

AHS History Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2006, 12:30 – 14:30

In attendance:

Mike Hirschberg
Tim Naumowicz
E. Bob Wood
Roger Connor
J. Gordon Leishman
Jason Pereira
W. Todd Hodges
Bruce Charnov
Ray Prouty

- Officer Elections: (All unanimously elected)
 - o Chair: Roger Connor
 - Forum recommends a 2-year term for committee chairs
 - o Vice-chair: Mike Hirschberg
 - o Sec: Jason Pereira
 - Duties: Send out timely minutes, monthly progress reports of the member activities
 - o Session Chair: Bruce Charnov
 - Duties: Be point of contact for authors; liaise with AHS for organizing the session for the Forum; suggest topics for papers; contact people and ask them to author papers
 - o Dep. Session Chair: Todd Hodges
 - For this year; not required to become the Session Chair for the following year
- Call for papers for next forum
 - o Allow waiving of paper requirement for selected/special cases
 - o Note that submission deadlines may be advanced next year, because of earlier date of Forum
 - o We need to fill any gaps by getting more invited papers
 - o Is AHS going to impose a limitation on paper page count? (20? 30?)
- Need objective, unbiased method for selecting best session paper
 - o Someone on the committee, not an author, preferably
 - o Sub-committee of 3 people
 - If sub-committee member is an author, then he/she will not evaluate his/her own paper
 - o Some sort of objective criteria for evaluating the papers → Roger to draft something for review
 - o Send papers out to entire committee to rank
- John Schneider Award:
 - o Mike proposed changing the wording to indicate that the award is intended for an individual, not an institution
 - Voted in favor: 8-to-1 against
 - o Should AHS select the recipient, or should the History committee? Or should someone from the Hist Comm be on the selection committee, at least?
 - Consensus: Hist Comm should be represented on the selection committee
 - Gordon volunteered to be that representative

- Articles on the history of the society itself
 - o The material exists – editors’ notes in the various issues of the Journal

- Committee meetings
 - o Once a year, at the Forum, or more frequently? Quarterly? Teleconferences?
 - o Consensus: Three times a year: Forum, Fall (after abstracts are due), and Spring (after papers are due)
 - o Suggested location: Smithsonian; Amer. Helo. Museum, Brandywine
 - Mike will ask Howard Eagle (AH Museum)
 - o Need a toll-free number for people to call for the teleconferencing facility

- Membership:
 - o Potential new members:
 - Make an announcement at the History Session the next day
 - Someone from the Hiller Museum? Tim volunteered to find out
 - Need to keep an eye on their collection, in case they go under, so that it doesn’t disappear
 - Roger mentioned he knew of someone...???
 - Mike will ask Bob Beggs if there’s someone at Boeing
 - Bell – not hopeful
 - NASA Rotorcraft – Dan Dugan?
 - People from universities

- Member projects
 - o Tim: ABC Ship #1 probably due for the scrap yard unless someone does something
 - Roger: NASM would be interested in the rotor and maybe other components
 - o Todd is going to concentrate on the audio histories / interviews / interview techniques
 - o Roger:
 - Lockheed CL-475 at Ft Rucker is in bad shape, the XH-51N and XH-51 Compound have been badly “vandalized”. One Cheyenne is inside and the rest are decaying outside.
 - Cierva C-8W is not on the list to get restored in the near term, no are any others due to transfer
 - Bruce: maybe Pitcairn could do it – will check.
 - Toronto Air Museum is going to restore the Avrocar, currently at Garber
 - The first Sikorsky S-55 was privately restored and will be going to Hazy for immediate display
 - NASM can accept fundraising only if it doesn’t compete with anything else
 - Lots of progress on digitizing test reports
 - o Bruce:
 - Expanded his Autogiro/Autogyro/Gyroplane/Gyrocopter/Convertiplane Bibliography & Timeline to 88,000 words and still growing
 - Includes 44 years of Popular Rotorcraft Association (PRA) magazine
 - Mike said he would send the indices of the AHS Vertiflite magazine
 - Working on a timeline of autogyros (including first flights) since 1904
 - Developing the list of the essential library of gyroplane/autogyro references
 - Intends to donate all of the above to AHS
 - Has an index of all NACA reports from 1915 to 1949
 - o Mike:
 - Intended to video tape the History Session and that Roger had conducted the first “Next Pioneers” video interview with Walter Sonneborn (Bell, ret)
 - Led the charge to draft correspondence to the Army Center for Military History (CMH) condemning the destruction of the XCH-62 Heavy Lift Helicopter prototype, wrote an article for *Vertiflite*, helped with an *Aviation Week* article, etc
 - Continuing efforts to digitize the “AHS Newsletter” (forerunner to *Vertiflite*)

- AHS Headquarters had suggested creating a helicopter history calendar
- There is some effort in Europe to celebrate 2007 as the Centennial of Vertical Flight. The History Committee will author some articles for early next year in *Vertiflite* on why 2007 is not an anniversary worth celebrating.