

V8 UPDATE

Date: **August 2005**

Interest in the V 8 powered Seabee continues to grow. We have seven converted Seabees flying, and [four](#) more under conversion. The first U.S. licensed V 8 powered Seabee is the Tahoe Special. Rebuilt from the ground up by Steve Lantz & Paul Shepard, the Tahoe Special is powered by an LS 6 coupled to a [four-blade](#) MT reversible propeller. The aircraft just won the Grand Champion Seaplane award at Airventure 2005! Based at Carson, City Nevada, they often [fly](#) from land or water with density altitudes in the 9000' range. Steve & Paul consider the air conditioning essential for operating in their climate.

Total fleet time is approximately 1800 hrs. The highest time V-8 Seabee is my own airplane CF-ILM. It has accumulated [1176](#) hours. The longest trip has been from Balsam [Lake](#) to Key West Florida and return. We use whatever fuel is available, automotive or aviation. The aircraft continues to perform flawlessly. The V 8 installation has been operated from sea to level to 10,000 ft., and in temperatures ranging from -20°F to 113°F.

From a [pilot's](#) perspective, the performance improvement is spectacular. From a passenger's perspective, the heating and air-conditioning systems [as well as the noticeable reduction in the cabin noise level](#) are welcome additions. From an owner's perspective, the 50% reduction in operating costs is significant.

Our current focus is now on improving the airframe. We have designed a large baggage door system, & it is currently installed on three aircraft. The owners love it! During the winter we modified the landing gear to improve the crosswind handling characteristics [and added reinforcing below the stabilizers to stiffen the skin](#). We have completed design work on retractable wing floats and are in the initial stages of manufacturing them.

[Steve Lantz's fabulous Tahoe Special armature built aircraft is flying proof that the licensing issues for the U.S. market can be addressed.](#) There is nothing to prevent [anyone from registering and completing their project with our drive package. The V 8 reliability, performance and economy are second to none, but don't take our word for it, talk to our customers.](#)

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call us at 705-340-2408