

Bruce Hinds

From: "Bruce Hinds" <brucehinds@earthlink.net>
Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2005 12:12 PM
To: "bruce hinds" <brucehinds@earthlink.net>
Subject: Mar.'05 Seabee Newsletter

The Northwest Seabee Club



When I said: "Wheels
up for a water landing"
what do you think I
meant John??

Thanks to Bill Price of G and P Sales. I still want to build one of his radio controlled Seabees...

see his fabulous models at www.rcairplane.net

Hello everyone,

Hasn't this weather been incredible? Has any one looked at the farmers almanac? This could spell disaster for the lake levels this summer. I know they have already had a burn ban for a short time this past month. Unfortunately the weather didn't hold up for those of you that wanted to fly into the trade show, if you waited for the fog to burn off it would have been too late. The show was pretty much as usual. I didn't get down on Saturday to see what the seaplane discussions were all about, but I was able to make it for a while on Sunday.

Lori MacNichol's presentation for flying the Idaho back country was great. See www.mountaincanyonflying.com for details. I really want to go McCall to take their course. Shoulder harnesses are required, so I need to figure out how to install those in the Bee and I think they may want some kind of performance charts. Any ideas on where to get performance charts for the bee with 3 foot extensions, droop tips and the 295HP GO-480? I'd love to get up there this summer. Anyone else want to go? The 4 day courses are offered June 28, July 5th and July 12th, and it cost \$1600. After seeing her presentation, I'd say it's well worth it if you ever plan to go exploring. Just the few tips I received during her brief discussion sold me. These are the folks to learn from.

The previous Friday night was the Annual Grounded Hogs Banquet and Dinner for the Washington Seaplane Pilots Association. I think it was a record turn out of about 125. Bob Brooke had some of his wonderful 1/5th scale models on display, and after a wonderful dinner and talks by Michael Volk, President of the national Seaplane Pilots Association and John Sibold, Aviation Director for the Washington State Department of Transportation, Bob Dempster gave an in-depth power point presentation on the history of seaplanes in Seattle. Clayton (Scotty) Scott was there to comment on some of the slides that pertained to his experiences too. It was a wonderful evening.

Michael Volk discussed the American Lake situation. Even though the first meeting with the City of Lakewood had gone well, we're not out of the woods yet. The good news was that the City Manager who seemed to be the only one opposed to seaplane is being replaced. Unfortunately, the new city manager may be a problem too. There are apparently some of the city council members (I think that's their title) who may not be on our side either. We had thought that the folks in attendance for the first meeting would be invited back, that remains to be seen. In the interim, information I've received from another source indicates there may be some bad press circulating around concerning the whole mess and the opportunity for another "town meeting" may be in question.

John Sibold's always great to listen to and he's so positive about Seaplanes. He discussed the new seaplane facilities available in Olympia and how Lake Isabel will continue to be an ongoing issue.

Last newsletter I presented the idea of the "Gotta Go" phone tree. I thought it was a great idea. I'm surprised that I really didn't get a response from this. Okay, if you get lonely out there let me know I'll make a list. I know my friend with the Lake in the Safety section below would have loved to have some company that evening, just as I appreciated the help I received the night I had to spend a Cushman. We may be doing some remote flying this summer and we'd love to have another airplane along for some of it.

That brings up the idea of adventure.... I enjoyed the heck out of "Success on the Step." It really is a great read. I finished it and was able to actually complement the author at the GH dinner and meet Gregg Munro. It's a great story, they really had some adventures over the years. We really have it easy!

I've been promising this picture for months, Jim Dixon's Wing Walks. His dad's already made up a set. It would take me days to do this and I'm sure they wouldn't turn out have as good!! He's now asking only 150 bucks for the pair. How do you live without them? His contact is below in Seabee Products.



Maintenance & Safety

Please feel free to offer any tips or experiences that you feel could help others. I'll keep all confidential if you like.

I just heard from a friend who had a similar situation happen to him that I had written about just over a year ago. You may remember our outing to Lake Cushman. What started out as a beautiful day to fly, turned into a near survival situation. He had decided to land in a beautiful little bay and check out the beach. He had plenty of time to explore all he wanted when his Lake Amphibian became stuck in the mud with an out going tide. His afternoon excursion turned into an overnight stay and he wasn't as prepared as he would have liked.

It's that time of year when the weather can go south in a hurry. It can be especially cold at night with our clear skies lately. If you can't bunk in your plane, a sleeping bag and/or tent would be a good item to carry along. In addition to extra clothes(yours may get wet), boots, food and plenty of fresh water, he mentioned that a railroad flare will start a fire even in damp drift wood.

