row, I sponsored a Cyr Coach trip to Boston for a New England Patriots game. We left on Saturday mornings and on Sunday mornings, before the game, I put on a tailgate party (Maine had the best tailgate menu). I hated to give it up, but I had no choice. It was way too expensive.

[editor's note: You may have noticed that John likes to keep busy, and he hasn't even mentioned that he has been the Chairman of the Bangor American Legion for the past 11 years. He comes to the job of President of the Maine Aviation Historical Society/Maine Air Museum filled with ideas for improving the public's and members' interest in the museum and increasing the membership of the MAHS. Read on . . .]

I am a firm believer that you must have and do things to get people through the door. I would like to have more guest speakers at the museum in the future. For example, I have arranged to have Dr. Joseph Wax who is the author of "Final Mission: the Maine Woods" (the story of the B-52 crash on Elephant Mountain) to be our guest speaker sometime next spring or early summer. I would also like to invite the Bangor International Airport manager to be a guest speaker. We could invite the Maine Air National Guard Aero Club and the Army National Guard to join us for these speakers. I would like to get permission to put up posters advertising the museum in local businesses. I am going to research having a trip for members (maybe with Cyr) to the Loring Air Museum. We could also invite other people. There are a lot of retired Air Force people who were stationed at Loring who might like to "see the good old base." I would like to have some family BBQs at the museum picnic area.

Well, I guess that is enough of the blather. I hope to see you next Spring.

John Nelligan

Recently Seen around Bangor:

In the Bangor Daily News -

November 10, 2021 – The Maine Troop Greeters continue to greet returning troops at BIA. According to Dick Tinsman, a member of the Troop Greeters' board of directors, "30 - 40 troop greeters will assemble [in Troop Greeters' Hall] (along with interested people in the terminal who want to honor our troops)" to thank the often-exhausted returning troops for their service.

October 6, 2021 – BIA has recently been granted another contract with the federal government to provide fuel to military and many civilian federal agency aircraft.

From the Viewing Platform at the Maine Air Museum -



C-17 taxiing for take-off on October 28, 2021

Photo by Bob Littlefield

BSA Air Scouts Experience Dow Air Base

Submitted by Bob Umberger for Ronald Hargreaves

This story came to us quite some time ago but did not make it to press due to past disruptions in the publication of the Dirigo Flyer. Now it can finally be shared. The information contained herein was provided by Ronald Hargreaves, who currently lives in New Hampshire, but back then was a teenager and Senior Scout from Kennebunk where he grew up. Thankfully, he saved the photos, letters, names and more from his youth which allows us to describe the events he and the other Scouts experienced many decades ago.

By way of background, the Boy Scouts added "Air Scouting" in 1939, and formally established the program in 1941. The program ran through 1949 when it was renamed "Air Explorers." The Air Explorer Program lasted until 1965 and continues with the BSA as the "Learning for Life Explorer Program".

This early aviation program was closely associated with patriotic support for WWII here on the home front. Participating boys became Senior Air Scouts once they turned 15 years of age. According to their charter, Senior Scouts would render service to the US Government in the following manner: the collection of various salvageable materials desperately needed for the war effort; the distribution of official dispatches, government pamphlets, and posters; some light production; and finally, contributing to civic conservation requirements.

In the summer of 1948, as an Air Scout from Kennebunk, Ronald was selected along with 19 other Scouts from across Maine to attend the first encampment to be held at Dow Field, which had by then been formally named Dow Air Force Base. The Boy Scouts of America, Pine Tree Council in cooperation with the base under the base commander, Col. George A. McHenry, developed the encampment program, "Wings Over Dow Field," which would last for a full week. Wesley Wright of Portland was the Encampment Director and Henry Wing of Westbrook was named the Squadron Leader.

Scouts attending participated in training elements that included aerodynamics, aircraft instrumentation, navigation, power plants, flight weather conditions, communications, time in a Link Trainer, plus maintenance and operations instructions for the F-84B Thunder Jets assigned to the 14th Fighter Group (1946 - 49) on the base. Note: *Dow was the very first air base to receive P-84 aircraft, later designated as the F-84.*

The most exciting activities of the encampment for the teenagers were flight demonstrations (air shows) by the Dow pilots and a ride for the entire group in a C-47 transport aircraft. Each Scout got a chance to sit in the right seat during the flight; in Ronald's words, "what a thrill it was to actually Fly this Huge Aircraft."

