



DIRIGO FLYER

Vol. VIII, No. 4 April 2000

Newsletter of the Maine Aviation Historical Society
 P.O. Box 2641, Bangor, Maine 04402 • 207-941-6757 • 1-877-280-MAHS (in state)
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Lindbergh Plane at South Pond

By Jack H. Neeson

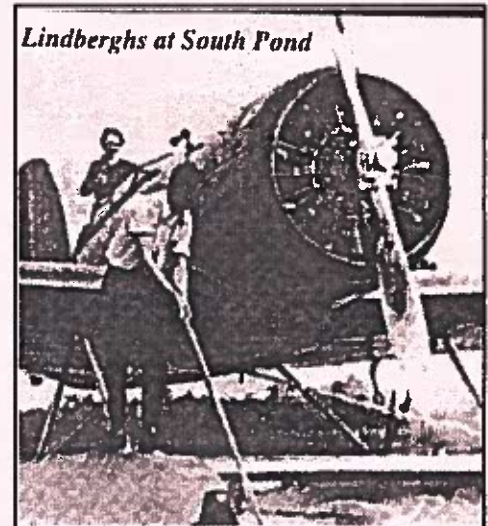
Andy Warhol said every person is entitled to fifteen minutes of fame. He did not say every *place* had the same expectation, but if he intended that, then South Warren in Knox County, Maine, certainly claimed its quota on the night of July 9, 1933.

On that night, one of the most important men in the United States brought his plane down on the smooth, clear waters of South Pond in Warren. Charles A. Lindbergh and his wife, Anne Morrow, had chosen to land their red and black pontoon-equipped monoplane because of the heavy fog sheathing their intended destination of North Haven. Lindbergh was idolized for his solo flight from New York to Paris, sympathized with as a grieving parent who had lost his son in a tragic kidnapping and murder, and most recently had been publicized for his 30,000 mile trip surveying landing fields and flight facilities over much of the U.S. His credentials in Maine were even higher: in addition to his other accomplishments, he had married Anne Morrow, daughter of the distinguished Dwight Whitney Morrow who maintained an estate on North Haven Island.

The landing at South Pond on that July Sunday evening was unexpected but routine. Although he had notified the Radio Corporation of America as to his whereabouts, newspapers had not gotten the word and there was a frantic search all along the east coast.

Meanwhile, Lindbergh himself was at South Pond testing a new device he had designed for his plane. It was a small outboard motor that fitted into a pontoon, giving the plane about a three-mile an hour cruising speed across the lake. Lindbergh's navigation skills evidently did not extend to lake beds, and a pontoon got caught up in the muddy bottom. He attempted to

push the plane off with a boat hook, but the problem wasn't solved until a land owner, Clarence Dorman, waded into the pond and manually lifted the pontoon into clear water.



Mr. and Mrs. Lindbergh stayed the night with the Dormans, then continued their flight to visit with Anne's mother in North Haven on route to a survey flight in Greenland.

(Reprinted with permission from Discover Maine, 1999)

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Monthly meetings
are held at 10 a.m.
on the second Saturday
of each month
at various locations.
See schedule for details.

MAINE AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Meeting Report

March Meeting Notes

The March meeting of the MAHS was held in the Conference Room of the Portland International Jetport on March 11, 2000.

After the introduction of members, Secretary Boyle presented the Treasurer's Report as received from the Treasurer (reprinted on page 6 of this newsletter).

The Secretary then gave his report on new memberships, life memberships and renewals, all of which are proceeding well.

Carl Sederquist, chairman of the fundraising committee, brought us up to date on the fundraising campaign and showed the preliminary draft of the case study brochure. The fundraising committee will be meeting twice before our April meeting, and all members are welcomed and urged to join us and get involved. We need all the helpers we can get and it's a chance to expand your skills and learn new ones.

