



# Dirigo Flyer

Newsletter of the Maine Aviation Historical Society  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As your new President, my goal is to make improvements to the museum for all to enjoy, hoping you will visit the museum more often to see all of our new displays. We would like to make the Maine Air Museum a great place for all family members to visit.

We now have a great picnic area for all to enjoy. We are in desperate need of help to run the museum on Saturdays and Sundays, and sure could use your help to keep the museum open. Please call Chuck Byrum at (207) 942-4394 or e-mail me at [chuck104@myfairpoint.com](mailto:chuck104@myfairpoint.com).

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Amelia's Grand Tour of Maine | Maine Aero Rendezvous | Peg Redman, Maine Veteran | Lighting Improvement

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## FEATURE STORY

### *Amelia's Grand Tour of Maine*

The Maine Air Museum is commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Tour of Maine taken by famed aviatrix Amelia Earhart in the summer of 1934. Boston-Maine Airways and various chambers of commerce sponsored the tour of Maine by the aviatrix. At that time, Miss Earhart, who in 1932, was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, was probably the most famous person in the country after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Amelia's mission for the tour was twofold: first, to encourage women and girls to seek careers in aviation by giving them airplane rides; and second, to encourage Maine residents to fly on the new Boston-Maine Airways, Inc. connecting Boston, Portland, Rockland, Augusta, Waterville, and Bangor.

The trip was made in a Stinson tri-motored "Detroit" ten-passenger airliner piloted by a B.M. pilot, while Miss Earhart was the guide and narrator for each flight. The itinerary for the trip was as follows:

Sunday, August 12, 1934, Bangor  
Monday, August 13, 1934, Waterville  
Tuesday, August 14, 1934, Augusta

Since the airliner only held ten passengers, and two hundred passengers were given rides at each of the three stops, those must have been three very busy days. A list of the two hundred Bangor area women and children who were lucky enough to get tickets for one of the flights, is on display with the exhibit, thanks to reporting by the Bangor Daily News. A list of 140 local-area passengers is available for viewing when the exhibit visits Augusta, thanks to an August 13, 1934 article in the Daily Kennebec Journal.



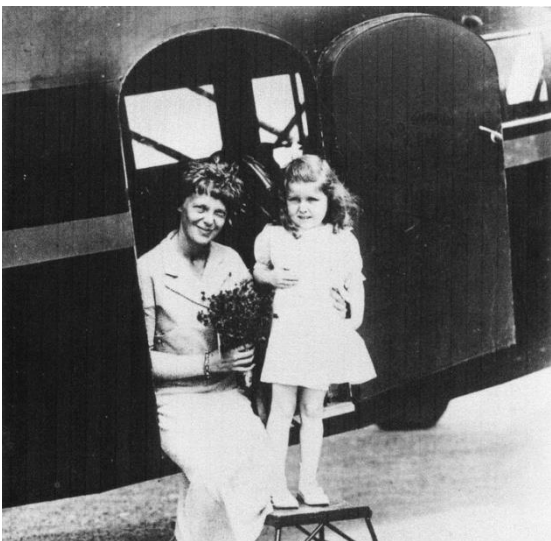
*Photo of ticket from 1934 Tour, donated to the Museum by Ms. Lancaster's niece, René Kein*



*Passengers boarding Detroit in Bangor during first stop of Amelia's Grand Tour of Maine. Donated by Ms. Kein.*

While in Bangor, Miss Earhart occupied the Governor's Suite at the Log Lodge at Lucerne-in-Maine in Dedham. After her day at the Waterville Airport, Amelia travelled to Lakewood where she spent the night and was entertained by Groucho Marx at the Lakewood Theater.

Of note, the Bangor mother of a very young Alfred Cormier managed to get him on one of the flights, even though he was not female. Al went on to a distinguished career as a United States Air Force pilot.



*Photo of Amelia with 4 year old Gladys Chase, taken at Amelia's Augusta stop.*

The world continues to be fascinated with the spirit and accomplishments of Amelia Earhart who is frequently quoted as saying "adventure in itself is worthwhile." Miss Earhart's charm and honest friendliness won the hearts of all who met Amelia during her three-day tour of Maine. The feeling was apparently reciprocated, as Amelia often stated that she was "very fond of Maine." Over 10,000 people paid homage to Amelia at the Bangor airport in 1934, yet she was never too busy to shake the hand of a tiny child or to sign an autograph.

