

The Lighter-Than-Air Society Newsletter

Issue # 9

October 2012

Save the Date

Saturday, November 10, 2012

The Lighter-Than-Air Society's 60th Annual Banquet And Silent Auction

On Saturday, November 10, 2012, The Lighter-Than-Air Society will hold its 60th annual banquet and fund raiser at the University of Akron's Martin Center. Because this is our 60th Anniversary, we hope that you will be excited to come and spend the evening with us as we celebrate.

We expect to have many exciting items available in our silent auction that evening, including two girders that were part of former blimps, a golf package from Firestone Country Club – this was a favorite at last year's auction, a week's stay at a lovely condominium on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida (see the website jimwslater.com for more information) and the all-time favorite, a ride for two on the Goodyear blimp.

Last year's auction was our first and it was a huge success. We anticipate bigger and better things this year.

More information on the banquet and auction will follow in our next newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, November 10th for an evening of fun, food, fellowship and lively bidding!



The Lighter-Than-Air Society has done many things throughout our sixty years such as bringing Character Parade Balloons (including a giant candy cane) to the annual Welcome Santa Parade in downtown Akron in 2007, our 55th anniversary.

Be sure to send us your email address and help us communicate with you.

It is October of 2012.

Have you visited your LTAS website lately?

After experiencing insurmountable problems with our original website, in February, 2011 we launched a new website with safeguards to avoid past problems. The Lighter-Than-Air Society's website has been reenergized and is full of exciting new features. Visit us at www.blimpinfo.com and explore the new features.

Keep up to date on news in the world of buoyant flight. The website's Homepage is updated as news relating to lighter-than-air flight becomes available. In this issue of the Newsletter we have included excerpts of recent items published on the website. Visit blimpinfo.com to read the full articles, see the pictures in full color and video clips.

The **History** section includes a feature called **This Month in Buoyant Flight History**. Here you can read about historic events, date-by-date, with supplemental articles and pictures.

Check the **Events and Meetings** section where you will find upcoming events announced as they are scheduled. You will also be able to read about past events.

Coming soon: **The Virtual Museum**. It will highlight artifacts in our collection with photographs and detailed descriptions. The Virtual Museum will become a reality thanks to a generous grant received from Mrs. Topping, wife of the late Dr. A. Dale Topping.

Missing a newsletter? Want to read a past issue again? On the website you will find copies of all our Newsletters.

The **Members Only** section includes a series of reprints of magazine articles on the subject of lighter-than-air flight –airships, support facilities, people who made it all possible, etc.

The **Members' Forum** lets registered members discuss subjects of interest to the L-T-A community.

Access is given to all LTAS members who request it by sending an email to ltasohio@gmail.com.

You can pay your annual dues easily and securely by clicking on the **Donate Button**

Donate



located at the top of the right column of our website and use your credit card to pay via PayPal.

The **Learn** section includes a glossary of airship terms, links to websites where the basics of blimps (how they are built, how they work) and other information can be found by visitors who are not familiar with the science of buoyant flight.

Future plans include: History of airships by country, Naval Air Stations, Hangars and Sheds, Biographies, Articles on new developments in the field of L-T-A, Features on historic events. Some of these features will be for Members Only while others will be offered to all visitors.

Visitors can write us with questions, comments and suggestions by using the **Contact Us** section.

We have been averaging about 1,250 visitors per month. About 25% of them are repeat visitors.

We have had visitors from over 50 countries. 75% of them are from the United States, followed by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France and Australia.

If you haven't visited us already, we hope to see you on our website soon.

Production preparations for the first Goodyear Zeppelin NT in Akron have started

Source: *Zeppelin Brief*

While building the SN002R, Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik (ZLT) has also ordered parts for the new Goodyear airships and has started to work on them. For example, the wiring bundles manufactured by ZLT have been installed in the rear car. Piece by piece, as parts are delivered by suppliers they are incorporated in production and further processed in the ZLT plant, assembled into different components and prepared for shipment to the United States.

The assembly of the parts inside the airship hangar in Akron will begin in the first Quarter of 2013. The first Goodyear Zeppelin NT will be assembled under the direction of ZLT's manufacturing personnel. Currently, Goodyear's preparations for the final assembly in its own hangar are progressing at full speed.



Mike Dougherty Training in a Zeppelin flight simulator in Friedrichshafen
Photo: *Zeppelin Brief*

In May, a preliminary audit by ZLT took place on site in Akron, because the production processes must meet the

requirements established by the manufacturer. This included not only the production processes themselves, but also material and inventory management processes, quality assurance and document management. The Zeppelin personnel found the processes established by Goodyear to be fundamentally sound and highly professional.



Goodyear pilot training in Friedrichshafen
February of 2012
Photo: *Zeppelin Brief*

The training for airship operations began in February 2012. Since then two to four employees of the Goodyear Airship Operations have been permanently incorporated in various educational and training programs of the ZLT, as well as in training for airship flight operations with the Deutsche Zeppelin Reederei (Zeppelin Airship Operations) in Friedrichshafen. The training of the entire Goodyear team will continue over the next two years.