Jim Chichetto then gave the President's Report. He brought us up to date on the Air Guard's May 27th Blue Angels Air Show in Bangor, and how they want us to tie-in and be a part of it. The Air Guard's engineering wing has offered to look at our building and see if they can help us in the restoration of it. Here's another great chance for members to get more involved and have a grand time doing it. He also outlined the preliminary plan for this summer's hikes, and pointed out the lack of other large events for us to plan on this summer.

After a short break, Leo Boyle showed a selection of slides of the great variety of aircraft present in Maine from the '30s to the '60s. Mostly they were civilian aircraft rather than military, and included a timeline on Boston and Maine Airways and Northeast Airlines aircraft.

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 p.m. and a good time was had by all. Your officers work hard to plan these meetings and we need more of you to attend. If you can put on a slide show, show some exciting (especially Maine-related) videos or talk to us about your flying experiences or life, or if you know someone who will, please let one of the officers know. The best meetings are built around member participation.

April Meeting

The April MAHS meeting will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2000 at 10 a.m. at the Maine Air Museum Building at Bangor. In addition to the latest updates on all the exciting things that are going on — building restoration, fundraising, events and the Air Show — member Rick Alexander will give another of his professional slide shows. His subject that day will be century series and Cold War fighters. Many of you will be familiar with these aircraft as they served at Dow and the other Maine air bases. Don't miss what promises to be a fine presentation. A Board of Directors meeting will follow.

May Meeting

The May meeting will also be held at the Maine Air Museum Building on Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch and join the antique auto group that member Oscar Blue is leading in with their antique cars. It should be a fun get-together for all. You will also learn of the final preparations for the big May 27th Air Show and how you can have an exciting part in it.

Free Cold War Certificate

Between 18 and 22 million former and current service members and DOD civilians started applying April 5 for certificates honoring them for their parts in winning the Cold War. Those qualifying for the certificates can apply via the Internet at <http://coldwar.army.mil>, e-mail at cwrs@Fairfax-emhl.army.mil, or fax at (703) 275-6749. Applicants can also mail requests to: Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030. Applicants must present proof of service. Army officials caution applicants not to send original documents because they cannot be returned. Applicants must use fax or mail to submit supporting documents. Persons are eligible for the recognition certificate if they have military or civilian service with the War, Navy or Defense Departments from 9/2/45 to 12/26/91.

More Than Mere Memories at Mere Point, Maine

The Memorial Inscription on the Plaque at Mere Point

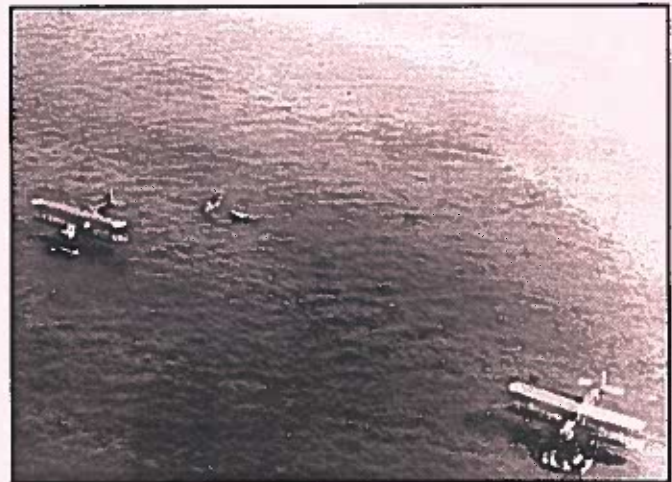
Round-the-World Flight, 1924
on the shore of Mere Point, Casco Bay, Maine.
200 feet west of this spot on September 5, 1924
the United States Army round the world aviators,
after starting westward from Seattle, Washington
April 6, 1924, made their first landing
on the soil of the United States.
To this point they covered a distance of
22,369 miles in 153 days.
Actual flying time 300 hours.
They arrived at Seattle September 28, 1924
and thus completed the first air flight
around the globe, a distance of
26,103 miles in 176 days.
Actual flying time 375 hours 11 minutes.