The museum's commemoration involves a special display which includes a mannequin garbed as Amelia Earhart would have dressed during that period, including vintage helmet and flying goggles. The display also includes photos of Amelia taken during her Maine tour and details about the tri-motor aircraft in use at that time. A vintage metal, toy aircraft which replicates the tri-motor plane is part of the display. Chuck Byrum, museum president, says the display gives the public an opportunity to commemorate one of America's most famous pilots and to discover, or relive, a bit of Maine aviation history.

Director Hank Marois took many of the display's tri-motored Detroider photos in Florida last winter. The aircraft is one of only two tri-motored Detroiders remaining in existence. The museum thanks Mr. Kermit Weeks, Fantasy of Flight, for permission to use the photographs of his Stinson Detroider.

The Maine Air Museum plans to display the exhibit in several cities this summer, first at Bangor, then Waterville, and finally Augusta, retracing the route that Amelia took 80 years ago. The schedule for the display's 2014, Grand Tour of Maine is:

Bangor International Airport: 8/17/2014 to 8/25/2014  
Waterville Public Library: 8/25/2014 to 9/5/2014 or 9/8/2014 (TBD)  
Lucerne Inn in Dedham: 9/15/2014 – 9/22/2014 (tentative)  
Augusta Airport: 9/24/2014 to 9/29/2014  
Maine Air Museum: 10/11/2014 for end of season meeting

The display will return to its home base at the Maine Air Museum thereafter. For more information about the schedule, call Robert Umberger of the Maine Air Museum's board of directors at (207) 216-9113. If your organization or school would like to have the Amelia Earhart display at your location, please contact the Maine Air Museum at [mam@maineairmuseum.com](mailto:mam@maineairmuseum.com).



*Amelia Earhart Exhibit on display at BIA*

## MAINE AERO RENDEZVOUS EVENT WINNER



This vintage plaque was awarded by Airways, Inc. (Piper Aircraft Dealer) of Waterville, ME to Mr. Roland Maheu of Minot, ME for winning the "Piper Cub Airplane Race" at the 1938 Maine Aero Rendezvous held at the Augusta State Airport. The plaque stayed at Mr. Maheu's hangar at the Minot Airport for years. After Mr. Maheu's death, the plaque was given to the Maine Air Museum in Bangor. The plaque remained in the museum archives for some time, until member/archivist Norm Houle decided the plaque should be on display for all museum visitors. He discussed it with member Bob Umberger who took the plaque home as a winter project. After more than seventy years of laying around, the plaque was no longer mounted as it originally had been. One of the mount pins on the back was broken off and the face was nearly black due to years of dirt and tarnish build up. After much "elbow grease" and careful cleaning, the inscription on the historic plaque is once again very legible; the broken/missing mount pin was replaced; and it was finally placed on permanent display in an appropriate frame at the start of last year's museum season and beyond. It is just one more example of the unique Maine aviation artifacts that keeps the museum's exhibits interesting and ever expanding.



If you are not familiar with the Maine Aero Rendezvous, or if you wish to refresh your memory of this great Maine aviation event, see the article reproduced below from the August 15, 1939 edition of the *Lewiston Evening Journal*:

## **Maine Aero Rendezvous**

### **Promises Big Air Show**

The eyes of the aviation world are again focused on the Nation's third largest aviation event, the Maine Aero Rendezvous which will be held on Aug. 25, 26, and 27 at the Augusta State Airport with a galaxy of nationally known stars all contributing.

More than 132,000 people have attended the Rendezvous the past two years which from a meagre beginning has grown into a national event. The program this year will consist of 15 thrilling acts with many National Air Race attractions.

#### **Tempting Prizes**

The first attendance prize this year will be a Round Trip by air to Europe on the Pan-American Clipper or cash and in addition will be 5 round trips by air with tickets of admission to the New York World's Fair to be presented to the next 5 admission tickets drawn.

In addition to several hundred reserved chairs the Directors of the Rendezvous have arranged for over 7000 bleacher seats as well as more advantageous enclosed stand-areas.

Many exhibits will be available for those attending the Rendezvous with motor manufacturers, plane manufacturers, parts manufacturers and airline operators all combining to make one of the most interesting and fascinating showings of equipment ever attempted in the East.

The Maine Gas Model Championship will take place on Saturday morning Aug. 26 with beautiful trophy emblematic of the championship being presented and several cash prizes presented by the Rendezvous.

