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NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNVEILS NEWEST BOBBLEHEADS: TWO GREAT EXPLORERS STILL MAKING HISTORY TODAY

CONCORD, NH—The latest additions to the New Hampshire Historical Society's popular series of historical bobbleheads are two of the greatest explorers in New Hampshire history—astronaut Alan Shepard and sled dog Chinook—and both continue to be in the news today.

Alan B. Shepard Jr. (1923–1998), a native of Derry, N.H., was the first American to travel into space and the fifth to walk on the moon. On May 5, 1961, Shepard piloted *Freedom 7* on a suborbital flight into space; his launch, return, and retrieval by helicopter were viewed live on television by millions of Americans. Ten years later, Shepard commanded the *Apollo 14* mission and took his first step on the moon on February 5, 1971. While on the walk, he played golf with a Wilson six-iron head attached to a lunar sample scoop handle. Despite thick gloves and a stiff spacesuit that forced him to swing the club with one hand only, Shepard struck two golf balls, driving the second, as he jokingly put it, "Miles and miles and miles." Shepard retired a Rear Admiral on August 1, 1974.

Alan Shepard's legacy is honored through the new McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, opening to the public on March 6. The Discovery Center expands the mission and facilities of the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium which was established in 1988 to honor the first teacher in space. Located at Two Institute Drive in Concord, the Discovery Center features a state-of-the-art planetarium and exhibitions, including a 92-foot-tall replica of the Redstone rocket that launched Shepard's historic first flight into space. For more information call 603-271-7827 or visit starhop.com.

Chinook (1917–1929) was the foundation sire of a new American dog breed, the first breed to have originated in New Hampshire. Arthur Walden of Wonalancet, N.H., crossed a large mixed-breed dog with a Husky, and a litter was born on January 17, 1917. He named a pup from the litter with the most stamina and intelligence "Chinook." Walden and Chinook introduced dog sled racing to New Hampshire. Chinook led the first sled dog team to climb to the top of Mount Washington, and was lead dog on Commander Richard E. Byrd's first Antarctic expedition, moving supplies to its base camp, "Little America." Byrd described Chinook as a "shock troop" who could be counted on "when the going turned very hard." On that expedition, Chinook wandered away and was never found.

In January, Rick Skoglund and Martha Kalina, owners of the Perry Greene Kennel in Waldoboro, Maine, donated to the New Hampshire Historical Society a collection of materials related to Arthur Walden, the

original Chinook, and dog sledding in New Hampshire. Several of the donated items, including a harness Chinook wore on the Antarctic expedition, will be on display at the Society's museum beginning March 6.

Seventh-grade students from the Ross A. Lurgio Middle School in Bedford, N.H., are leading an effort to establish Chinook as New Hampshire's official state dog. The students and their teacher Jen Wells are working with Senator Sheila Roberge who sponsored the bill. In February, the bill was unanimously approved by the New Hampshire Senate; the New Hampshire House votes next.

The Alan Shepard and Chinook bobbleheads retail for \$18.95 each and are available at the New Hampshire Historical Society's museum store and online at nhhistory.org. The Society's store, located at 6 Eagle Square in Concord, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. To order by telephone, call 603-856-0625. The Alan Shepard bobbleheads also will be available at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center gift shop.

First available in 2006, earlier bobbleheads in the New Hampshire Historical Society's series include Revolutionary War hero General John Stark; statesman and orator Daniel Webster; the Old Man of the Mountain; Sarah Josepha Hale—the "Mother of Thanksgiving;" Neil Tillotson, the New Hampshire inventor and entrepreneur who cast the first vote in every U.S. presidential election from 1960 to 2000; Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States; Chief Passaconaway, sachem of the Penacook tribe and one of the key figures in New Hampshire's colonial history; and Hannah Duston, who was captured by Abenaki Indians in 1697 and is said to have escaped by killing her captors. She is believed to be the first woman honored in the United States with a statue.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is the independent, nonprofit organization that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its museum, research library, educational programs, and award-winning publications. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All of its programs and services are made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

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