

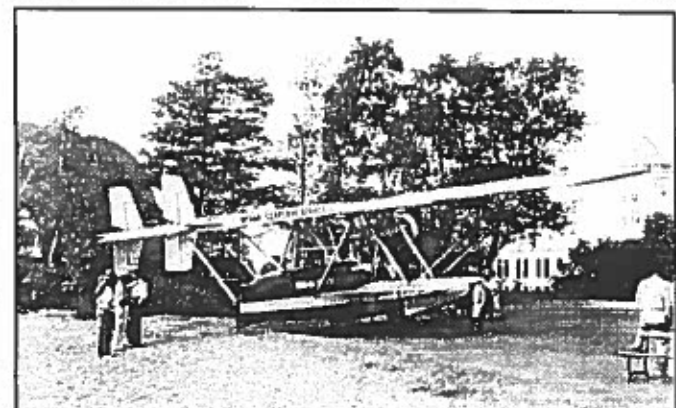
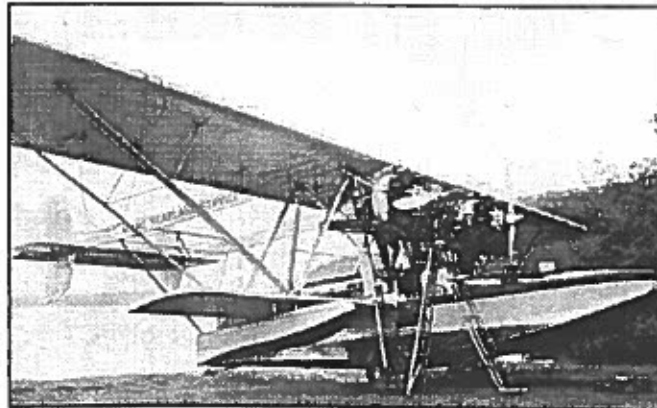
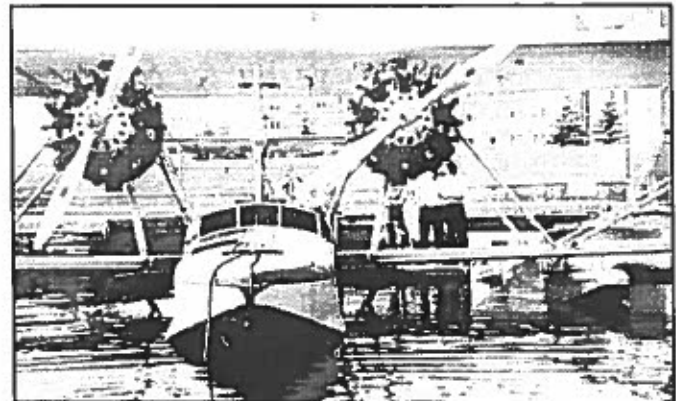
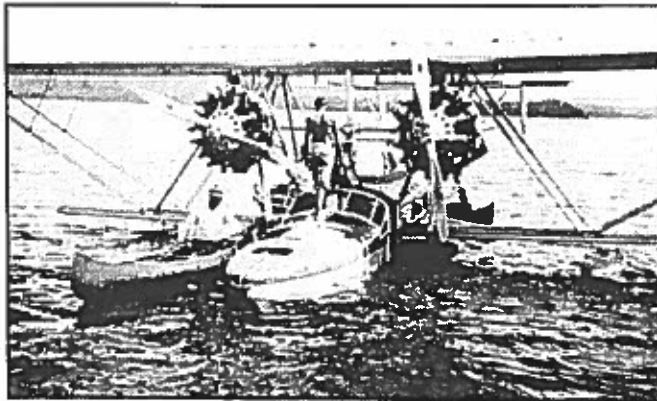
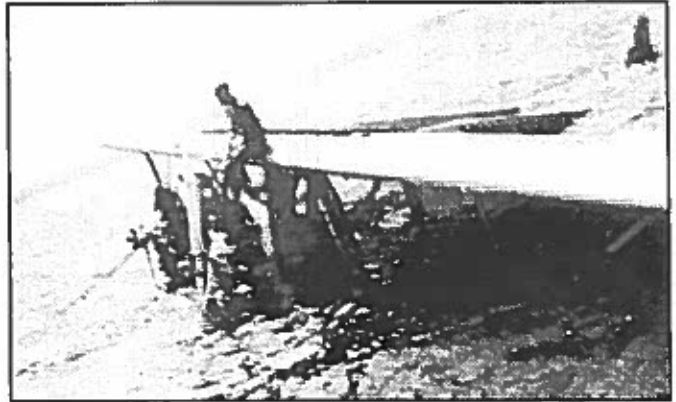
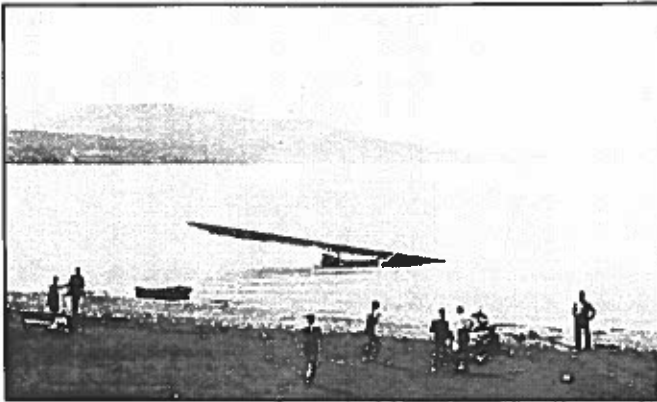
DIRIGO FLYER

