

Minutes of the AHS History Committee Meeting
29 September 2006
Boeing, Philadelphia, PA

Attendees: Bob Beggs (Boeing host), Roger Connor (Chair), Mike Hirschberg (Deputy Chair), Bruce Charnov (Forum Chair), Todd Hodges (Forum Deputy Chair), John Romanski, Peter Noell, Ken Bartie

1. The meeting started at 11:10 with a welcome by Bob Beggs.
2. Abstract selection: Although the abstract submissions for the AHS Forum in general were very low at the time, the history session had 7 abstracts submitted, all of which looked like they should be solid papers.
 - Although not a problem this year, since we need 7 papers for a session and 3 or 4 for a half-session, the committee should develop some paper selection criteria in the event that we get more than 7 papers and/or to make sure they meet the minimum standards. We need to be clear with some authors that we do not want marketing briefings.
 - The committee resolved to include a statement in the abstract acceptance letters that specifically stated that the paper and brief may not be a marketing pitch.
 - Roger Connor put together an abstract review form, but some felt it was too much work for an abstract selection, but might be useful to justify why an abstract was rejected or modified for use in best paper selection.
 - Instead of the above, it was proposed that an acceptance letter should go out to winners clarifying the expectations and/or standards of the session.
3. Second session: Since AHS had a dearth of papers submitted, the History Committee could try to put together another half-session or full session of invited papers, perhaps asking retired VPs or government leaders.
 - Some potential speakers discussed included Joe Mallon, former president of Boeing Helicopters; Bill Walls, former Boeing director of engineering; and a former lead for rotorcraft at NASA Langley – Bob Houston.
 - The committee resolved to consider this if AHS needed help filling up the schedule.
 - ***UPDATE*** AHS does indeed have a shortage of papers. Some consideration has been given to generating a theme around NACA/NASA research at Langley for the Forum tie in, but it was not possible to solicit papers within the deadline extension.
4. Best Paper: Although the History session papers are not considered for the Gessow Best Paper Award, we want to give our own best paper award.
 - The committee resolved to evaluate the papers by the members of the committee who do not have papers under consideration.
 - Each member of the evaluation committee will rank the papers. The scores will be averaged and the paper with the lowest score will be selected as the “Best History Paper.”

- Bruce Charnov offered to print out copies of papers and mail them out to the paper review team since downloading the PDFs can sometimes be extremely aggravating.
 - Bruce also stated that he will draft some Best Paper selection procedures and forward them to the History committee.
5. Next meeting: The committee resolved to meet again in the mid-March timeframe. This will be after all the papers have been submitted (due date 14 Feb 07). The committee can discuss the papers and plans for the forum. The committee resolved to meet in Washington, D.C. at the National Air and Space Museum's downtown museum.
 6. Todd Hodges reported that he visited what is believed to have been the remains of the Stauffer convertiplane near Oshkosh that he had seen last year. He took some photos, but due to the poor lighting, it was hard to see. The aircraft is not historically significant, other than it was based on Herrick's convertiplane drawings.
 7. Roger Connor reported that the Lockheed CL-475, XH-51 and AH-56 Cheyennes at Ft. Rucker are in terrible shape. Roger said he would send out some recent photos of the CL-475. NASM is having funding problems. Can't / won't accept new aircraft, unless they can be loaned out to other museums on a long-term basis (at least 20 years). S-55 #1 arrived in May. HO5S is expected in the Fall. 4 upcoming installations - Hiller 1031-A-1 Flying Platform, YROE-1 Rotorcycle, Sikorsky XR-5 and Sikorsky UH-34D. Restoration projects: Avrocar (to the Toronto Aerospace Museum) and Convair Pogo (San Diego Aerospace Museum). Jane's pocket guides - NASM / Smithsonian has editorial oversight, published by Harper-Collins. Virtual Museum Guide now fielded.
 8. Roger also noted that Rotorfest was 14-15 Oct and that the committee should try to meet there.
 9. Film Festival: Mike Hirschberg suggested that an idea for Forum 64 (to be held in Montreal in June 2008) could be to have an Historical Film Festival.
 - Several of the committee members present have discussed rare film clips that they had in their possession, which they would like to share. This would be a half session and could have "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" theme.
 - The committee heartily endorsed this idea. Planning will need to continue at future meetings to develop the format for presentation.
 - Suggested to come up with a theme, e.g., early history or technical challenges. XCH-62 was also mentioned as worthwhile topic to demonstrate the cost of not preserving rotary-wing heritage,
 - It was suggested that we should try to get someone to talk on the Canadair CL-84 tiltwing. Fred Phillips was the chief engineer (now living in New Hampshire), but is reluctant to speak because Canadair was bought by Bombardier and there were some legal issues regarding approvals.
 10. Calendar: Kim Smith (AHS Deputy Director) had passed on a suggestion by Judah Milgram, an AHS Member at the Navy's Carderock facility, for AHS to make a calendar of historic helicopter photos.

