

DIRIGO FLYER

Vol. XI, No. 6 June 2003

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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GRAND OPENING!

Saturday, June 14, 2003
10 a.m. — 4 p.m.



Agenda for Opening Day

- 1 p.m. Opening Remarks
Passing of the Colors Ceremony
Raising of the Colors
Recognition of Distinguished Guests
Acknowledgment of Letters of Support
Speeches by Public Officials
- 2 p.m. Naming of the office in honor of the late Jim Chichetto, in honor of his years of dedication and hard work to make the Society and the Museum a growing success.
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 p.m. Three 20-minute talks by MAHS Members
3:00 *Maine's Aviation Heritage*
by Leo Boyle
3:20 *Maine Aviation Archaeology*
by Peter Noddin
3:40 *The "White Bird" Mystery*
by Ed Armstrong
- 4 p.m. Lowering of the Colors
Folding of the Colors Ceremony

It is hoped that all members will make an extra effort to join us on this special day for the Maine Aviation Historical Society and the Maine Air Museum. In addition, the general public, including all of those in the aviation community, former members, their guests and friends, are cordially invited to this celebratory day.

Admission is free, so come and see how far we have come and join us in our continuing efforts to make the Maine Air Museum an exciting, fun and educational place to visit and support.

We've come a long way, we still have a long way to go, so join us as we continually strive to grow our exhibits and our museum.

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Michael Cornett (2004) #321L
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 Updates May 2003

MAM Board of Directors Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2003 at the Maine Air Museum by Vice President Shaw in the absence of President Noddin. There was a moment of silence for Jim Chichetto.

Admission Fees and Hours of Operation: It was the consensus of the board that the admission be set at \$2 for adults, \$1 for children, and a maximum of \$5 per family. Moved, seconded, passed. The hours of operation shall be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Moved, seconded, passed.

Displays: There has been no further information on the Pilot's Grill material. Ed Armstrong will check on this.

Security: There was a general discussion about security of material. No decisions were forthcoming.

Open House: We need to schedule a program, possibly with a few short talks on history, the "White Bird," crash sites, and other topics that might come up. We will need to set up a schedule of who will give these short talks and when. Leo Boyle will cover history, Pete Noddin will do crash sites, and Ed Armstrong will do the "White Bird." The main feature of the Open House will be the dedication of the Maine Aviation Hall of Fame. PR must be started now. Ed Armstrong will write and submit a draft of a press release. There will be free admission on Open House day but donation boxes will be strategically placed. There was a discussion about items that are on loan versus those that have been donated. No consensus was reached as to security of loaned items.

Gift Shop: The shop will be minimal for now.

Food: There were mixed feelings about having food at the Open House. It was noted that food and drink are prohibited on museum grounds and buildings. There is the possibility of having a portable vendor set up outside the gate. Carl Sederquist will see if any non-profit group might like to sell food.

Brick Sales: Sales are slow at best. A local monument company can engrave regular bricks but there is no local supplier of marble bricks.

Memorial Day Parade: We will participate this year but with a simplified float which will consist of the Scorpion Helicopter on a trailer pulled by a pickup truck.

Flagpole: We are looking into the purchase of a 20 foot flagpole from Sam's Club.

Maine Aviation Hall of Fame: The election held last month to choose the first inductees into the Hall of Fame resulted in the following:

<i>Military Aviation</i> ...	General Robert Rushmore	1924-1993
<i>Civil Aviation</i> ...	Alton "Chuck" Cianchette	1930-2000
<i>Civic Aviation</i> ...	William Turgeon	1897-1971
<i>Aviation Pioneers</i> ...	Harry M. Jones	1890-1973

The losing candidates, General Phillip E. Tukey Jr., Dr. Clifford Strange, Harold Jones and Thaddeus Lowe, will automatically be on the ballot for the 2004 election to the Hall of Fame.

Adjournment: The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 0959.

William Townsend, Secretary

MAHS Monthly Membership Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2003 at the Maine Air Museum by Vice President Shaw. Nineteen members and guests were present.

President's Report: President Noddin was absent, no report.

Secretary's Report: There was no April meeting, therefore no minutes. Web page statistics stand at 13009 hits for the month of April. Accepted.

Membership Report: We currently have 167 paid members.

Treasurer's Report: Copies were handed out. A new category of expenses, newsletter, has been added to the monthly report. Accepted.

Buildings and Grounds: Seasonal maintenance has been started, grass mowed, the Luscombe polished, general clean-up.