Remember to approach the beach on an acute angle, as parallel to the water line as you can get. If it gets too soft, it's easier to turn back to deep water. I knew the beach at Cushman was hard, I'd been there many times. I broke my rule just once ...



I received this other picture from our Albatross friends. This Widgeon is at Lake Havasu ...



Hull plugs... yes those are little bitty things I know, but you have to remember them. I leave my allen driver on the dash so it's in direct view if a plug is out. They normally are this time of year to drain any condensation. My plugs also have a

short piece of rod braised on them with a hook in the end. When they are out, they hang down. Not only are they easy to see, but they don't get misplaced!

Even the professionals make mistakes, an interesting story in the Kenmore book was about an annual on a Bee. They delivered it to the owner who wanted right away for an event at Whidbey where he moored it for several hours. The plugs for the wing floats were left out and not noticed. The owner returned from the event to find his Bee floating upside down. The story of the recovery is even more amazing.

Planes and Parts (new listings) Normally... New listings will only be new for 2 months, then I'll run them in "old listings" for another 4 months unless I hear from you. After that, they will be gone...renew as long as you like! See other Bees and parts for sale on the IRSOC's website, here's the link <http://www.republicseabee.com/Buyseabee.html>

Royal Gull for sale at the Van Nuys airport...Roger Duke's brother-in-law says he knows someone who has one. If anyone is interested call Dan at 310-980-0307.2

Planes and Parts (old listings)

Attention Float Pilots.... how about strapping a Porta-Boat to your float struts? It folds to just 4 inches flat !



Carry it under your arm like a surf board and you can attach it to the struts, almost no drag. See their website <http://porta-bote.com/> they even have a picture of a Helio on floats with one tied on! This is the smaller one, the two seat model, it's actually 9'3". It only fits in our Seabee because we've removed the bulkhead, but even then we have to take out all but the pilot seat. Janie wasn't too keen on the idea of making her sit on the cooler, even though her seat belt was tied to the floor. This boat is NEW, never in the water. It's a \$1200 value, How about \$950 ?? Call Bruce 360-710-5793 or brucehinds@earthlink.net Northern Pilot had a write up in their June/July 2002 Seaplane Special issue. I've only unfolded it twice. The second time I put the seats and transom in it only took me 4 minutes to have it ready for the water. And it weighs less than an inflatable canoe. 1

IO-360-C1E6, 0 SMOH, 3178 Total, Cerminil Cylinders, Injection system and mags. This engine was rebuilt for an RV project but was never installed. \$18,500. Located in Woodenville Wa. Contact: Scott Henderson Phone: 907.337.2860 e-mail: scott@finite-tech.com 1

Tod writes... The Seabee project for sale was started by Don Wallace at WE Aerotech and intended to be a new (totally reconditioned) airframe to be fitted with a 375 HP Continental GTSIO-520M engine and a new 93" Hartzell 3 bladed reversing prop. Many of the structural parts are new since Don had an agreement for the PMA rights. The fuselage and tail surfaces were disassembled stripped and inspected before repriming and reassembly. The wings disassembled inspected and primed but not reassembled. The project appealed to me because I could not see putting a new, higher horsepower engine on a 60 year old airframe without totally going through it first. The project was halted when WE Aerotech went bankrupt in 2001. I recently sold the engine because it was going on 5 yrs without having been run. I retained the prop and custom engine mounts so that they could be used in the same application if anyone was interested. Don Wallace is still around and has done some engineering work on the project with the FAA. I have about \$60,000 into the project and will sell it for \$25,000.

For more information contact TodDickey@aol.com Last time, call or email to renew.

Seabee Products

FLIGHTSEEING S.E.ALASKA'S GLACIERS AND WHALES. sub titled: A CLOSE UP VIEW OF S.E.ALASKA'S SPLENDOR WITH ONE MAN'S VINTAGE AIRCRAFT. by Don Kyte It is about 50 pages plus some pictures. It is soft cover and more booklet than book. It is about the 10 years he flew his Seabee in his one man, one airplane company, Glacier View Airways. He is selling it now for \$9.95/per booklet plus a more reasonable shipping and mailing fee of \$1.50. Send checks to: Seabee Publishing, 257 Ostego Dr., Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931

Bubble Windows Aircraft Windshields in Los Angeles is run by a lady named Judy. They do a great job according to Steve Lantz. The bubble molds are there and all she needs is your old windows as pattern for size. Call 562-430 8108

Wing Walks, those things you put on the wings when you want to get up and clean up the oil mess... Jim Dixon's dad is a retired carpenter and make these for \$100 each.(has a pair on sale now, \$150 for both) He does a great job from the original plans, they just aren't quite as wide. Which is nice, they are easier to handle. I have two one for each side. He also puts felt on the bottom edges so they don't scratch the wing and carpet on top. Contact Jim jdickson@intd.com 360-701-1119 or 253 851-6315.

