



# THE DIRIGO FLYER

Vol. I, No. 4 June 1993

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The June meeting of the Maine Aviation Historical Society was held on Saturday, June 12 at the Lockheed Starliners near the Lewiston-Auburn Airport and in Jane Theberge's adjacent home. In attendance were Norm Houle, Leo Boyle, Ed and Rob Rohr, Jim Chichetto's family, Neal Strange, Cliff Haines, Oscar Blue, Ruth Jones, Brian Wood, Jim Keough, Jack Denison and Phil Kemp.

## Old Business

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1. The Treasurer's Report showed a little over \$150 in the bank. We gained one new member during the month and three joined at the meeting. If we all keep recruiting, we'll have the money to do more things.
2. The application for non-profit status is in a lawyer's hands and he is doing it for free — and slowly.
3. Fourteen members showed up at Larry Ross's Crat Celebration on May 22 in Canaan. A goot time was had with a Grange Bean Supper and interesting speeches on the Lockheed Lightning recovery in Greenland and Lindbergh's 1927 tour of the nation. In the end, though, the black flies won the day.

## New Business

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1. Rob and Jim went diving in the Kennebec River and think they've located a Corsair that crashed there. They're going back soon to explore more.
2. Rob says the "birdcage" Corsair in Sebago sits in a crevass under 300+ feet of water. The canopy is still closed so the pilot is presumed to be still inside. Other people are talking about trying to raise it, but Rob has the permission from the British and recommends leaving it there.
3. We will have a table at the Military Air Show at Owls Head on June 26 and 27. Again, volunteers are needed as at Brunswick, especially on Sunday, the 27th. Meet new friends, and call Rob or Leo and help us recruit new members and see a great Air Show!
4. The July meeting will be held at the Brunswick Naval Air Station on July 24, 1993 at 10 a.m. at the Maine Aviation Historical Society display in the hangar. The Great State-o-Maine Air Show will be held there on Saturday, the 24th and Sunday, the 25th. The Air Station is very supportive of our group and we hope to recruit many new members.
5. Rob is handling the negotiations with the Air Station and they are very eager to have our participation. Rob and Ed have a large selection of pictures from the Station which they need help in identifying. They will all be at the display, so come help us put history straight. We do need volunteers to man the display, morning or afternoon, Saturday or Sunday, or any hours you can contribute. Come help your organization, have a great time and meet lots of new people. Please let Rob, Ed or Leo know when you can spend a few hours. This will be one of the events counting toward our Navy banner.

## The Meeting

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The June meeting was held in Jane Theberge's home next to the Lockheed Starliners parked just off the Lewiston-Auburn Airport on a gorgeous day (no black flies!). Phil Kemp gave us some background on the Lockheed L-1649A Starliners. The last model of the Lockheed Constellation, they were long-range and luxurious, with a bar and berths. Only 44 were built because of the advent of the Boeing 707 and Douglas DC-8 jets. Twenty-five were for TWA, including the two now at Auburn. Maine Coast Airways owns these two (*Star of Tigris*, N7316C, and *Star of San Pedro Sula*, N8083H) plus one in Florida (ex-Lufthansa, N974R, D-ALAN). These are the only Starliners left in the world in flyable condition.

Phil then took us all on a tour of one of the planes. It was most interesting to be able to sit in the pilot's, co-pilot's and flight engineer's seats and imagine flying from California to Europe in 24 hours. Two crews were carried and one of them slept for half the flight, then changed with the other crew. Many great pictures were taken and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you, Phil and Jane, for a great meeting. Jack Denison looked at home in the flight engineer's seat.

## Future Business

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1. New membership cards are included with this newsletter. If you don't receive yours, please let Leo know.
  2. Norm Houle is going to check with Bob Mudge regarding the possibility of reprinting his book, *Adventures of a Yellowbird*. Phil thinks he can handle this at a reasonable price.
  3. Phil is also going to check on the cost of T-shirts and caps with our logo on them.
  4. Maine Coast Airways is hoping eventually to restore one of the Starliners to flying condition, and eventually open a museum. This is something we should all work on together.
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MAINE AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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??? Where Is It Now? ???  
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Ev Cassegreres, Ryan Historian, told us at the Crate that a Ryan ST-A landed on a lake in Maine, taxied into a hangar and, as far as is known, is still there. Any help?

**New Members**

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|-------------------|---|--------------|
| ★ D. C. Copadis   | 16 Pilot Point Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107 | 207-799-2313 |
| ★ Edward Rohr     | 40 Weymouth Street, Brunswick, ME 04011       | 207-729-4226 |
| ★ James Chichetto | Box 1730, Etna, ME 04434                      | 207-269-3281 |
| ★ Jack Denison    | 265 Rochester Hill Road, Rochester, NH 03867  |              |

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**Calendar of Upcoming Events**  
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| <b>June 26-27</b>      | Military Aviation and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum • MAHS   |
| <b>June 26-27</b>      | Concord Air Show, Concord, New Hampshire   |
| <b>June 26-27</b>      | Hanscom Air Show, Hanscom AFB, MA  |
| <b>July 11</b>         | '50s and '60s Meet and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Maine  |
| <b>July 24-25</b>      | Great State o' Maine Air Show, NAS, Brunswick, Maine • MAHS Meeting  |
| <b>July 24-25</b>      | Lebanon Air Show, Lebanon, New Hampshire   |
| <b>July 31</b>         | Appalachian Mountain Club "Ghost Airplane" Hike<br>(Meet at ME Turnpike Exit 11, Gray, 7:30 a.m. Details: call Brian Wood, 985-6479.)            |
| <b>August 7-8</b>      | Annual Rally and Acrobatic Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Maine  |
| <b>August 20-22</b>    | Genesco Air Show, Genesco, New York  |
| <b>September 26-27</b> | Air Fair '93, Portsmouth, New Hampshire  |
| <b>October 22-24</b>   | Northeast Acro Historians Meeting, Samoset Resort • MAHS Meeting<br>Hosts: Maine Aviation Historical Society and Owls Head Transportation Museum |

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