Vol. XI, No. 4 April 2003

Newsletter of the Maine Aviation Historical Society
P.O. Box 2641, Bangor, Maine 04402 • 207-941-6757 • 1-877-280-MAHS (in state)
We're on the Internet! Visit our new web site at acadia.net/mahs/

Greenville Crash

On July 30, 1939, this Sikorsky S-38, owned by North American Airways, hit an object in the water on take-off and sank within 30 minutes. Neither the pilot, Harold Crowley, nor five people aboard were injured. Now, thanks to some great pictures sent to us by Barb Miles of the New Hampshire Aviation Historical Society, we have a record of the recovery of the Sikorsky.



Dirigo Flyer is published monthly by the Maine Aviation Historical Society, a non-profit (501c3) corp. P.O. Box 2641, Bangor, ME 04402
 web site: acadia.net/mahs/
 telephone: 207-941-6757
 1-877-280-MAHS (in state only)

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Peter Noddin (#295)
 East Millinocket, ME 04430
 207-746-5166
 e-mail: petef86a@midmaine.com

Vice President

Leslie Shaw (#331L)
 Brewer, ME 04412
 207-989-4168
 e-mail: les_shaw@unit.me.edu

Recording Secretary

William Townsend (#101L)
 Bar Harbor, ME 04609
 207-288-5654
 e-mail: townsend@acadia.net

Treasurer

Joseph Quinn (#377)
 Levant, ME 04456
 207-884-7188
 e-mail: jwquinn@adelphia.net

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 Ed Armstrong (2004) #166L
 Peter Noddin (2003) #295
 William Townsend (2003) #101L
 Leslie Shaw (2003) #331L
 Leo Boyle (2005) #2L
 Carl Sederquist (2005) #218L
 Alfred Cormier (2005) #196
 Joel Gopan (2005) #402

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

See calendar for details.

Maine Aviation Historical Society Monthly Meeting • Saturday, March 8, 2003

MAM Board of Directors March Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 0900 in the office of the Maine Air Museum, Bangor, Maine. Present were Armstrong, Boyle, Chichetto, Noddin, Sederquist, Shaw and Townsend. Absent: Cormier and Gopan. Treasurer Quinn was also present.

Museum Opening: The physical plant is pretty much ready for the opening with only minor items to be taken care of.

Exhibits/Displays: Boyle has access to a number of pictures of Old Orchard Beach flights and we might be able to produce an exhibit featuring these. We are considering painting some of the display cases a light blue. An update of the Transatlantic Flight display is being considered. We are considering a change in the position of the shadow box displays. The 42nd Bomb Wing display might be ready by July.

Opening Ceremony: Invitations are going out. Seven to ten volunteers are needed for the opening ceremony to wear period flight clothing. Display of crash sites and material needs to be brought together in one display. More general aviation material is needed, particularly Maine Air Lines.