- Some issues include how best to distribute them, when and how? If they were 18 month calendars they could be distributed for free at the Forum. If they were mailed out (more expensive), they could align with the calendar year. They could be sold, but then fewer would be distributed. They could be May-to-June calendars (13 months) covering the “Forum year” with abstract deadlines, etc.
 - The committee needs to come up with 12-18 high resolution historic photos (color one if possible) and a list of potential dates to include.
 - **The committee resolved to begin compiling a comprehensive list of dates. Everyone on the committee was asked to submit to Roger Connor a list of historic dates by the end of November.**
UPDATE Bruce Charnov has provided a nice listing of Autogyro and gyroplane dates for use in this project
 - Bell has a helicopter calendar, what about Sikorsky? Boeing has a corporate-wide calendar.
11. Roger Connor reiterated the disappointment with fact that the candidate that several members of the history committee endorsed, Jean Boulet, was not selected for last year’s Schneider award.
- Mike Hirschberg stated that he would be briefing the AHS Technical Council on 11 October and would request a change to the award description to highlight that it is for an individual. [Note: the Council approved this change.]
 - Connor also suggested that the award selection committee include someone who had a historical background that could help evaluate candidates appropriately.
12. Bruce Charnov update the committee on his autogyro/gyroplane bibliography. He brought several copies to the meeting. (They are approximately 4 inches thick.)
- It includes a bibliography, a selected annotative bibliography, an annotated timeline and color magazine cover reproductions. It is approximately 137,000 words and 600 pages.
 - Bruce is also interested in starting a museum index of autogyro/gyroplanes.
13. Roger Connor stated that the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum is having a bit of a funding crisis due to a Congressional cut, as well space and storage issues. They can’t take any new aircraft, unless they are out on loan for an extended (e.g. 20+ years) period.
- Connor also brought a demonstrator of their “digital museum guide” – a PDA that includes text, photos, movies, etc about each of the exhibits in the museum. It is planned to be operational sometime in the near future.
14. The committee discussed how they could better serve their mission of improving the available body of knowledge on vertical flight history.
- The website is very good (thanks to Jason Pereira). What can be done to expand it? Jason is space limited, and eventually will leave UMD. We need to get our own website or get AHS to host it.
 - Hirschberg will inquire as to whether we can post our history papers online. Although AHS normally requires payment for papers, maybe we

could provide them for free or something that would allow the material to be better accessed. An alternative would be to maintain a year moratorium before posting, which would then minimize potential sales of proceedings.

- Wikipedia has some helicopter entries that are frightening (e.g. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Bahyl). Wikipedia is becoming a standard place that the public goes to for research. We need to do better.
- The committee resolved to look into ways to have a helicopter history site, with a plethora of useful information, plus links. Potentially we could include pioneer interview videos and other material.

15. Video interviews: the first video interview as done at Forum 62. Walter Sonneborn (Bell VP of Engineering, ret) proved a very interesting subject.

- **Hodges drafted up interview forms. He asked everyone to review and provide comments back in the next two weeks.**
- Do we want to have any committee member have the ability to conduct an interview “on-the-spot” when individual opportunities arise?
- Bob Beggs reported that Helicopter Association International (HAI) under Matt Zacarro and the American Helicopter Museum (AHM) were also both conducting video interviews.
- Todd Hodges stated that he would follow up to see how the three organizations can complement each other.

16. The committee noted that Gordon Leishman was giving this year’s Cierva Lecture in England and was heartily praised by the fellow committee members.

17. Centennial matters: Skipped, because Dr. Leishman wasn’t present.