



APM "SeaBee" Update



Back on May 22nd, 2008 we announced the generous donation of a Republic RC-3 "SeaBee" to the APM from A.K. Young of Sandia TX. The "SeaBee", N6019K, sn# 189, was and is in very good shape needing only a thorough annual inspection to be made airworthy.

We had hoped to have the "SeaBee" licensed, flying and on display during the 2008 AAA/APM Fly-in but as they say, the best laid plans.....? Some progress has been made though on getting the "SeaBee" home to the APM and following is a report on the progress to date.



Ben Taylor securing a set of spare wings to the trailer. We also picked up the spare Franklin engine on this trip in July

As stated in the May announcement, a great number of spare parts came with this donation. One truck load of parts arrived at Antique Airfield in May. Then in early July of 2008, Ben & Brent Taylor traveled to Charles City, IA, removed the propeller, then traveled onto MSP to have the prop overhauled (per AD note) at Maxwell Prop Shop. Upon inspection it was found this particular prop was up to date and could be re-installed post haste. Back at Charles City, truck and trailer were loaded with more spare parts and hauled to Antique Airfield.

Then progress on getting the "SeaBee" to it's new home stopped. The staff and volunteers at Antique Airfield had to turn our attention to preparing for "Air Mail Days".

Once the fly-in was over it seemed that something was always in the way of getting back to Charles City to annual the "Bee". It wasn't until early Dec. that the planets aligned and a crew of APM directors and volunteers were able to get their schedules arranged to make the recovery trip.

So it was on Dec 5th that Les Gaskill, Steve Black and Brent Taylor headed North in hopes of performing an annual inspection on N6019K and making it flyable. We were joined early on Dec. 6th by APM President Mike Gretz as well as Mark and Gloria Robotti, who drove down from Lindstrom, MN to lend a hand.



The "crew", Les Gaskill, Mark Robotti, Mike Gretz, Gloria Robotti and "Downwind" Black hard at work.



Les "Col. Sparky" Gaskill doing the SeaBee limbo !!

Bill Kyle, Charles City FBO, had moved 6019K into his heated shop and continued through the weekend to provide assistance with the project. His help throughout this project has been a key factor in this donation and is greatly appreciated.

The "Bee", as expected, was in good shape and no major problems were found with the airframe or engine. After a full day (10 plus hours with around 60 man hours expended) the tools were put down and the crew made it's way to a local eatery/speakeasy, "Retlaws", for some good food and a little R&R.

The plan was to finish up the annual early on Sun. Dec 7th, test run the engine and prepare the aircraft for a test flight. However Sun. dawned with winter storm warnings altering our plans. We indeed returned to the airport to continue our work but

as the weather worsened it became apparent we would soon have to vacate the area or risk becoming stuck in a blizzard.

So after a quick trip to town to retrieve more spare parts (two truck loads) we reluctantly packed up our tools, moved the "SeaBee" back to the storage hangar and headed South. Just in time as it turns out !!

What remains to get the "Bee" finished up ? Well four new high pressure fuel lines need installed, some low pressure hoses need changed as well, the manifold cross flow needs changed, then run the engine, change oil and do a compression check. If all goes well to that point N6019K will be ready to take to the skies and waters once again.

"Thanks" to Les Gaskill, Steve Black, Mike Gretz, Mark & Gloria Robotti, Ben Taylor and especially Bill Kyle and A.K. Young, we are getting ever closer to having the "SeaBee" on display at the APM.

Brent Taylor



Mike Gretz and Brent Taylor discuss tail wheel tube problems while Mark Robotti attempts to torque and safety the prop.



Mike Gretz and Steve Black re-installing the tailwheel yet another time.



With a blizzard moving in, it's time to move the SeaBee back into the hangar and head South.