Source: *Zeppelin Brief*

This newsletter is published by:

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Army's LEMV Surveillance Airship Makes Maiden Flight

The US Air Force may have cancelled its persistent surveillance airship, but the US Army has kept the faith, and today (August 7) Northrop Grumman's Long Endurance Multi-Intelligence Vehicle (LEMV) made its delayed first flight.

"The first flight primary objective was to perform a safe launch and recovery with a secondary objective to verify the flight control system operation. Additional first flight objectives included airworthiness testing and demonstration, and system level performance verification. All objectives were met during the first flight."

When Northrop signed the \$154 million contract for the LEMV in June 2010, first flight was scheduled for 12-13 months into the 18-month development program. The airship is planned to deploy to Afghanistan after the completion of testing, which would now put it into early 2013.

Source: *Aviation Week*

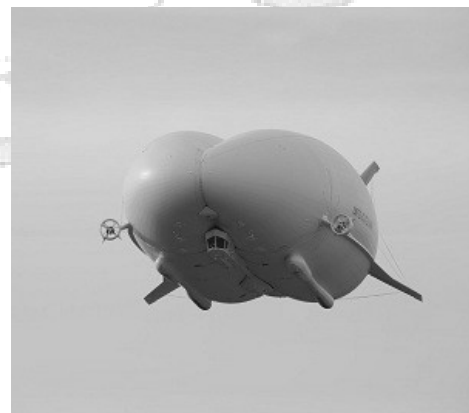


The U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command's Long Endurance Multi-Intelligence Vehicle returns from a successful first flight Aug. 7.

Source: *army.mil*



The Northrop Grumman LEMV during its maiden flight over New Jersey
Photo Courtesy Danny Barbour



Photos of LEMV's first flight courtesy of Graham Warwick.

To read the full version of these articles, see more pictures (in color), and in some cases video clips; as well as many other articles and additional features, visit our website at:
www.blimpinfo.com

Hood® Blimp Returns to New England's Skies



Source: *Hood LLC*

The Hood® Blimp is officially back for the 2012 season. The Hood Blimp, famous for representing the leading dairy brand in New England, made its Boston debut on August 4th, over the Red Sox vs. Minnesota Twins game at Fenway Park. To celebrate its return, Hood is launching the “Hood Blimp Spotting” campaign. Beginning on August 4th, each photo of the Hood Blimp shared via social media channels will give fans a chance to win Hood/Red Sox prize packs including items like a Hood Ice Cream party, Red Sox tickets and a ride in the Hood Blimp.



The Hood® Blimp makes a stop at Akron's iconic Airdock while on its way to the Boston area

Photo by A. Bellon

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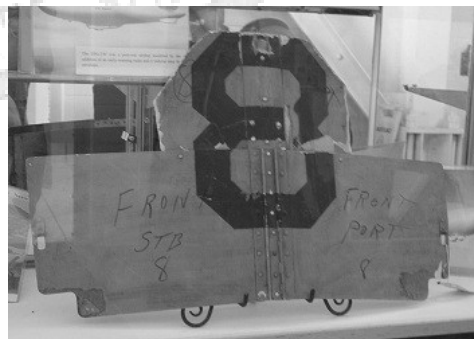
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The Ghost Blimp remembered after 70 years

Seventy years ago, on August 16, 1942 the US Navy L-8 blimp, also known as the Ghost Blimp, crashed in Daly City CA.

On Saturday, August 18, 2012, The Lighter-Than-Air Society made a presentation about the incident at The MAPS Air Museum in Canton, Ohio.

Attendees had the opportunity to watch a video recreating the events of the Ghost Blimp's flight, starting with the L-8 while it still was a Goodyear blimp, before it was requisitioned by the U.S. Navy for use in patrolling the U.S. coasts in search of enemy submarines.



There were also displays of artifacts of the L-8 in the LTAS collection as well as reprints of articles about the incident



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PURPOSE: *To further knowledge pertaining to the history, science and techniques of buoyant flight; to encourage the use of lighter-than-air transportation; and to establish and maintain a library and museum on lighter than air.*

Everyone is welcome to join

The LTA Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Types of membership available:

- Active Membership, U.S. & Canada: \$25 per year
- Active Membership, **all other countries:** \$35 per year
- Benefactor Membership: \$100 per year

- New Membership Please mark your envelope ATTN NEW MEMBERSHIP or
- Renewal ATTN RENEWAL to speed processing.
- Please note:** My address has changed to the one written above

Make checks or money-orders in U.S. funds payable to **The Lighter-Than-Air Society** and mail to:
THE LIGHTER-THAN-AIR SOCIETY, 526 S. MAIN ST., STE. 406, AKRON, OH 44311 U.S.A.

Be sure to look at our newly designed website at www.blimpinfo.com for the latest on Society meetings and activities, news, color photos of our latest events, and links to other Lighter-Than-Air sites!

Are your dues and email address current?

Include your email in all correspondence and we can keep you up to date on Society news and events.