



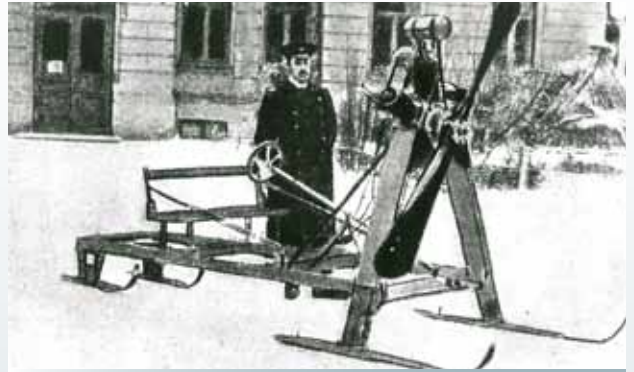
# Sikorsky Archives News

Published by the Igor I. Sikorsky Historical Archives, Inc. M/S S578A, 6900 Main St., Stratford CT 06615

## THE SIKORSKY ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERS WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR



*Volunteers celebrate Harry's 90th: Bob Brady, Bob Barlow, Hank Chmielewski, Walt Shephard, Jack McKenna, Harry Hleva, Dan Libertino, Ed Groves, George Geffert, John Kowalonek*



*Igor Sikorsky standing beside his first air sled with an Anzani engine and a tractor propeller installation*



*Igor Sikorsky at the wheel of his second air sled with an Anzani engine and a pusher propeller installation*



*Continued from upper photo: Lou Havanich, Jose Dantas, Larry Dziadlo, Art Linden, Carl McDonald, Frank Hunter, Joe Keogan, Lee Jacobson*

**IGOR I. SIKORSKY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, INC.**



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**January, 2010**

Visit us at [Sikorskyarchives.com](http://Sikorskyarchives.com)  
Contact us at [iisha@snet.net](mailto:iisha@snet.net)



*Dear Members:*

**A**s I enter my sixth year as president of the Archives, I proudly look back to all that we have accomplished to make this a stronger and more active organization dedicated to the preservation of the Legacy of Igor I. Sikorsky. This progress could not have been possible without the support of our members, including the small but dedicated group of member volunteers who regularly come to the Archives to assist with various tasks required to accomplish our unique mission.

*The following identifies some of the highlights of our accomplishments:*

- Our member base remains strong with a current total membership enrollment of 382.
- Thanks to our editor, Lee Jacobson, our very interesting Quarterly Newsletter is the main instrument for not only membership communications, but also for promoting public recognition.
- Our nationally released book in 2007 by Arcadia Publishing, "The Sikorsky Legacy", authored by Sergei Sikorsky and the Archives, continues to enjoy good sales providing the Archives with an excellent revenue stream.
- We have preserved and encapsulated 57 major historical large engineering drawings signed by Igor Sikorsky in the 1920s/30s.
- We respond regularly to e-mail questions that continue to be received every day from literally all over the world.
- Our web site continues to be very active. Over the 24 month period (Dec. '07 to Nov. '09) we have recorded a daily average of 275 hits, 225 unique hits and 525 pages viewed.
- Over the past 24 month period Archives volunteers have averaged one (1) presentation a month on the Life and Legacy of Igor Sikorsky to community organization, schools and new Sikorsky employees.
- We have made additional investments in capital equipment and software to facilitate cataloging, data retrieval, transfer of film and VHS to DVD and communications.

*We need your help. So we can continue the Archives' proud role in preserving Igor Sikorsky's heritage*

We need your help. So we can continue the Archives' proud role in preserving Igor Sikorsky's heritage, a line of succession is needed to the future. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in taking an active role, please pass the word. We need volunteers familiar with web site structure, e-mail management, photo scanning and other computer related skills. Regardless of what you think you can do, just visit us Tuesday or Thursday mornings to decide where you can help.

This issue of the newsletter shows the people who make it all happen at the Archives. I hope our readers see fit to place themselves in the picture. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

*Dan Libertino*  
President

## History of the Sikorsky Historical Archives on the occasion of its fourteenth anniversary:

Prior to 1985, the responsibility for the preservation of historical data for each division of United Aircraft, and later United Technologies, was at the corporate level in Hartford, Conn., under the direction of Harvey Lippincott. During 1985, each division was given the responsibility for preserving and controlling their own historical data as they desired.

Harry Pember, Engineering Administration at the time, was assigned the task of relocating the historical data associated with Sikorsky Aircraft from the Corporate Archives located in Hartford, Conn., and storing it in Building 18 at the Sikorsky plant in Bridgeport.

The concept of a Sikorsky Historical Archives evolved during the VS-44A restoration period starting in 1987. Toward the latter part of the restoration program, which was manned by Sikorsky as well as other company retirees, the concept of a historical archive matured and was born in 1995. The Sikorsky Historical Archives was created as a non profit organization and incorporated in November, 1995.

The program for the restoration of the VS-44A and



*Sikorsky Historical Archives is located in the basement of the Barrett House (Old Credit Union Building), and the Old Reception Center nearby.*

the construction of a full size replica of the S-16, which were both supported by volunteers, contributed to the birth of the Sikorsky Historical Archives. A substantial number of the volunteers involved with the VS-44A, S-16 and S-51 restoration programs formed the nucleus of the historical archives team. Harry Hleva was the first archives director after directing the aircraft restoration programs. Harry Pember was the first president of the archives, followed by Ron Schlegel and current president Dan Libertino.

The restoration team volunteers who transitioned into the initial Sikorsky Historical Archive working team were Carl MacDonald, Lou Havanich, Larry Dzialo, Ed Groves, Walter Wanamaker, William Smethurst, and others.



*Restored VS-44A at the New England Air Museum*



*S-16 Replica at the New England Air Museum*

## In less than five years, archival technology at the Sikorsky Archives progressed from handwritten to computer generated data.

There were a number of volunteers on the initial archive team who retired from other

careers and industries as well as those that retired from Sikorsky Aircraft. In addition, a number trained

themselves with archive members assistance to become computer literate in their senior years.



*Ed Groves was a plant electrician at Sikorsky through 1971, and retired from Bic Pen in 1993*



*Larry Dzialo retired from the Bpt Post/CT Post after 40 years as a newspaper pressman during the lead type setting period*



*Lou Havanich retired from Sikorsky after 42 years as an aircraft electrician*



*Walter (Wally) Wanamaker*

Wally graduated from Georgia Tech in 1942. After a World War II tour with the Army Air Corps as a first lieutenant, he was a mechanical engineer for over 26 years with Avco Lycoming. After retiring he was a key contributor on the VS-44 restoration team. We are sorry to report that Wally passed away at the age of 90 years during the preparation of this newsletter.



*Jose Dantas retired from Sikorsky Engineering Design, and is our newest archivist*

An archive data base, the Sikorsky Archives Library System (SALS) is being developed using the Filemaker Pro Database software system. Alan Dobyns and Hank Chmielewski are the primary system architects. The system currently consists of the following data:

- Sikorsky News
- Books
- Bee Hive Publications
- Negatives
- Sikorsky personal files up to 1940
- Slides

In the future, everything at the archives will be in the SALS, and will be a searchable data base



*Hank Chmielewski is organizing the data systems structure and work distribution*



*Alan Dobyns is developing the FileMaker Pro data system architecture*

## Igor Sikosky Historical Archives Leadership Hold Quarterly Business Meetings with membership attendance



*Nikolai Sikorsky, Dan Libertino, Art Linden, Frank Hunter, Carl McDonald, Joe Keogan*



*Ed Groves, Charles Vesterman, Hank Chmielewski, Lee Jacobson, Igor Sikorsky, Jr., Jim Satterwhite, Ray Leoni*

### *Activities of Interest Covered:*

- National Technical University of Ukraine, “Kiev Polytechnic Institute”, provided a large package of material including articles, photos, CDs documenting the activities at the university during the 120th anniversary celebration of Igor Sikorsky’s birth.
- US Coast Guard Aviation Exhibit opening at the Museum of the Albermarle in Elizabeth City NC. The Sikorsky Historical Archives donated photos, drawings, color schemes of Coast Guard Sikorsky helicopters and historical information. Sergei Sikorsky and Dan Libertino were honored guests at the event.
- Grand Opening of the museum hall dedicated to Igor Sikorsky at the Museum Theater “Blagodat” in Kislovodsk, Russia, in honor of his 120th birthday. Dan Libertino and Nikolai Sikorsky were presented a medal and an honorary certificate of citizenship of the city on behalf of the archives.

### Archive Officers

President	Dan Libertino
Vice President	Open
Director	Bob Brady
Treasurer	Tom Lawrence
Secretary	Art Linden
Membership Chairman	Frank Hunter
Chairman Emeriti	Sergei Sikorsky and Igor I. Sikorsky, Jr.
Senior Advisor to the President	Harry Hleva

### Board of Directors

Jim Bohan	Lee Jacobson	Scott Starrett
Frank Hunter	Dave Adler	Dan Libertino
Harry Pember	Bob Brady	John Daniell
Igor Sikorsky, Jr.	Joe Keogan	Harry Hleva
Sergei Sikorsky	Nikolai Sikorsky	Art Linden
Andy Whyte	Tom Lawrence	Carl McDonald
Jim Satterwhite	Mark Poland	Sergei Sikorsky, Jr.