TWA Artifacts: We will go through the donated items and select appropriate ones. The rest are to be returned to the donor. Chichetto will take care of this.

Maine Aviation Hall of Fame: It was decided to limit the names to two nominees per category for the first vote. These names will be listed in the *Dirigo Flyer* and voted on by the membership. The categories are: Military, Civil, Civic, and Pioneers. Under consideration in Military are Charles Loring, Gen. Phillip Tukey, and Robert Rushworth. Civil Aviation includes Dr. Cliff Strange, Lawrence Whitmore, and Charles Cianchette. Pioneers include Harry Jones, Leo Boyle, William Kittinger, and Thaddeus Lowe.

New Business: There is a possibility that we can request some of the excess office material from the Naval Security Group Activity at Winter Harbor. This material was surplus and might be available to the museum. Sederquist and Townsend will check on this. There was a discussion on the memorial brick orders and how to set up handling these.

At this point the meeting was adjourned until after the MAHS monthly meeting. MAM BOD meeting, second half, reconvened at 1125 hours. It was decided that the Treasurer will receive all brick applications and pass on the paper forms to Sederquist who will take care of ordering the bricks. Various walkway designs are being considered. Additional off-site meeting before the museum opening. We will try to have one but with the preparations for the opening it is unlikely. Noddin will handle any further work on this.

Old Business: We will need large portraits of Hall of Fame inductees. The ownership and origin and contents of the package from Northeastern Propeller that arrived via FEDEX is still undetermined. We decided to pay the shipping cost and accept the shipment anyway. It is not certain if FEDEX still has the shipment.

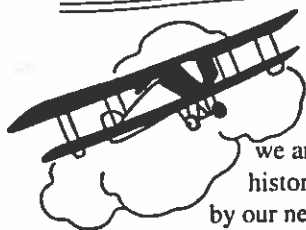
Future Business: We have been invited to participate in the 2003 Bangor Memorial Day parade. It was decided to again have a presence in this event.

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 1240 hours.

Dirigo Flyer Editor to Receive Award

Word has just been received that our *Dirigo Flyer* editor, Leo Boyle, will receive an award from the Aero Club of New England. Here is an excerpt from their notification:

"On behalf of the Aero Club of New England, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that Leo Boyle has been selected to receive our ACONE's Maine State Award for 2003. His citation reads as follows: *In recognition for his vision and effort in establishing the Maine Aviation Historical Society and his life-long enthusiasm for the preservation of Maine's aviation heritage.* This and other awards granted for the year 2003 will be presented at our annual ACONE awards ceremony on April 24, 2003 at the Sheraton-Lexington in Bedford, Massachusetts at 6:30 p.m."



MAHS President's Message, March 2003

With the snowbanks outside and the weather of this past week, I trust that we are all probably still in "winter" aviation history mode. However, spring will be here by our next meeting and things will happen fast at the Maine Air Museum. Each of these events will require volunteers from our membership to get off the ground.

Next month we will announce the results of the membership vote for the first four individuals to be inducted into the Maine Aviation Hall of Fame. In April, we will also dedicate our first crash site memorial for 2003 in memory of Lt. Herbert Hawes, the first of many F-84 pilots to lose their lives flying from Dow AFB. On April 24, the Aero Club of New England will honor Leo Boyle with an award for his outstanding work in preserving Maine's aviation heritage and for his vision and effort in establishing this society. Obviously, MAHS should be well represented to honor Leo at this event.

2003 marks the centennial of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight and numerous events are scheduled to occur around the state beginning in May. The Ruth Law take-off site ceremony and Memorial Day parade should also be attended visibly by our society.

Of course the largest benchmark for us is the opening of the museum on Flag Day, June 14. While there are no "show stopping" physical plant issues standing between us and this goal, there are many things that need volunteer hours to be ready. Exhibits need to be cleaned up, upgraded, organized, and a few new exhibits would greatly add to the season's success. One thing I would like to see is more photo exhibits of historic events and periods in Maine aviation history.

We hope to attract numerous distinguished guests to this event and will need volunteers to show people around, address the media, speak, and participate in the day's ceremonies. An MAHS "Passing of the Colors" team made up of members in uniforms or flight gear from major periods in military aviation history is one project. The ceremony would be accompanied by a special narration honoring those who have served our nation in the air.