#### **National Stars Enter**

Some of the Nation's greatest stars in the field of aviation will participate in the daring exhibitions featured at the

National Air Races, 15 professional acts gathered from all sections of the country including Don Walters, National Air Race star in a fast and low acrobatic show; Buddy Batzel stunting a Taper-wing Waco doing all of his designs with smoke and later jumping from 10,000 feet with smoke trail, falling a mile and a half before opening his parachute; Tom Stauch in the famous racing plane that won the Greve trophy at the Natl. Air races attempting to break the inverted speed record; Leon Peterson in the fastest acrobatic show on earth and doing the world's lowest outside loop; an old 1910 Lincoln Benchery Pusher plane in a thrilling comedy act. Harold Brown, Maine Parachute Champion in hair-raising jumps; Bob St. Jock the Maine Aerobatics Champion featuring square loops and many others to make the most fascinating spectacle ever witnessed in this section of the country.

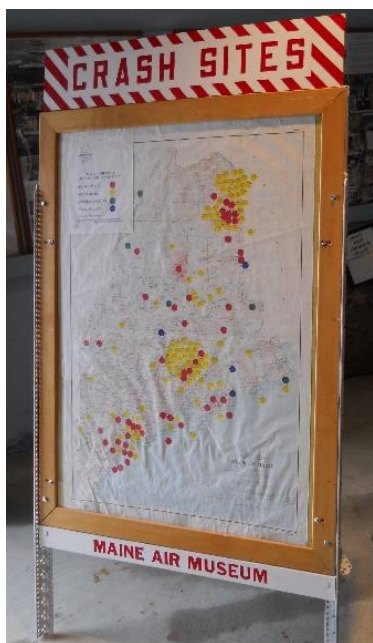
Miss Laura Ingalls of New York, one of the most outstanding women stunt pilots will present precision aerobatics; an inverted spin, slow rolls in perfect circle around the field and the outside loop. While in Maine, Miss Ingalls will be a guest of Governor and Mrs. Barrows at the Blaine Mansion, Augusta.

#### **Flying Allens**

The Flying Allens will present Miss Florence Allen who is to be shot from a cannon nearly 3000 feet in the air. This huge cylindrical cannon is suspended from an 88 foot balloon and as the balloon reaches a certain height the cannon explodes and this daring girl is shot into space. When her momentum stops and she starts a free fall her parachute is opened and she makes her descent back to terra firma.

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## ***Crash-Proof Map***



The large free-standing State of Maine map showing the locations of all major military aircraft crash sites from World War I to the Cold War had been displayed on a flimsy wooden tripod, and we were worried that it could collapse and possibly injure someone. It is now braced with angle iron and is "Atom Bomb Proof." The walls behind the map hold pieces of wreckage as well as pictures of some of the crash sites.

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## ***Peg Redman, Maine Veteran***

The Maine Air Museum is fortunate to have been given a mannequin dressed in the WAC uniform of Margaret "Peg" Peterson Redman. Her son Ron Redman, of Bangor, Maine was recently photographed at the museum holding his mother's photograph while standing beside the mannequin.

Peg, who was born October 2, 1918, in Bangor, passed away September 4, 2013, at the age of 94. She had graduated from St. John's Parochial School and John Bapst High School, both in Bangor, before starting her military career.

Peg was the first woman from the Bangor area to join the armed forces during World War II. She joined the Women's Army Corp or "WACS," and received her basic training in Des Moines, Iowa in 1942. She was then assigned to the Aircraft Warning center in Bangor for a short while, before being transferred to Camp Polk, LA as an NCO in charge of physical training. Later, at the Army Air Base, Mitchell Field, N.Y., she was in charge of technical supplies, and operated a tractor, pulling airplanes from the hangars to the fields and back again. Other services performed during her military career include: operator, receptionist, and confidential correspondent. She made inspection tours of Air Fields while attached to the Inspector General's Office, Headquarters of the First Air Force.



Peg volunteered for her final in-service assignment in the European Theatre Operation in England, which lasted 2 years. This location was the port of entry and departure for all soldiers traveling in and out of Europe. Here, she married a fellow soldier, survived the "London Blitz," and in 1945, returned home to the states.



