



The One Claw

Boston Retired Pilots Newsletter

Editors: Pete and George

Winter-96

ISSUE # 18

• **BIG SURPRISE at Fly-In**

Large crowd of about 90 (46 retirees, 33 active and 10 wives and children plus a large group of local folks) attended the Fly-In at Pemi River on a hot June 6th. We counted 35 A/C that included the Queen of the Fly-In, a DC-3 N33626 in NE colors flown by Mike Farrey, owner and director of the Dakota Aviation Museum, Inc. Nashua, NH. We also counted over 40 cars and three motorcycles.

• **Attending Spring Fly-In**

The list of those attending. Hope we did not miss anyone. Norm Abare, Carl and Pat Beatrice, George Chaudoin, Dick Chickering, John Conley, Claude Cox, Ray Curti, Ron Cutliff, Paul Donaghue, Bill Dustin, Mike Farrey, John Fleurent, Ron Gargalowitz, Janet Green, Ray Gosselin, Bill Grady, Janet Green, Ralph Hackley, Dave Hancock, Ron Harnish, Paul Heckard, Ephraim Hall and Charlie Holman. Norm Houle, Dan Hurley, Walt Illingworth, Jim Jackson, Pete Kallander, Dick Korsman, Carl and Winnie Larson, Bob Lebewohl, Pete Loranger, Bruce MacGilvra, and Frank McKowen. Bud McLellan, Jerry (Caron) Morrison, Hugh Murphy, Dave Newkirk, Bob Patrick, John Paulson, Howie Pennock, Mo Picard, Pete Radasch, Lloyd Ricker, Ted and Ted Jr. Roberts, John Roquet, Frank Ryan, Bob Smythe, Ed Splaine, Dottie Steel, Jim Tagg, Bob Ward, John Wojas, Jack Zito, and Mike Zompetti. That is just the retired group. The still working and other interested include, Dick Barnes, Dick Cummings, Dave Canton, Chief Pilot Roger Green, New Chief Pilot as of July 1st Dave Bushy and his dad, Dave Olden, Don Champagne, John Duell,

Karl Higginson, Chuck Kiklis, John McKeil (NE 1963), Bill McCarthy, Ken Magill, Forest Nelson and son Greg, Keith Parker, Dick Pazolt, Dick Sabbagh, Bob Smith (NE 58-63), Jim Reel, Lee VanOss, Jim Ross (UAL), Dino Vlahakis (PAA), Art Williams, Bill Alby, Tom Dolan, Dave Eaton and Doug Twinned.

• **Milestone Years**

The year 1915 brings us four octogenarians: Basil Beck, Lloyd Fisk, Harold Theiling and Clark Willard.

Seven of our group have crossed the 75 year mark: Paul Fichtner, Mike Fiorillo, Jack French, Pete Loranger, Dick Miller, Lenny Poor and Karl Ritz.

A group of ten has reached the 70 year mark: Bill Bray, Peter Blouin, Jim Connor Paul Donoghue, Lou Fradette, Art Harding, Bill Kenny, Lloyd Ricker, Joe Sheehan and Mike Zompetti. Congratulations to all and may you have many more.

• **FAA Names (MAP) at Rochester**

The Rochester NH Skyhaven (6B1) Airport has a missed approach point named (Houle) after our own Norm Houle. It is on the new GPS RWY-33 approach. Does any one know of any intersection that is named for someone we know?

• **Hampton Flea Market**

The two day flea market at the Hampton Airfield on May 21 and May 22 had a capacity crowd. The count was 179 A/C. They were parked on both sides of the runway, and all available grass was covered with either an airplane or an exhibitor selling something old,

but not much new. Mike and the Hampton crew did an other outstanding job with the crowd.

• **Spot Landing Contest**

Seventeen of our daring aviators, Dino Vlahakis, Ron Harnish, Jim Jackson, Norm Abare, Dave Bushy, Dave Newkirk, Ted Roberts, Bob Lebewohl, George Chaudoin, Carl Beatrice, Pete Kallander, John Fleurent, Keith Parker, Don Champagne, Forest Nelson, Adam Harnish and Al Speckman hung it all out for all to witness in trying to land on a narrow line across the runway. Third place was a tie between Ron Harnish and George Chaudoin and the toss of a coin gave the plaque to Ron; second place went to Al Speckman in his WACO. First Place awarded to Dave Bushy in his C-175. That the winner is the new Boston Chief Pilot and the judges and crew for the spot landing contest were active pilots can only be a coincidence. The award plaques were donated again by Don Champagne. Wilbur and Orville took time again from their travels to sign the awards. Thanks to all who helped to make this another great and fun filled event.

• **Delta Golden Wings**

Delta Golden Wings coming to the Tea Party in Boston on October 1, 2 and 3. Let's have a large showing at the Tata Braintree for the dinner dance on Tuesday the 3rd. Yual come.

• **Fall Fly-In**

The date of October 10 is scheduled to be another outstanding day for flying and eating. There will be **no** snow date. You either fly, drive, ski or come in late September and camp out. Mail your address label with a check for \$5.00 per person made out to Bill Grady. Pemi Riverside Airport, RFD 3, Plymouth, NH 03264. This gives Bill an accounting of those who plan to attend and will help cover some of the early expenses.