The summer season will require staff for each weekend. We need a lot of members to work; we cannot rely on one or two all season. VP Les Shaw is filling out the schedule for the upcoming season. Please pick a day and volunteer. It is an easy contribution to make and is an excellent opportunity to progress our main purpose of preserving aviation history. We will need volunteers for booths at several aviation-related events.

We hope to have a second memorial dedication in mid-summer. In November, we will cooperate with the Lee Historical Society in dedicating a memorial to the four Bangor Army Air Field flyers who lost their lives in the B-18 crash near the "Thousand Acre Bog." This was the first fatal military aviation mishap in Maine. I hope to have a group, including a few in period Army Air Corps uniforms, recreate the rugged overland rescue hike across the bog, and then the over-water canoe route used to remove the air crew. By shooting video footage of this reenactment, I hope to spur interest in a news or PBS documentary on this tragedy.

Focusing on our museum and main purpose, I challenge you to search your interests, abilities and availability to find some way to volunteer to make "2003, the Centennial of Flight" a success of the MAHS. *Peter Noddin, President*

MAHS Monthly Meeting Notes

The March meeting of the MAHS was called to order at 10 a.m. at the MAM by President Noddin.

Treasurer's Report: See sheet 03-03-01 attached to secretary's minutes. Accepted.

Membership Report: Boyle reported that we are up to 170 active members and are approaching our goal of 200 members this year. Membership renewals are slowly coming in.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the February meeting were accepted as published in the *Dirigo Flyer*.

President's Message: President Noddin read his monthly message to the Society. Text is on page 3 (above). President Noddin also discussed plans for opening day. Thanks were offered to Ed Armstrong for his support in the purchase of fuel for the museum this winter.

Fundraising: Sederquist. Brick purchases are coming along slowly but steadily. An up-to-date report on the status of the Memorial Brick project is forthcoming. It is hoped that it will be received by opening day. We need to be seeking sponsorship of various displays and activities.

Physical Plant Report: Cormier was not present. It was reported that duct work had been fabricated and on-site but not yet installed. There are no "show stopping" items left to be resolved before opening day other than replacing some doors.

Crash Hike Plans: The first of the season is scheduled for late April, a planned trip to Amherst to place a memorial at the first F-84 crash in Maine. Also planned are trips to the C-40 site and the B-18 site in Lee which will be done in cooperation with the Lee Historical Society. It is hoped to do a mini documentary of the search for this site which was the first fatal military crash in Maine.

New Business: Oscar Blue noted that 2003 is the 100th anniversary of the Ford Motor Co. He is hoping to have an anniversary celebration to involve the connections with Ford and aviation. We have a film of the Ford B-24 production facility. Norm Houle donated a B-17 model and NE Airlines winter cap.

Museum Opening: During this discussion it was noted that Leo Boyle would be honored at the annual meeting of the New England Aero Club on April 24th, and that the MAHS would have a presence at that meeting. Seven to 12 volunteers are needed for the passing of the colors ceremony on opening day. Ballots for inductees to be the first members of the Maine Aviation Hall of Fame will go out in this issue of the *Dirigo Flyer*.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.
William Townsend, Recording Secretary

Harris Vernon Mathews Jr. 1921-2003

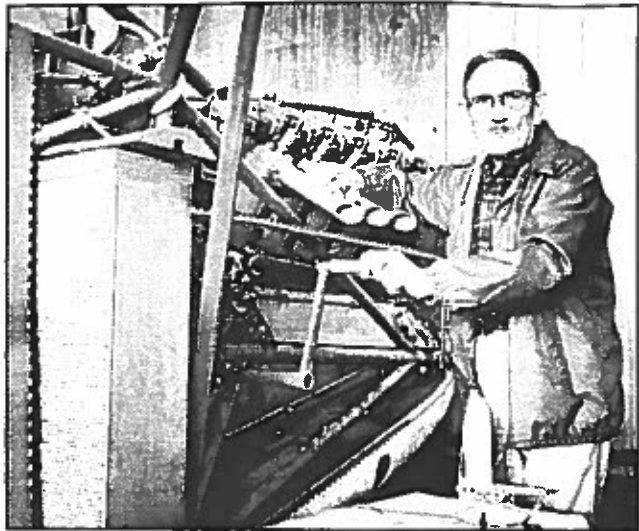
PITTSFIELD - Harris "Hap" Mathews, 81, died March 24, 2003, after a long illness. Harris was a graduate of Maine Central Institute of Pittsfield. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, achieving the rank of master technical sergeant (E-8) and was in aircraft repair. He saw heavy action in the liberation of the Philippine Islands and in the Bismark Archipelago Operation.