The Personnel and Airplanes were:

Air Cruiser "Chicago"
1st Lt. Lowell H. Smith in Command
2nd Lt. Leslie R. Arnold
Air Cruiser "New Orleans"
1st Lt. Eric H. Nelson
2nd Lt. John Harding Jr.
Air Cruiser "Boston"
1st Lt. Leigh Wade
2nd Lt. Henry H. Ogden
Flew from Seattle to point near Ireland
and sank there August 3, 1924. Officers
proceeded by steamer to Pictou, Nova Scotia.
Thence in "Boston II" they flew to Seattle.
Air Cruiser "Seattle" ~ Flagship
Major Frederick L. Martin
Sgt. Alva A. Harvey
Wrecked off Alaskan Coast, April 30, 1924.
This memorial erected 1924 by order of the
Governor and Council of the State of Maine
to commemorate a great achievement.



Original crew member Leigh Wade speaking at the 50th anniversary celebration on September 5, 1974 of the landing of the U.S. Army's round the world flight at Mere Point, Maine. He is standing in front of the plaque erected there by the State of Maine. Photo via Lloyd Gates.



The two Douglas World Cruisers moored at Mere Point, Maine, their first landing on American soil nearing the completion of their round the world flight. Photo via Leo Boyle.

Now Here's an Interesting Weekend!
TWO NIGHT SEMINAR on the THREE CAREERS of

IGOR I. SIKORSKY

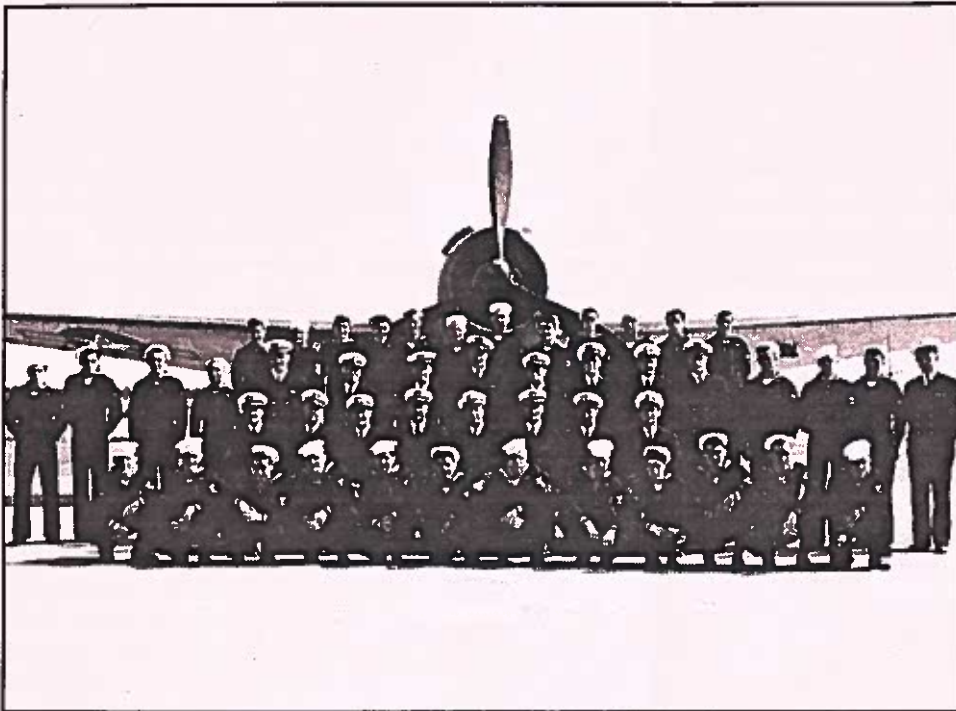
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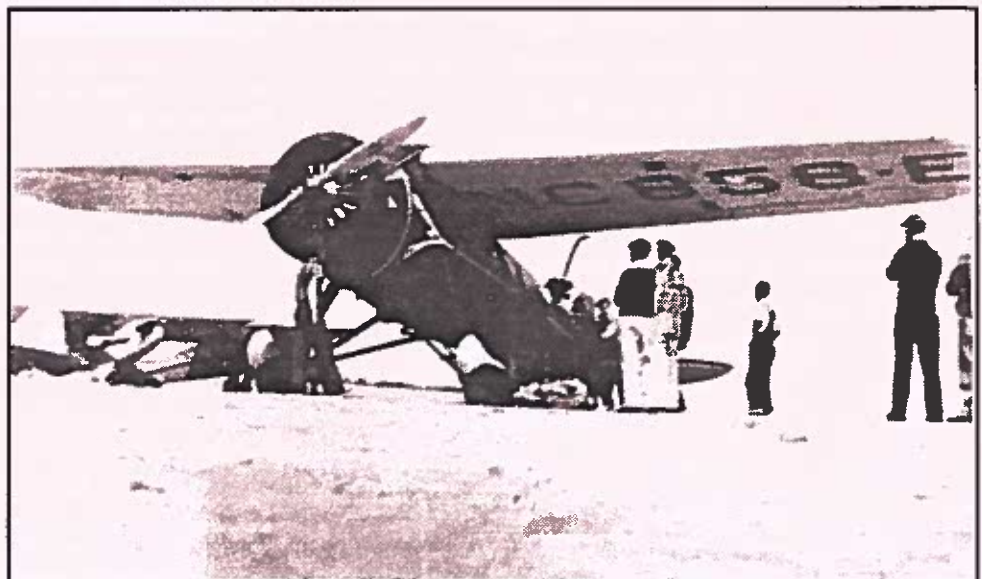
Our Members Share Some of Their Favorite Photos . . .

