

## Small Categories Series

### Blimps!

Airships...Zeppelins...for most people, they're blimps! The B class blimps were patrol airships operated by the United States Navy during and shortly after World War I. On 4 February 1917, the Secretary of the Navy directed that 16 nonrigid airships of Class B be procured. Ultimately, Goodyear built 9 envelopes, Goodrich built 5 and Curtiss built the gondolas for all of those 14 ships. Connecticut Aircraft contracted with U.S. Rubber for its two envelopes and with Pigeon Fraser for its gondolas. The Curtiss-built gondolas were modified JN-4 fuselages and were powered by OX-5 engines. The Connecticut Aircraft blimps were powered by Hall-Scott engines.

In 1930 a former German airship officer, Captain Anton Heinen, working in the US for the US Navy on its dirigible fleet, attempted to design and build a four place blimp called the family air yacht for private fliers, priced below \$10,000 and easier to fly than a fixed wing aircraft if placed in production. It was unsuccessful. [<http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blimp>]

Most of us, however, are most familiar with blimps because of the famous Goodyear fleet.

Paul Spoff, OH, had 41 as of 10/13.

