

Vol. 2 No. 2
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Dear Sonerai Planholder:

I have lots of good news and goodies in this newsletter!

There is a Formula Vee Race this summer, July 14 & 15 in Hanover, Pa. That is if there are some Racers - planes and pilots! See the enclosed flyer from Art Marsh of Race Air for more details. Who knows there may even be some Sonerai's there!

The first ten Engine Conversions are sold. The magneto mount units were sent out about a month ago. The prop hub extension units should be ready to ship yet this month. We are in the process of getting everything together in boxes, getting the installation manual printed, and waiting for one last part to come. I am enclosing our latest price list and information sheet on the conversions. As you will see, there are several options available. Watch for an article by John on the conversion in June's issue of Sport Aviation. I imagine you all saw Bill Spellman's article in April's issue on converting the VW Engine. He mentioned John's conversion, and we must have been the only ones who sent photos! A side note, there is an Engine Mount Drawing here for those using the conversion.

The ribs are ready! After you place your order, it will take 30 to 60 days for delivery. They will be \$90.00 a set. A set includes 16 ribs, 32 pieces as per the new wing drawing on the correction sheet in the plans. They are different from the original ribs in that they have different sized lightening holes and formed stiffeners. The only work required in finishing the ribs is slight deburring and final straightening with the fluting pliers. The die costs were too high to have the ribs fully formed and fluted. But 95% of the work is done. They are really nice, says John, and allow an even easier way to jig the wing. He has drawn it out for you all and you'll find it enclosed herein!

There are several new components available besides the ribs. I have enclosed a sheet with the latest listing and prices. One thing not on the list is a Canopy Cap for a folded type windshield canopy as a Cassutt or a Wittman Racer uses. This is \$15.00. The spinners, wheel pants, and wing tips are ready now. The wheel pants are the lightest we have seen. John says we will soon have two-piece wheel pants that are split vertically at the axle center line, having front and rear pieces. These are to allow a very tight fit and are designed for competition racing. They are being made now. You will notice we now have tail wheels to go with the Tail Springs. You will also notice that the cowl price went up and there is now a crating charge. George and Jim Rattray are making them now and have made an even better cowl. The air intake and exhaust ducts are built in. The cowl is in three pieces and is made long enough so that it will adapt to a Sonerai with longer motor mount or a wider fuselage. The canopies are now rough trimmed instead of tear-dropped shaped. One benefit is - we had to send them via truck company before, costing anywhere from \$14 - \$25 and taking as long as 4 wks. Now, with the new trimmed ones, we can send them UPS. It's much cheaper and faster! I might mention here - we can not send things collect for the shipping via UPS. So I will have to bill you for UPS charges. Please pay these. We may have to begin a prepaid shipping arrangement. The UPS charges usually run around \$2 - \$4. As you can see this is considerably cheaper than trucking companies!

Thank you for being so patient for your orders! We are finally catching up now. For the last four months we have had real problems supplying components. It seems our suppliers ran out of supplies or had mechanical problems all at the same time. We had no wheels and brakes, no canopies, no cowls, no gears, no tanks, and so on. Now I think things are rolling again until the next problem arises! Now I know why men in business have headaches, ulcers, and high blood pressure! It will still take a month or two for delivery of the cowl and gas tanks as they are made up to order.

Now for John's progress. I wish it were as good a news as the rest. He isn't going to have the two planes flying June 1st as originally planned. But - never say die! Now, he plans to proceed with the "New Sonerai" and get it flying by the end of June and fly off the restrictions before Oshkosh! Dreamer, eh?? The wings were inspected by the F. A.A. today. Now they will be riveted up this weekend and sent to our Ace No. 1 Expert Painter, Vance Graeber so he can get started. Then the fuselage covering begins. I may even "get" to help with that! Next the engine installation. Lastly the fiberglass cowl which is being worked on diligently by George and Jim Rattray. Some final hook ups and Presto- Instant Airplane!! (Wouldn't it be nice if it were that easy) Then camp-out time at the airport. Gregg is honing up for that!

He is about to complete his commercial ticket, and has been building up time in all the "biggies" - so he can fly the Sonerai????? Plus he is moving himself into the hanger, couch, T.V., and all. Might as well be comfortable waiting for your turn to fly!

The other Sonerai I has been put aside for now - in the neighbors garage. Perhaps in July it may get some attention again. All it lacks is wings, engine, cowl, and paint. It will probably be a static display at Oshkosh again this year.

In the meantime there are a zillion odd jobs to do. But John is getting smart. We needed a new roof so he hired it done. We needed the house painted so he found two of his students who needed a job. I told him that is supposed to be a sign of laziness or affluence. But I found it is also a sign of an "Airplane Builder" at work. Another sign of a builder at work is staying home on holiday weekends. This Memorial Day Weekend will see the Sonerai get the 1600cc Engine back again, and see her get all cleaned up for the Fly-In, Airshow season which of course is already in full swing. There are Fly-Ins every weekend from now until July 28, sometimes 2 & 3 a weekend.

John is out of school for summer vacation June 15th. After that date you may catch him here during the day if you need to call. Just 1: favor I want to ask while I mention calling- Please don't call at dinner, between 6 and 7. I am not very good at keeping the food hot once its on the plate!

I promised in the last newsletter to send you other builders' progress and photos but decided that was not such a good idea. I can't possibly keep up with you guys!!! All I can report is that there are 56 under construction as far as we know now. There are 25 past the fuselage stage and, we hope, "several" close to flying! I also said I would get your pictures to Jack Cox for Sport Aviation but I didn't follow through. Sorry. But keep us informed and keep sending pictures. Maybe we will get enough together yet that are up to date and I can send them in.

And that brings us to Oshkosh! We will have a commercial display booth this year in the sales building, and two(?) airplanes going around the patch. John will also be involved in two forums: A VW Engine Conversion Forum on Wed. August 1, and a Formula Vee Forum on Thurs. August 2. We look forward to meeting and talking with you who attend Oshkosh this year. We have certainly enjoyed having you who are in the area stop by and visit with us here in Elgin.

It promises to be a great summer! See you at Oshkosh- by gosh!!!

The Ms. of M,

Betty Monnett