Sanford, 1944



United States Navy Torpedo Squadron 5
at Sanford Naval Air Facility, 1944.
Photo via Norm Houle.

Caribou, Early '30s



Lockheed Vega 5B NC858-E at
Caribou, Maine in the early '30s.
Jerry Drake Photo via Norm Houle

... From All Around the Great State of Maine

Bangor, 1939-1940



U.S. Army Air Corps North American BT-9 at Godfrey Field, Bangor, in 1939.
Photo via Al Cormier.

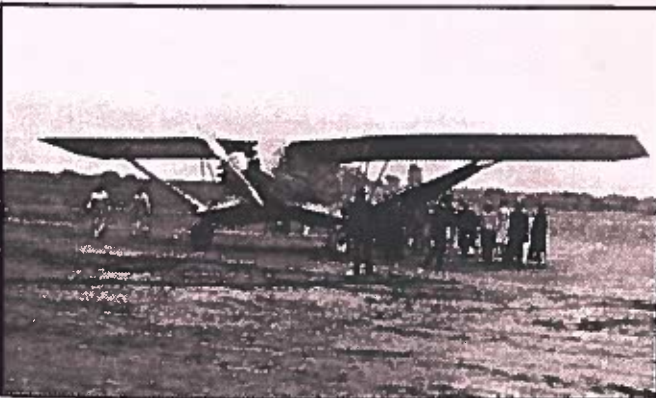


Dow Field, Bangor hangar and tower under construction in 1940.
Photo via Al Cormier.

Scarborough, 1928



Fairchild FC-2 of the Curtiss Flying Service, Scarborough Airport in 1928.
Photo via Rodney Laughton.



Bellanca K "Roma" at Scarborough Airport 9/30/28. They were trying to get the P&W Hornet engine running smoothly enough for a trans-Atlantic attempt.
Photo via Rodney Laughton.

Scarborough, 1932



Maine aviation pioneer John Nichols in front of an American Moth biplane on skis at the Portland Airport in Scarborough, February 1932.