Hope to see more of you. *The number at the Airdrome is 603-536-9808. This up to date A/P now has a 24-hour per day answering machine on duty* If you have not attended a Fly-In, Come On UP (PEMI-RIVERSIDE Airport (N43 44.4, W71 40.0) Elevation 474), local

frequency 122.8 and we can listen enroute to 122.75. Pemi Riverside is just off Route 93, Exit 24, (Ashland & Holderness) Lt turn back under 93 for 1 mile and follow the Airport signs to White Mt Country Club.

• **Letters & Stamps**

Thanks to the following; Bud Alkire, Ed Baldwin, Dana Callanan, John Gittzus, Mike Fiorillo, Jack French, Tiny Rollins, Norm Houle, Bob Smith (AAL), Mike Fiorillo, John Fleurent, Bud McLellan, Lloyd Ricker, Tiny Rollins, Ed Splaine Chief Engineer (NEA), Bob Ward and Mike Zompetti, the stamp fund has been increased.

June 6th 95. It is a gloomy afternoon on Cape Cod with plenty of rain and fog, the remnants of hurricane Allison passing southern New England. So I decided to send you a thank you note for all the fine newsletter's I have been receiving and share in the cost of producing and delivering them. (check enclosed).

Nice of Pete to return my call from FLL when I needed some information on the whereabouts of Lloyd Ricker. Ed Cataldo and I were able to attend a very impressive memorial service on May 6 for Shirley at the Lighthouse Point Y. C. Lloyd is a former well respected Commodore of the Y. C. Elinor and I went up to Jupiter to the cook-out at Bill and Dot Donahue's super new home and hangar. Everyone wishes them much happiness and many years of enjoyment there. Saw a lot of Yellowbirds that I have not seen for a long time, including John Griffin who winters in Jupiter.

Delta closed the MIA pilots base last month and the Chief Pilot Jon Williams arranged for us to charter the Lady Windridge, a 125ft Yacht, for a base closing bash. Ed and Doris Cataldo, Elinor and I were the only retired Yellowbirds on board, but we did see Mimi Olivera Whereley (last name spelled wrong) a recently retired Delta flight attendant, and her husband Cal, an active Delta captain. Also several that I remember as junior flight engineer's on NE and now are senior captains on Delta.

Last year I became an octogenarian and when I told that to a friend he replied "I didn't

know that you changed your religion". I play tennis 3 times a week and an occasional round of golf and feel fine. We will be here on the Cape until the middle of Oct. and then to FLL until the end of May. I would like to be a summer member of your phone tree for the Cape if I may.

Keep up the good work on the newsletter's and please keep my name on your mailing list.

Sincerely, Ed Baldwin

George, Had check in my pocket and forgot to give it to you. Bob Ward

Just in case the beer fund is in need. Best T. Rollins

Greeting from the French's. We are back looking forward to the NE. Summer. Our NH address has changed. We are now at; 25 Aspen Dr. Atkinson, NH 03811, 603-362-5576 We moved into a Condo 3 miles from where we were. We are far from settled but hopefully this will work out. Please put us on your telephone tree for the summer. We missed you & Ann at Bill D hangar party. It was very nice & we saw a lot of people we hadn't seen in a long time. We flew over with Karl & Judy Wallace. That was a new and interesting experience. Hope you are both well. Best regards . Jack & Elaine French

Here's a little stamp money, Gin and I enjoy the ONE CLAW. Hope to see you at the Fly In. John Gitzus

Received issue #11 if the ONE CLAW a few days ago. My thanks to both you and Pete for this publication. I appreciate being able to keep up with the news. My life in retirement seems very busy, especially during spring time with the gardening. I shoot the ATA & MTA trap meets, and of course I'm still into antiques and refinishing. Enclosed is some stamp money, keep up the great work. Best Regards Dana Callanan

Every time I see Pete I give him a \$20 bill for ONE CLAW stamps. I hope he's not putting it in the "Lake," You know what I mean! For the record please show my address as; PO Box 262, Naples, ME 04055-0262. 207-693-6884. God willing will see you in the 6th. Bringing Lloyd Ricker with me. Thanks & Best Regards Bud McLellan

Hi Bill, Enclosed few bucks for stamp fun. Please forward to Pete or George. address;

146 E Lake Rd., Harbor Springs, MI 49740-1131. Mike Fiorillo

Appreciate your efforts in keeping us abreast of events. Enclosed is a contribution to help defray expenses. Please note my correct address: Walter C. Alkire, 303 High Road, Newbury, MA 01951. Thanks Bud

April 95. I am here in Orlando for a couple of days of R&R and then on to a reunion in Williamsburg, VA. I called home and got your message on my machine. Thanks for the news about Shirley Ricker. I got a card right off to Lloyd. I'll be more than happy to be the phone contact for Maine. I used to do it for Jack and Elaine French before Bill Donahue took on the chore. I won't get home until about May 8th but send me a list of those you know like to be called and phone #'s. I'll add anyone else I know who is not on your list. I'm so glad you asked. I think it's important to touch bases with everyone we can, so news gets passed on. It's too easy to miss out on information, but it's also fun to talk to old friends occasionally. Please let me hear from you about any others. Thanks again for your call. Warm wishes, Mary Lou Johansson

• Ed Splaine Chief Engineer

Enclosed is the write up you asked for on my career of engineering and procuring the various airplanes we operated over the years. Hope to see you at the next Fly-In. Ed Splaine I was hired as an engineer on August 29, 1941 as Boston & Maine Central Vermont Airways had purchased two Lockheed 10A Electras from Braniff and they had to be weighed and certificated to go on line for the Labor Day traffic.