The encampment culminated with a graduation ceremony where the Scouts received certificates of completion and a commemorative leather patch (*see attached photo*).

A second encampment was held in August 1949. There were 14 Scouts attending from the Pine Tree Council and the Katahdin Area Council; Ronald Hargreaves was fortunate to be selected for a second time. The program was much the same as the previous year, and again the Scouts got a taste of life on base eating in the consolidated mess and sleeping in the enlisted men's barracks.

However, with the conclusion of the 1949 encampment it was less than two months to the date of October 2, 1949, the date operations at Dow ceased and the base closed. (*The base was reactivated in Nov. 1952.*)

Although brief, what an enriching experience for those Maine Scouts. Ronald recalled it this way: "Of all my involvement in the Scout Programs as I was growing up, the encampments were the highlight of my time as a Scout."



Front row: John McKay, Bucksport; George Donahue, Brunswick; Joe Doyle, Bar Harbor; Freeman Smith, Kennebunk; Richard Clay, Lincoln; Ron Hargreaves, Kennebunk; Blain Grindle, Belfast.
 Second row: Not named; Don Rowe, Bar Harbor (Encampment Dir.); Ted Ware, Bangor; Dick Robinson, Westbrook; Percy Becket, Calais; Ken Hutchinson, Kennebunk; Norm Pummer, Bucksport; Leo St. Pierre, Portland; Jim Smith, Brewer; 2nd Lt. Albert Wright, Worcester, MA. (USAF Reserve)

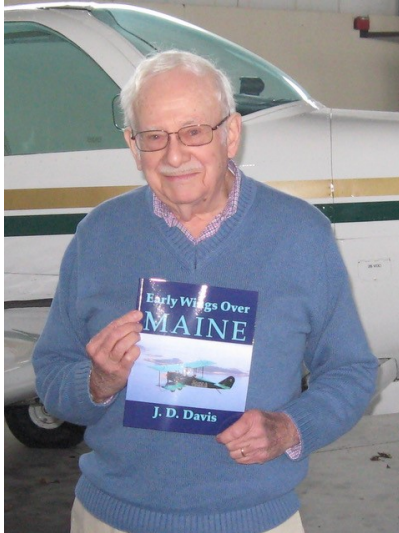


The Scouts being fitted with parachutes for their Orientation Flight on the C-47



Senior Scout Encampment Badge

In Memoriam



John D. Davis

(1929 - 2021)

**FORMER MEMBER, EDUCATOR, ADVENTURER,
ENVIRONMENTALIST, AND AUTHOR**

John Davis, former MAHS member, passed away on June 6, 2021. He received his BS degree from Bowdoin College, then two MS degrees and a Ph D. John taught Biology at Bowdoin, Univ. of NH, and Smith College in MA. He went on to spend over 30 years as an environmental consultant. He will be remembered fondly by us for his historical book "Early Wings Over Maine." He also authored "What D'You Do When a Train Goes By," and other works. He wrote and directed the video "Admiral Robert E. Perry: The Man and His Island" for PBS.

James Nelligan

(1936 – 2021)

Jim Nelligan passed away on July 1, 2021, after a short period of declining health. Jim was a member, longtime volunteer, and great friend to those of us at the Maine Aviation Historical Society and Maine Air Museum.

Jim was born, spent most of his life, and died in Bangor, Maine. He spent 21 years in the Navy as an Aviation Machinist's Mate and Air Crewman, retiring in 1976. He received many awards during his service. He was a member of the following associations: Fleet Reserve Branch 156, U.S.S. Leyte CV-32, A-3 Sky warrior VQ-1 Det. 3, and MAHS/MAM. Jim enjoyed attending several Navy reunions each year, traveling all over the United States. After his Navy retirement Jim worked for 23 years for the Bangor School Department, retiring in 1991 as head custodian at Fruit Street School.



Jim had many great memories from his Navy days. He told of being on the ship that picked up the first space capsule that had parachuted down in the ocean.

After his wife's death in 2005, he joined our group and was very involved in the organization, displays and opening of the Museum. Always willing to add a hand and idea, his service to the Museum will always be appreciated. From painting the building, mowing grass, building displays, and staffing the museum, he spent many hours and days helping us out. He will be remembered as a close friend and co-worker. He was a dedicated and hard worker and will be missed by all who knew him.