Photo via Rodney Laughton.

Fundraising Update

Our fundraising campaign is moving right along in its training phase and we are making good progress. A few officers and members have worked very hard to get this campaign where it is today. It is absolutely essential to the continued well-being of the MAHS and the MAM that it be successful. We need volunteers who are willing to work for the museum they want. And a first quality museum! Learn a new skill — how to be a professional fundraiser — but also how to ask for the things you believe in, a skill we can all use in our day-to-day living.

Member John Garbinski has given MAHS/MAM the rights to reprint the revised edition of his fine book, The U.S. Air Force in Maine. The first edition is sold out and we hope to have John's book reprinted before the Air Show. It will be 8 1/2" by 11", perfect bound soft cover and the price will be \$20.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (add \$1.10 sales tax in Maine). If you wish to order your copy now, please send your check, money order or credit card number (including exp. date) to:

Book Order Dept., MAHS

101 Monroe Avenue

Westbrook, Maine 04092-4020

Your copy will be shipped as soon as it is received from the publisher.

Shortly thereafter, MAHS/MAM plans to publish member Vic Kraft's new book The History of Loring Air Force Base (SAC) Limestone AFB. This will probably be published in the same format as John Garbinski's book, but no price is available at the moment. If you are ordering John's book, make a note that you want to be notified when Vic's book is available. Having just perused a preliminary draft of Vic's book, I can assure you that, with over 100 illustrations, it is very comprehensive. It is not only a history of the base but also of the 42nd Bomb Wing,

three Bomb Squadrons, two Fighter Interceptor Squadrons while they were at Loring, plus the Caribou Air Force Station (see related photos on pages 4-5 of this issue). All in all, a fine book and one you should have in your library alongside John Garbinski's book.

One Fantastic Weekend

Members Igor I. Sikorsky Jr. and Igor I. Sikorsky III are hosting a weekend seminar at the latter's Bradford Camps in Ashland, Maine on August 18-20. The subject will be the personal life and early careers of Igor I. Sikorsky.

This seminar will be limited to about 20 guests, so please answer their ad on page 3 of this issue as soon as possible if you are interested. We hope to see you there!



Bill Thaden's High Flying Mom

Louise Thaden, famous aviatrix and mother of member Bill Thaden of Kittery Point, who was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio last year.

Maine Aviation Historical Society Statement of Cash Receipts and Expenditures for February 2000

GENERAL FUND

Cash Received	Month	Year
Dues	740	2,185
Lifetime Memberships	1,475	3,475
Donations	0	40
Product Sales	52	85
Total receipts	2,267	5,785

Cash Expended

<i>Dirigo Flyer</i>	299	675
Postage	11	17
Web Page	30	60
Utilities	70	256
Heat	306	547
Dues	0	170
Building Renovations	0	1,446
Total expended	782	3,237

Excess of income

1,485	2,548
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Cash Balances

Beginning of period	3,656	2,548
End of period	5,141	5,141

RESTRICTED FUND (Money Market Account)

Fundraising Fund	Month	Year
Beginning Balance	16,292	8,209
Donations Received (prior months)	8,000	
Ed Armstrong	1,000	
Interest	50	133
Expenditures	1,422	1,422
Ending Balance	15,921	15,920

LUSCOMBE FUND

Donations Received		
Dan Bilodeau	1,000	1,000
Expenditures		
Insurance	108	108
FAA Fee	10	10
Ending Balance	882	882

A Note from the Treasurer:

In August \$5,000 was transferred to the General Fund from the Fundraising Fund. This amount constitutes an inter-fund loan which should be repaid. The value of additional items that have been donated and accepted by the museum has not yet been determined or included in this report. *Charles B. Brantner, Treasurer*

Upcoming MAHS Meetings and Calendar of Events

- April 8 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, Maine Air Museum Building, Bangor, Maine.
 April 9-12 All Day Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, Florida.
 May 13 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, Maine Air Museum Building, Bangor, Maine.
 Bring your own picnic lunch to Antique Auto Show.
 May 20-21 9:00-5:00 Hampton, NH Fly-In and Flea Market.
 May 27 All Day Blue Angels Air Show, The Greater Bangor Millennium Airshow, Maine ANG Base,
 Bangor International Airport, Bangor, Maine.
 May 28-October 29 10 a.m. Owls Head Transportation Museum bi-weekly Aerial and Automotive Shows.
 June 3-4 All Day Boston Air Show, Hanscom AFB, MA. Thunderbirds.
 June 9 All Day Lindbergh Crate Day, Canaan, Maine.
 June 10 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA.
 July 8 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA.
 July 26-Aug. 1 All Day Oshkosh Air Show, Oshkosh, WI.
 August 5-6 10 a.m. Transportation Spectacular and Aerobatic Show, Benjamin's GeeBee, OHTM.
 August 12 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA.
 August 18-20 All Day Igor I. Sikorsky Seminar, Bradford Camps, Ashland, ME (see ad)
 Sept. 9-10 All Day Greenville Seaplane Fly-In, Greenville, Maine.
 Sept. 30, Oct. 1 All Day 75th F. S. Reunion, Bangor, Maine.
 Fall 2000 All Day Air Force Association Cold War Symposium.
 October 14 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA.
 November 11 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA.
 Nov. 2000 All Day Cole's Land Transportation Museum Reunion.
 December 9 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA.

Meeting sites are flexible. Call Scott Grant at 207-775-3404 if you have any ideas or can be of help.

Welcome to Our New Members . . .

343. Col. Edward L. Chase
 RR 1, Box 3212
 Pittsfield, ME 04967 207-487-3599
344. James A. Smyth
 HCR 76, Box 48 e-mail: willys@wtvl.net
 Jackman, ME 04945 207-668-7735
345. Ralph E. Mower
 24 Nahant Avenue
 Winthrop, MA 02152-1515
- 346F. David Murphy (Old Acton Airfield)
 19 Golden Ave. e-mail: dave.murphy@mediaone.net
 Arlington, MA 02476-7029 781-646-1726

. . . and Thanks to Our Newest Life Member

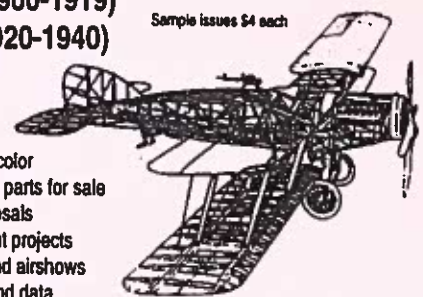
#8 Lou Hilton Greenville, ME

Do You Have E-Mail?

Don't forget to send us your e-mail address if you want it listed in the *Dirigo Flyer*. It's a great way to keep in touch with other members, share information quickly, and stay current on aviation issues and happenings.

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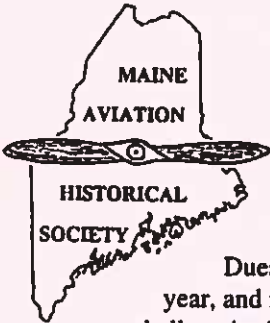
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2000

**MAINE AIR MUSEUM
MAINE AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
FORM**

Dues are for one year, and membership shall expire in the month you joined.

Annual membership includes
12 monthly newsletters!

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Special Interests _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Student	\$12 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Regular	\$25 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission
Family	\$35 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission
Corporate	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission, 4 Free Passes
Lifetime	\$500*	Newsletter, Patch, Lifetime Membership Number, Museum Admission, 10 Free Passes

* (2 annual \$250 payments)

Maine Aviation Historical Society
P.O. Box 2641
Bangor, ME 04402

April Meeting
Saturday, April 8, 2000
10 a.m.
Maine Air Museum Building
Bangor, Maine