In May 1941 I went to the Douglas factory as NEA had ordered 3 DC-A's. We took delivery of one NC33621; the other two were taken by the USAAF. The Lockheed Electras were sent to BTV and used on the Pilot training program.

In June 1944 Andy (Anderson) and I went out to the dessert field a Oklahoma City and picked out a C53 NC30087. We subsequently picked up Numbers; 12, 42,88 and 91 for conversion by NEA or Aero Service, Inc.

During the war we operated two DC-2's N28323 and N28324 former AAL airplanes.

In May 1946 we acquired four DC4's which were modified to NEA specs and put into service on the BOS-NY route. In February 1949 I was at Convair to oversee the contract for six CV240-13 aircraft; in 1954 we purchased an additional four.

In January 1956 I was at the Douglas factory in Santa Monica. We took delivery of 10 DC-6B's in 1957.

In 1956 I went to the Bristol Aeroplane Co. in Bristol England to oversee engineering and Americanizing the five Britannias we had ordered. Because of many delays the contract was finally canceled. Bristol was only able to finish one airplane in 1958. NEA then made a deal to purchase ten Vickers Viscounts which had been canceled by PCA. I had to move to Hurn and take over the Viscount engineering and delivery problems. In 1960 NEA ordered six Convair 880's which I oversaw the building of at the factory. In 1961 I went out to the desert in Palm Springs and got four more which Hughes had mothballed. NEA and Aero Services Van Nuys restored them.

In 1966 NEA ordered seven Fairchild FH227B' airplanes which I also took care of. In May 1967 NEA ordered ten DC9-31's to the specs I wrote. We subsequently acquired four more for a total of 14.

In October of 1967 we took delivery of eight Boeing 727-95's which were followed by six 727-295's. Finally seven more were added. I spent many hours at Boeing in Seattle. Before the merger with Delta, NEA ordered eight L-1011's. We never took delivery but I was on the original airplane design team which included representatives from Delta and Eastern.
Ed Splaine

• Golfers Bob or Paul

Call Bob Patrick, 497-4742 or Paul Heckard 772-1010 for details about golf and lodging before the Fly-In in October.

• Phone Tree

The 28 names listed are the folks who have volunteered or been threatened and agreed to make a few calls in their local area. Andy Andon, Dana Callanan, George Chaudoin, John Conley, George Cooper, Ray

Curti, Bill Duffy, Ron Gargalowitz, Ray Gosselin, Jack Harper, Paul Heckard, Mary Lou Johansson, Pete Kallander, Bill Kenny, Bruce MacGilvra, Norris Marston, Ed Moore, Dick Mullany, Ed Oneil, Bob Patterson, Howie Pennock, Pete Radish, Ted Roberts, Frank Saia, Walt Schneider, Bob Smythe, Jim Tagg, George Voedisch and Dick White.

The cards with phone numbers have been mailed. The volunteers should get in contact with a person on their list if he or she is going to be away for a couple of months. The tree will not be perfect but we have hopes it will cover most of the bases. We guess some on one branch will call and hear from others, and that can only enhance the efficiency of the Tree. Have any suggestion let us know. Anyone who would like to help let us know. That being said. We do know how pilots think and have come up with a generous reward to the first five callers. Duplicate reward will be given and the selection of the judges will be final. Bribes will be considered.

• Parking at BOS

Effective August 1. Parking at the Delta lot will be open to retirees for \$500 per year or \$50 per month. New applications are available through the Chief Pilots office and can be picked up in the station manager's office.

• Pete Off to Alaska

Pete, along with a group of Lake Buccaneer owners and 6 planes, took off around July 15 for a month of sight seeing in Canada and Alaska. We will get a full report on his return. We hope he and his group have fair weather and good tail winds.

• Reach-Out Lunch

Its that time of year again when we meet at Jeveli's for lunch. See you on Sept. 14 at 1130. We will get an update on latest events that effect us at Delta. John Roquet.

• Last Landings

Mike Wood placed the wheels of a Delta Jet on the runway at BOS in July after 28years. Dan Pranka retired after 29 years in July. Dan had his last 727 flight and his 157 close friends. on a charter flight. Seems that Dan

chartered a Delta 727 for an hours flight
around Boston for a little sigh seeing. That's

the way to GO!
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From:

ONE CLAW
Retired BOSTON Delta Pilots
157 Beach Plain Road
Danville, NH 03819

TO: