

SPITSBERGEN AIRSHIP MUSEUM

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Spitsbergen Airship Museum shall impart the history and importance 3 airships have had in the Arctic.

"America" (Wellman Chicago Record Herald Polar Expedition) in 1907/1909, "Norge" ("Amundsen-Ellsworth-Nobile, Transpolar Flight") in 1926 and the "Italia" expedition in 1928, as well as the rescue expeditions following the 1928 expedition.

The 8 nations that participated in these historical events will be represented.

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NB: WE HAVE CHANGED OUR TELEPHONE NUMBERS



Summertime

There is something sweet about the word "summertime", and sweet this summer has been: sunny, dry and not too windy. For those of you that visited this pearl in the Arctic this summer, the refrain seems to be: I never saw something this virgin. I even heard this from the children.

However, for the Spitsbergen Airship Museum project this summer can also be considered as a new spring. In July the process of a change in ownership started. Roberto Sparapani is today no longer a part of the project. He has sold his share to Stefano Poli, who again has sold 40 % of the shares to Ingunn Løyning.

This means that we are now international on the owner side, which coincides very well with the nature of the project. The principals of internationality and neutrality are our cornerstones. And, also of great importance, we have a female representation on the owner side.

On the other hand, we do no longer have a representative in Italy, which obviously makes it more of a challenge to do work in Italy. The silver lining is that this gives us a good excuse to go to Italy (not that we ever needed one).

First thing first

The change in ownership has generated some practical changes. The project itself, as it has been presented, stays the same. The change is in the way we now work, where we keep our focus.

Earlier there has been an emphasis on the construction of a building for the forthcoming exhibition. However, it is a point for us to open in 2008, and we do not believe there will be the time for both constructing and open the exhibition in such a short time.

Therefore we have decided to rent a suitable building in Longyearbyen. We are in dialog with Svalbard Museum regarding renting the house where they used to be located before they moved into the Svalbard Research Park in 2006.



The future location of Spitsbergen Airship Museum, seen from south

The building is one of the older ones in Longyearbyen (1950), and used to be the barn many years ago when Longyearbyen was still a company city.

We are very happy about this decision. Having a location means we can focus on the exhibition itself, and working on formalizing contracts regarding loan and copy of items, photos and documents, the building of models, funding (see article under) etc.



Svalbard's Environmental Protection Fund

The first of April 2007 [The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment](#) established the [Svalbard's Environmental Protection Fund](#). The fund is pursuant to [The Svalbard Environmental Protection Act](#) and shall use its resources to protect the environment and cultural heritage in Svalbard.

The fund is getting its resources from taxes:

- From 1 April all visitors to Svalbard must pay an environment fee of Nok 150,-. The fee will automatically be added when purchasing airline tickets or cruise tickets.
- A fee for hunting and fishing on Svalbard was introduced from 1 January 2007.
- The value of the flora and fauna which is handled in violation of the Svalbard environmental law and environmental compensations and enforced penalties set by The Governor of Svalbard.

Twice a year the board of the fund shall distribute funds based on applications.

The applicants can be either private or public businesses, organizations or private individuals.

This year the fund will distribute Nok 1, 7 million (app. € 217 000,-). The amount is considered to be low and is explained with this being the first year the fund is operating. There are 42 different applicants, Spitsbergen Airship Museum being one of them. The board will announce their decisions in the middle of November.

The fund has also called for an open drawing competition regarding the official logo of the fund. For more information regarding the Environmental Protection Fund:

<http://www.sysselmannen.svalbard.no/eng/>

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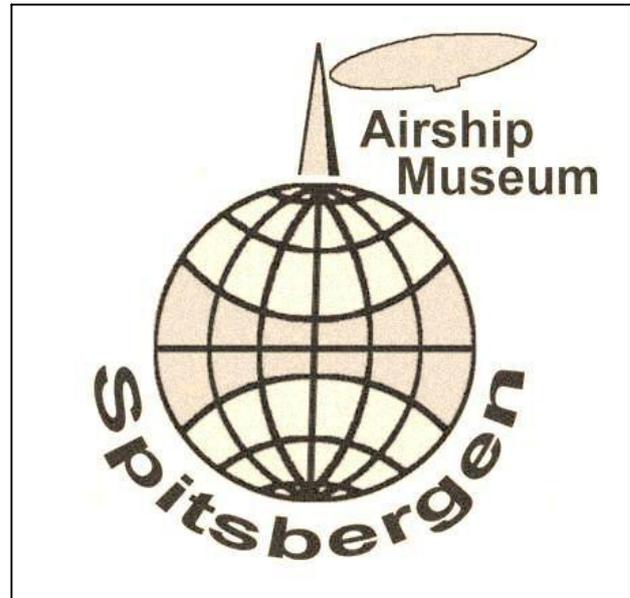
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Motto:
AIRSHIP ME!



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