Hap was an aviation mechanic and motorcycle enthusiast. He was the area's first Indian motorcycle dealer. He managed the Brewer and Pittsfield Airports. He was awarded the Department of Transportation (F.A.A.) Aviation Mechanic Safety Award from then-Governor Longley in 1974.

Harris built several planes including a 1929 Great Lakes and a Fokker DR I German tri-plane for Kenneth Cianchette. He was employed by Kenneth Cianchette Construction Co., Inc. and Cianbro Construction, Inc. Harris worked 30 years for the Cianbro Corp. of Pittsfield.

He was a Scout master for many years for the Pittsfield area. Harris was a licensed pilot, master electrician, marksman, boat builder, skilled woodworker, and amateur historian.

He loved the Maine woods and was an avid camper, hunter, and fisherman. He enjoyed the outdoors and spent as much time as he could in a camp he built in the woods near Elliotville.



Above, Harris "Hap" Mathews. Below, Harris Mathews of Pittsfield, Maine and his 1929 Great Lakes airplane. (Photos via Norm Houle)



Proposed Agenda for Opening Day

By Peter Noddin

Folks, here is a rough draft of what I envision for the day's events at the opening ceremony:

- 1:00 p.m. *Outdoors, weather permitting. Should have a Huey behind the podium for photo purposes.*
 Opening Remarks
 Passing of the Colors Ceremony
 Raising of the Colors (*will need flagpole*)
 Recognition of Distinguished Guests
 Acknowledgment of Letters of Support
 Speeches by Public Officials
- 2:00 p.m. *Indoors??*
 Induction of the first four members of the Maine Aviation Hall of Fame
 - unveiling of the portrait/plaque
 - oral history of accomplishments
 - presentation of plaque to family
 - reception: light refreshments, mingling
- 3:00 p.m. Three 20-min. aviation talks by MAHS members
- 4:00 p.m. Lowering of the Colors
 Folding of the Colors Ceremony

Sikorsky Weekend

Once again, MAHS member Igor Sikorsky III is having his aviation seminar at his Bradford Camps on Munsungan Lake, Maine on July 11, 12, 13 (see ad below).

Last year, Peter Noddin, our president, was Igor's guest, and he gave a very interesting talk on Maine military aviation and crash sites.

Igor is again asking us to send a guest who will speak on a segment of Maine's aviation history. Peter Noddin had a great time last year, and if you are interested, please contact Leo Boyle at 207-854-9972 or e-mail pshaw@maine.rr.com.

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The Maine Air Museum Hall of Fame

In this issue you will find a ballot to help us choose our first inductees to the Maine Air Museum Hall of Fame. We have selected two candidates in each category. Please vote for one in each category and mail immediately to Maine Air Museum, P.O. Box 2641, Bangor, Maine 04402 to be received by April 11, 2003 or bring to the April 12th meeting at the museum. The Board of Directors will choose the award winners on that date.

The nominees are as follows:

Category 1: MILITARY AVIATION

General Phillip E. Tukey Jr. 1918-2001
Native of Portland. Alumni of Bowdoin College. Entered USAAF in 1940. 125 combat missions as P-47 and P-51 pilot in European Theatre WWII. Became the youngest Colonel in the ETO and commanded the 356th Fighter Group at Marlesham Heath, England. Post-war, he commanded the 325th Fighter Wing, All Weather at McChord AFB, WA, then the 101st Fighter-Interceptor Group MEANG.