After the war, Peg turned her energy to civilian pursuits. She was employed 20 years by the Sylvania Corp. and still found time to be an avid gardener and devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was the driving force behind the formation of a local social group of women veterans who marched in parades and volunteered to cook for the Bangor homeless shelter, make May Baskets for the elderly, etc. The group's motto was "Women are Veterans, Too!" Peg was the first woman in the Bangor area to be admitted into the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. She was a life member of VFW Post No. 1761 of Bangor, and the American Legion Post No. 84, Orono. She was also a member of Women Veterans of America, Chapter 23, and past senior vice commander and life member of the JF Kennedy Post No. 6, Disabled American Veterans. The Maine Air Museum is proud to display Peg Peterson Redman's WAC uniform and story.

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## ***Famed Restaurateur, Bill Zoidis, and His Former Employees Honored by Maine Air Museum***

On Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Maine Air Museum hosted a reunion for Bill Zoidis, owner of the famed Pilots Grill, and 18 of his former employees and their spouses. The reunion was held in front of the museum's new exhibit honoring the much loved dining establishment. The 84 year old Zoidis has lost none of his charm since the days at the Pilots Grill when he knew every customer in the house.



The exhibit centers around three aviation paintings by Jim Powers, which were exhibited in the restaurant for many years. Jim lives in Veazie, Maine and served in the Army Air Corps during WW II in the China-India Theater, flying the "Hump," and making air drops with another local young man, Alfred Cormier. Jim Powers was a "kicker," the man who pushed the parachuted, air-dropped supplies from the



airplane to our forces on the ground. Al and Jim flew many missions together. Unfortunately Jim could not attend due to health problems.

The exhibit also has many artifacts from the restaurant, including an early menu. If you would like to know how much a steak dinner cost back then, come by and check out the menu. Thanks to R M Flagg, Hotel and Restaurant



Equipment Co., which furnished the original china and flatware when the restaurant opened, an exact duplicate of an original place setting is featured as part of the exhibit.

At the event, Mr. Zoidis told a story about when Pilots Grill first opened. The commanding officer at Dow Army Air Field paid Paul Zoidis, Bill's dad, a visit, and asked if the restaurant planned to serve alcohol. The answer was a firm, "No," which pleased the C.O. He didn't

want his personnel drinking alcohol over the noon hour since the establishment was the favorite hang-out for the troops at the air base.

Mr. Zoidis also mentioned that during WW II, sugar was rationed and each family had a monthly "allowance." If the family ran out of sugar, they would go to restaurants such as the Pilots Grill; empty the sugar bowls into small paper bags; and take it home with them.



Bill Zoidis (left) was honored by the presentation of a key to the museum by the newly elected President, Chuck Byrum. After accepting the key, he was immediately put on notice that if he uses the key and is the first one in the museum in the morning, he will have to make the coffee. Demonstrating his graciousness, Mr. Zoidis invited the group to be his guests for lunch at the Ground Round.



# HANK'S WEATHER STATION STORY

By Hank Marois



To aviators, prior to a flight, the following questions are universally asked by the pilot: Is the plane flight worthy and fueled up? Where are we going? What's the weather here, en route, and where we will be landing? We realized that our museum had almost nothing dealing with that last vital question. I sent email messages to several of the local TV and radio weather prognosticators asking for assistance helping the museum acquire a basic weather station. Over the next few months my pleas went unanswered, so I had to take an alternative route. I mentioned our dilemma to a friend, and he suggested that I contact a weather station company in Bar Harbor. The company had moved to Trenton, on the Bar Harbor Road, about 6 miles from our cottage. I rarely take the Bar Harbor Road to Ellsworth because it is shorter for me to go to Ellsworth on the Bay Side Road. One visit to RainWise and a brief meeting with Executive Vice President Lonnie White solved our problem. RainWise would donate a weather station to the Maine Air Museum. I returned to RainWise at the appointed time; met with Lonnie and Marketing Manager Sonia Turanski; the equipment was loaded into my car; and about an hour later, the weather station was up and running at the museum. Now, our local TV and radio weather forecasters can take their weekends off, because visitors to the Maine Air Museum can tell which direction, and how fast the wind is blowing, plus a lot more weather information thanks to the generosity of RainWise Inc., Professional Weather Instruments of Trenton, Maine. The photo on the right above, shows several of the "enlightened" museum volunteers demonstrating that they know which way the wind is blowing.

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## MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS, PAST AND FUTURE

The museum now has background music in all viewing areas. Don't expect to hear heavy metal bands or rock 'n roll. You will more likely hear "old-time" favorites from the WWII era.

In the plans?