Museum Report: The Grand Opening is planned for June 14. Much help is needed. We need someone to be in charge of organizing displays (i.e., a curator) to replace Jim Chichetto.

Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was held in Jim's honor.

Labor Day: The Antique Ford Association will hold their annual event at the museum. In turn, we will feature the aviation business of the Ford Company.

Fundraising: Brick sales are still half price for members until the June 14 opening. Several people ordered bricks at this meeting. As a fundraising possibility, John Miller suggested having talks by local veterans with admission being charged.

Aircraft Acquisition: John Miller asked about how we determine the value of a donated aircraft. The EAA is offering some of their collection of aircraft. We are interested in a half-scale Jenny.

Museum Operations: Les Shaw is organizing the volunteer schedule for the summer.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1100.

William Townsend, Secretary



Remembering the Bell P-39

Does anyone know more about these P-39s?

Bell P-39 Airacobra "Ginny" at Dow Field in 1942. They came to Dow by rail and were prepped and flight tested before being forwarded to the ETO. In the picture above are Ralph Pinkham and Capt. Dyke, the test pilot.



Pictured at right, P-39s lined up in front of the hangar at Dow in 1942. (Alvah Smith Photos via Carl Sederquist)

2003 ACONE State Award Given to MAHS Founding Member Leo Boyle

The prestigious Aero Club of New England, the oldest aero club in America, founded in 1902, recently presented its first-ever State Awards at its Annual Meeting. The Maine Aviation Historical Society was honored by the selection of Leo Boyle, an original founder, past president, and for ten years editor of our newsletter, *Dirigo Flyer*, to receive the Maine State Award.

Leo was introduced at the Awards Banquet by Mike Muchmore, President of the Maine Aeronautics Association. His citation reads: *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. Congratulations, Leo. We're all proud of you!*



Above: Leo Boyle on the right with other recipients of the 2003 ACONE Awards. (ACONE Photo) Right: Leo Boyle at the ACONE Awards Banquet with his grandsons Kelly Falsani of Duluth, MN and Washington, D.C. and Shea Ellis of Belgrade, ME. (Falsani Photo)



Leo Boyle speaking at the Awards Banquet after receiving his award, promoting the new Maine Air Museum. (ACONE Photo)



Labor Day Weekend at the MAM

2003 is the 100th anniversary for the Ford Motor Company, and Ford is going all out to celebrate, but to our knowledge, nothing is happening in Maine. So Oscar Blue (MAHS #3) says, let's have our own 100th birthday party for the Ford Motor Company and bring public attention to our own new Maine Air Museum by having a display of antique Fords and telling the story of Ford's involvement in aviation on Labor Day weekend at the museum.

Members and friends will be allowed to display their antique Ford Motor Company vehicles (25 years old or older) inside the compound for the whole weekend. The public can be invited to bring their antique Fords on Sunday. We will be arranging a display of Ford's involvement in aviation for inside the museum. This involves the Ford Tri-Motors, the Ford Flivver and their production of B-24s and Pratt & Whitney engines in World War II.

We would welcome anyone who wants to volunteer for this display.

Sikorsky Weekend

Once again, MAHS member Igor Sikorsky III is having his aviation seminar at his Bradford Camps on Munsungan Lake, Maine on July 11-13. Last year, Peter Noddin 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. If you are interested, please contact Leo Boyle at 207-854-9972 or pshaw@maine.rr.com.

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Clarence Chamberlin

Lin Lawrence comments on the Clarence Chamberlin story *First Time Around* by Jim McCarthy in the May issue. He says the radiators for the Curtiss Condor's Conqueror engines leaked five gallons of water each for every 15 minute flight, and Chamberlin used to fly from noon to midnight. That's a lot of water!

He also recalls how the CAA grounded him once until he completed a flight check with an inspector. He took the inspector up in the Condor, climbed to 3000 feet and put the Condor in a spin. The inspector couldn't wait to get back on the ground at the Newark Airport!



1939 Luscombe 8As on the ramp at the factory in West Trenton, NJ awaiting delivery. Price then was \$1995. (Lin Lawrence Photo)



Member Lin Lawrence at Sun 'n Fun 2003 in front of the new Renaissance Luscombe 8F, now in production at Cape Girardeau, MO. The price is \$77,500 with a Lycoming O-320 150 hp engine. Lin says we have a treasure in our Luscombe. (Lin Lawrence Photo)

Book Review

The following review for John Garbinski's book *The United States Air Force in Maine* appeared in the *American Aviation Historical Society* newsletter. See our own ad for this book below.