Walk Around Inspection <http://www.aircraftwalkaround.com/seabee/seabee.htm> is an interesting series of pictures of a walk around. Note the high polish job and a very interesting water rudder.

Leading Edge Wing Tanks (I want some of these...)



Second generation Seabee Guru, Henry Ruzakowski, has developed tanks that will hold at least 15 useable gallons per side. They are made of carbon fiber and Kevlar and will gravity feed to the main tank with the operation of one lever. They will be done on a field approval, so you'll have to take your airplane to him in Florida. **So, let's plan a trip to Sun and Fun!!!** Call or email Henry for more information. 561-436-0821 amphibs1@aol.com

The Seabee CD and the new Newsletter CD! The Seabee CD contains all the Bulletins, Flight Manual, Parts Manuals, etc.. He states ..."Everyone I have sold this CD to has found it most useful. I have re-typed all of the Service Bulletins and reformatted the parts manuals for easier reading. The **Newsletter** CD contains most of the old Seabee news letters by George Mojonner, and Richard Sanders. No special software is required. All files are in Adobe Acrobat format and I include a reader with the CD. Once the Acrobat Reader is installed, just put the CD in the computer and it starts automatically! Contact Steve at smeester@bellsouth.net **I have them both, they're a great reference!**

The Experts

Simuflight's coming Back Joe McHugh's family has joined forces with Ken Thompson of Kenair in northern California to recreate Simuflight. The long term goal for Simuflight is to be a complete resource for Seabee's regardless of what conversions or kits you want or already have on a Seabee. They are also interested in Seabee parts that may still be out there that don't have a home. They will be setting up shop in Fallon, NV and are accepting work as of October, 2004. All inquiries should be forwarded to the following contact information. Scott Henderson, McHugh Aviation Inc., dba Simuflight, 3763 Image Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99504 Phone: 907.337.2860, Fax: 907.333.4482 scott@finite-tech.com

IRSOC (International Republic Seabee Owners Club) Now at www.republicseabee.com It's still the best source of information and experts on the old beast that you will find. If you haven't checked out the IRSOC and Joined? Go ahead, it's free, with free classifieds for members. The 337 database and clearing house for 337 forms and field approvals is also a free service to IRSOC members. For the time being all forms would have to be faxed to Jim: May to November (315) 531-9168; November to May (386) 767-0706.

"Frankenstein Guru" Rich Brumm in Northport, N.Y. is also one of the experts. If you ever heard of a problem with the Franklin, he has the fix for it! He's also done some interesting things to fix other plagues that continue to give Bee owners headaches. Tired of changing wheel bearings? Ask him about the "Double Lip Seal!" brummricken@comcast.net Phone: 631-757-2216 Office: 516-885-5879

Seabee Discussion Group This is a great Discussion group that gets lots of activity. If you post a question, you'll be sure to get a quick response with good experience behind it. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Seabee> If you don't want to join the group right away, you can log in as "seabee guest" with a password of "Seabee". Enjoy, it's a great site with lots of great pictures and links.

www.seabee.info/seabee.htm The author of the discussion group has created this fabulous website that is fast becoming the place to go for knowledge and history on the old Beast. Steinar has done a great job and you can spend hours looking at all his information.

Other Interesting Web Sites

www.hu-16.com
www.aerocheck.com

www.americanwarbirds.com

www.flightcontractservices.com

www.norcalaahs.org/ interesting pictures

www.rcairplane.net Easy to build Seabee with a 72" wing span, other great models too. Contact Bill Price bprice@puc.edu

www.bcfloatplane.com/ Interesting pending legislation in BC similar to our own Lake Isabel issue!

www.alertbay.com/eagleair/ Looks like a great place to go, let's plan a trip!

www.canadianseaplane.com/index.htm

I hope you've enjoyed this. Feel free to pass it along to anyone who may be interested. Please call if you get to the Seattle Area, or want to go out and play!

Bee Sea n'ya,

Bruce and Janie Hinds

360-769-2311 home

360-710-5793 cell