Events and Acquisitions in 2021



2021

In August, Bangor International Airport's Equipment and Maintenance Department donated this light from atop the Airport's Water Tower. This marks the second time the Airport has donated a light from atop the Water Tower to the Museum. In 2010, Volume XXVIII, No. 5 of the *Dirigo Flyer* noted the acquisition of the "rotating beacon" from the top of the tower. That beacon



2010

was mounted on a checkered mini-tower and can be seen at the Museum. Currently, the Airport Water Tower employs LED lights to warn approaching aircraft. Can the museum look forward to another donation in 10 years?

During the summer two new picnic tables were constructed at the museum and moved to the picnic area by the runway. Visitors have covered the white tabletop with written comments as the sign invites them to do. Sharpies were supplied for that purpose. The comments have all been favorable to the museum and the experiences enjoyed by the visitors.



In October, the Loring Air Museum sent a representative to the Maine Air Museum in Bangor to purchase 120 copies of John C. Garbinski's book, "The United States Air Force in Maine, Progeny of the Cold War" published by the Maine Aviation Historical Society. According to the LAM representative, these books are quite popular in the County, and the MAHS/MAM can certainly use the proceeds of the sale. These books are available for purchase in the Museum's Gift Shop during the summer.

Thank you to member, historian David Bergquist who donated signed copies of his book "Bangor in World War II" to the Museum gift shop.



Entrance fees at the Museum were raised to \$10 for adults starting with the 2021 season. The reduced fee which formerly applied to the category "Family," now applies to any cohesive "Group" regardless of whether there is a family relationship.

Re-Dedication Ceremony Held



A “re-dedication” ceremony for the P-3 Orion aircraft adjacent to the Brunswick Naval Museum was held in September in conjunction with the 2021 NAS Brunswick Reunion. In recent years the aircraft's condition was determined to be poor, but many former Navy personnel and local businesses came together to perform needed refurb work and completely paint and detail it to replicate the BNAS based P-3 that crashed in 1978 killing all 8 of crew. Some active-duty Navy attendees came from as far away as Florida stations, flying in on one of the last remaining P-3s in service with the Navy, while others arrived on one of the new P-8s that are the replacement for the P-3 fleet.

Other events for the weekend included a ground-breaking for Phase 1 of renovation and expansion for the Naval Museum, which was previously the Base Chapel. During the ceremony it was also mentioned that they are hoping some organization, corporation, etc. will step forward to similarly save the P-2 aircraft located a distance from the Chapel.

Expedition Unknown: L’Oiseau Blanc

MAHS has sponsored many searches in Maine for the remains of the “White Bird,” the French biplane which disappeared on its way from France to NYC in 1927. A few weeks ago, MAHS’s famous “wreckchaser,” Peter Noddin, joined an “Expedition Unknown” crew documenting the many years’ long international search for the missing plane. Pete joined them for three days of tramping in the Downeast Maine woods. The film crew then left to continue filming in Nova Scotia and France. Pete says he thinks the show’s star, Josh Gates, will mention the MAHS/MAM in its final production.



If remains of the White Bird are ever found in Maine, the part most likely to have survived would be the engine. The White Bird display at the Maine Air Museum includes a photo of the engine being installed into the aircraft, but it is difficult to see what the engine looks like from that photo. The Lorraine-Dietrich 460 HP W-12 Ed shown in the photo on the left is close to what you would expect to find if you are ever lucky enough to come upon the White Bird in the Maine woods.

ATTENTION: These four volunteers kept the Maine Air Museum doors open every weekend this last season . . .



There is a Desperate Need for weekend volunteers next summer.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

Email rhlittlefield@roadrunner.com if you can help keep the Museum open for visitors next season



All dues expire on June 30th of each year. If joining mid-year, pay \$2.00 for each remaining month

Annual membership includes quarterly newsletters

Mail payment to:

Maine Aviation Historical Society
PO Box 2641
Bangor, ME 04402-2641

Maine Aviation Historical Society Maine Air Museum * Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Special Interests: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Regular	\$25 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Family	\$35 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Corporate	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission

We need volunteers-docents, mechanics, maintenance, librarians and exhibit specialists, etc.

- Please call me. I want to be active in the organization.
 I cannot join now, but would like to help. I enclose a check for _____
(Contributions over \$20 are tax deductible within the limits of the law)
 I wish to support and obtain membership by purchasing a memorial brick

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