



THE DIRIGO FLYER

PROPERTY OF
MAINE AIR MUSEUM
BANGOR, MAINE

Vol. I, No. 3 May 1993

The May meeting of the Maine Aviation Historical Society was held on May 8 at the Jetport. The spirited group attending included Norm Houle, Leo Boyle, Jim and James Chicheuo, Harvey Warren, Ruth Owen Jones, Rob Rohr, Brian Wood, Lloyd Gates and Ira Milliken.

Old Business

1. The Treasurer's Report showed just over \$200 in the bank — and the need for more members. Membership applications are to be made up and all members are urged to recruit as many new members as possible. The new two blade prop logo was approved. Leo's daughter is to make up posters for us as soon as she can. We are also planning on name tags for the members.
2. The celebration at Larry Ross's crate on Saturday, May 22 was the subject of much interest. At least ten members are planning on attending. Ruth Jones and Norm Houle are planning on flying into the Pittsfield Airport and Rob Rohr is hoping to get a Warbird. We look forward to seeing you in Canaan on the 22nd.
3. Brochures on the University of Alabama Military History Book List were passed out. If you need one, contact Leo at 854-9972.
4. The U.S. Navy requests that we sponsor or participate in three events a year honoring World War II. It was agreed that this should be easy to do, and earn ourselves a banner.
5. A tentative list of speakers for the Northeast Aero Historians Meeting in October at Owls Head and the Samoset and sponsored by us includes Larry Webster on restoring World War II aircraft and crashes; Archie DiFante from Maxwell AFB on the Northeast Ferry Command in World War II, plus the resources available at Maxwell; Kirk Vaughan on his new book, a World War I aviator's diary; Ev Cassagneres on Lindbergh's 1927 flight around the country; Harvey Lippincott on the Mollison's 1936 flight from England to Connecticut; plus the Piper Mobile Museum and Fly In, and Owls Head Air Show and Auction.
6. Work is proceeding on obtaining non-profit status from the State and the IRS. Brian and Leo are to get together in a week or so on the Calendar.

New Business

1. Norm Houle brought more information on John B. Ayer of the Eagle Squadron that he obtained from a lead from Rob Rohr.
2. Spruce Mountain remains a viable possibility in the search for the *White Bird*. We're still trying to put together assistance and all possible information. Leo is in contact with a TIGHAR member who is also interested.
3. Ruth Owen Jones brought some information on Bob Fogg, who did a lot of flying in Maine. His papers are at Dartmouth College. Lloyd Gates brought an interesting scrapbook on the Sperry Messenger and the replica he is building in Norway. Harvey Warren brought some Ultra-Light photos and a video of the old buildings at the Sanford Airport. Brian Wood brought the TIGHAR video on Amelia Earhart. Both of these videos began the rounds.
4. The June meeting will be held on Saturday, June 12th at the Lewiston-Auburn Airport in Auburn. Information and directions were in the last *Dirigo Flyer*. If you need information, call Phil Kemp at 772-8037.
5. The mid-summer meeting will be held at the Great State 'o Maine Air Show at the Brunswick Naval Air Station on July 24th and 25th. Volunteers are needed to man our booth — more details later. The first Fall meeting will be held on Saturday, September 11th, tentatively at the Jetport. The October meeting will be October 22nd-24th at the Samoset Resort and Owls Head. Let's keep it going and growing.
6. We have a new member: Gordon Billington, RR 2, Box 112, Sebago Lake, ME 04075.

Did You Know?

(Contributors Wanted, Needed and Duly Credited!)

In 1932, Walter Beech built the first Staggerwing, the 17-R. Only two were built and sold, but in the brochure it mentioned that it was available with a Wright Cyclone engine. The Sanford Woolen Mills of Sanford, Maine put in an order for one and thus was born the Model A-17-F. Only one example was built, NC-12583, and was used by Sanford Woolen Mills from February to October 1934. It was then sold to Howard Hughes and its subsequent history is obscure. Sanford Woolen Mills' pilot was Bob Fogg. Walter Beech entered this plane with Bob Fogg as pilot and a second Beech A-17-FS with Louise Thaden as pilot in the London to Melbourne MacRobertson Trophy Race. They were later withdrawn because of range, not speed.

The first flight in Maine occurred in Augusta on August 9, 1911. This flight was made by the Canadian pilot, St. Croix Johnstone in a Moisant monoplane. On August 12, 1911 he shipped his plane to Chicago and was killed on August 15, 1911 at Grant Park.

George Schmitt flew a Wright-type biplane at the Central Maine Fair in Waterville on September 1, 1911, became tangled into electric wires but was not seriously hurt.

Nels Nelson flew his Nelson biplane at Bar Harbor on September 3, 1911.

MAINE AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Special Interests _____

1993 Membership Dues are \$10.00.

Please mail payment to: **Maine Aviation Historical Society**
101 Monroe Avenue
Westbrook, ME 04092-4020

For more information, call 207-854-9972.

Did You Know? (continued)

George Gray flew from Old Orchard Beach over Portland in a Wright biplane on September 7, 1912.

A note in the *Bangor Daily Commercial* in 1942 states that "an unknown aviator in an unknown machine" flew in Bangor in 1909. Who, What, When, Where? Do you know? Let us know, too.

In 1909, James A. Crane dreamed of an ornithopter. In 1928 he built one in Ellsworth, Maine. On September 30, 1928 his *American Eagle* flapped for a few minutes and then collapsed. He apparently built a replica of his first about 30 years later, and both are rumored to still exist in the Ellsworth/Sullivan area. Does anyone know?

Charles A. Lindbergh spent many hours at North Haven, Maine after his marriage to Ann Morrow. An airstrip there was used, as was the harbor for his Lockheed Sirius. Portland, his first official stop on his Round the Country tour in 1927 was his only late arrival. Unable to land, he returned to Concord, NH for the night. The next day, still unable to find Scarborough Airport, he landed at Old Orchard Beach.

In 1942, while searching for a lost RCAF Avro Anson, the AAC spotted a wrecked plane on Spruce Mountain above the Katahdin Iron Works. The Anson was later found on adjacent Saddleback Mountain. No search of Spruce Mountain was ever made. *White Bird?* Or what? Any ideas, let us know.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 22	Lindbergh Crate Flyby, Canaan, Maine
May 29-30	Quonset Air Show, Quonset Point, Rhode Island
May 30	Ford Meet and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Maine
June 12	M.A.H.S. meeting, Lewiston Airport, Constellation Tour, 9 a.m.
June 12-13	NAS South Weymouth Air Show, Weymouth, MA
June 13	Chevrolet Meet and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Maine
June 26-27	Military Aviation and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Maine
June 26-27	Concord Air Show, Concord, New Hampshire
June 26-27	Hanscom Air Show, Hanscom AFB, MA
July 24-25	Great State o' Maine Air Show, NAS, Brunswick, Maine • MAHS Meeting
July 24-25	Lebanon Air Show, Lebanon, New Hampshire
August 20-22	Geneseo Air Show, Geneseo, New York
September 26-27	Air Fair '93, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
October 22-24	Northeast Aero Historians Meeting, Sunoset Resort • MAHS Meeting Hosts: Maine Aviation Historical Society and Owls Head Transportation Museum

Maine Aviation Historical Society
101 Monroe Avenue
Westbrook, ME 04092-4020