

AHS History Committee – Meeting Minutes

Sep. 28th, 2007, 11:30 am,

American Helicopter Museum and Education Center, West Chester, PA

In attendance:

Members: Roger Connor – Chair (NASM)
Mike Hirschberg – Deputy Chair (Centra Technology)
Jason Pereira – Secretary (U. of Maryland)
Ken Bartie (Boeing)
Bruce Charnov (Hofstra U.)
Bob Green
Todd Hodges [call-in] (Army Langley, retd.)
Dr. John Romanski [call-in] (Piasecki Aircraft Corp.)
Tommy Thomason (Bell & Sikorsky, retd.)

Helicopter History Website

- The helicopter history website (www.helicopter-history.com) is up and running, with space (100GB) rented from godaddy.com.
- Website content:
 - Roger has taken everything helo-related from the NASM internal photograph archives and added them to the website. Negatives of the Liberatore photographs, too.
 - Liberatore handbooks:
 - Exist as microfilm (two boxes of print versions of the handbooks were lost earlier this year – see minutes from May meeting of the Committee), but the pages are out of sequence and would need manual re-sequencing / re-organization.
 - Also, there is content in the Liberatore handbooks that may be copyrighted.
 - The handbooks are 5000 pages long. Half of that is copies of the front pages of rotary-wing patents filed in the US and abroad.
 - Bob Green has compiled an Excel database of technical datasheets for several helicopters. This information will be added to the website.
 - Would like to add a means for people (viewers) to submit information / stories / material that they have to us (the committee).
 - Maybe have the various rotary-wing companies contribute some of their own archival material for the website, too.
- Need to recruit (Hire? Paid position, or volunteer?) someone to do the grunt-work of adding all this information to the website. Jason will find a student from UM who would be willing to do this. Roger will send him a “job description” to advertise.
- Would like to have corporate sponsorship down the road, to pay for a permanent webmaster.
- Random fact: The word “rotor” was first coined by Cierva, as a derivative from the phrase “rotary-wing aircraft.”

Panel discussion of Klemin and Nicholsky Award winners at the 2008 AHS Forum in Montreal:

- Todd has contacted twelve of the past Nicholsky/Klemin award winners, who were at the 2007 Forum. He has also contacted Fred Phillips (of the CL-84 program), and he would like to come for the panel discussion. However, he would need to be guided by an “interviewer” in telling his stories.
- The Advanced Vertical Flight session/committee is short on papers, so maybe we could have an extra-half session for people like Fred Phillips to tell their stories. There would be a lot of people from the Niagara area (for example, those who worked on the Bell X-22) who could be invited for such a session.
- Tommy Thomason has volunteered to moderate the panel discussion.

Helicopter History Calendar:

The committee decided upon the format of the calendar:

- Either a 12-month, January-December 2009 calendar that would be mailed out by AHS to Vertiflite subscribers, or an 18-month calendar, starting in July 2008, that could be given out at the 2008 Forum, so as to avoid the expense of mailing the calendars. Calendars could also be ordered (bought?) through the AHS / Helicopter History website.
- Wall-hanging type
- Will contain quotations about rotary-wing aircraft/flight, and perhaps technical specifications of the aircraft illustrated.

Ken Bartie is in charge of this project. The other members of the committee will send him material for the calendar: pictures, dates of significant events, quotations, etc.

Other matters:

- A group from Bell’s X-Works – the same group that did the restoration of the XV-3 – is interested in restoring the NASM’s ATV. Roger is trying to get them to restore the Museum’s Cobra as well.
- The Air Force Museum is taking the NASM’s Avrocar.
- The San Diego Aerospace Museum, in collaboration with Classic Rotors, wants to set up a Rotorcraft Facility/Wing at Gillespie Field. They want to have, for display, one example of every rotorcraft configuration ever created.
- Todd has finished digitizing the tapes of the interview with (Walter?) Sonneborne.