- Improvements to the exterior side and over-head doors.
- A viewing platform or bleachers to take advantage of the museum's proximity to the runway at BIA.

- Lighting Improvements. The museum is making major improvements in lighting the interior and exterior:
  - All the old-but-high-quality, three tube florescent fixtures have been refurbished with new, efficient ballasts and new florescent tubes. The difference is like night and day.
  - Our High Bay lights are to get new bulbs.
  - The gift shop and work shop lighting has been improved.
  - Finally, we are getting a new street light that shines on our museum sign.



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## ***WWII Cargo Plane Visited Presque Isle on Way to Europe for D-Day Celebration***



1 Photo Courtesy Bangor Daily News

Whiskey 7, a World War II cargo plane on its way to Europe for the D-Day celebration, stopped in Presque Isle on May 15, 2014. According to the Portland Press Herald, Presque Isle was the first stop on the trans-Atlantic flight from New York to Europe. Other stops were to be in Labrador, Iceland, Scotland, and finally Normandy for the June 6 celebration.

According to The Bangor Daily News, Whiskey 7 was “an instrumental part of the D-Day operation when it dropped members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne near St. Mere-Eglise, France,

and continued to airlift in additional troops, equipment and supplies to the front line.” St. Mere-Eglise was the first town liberated on D-Day.

The Portland paper wrote that those planning to take part in the Presque Isle activities included Heber Umphrey of Ashland, a paratrooper who jumped from C-47’s during WWII; Joseph “Reed” Beaulieu of Van Buren, a pilot who flew the C-47; Donald Collins of Caribou, a veteran who landed at Normandy Beach on D-Day; and Thelma Archer of Presque Isle, who helped build C-47’s during World War II.

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## EVENTS THIS SUMMER

On July 28, 2014, the museum hosted forty-eight students and staff from the ACE (Aviation Career Education) program in Bangor, with tours of the museum and a picnic lunch on our newly painted picnic tables. Viewing incoming and outgoing air traffic on the adjacent runway was a highlight of the event.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13, 2014 Monthly meeting of the Maine Aviation Historical Society. 10:00 a.m. at the museum. Discussion of viewing platform vs. bleachers will be held.

(Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month)

October 11, 2014 Monthly meeting of the Maine Aviation Historical Society. 10:00 a.m. at the museum. Cook-out immediately after the meeting for all members and Community Partners.

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## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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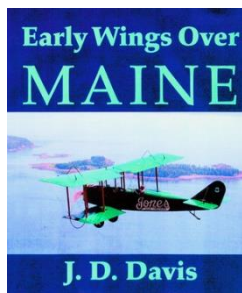
Front



Back

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All sizes, \$16.00

### BOOKS FOR SALE



Early wings over Maine by John Davis  
Price \$24.95 (includes sales tax)  
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In stock and ready for delivery

Send check payable to MAHS to  
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Also available through the museum:

***Memoirs: With an Angel By My Side*** by member Alfred Cormier.

His flying life as told by Al and available exclusively from the Maine Air Museum.

\$16.00 at the museum, \$22.00 via mail. To order, call or email the museum.

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Another exclusive book from the Maine Aviation Historical Society. Softbound, 134 pages, 151 illustrations.

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1-877-280-MAHS toll free in Maine. 207-941-6757

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. The Maine Air Museum is located at the 98 Maine Avenue adjacent to the Bangor International Airport

**44° 48' 2.10" North 68° 48' 36.02" West**

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Maine Air

Museum

## COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS

The Maine Air Museum thanks the following individuals, corporations and organizations for their support:

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## Maine Aviation Historical Society Maine Air Museum \* Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**All dues expire on  
June 30th of each year.  
If joining mid-year,  
pay \$2.00 for each  
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Annual membership  
includes six newsletters!

Mail payment to:  
Maine Aviation  
Historical Society  
PO Box 2641  
Bangor, ME 04402-  
2641

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Regular	\$25 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Family	\$35 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Corporate	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission,
Lifetime	\$500* * 2 annual \$250 payments	Newsletter, Lifetime Membership Number, Museum Admission,

We need volunteers-docents, mechanics, maintenance, librarians and exhibit specialists, etc.

Please call me. I want to be active in the organization.

I cannot join now, but would like to help. I am enclosing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Contributions over \$20 are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

I wish to support and obtain membership by purchasing a memorial brick.

**DIRIGO FLYER  
MAINE AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 2641  
BANGOR, ME 04402-2641**