The United States Air Force in Maine by John Garbinski
MAHS \$20.00 (plus \$3.50 first class postage)

Before I began to read John Garbinski's book, I leafed through it with anticipation, especially since I'm a New Englander, though from Massachusetts. I'm always open for anything about the *nawtheast*, though a Californian for over thirty years.

The work is about how the State of Maine was affected during the Cold War from an aviation standpoint. I'll wager here and now that the lads and lassies who served in Maine during the Cold War days will eat it up. The author has dedicated the book to them, members of SAC, ADC and AMC. They'll find that they can once more reacquaint themselves with their bases and stations. The locals will also find the chapters informative and interesting. After all, they were an important part of the base and station organizations.

Perhaps it has been done but, if not, notices of the book should appear in the *Air Force Journal* of the Air Force Association and in other like-minded publications. That would bring the previously mentioned troops out of the woodwork.

The author has researched well. His writing flows along which is an accomplishment in a detail ridden effort. The chapters on Dow, the ADC, Caribou and Loring are informative, I was pleased to read how Dow and Loring were named. Often, important information such as this is not included.

I suppose my only meow is the light treatment given the Air Transport Command in Chapter 1. Granted that this is a Cold War era book, but the Army of Terrified Civilians (ATC) deserves a few more lines or at least a picture of their emblem. You don't guess that I was ATC, do you?

Never mind. John Garbinski's book is one to read. Get out and get a copy before the first snow hits town.

— L.F. Burke, AAHS

Catch the Excitement !!

The Maine Aviation Historical Society's First Book by Member

JOHN C. GARBINSKI

**The United States Air Force in Maine
Progeny of the Cold War**

8 1/2 x 11 softbound, 134 pages, 151 illustrations
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The Maine Air Museum is proud to announce the new Memorial Pathway Program. Here's how it works:

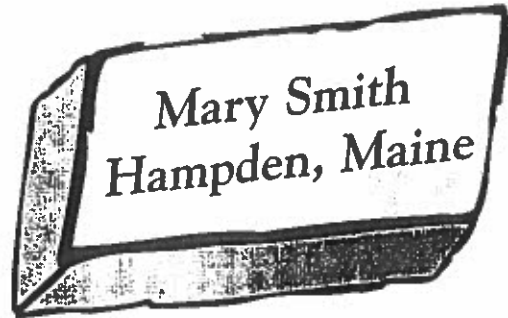
To successfully carry out and reach the museum vision, and to refurbish building 98, the Maine Air Museum needs the financial support of business and public community leaders and individual private citizens. Your interest in preserving the rich Maine aviation history will require funding presently not 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.

The Maine Air Museum is wholly owned and operated by the Maine Aviation Historical Society.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

As you know, members have been able to purchase a brick for one-half the donations listed above.*

Time is running out!

After the Grand Opening, June 14, 2003, the listed prices will apply to all.

Now is the time for members to buy bricks ... for yourself and anyone you might wish to honor.

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!

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

* Does not include membership or book.

JOIN US TODAY . . . SAVE AVIATION HISTORY FOR TOMORROW

Upcoming MAHS Meetings

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

- June 14 9 a.m. MAHS Meeting, Maine Air Museum, Bangor, Maine
 June 14 10 a.m. 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. 4-7 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 Member

446. **Diane H. Parker**
 319 Ocean House Road
 Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107 207-799-6392
 dhparker2@juno.com

Got 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.

2003 ACE Camp

The 2003 Aviation Career Education ACE Camp will be held in Bangor from June 22-28, 2003 for high school students in grades 9-12.

Come join the fun and learn about great careers in aviation.

For more information, write to:
 ACE Camp c/o EMTC
 354 Hogan Road
 Bangor, ME 04401

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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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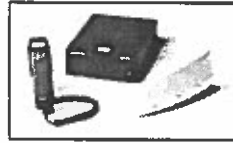
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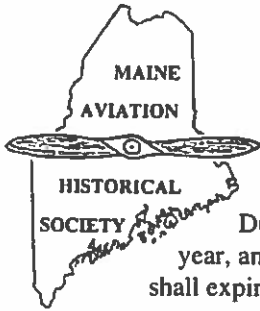
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Lifetime	\$500*
* (2 annual \$250 payments)	

Benefits
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Newsletter, Decal, Lifetime Membership Number, Museum Admission, 10 Free Passes

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

June Meeting

June 14, 2003

10 a.m.

GRAND OPENING

Maine Air Museum

Bangor, Maine