### Trustees

#### *Active*

Ed Arva  
 Hank Chmielewski  
 Bill Tuttle  
 Caroline Morrissey  
 Al Dobyns  
 Ray Leoni  
 Dr. Nick Viner

#### *Inactive*

George Sepe  
 Ray Alteri  
 Lou Knapp  
 Pete Savo  
 Igor Sikorsky III  
 George Sikorsky

**The National Technical University of Ukraine hailed Sikorsky as, “The Man Who Has Connected Continents.”** Igor Sikorsky’s Alma Mater, the Kiev Polytechnic Institute, formally opened an enlarged Sikorsky Exhibit on May 25, 2009 in honor of his 120th birthday.



*Statue of Igor Sikorsky at the institute*



*Official opening of the exhibit*



*Opening ceremonies*



*Sikorsky exhibition hall*



*Observing S-16 model in foreground*

***The Archives collaborating with Sikorsky Aircraft provided approximately 230 exhibits as summarized below:***

- Scale models of the S-38, S-40, S-42, VS-44A, S-51, S-55, S-64, UH-34D, HH-3F, CH-53E, MH-60R, MH-60S, HH-60M, UH-60M, S-76B, S-92
- Numerous framed photos of various versions of the VS-300, VH-3D, XR-4, first civilian helicopter rescue off of Penfield Reef, Fairfield, and the original Sikorsky factory in Bridgeport
- Framed historical posters
- Historical books
- Press releases
- Publications and sales brochures
- Scaled drawings of vintage aircraft
- Copies of certificates and honors bestowed on Igor Sikorsky
- Copies of selected pages from his 66 awarded patents
- CD of main lobby and Heritage Center



*Over 400 guests at the opening ceremonies*



*Religious and university dignitaries at the speakers table*



*Visitors in museum hall*



Theater Museum "Blagodat" in Kislovodsk, Russia

## Russia Honors Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky on his 120th birthday

The Theater Museum "Blagodat" in the city of Kislovodsk, Russia dedicated a permanent museum hall to Igor Sikorsky, and presented a play dedicated to the life and accomplishments of Igor Sikorsky.



Theater curtain caption states, "Sikorsky returns to Russia at his 120th birthday"

The Sikorsky Historical Archives provided copies of Igor Sikorsky's portrait, photos of the early Sikorsky pioneer aviation era, and a variety of historical data. Professor Alexander Portnyagin,

professor at Johnson & Wales in Rhode Island was a frequent visitor at the archives doing research for the museum and theater project.



Portrait of Sergei Rachmaninov and photos from Nikolai Sikorsky's files



Igor Sikorsky portrait wall



Wings over continents & Master of Airspace

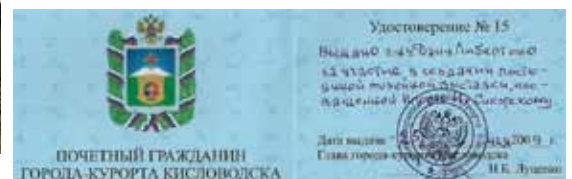
The roses were blooming when common people and many star-generals flocked to the city of Kislovodsk, Russia to pay tribute to their compatriot Igor I. Sikorsky, who was banished from his Motherland by the Bolsheviks in 1918. There was no other time during his life or after, that the great designer and builder of the first four-engine plane and practical helicopter was remembered with such a glamorous theatrical presentation that occurred at the Theater-Museum "Blagodat". The philosophy of the Director of "Blagodat", Mrs. Valentina P. Imtosimi and Prof. Alexander D. Portnyagin was to bring about the triumph of justice towards those who were arbitrarily cast out from the history of Russia.



Prof. Portnyagin and Valentina Imtosimi



Medal and Honorary Certificate of Citizenship of Kislovodsk being awarded to Dan Libertino and Nikolai Sikorsky by Professor Portnyagin

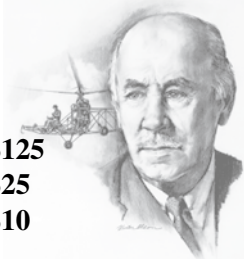


Honorary Certificate of Citizenship

## Join *the* Sikorsky Archives

### Igor I. Sikorsky Historical Archives Inc.

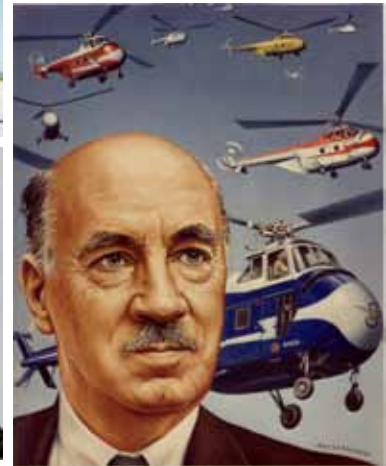
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**3 Year Membership**   \$25  
**1 Year Membership**   \$10

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Newsletter designed and edited by Lee Jacobson



*“In America I found the confirmation of my hopes and came to understand the reason for the success of this country, nothing can equal free work of free men. This is the foundation upon which the indisputable success of the United States has been built.”*

*Igor I. Sikorsky*



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