General Robert Rushworth 1924-1993
Native of Madison, Maine and University of Maine Alumni. Entered USAAF in 1943, flew C-47s in China/Burma/India Theatre, served with MEANG after war while attending UMaine, returned to active duty when 132nd FS MEANG was federalized during Korean War, stayed on after Korea in the 49th FIS at Dow AFB. He became a test pilot and is best known for his X-15 flights. He logged a record 34 flights in the X-15, second X-15 pilot to earn astronaut wings for a flight over 50 miles high. Flew 189 combat missions in F-4s in Vietnam. He retired as a Major General, vice commander of the Aeronautical Systems Division, Air Force Systems Command.

Category 2: CIVIL AVIATION

Alton "Chuck" Cianchette 1930-2000
Native of Pittsfield. Charter President Maine Pilots Association, flying Maine Senator, a prominent businessman and supporter of general aviation.

Dr. Clifford Strange 1891-1958
Dr. Strange bought a tract of land on Westbrook Street in Portland in 1923. He and his brother-in-law bought a surplus Jenny in 1924, assembled it at Harry Jones' hangar at Old Orchard, and Bill Alexander taught them to fly. He flew from his home, called Stroudwater Field, and later expanded his field and built two hangars. A founder of the Maine Aero Club, he was a tireless promoter of aviation. Stroudwater Field is today's Portland International Jetport.

Category 3: CIVIC AVIATION

William Turgeon 1897-1971
Native of Auburn. Served in WWI as a member of the 13th Aero Squadron in France, following that as the first president of the Maine Aero Club. Maine Aeronautical Inspector of Aircraft. State Aviation Advisor. Superintendent in charge of the construction of the new Lewiston-Auburn Municipal Airport. In 1939, he became Maine's first flying game warden.

Harold Jones 1923-
Native of St. Francis. Naval aviation gunner and radar operator in WWII. He took flying lessons in 1947 and joined the Forest Service in 1969. He flew fixed-wing planes until 1975, when he learned to fly helicopters. He then flew them for the Service from that time until his retirement.

Category 4: AVIATION PIONEERS


Thaddeus Lowe 1832-1913
Native of New Hampshire. He spent his youth in Portland and experimented with kites and hot air balloons there. After a stint as a snake oil salesman, he grew up to become a self-educated but renowned aeronautic scientist. Appointed by Abraham Lincoln to command the first Army Balloon Corps which conducted over 3000 flights over enemy territory during the Civil War.

Harry Jones 1890-1973
Native of Rhode Island. Civilian Signal Corps instructor in WWI. After the war, he came to Old Orchard Beach for three weeks with his surplus Curtiss Jenny to fly off the beach. The three weeks lasted until 1933. In that time he flew Jennies, Standards, a Stinson Cabin Biplane and Bellancas, giving thousands of people their first airplane ride. In 1919, he flew the first Air Mail in Maine from Portland to Augusta. An inveterate promoter of aviation, he hosted air shows, was an aerial policeman. Hosted several attempts to fly across the Atlantic in the late 1920s. In 1933, Gov. Brann appointed him Maine's first Airport Commissioner; he developed 18 airports while in office.

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Buy a Brick and Support the Maine Air Museum

The Maine Air Museum is proud to announce the new Memorial Pathway Program. Here's how it works:

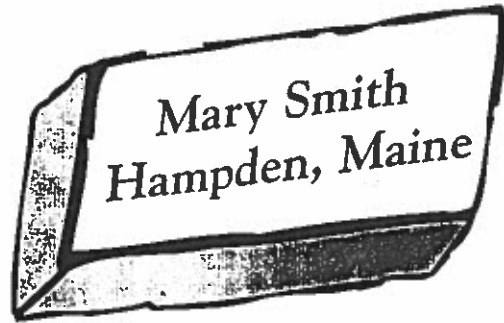
To successfully carry out and reach the museum vision, and to refurbish building 98, the Maine Air Museum needs the financial support of business and public community leaders and individual private citizens. Your interest in preserving the rich Maine aviation history will require funding presently not available to the museum effort. To this end, the museum board has established the following contribution plan for receiving your monetary donation and recognizing your gift permanently in the museum pathway and wall of honor. Remember: your donation is fully deductible.

★ Stratocumulus Member — \$100 Donation

Entitles the gift giver to a one-year membership and two-year museum pass and a benefactor's engraved 4"x8"x2.5" red clay brick with up to two lines (14 characters/line, .65" high) of commemorative text in the name of the gift giver or his/her memorial to others. Brick to be installed on the museum grounds, walkway or building facade.

★ Altostratus Member — \$150 Donation

Entitles the gift giver to a two-year membership and three-year museum pass, copy of *The United States Air Force in Maine*, and a benefactor's engraved 4"x8"x2.5" red clay brick with up to two lines (14 characters/line, .65" high) of commemorative text in the name of the gift giver or his/her memorial to others. Brick to be installed on the museum grounds, walkway or building facade.



See Order Form on Page 7

★ Altocumulus Member — \$250 Donation

Entitles the gift giver to a five-year membership and five-year museum pass and a benefactor's engraved 4"x8"x2.5" pearl gray marble brick with up to two lines (14 characters/line, .65" high) of commemorative text in the name of the gift giver or his/her memorial to others. Brick to be installed on the museum grounds, walkway or building facade.

★ Cirrus Member — \$2500 Donation

Entitles the gift giver to life membership status and a benefactor's engraved three foot white marble setting bench with one line (27 characters/line, 2" high) of commemorative text in the name of the gift giver or his/her memorial to others. Bench to be installed in the museum building or on the museum grounds.

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Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!

Order now and have your brick on display June 14, 2003.

* Does not include membership or book.

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Upcoming MAHS Meetings

✈ ✈ ✈ 2003 — 2003 — 2003 — 2003 — 2003 ✈ ✈ ✈

- April 12 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA
 April 24 6:30 p.m. Aero Club of New England Awards, Sheraton-Lexington, Bedford, Massachusetts
 May 10 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA
 May 17-18 All Day Hampton Fly-In Flea Market, Hampton, NH Airport
 May 25 10 a.m. Antique Aeroplane Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Owls Head, Maine
 June 8 10 a.m. Antique Aeroplane Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Owls Head, Maine
 June 14 9 a.m. MAHS Meeting, Maine Air Museum, Bangor, Maine
 June 14 GRAND OPENING, Maine Air Museum, Bangor, Maine
 July 5-6 10 a.m. Antique Aeroplane Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum, Owls Head, Maine
 July 12 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA
 August 9 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA
 Aug. 30, 31-Sept. 1 ... 10 a.m. Labor Day Gathering of Fords; the 100th Anniversary of Ford Motor Co.
 Sept. 6-8 All Day Greenville International Seaplane Fly-In, Greenville, Maine
 Sept. 13 10 a.m. MAHS Meeting, TBA

MAHS meeting sites and programs are flexible. Call Les Shaw at 1-877-280-MAHS if you have any ideas or if you can help.

Welcome, New Members

440. **Jeff Snow**
 P.O. Box 130
 Etna, ME 04434

442. **Peter P. Albert** (*restoration/antiques*)
 242 State Street
 Presque Isle, ME 04769 207-764-6716

441. **Jack Swanton**
 171 East Shore Road
 Westport, ME 04578 207-882-9635
 jack@wiscasset.net

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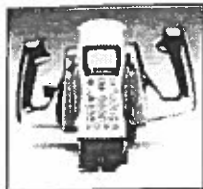
I am interested in a grant or matching grant contribution of \$ _____

Please submit this information and mail with your tax-deductible 501(c)3 contribution to MAHS, P.O. Box 2641, Bangor, Maine (ME) 04402. You will be mailed an acknowledgement and a copy of the engraving text proof.

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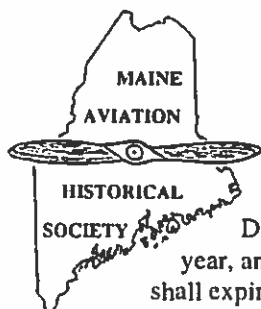


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Corporate	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission, 4 Free Passes
Lifetime	\$500*	Newsletter, Decal, Lifetime Membership Number, Museum Admission, 10 Free Passes
* (2 annual \$250 payments)		

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Regular	\$25 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission
Family	\$35 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission
Corporate	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission, 4 Free Passes
Lifetime	\$500*	Newsletter, Decal, 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

April 12, 2003
10 a.m.

Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Maine Air Museum
Bangor, Maine