

October, 1976

Dear Sonerai Planholder,

Since so many of you asked me about a newsletter at Oshkosh, I decided to continue with them. Especially since that is really the only job I have now! Karla McKnight, our secretary, has done a terrific job of learning the ropes and is running the show now.

happenings at the shop are many.

The Sonerai II we sponsored for the Stout State Industrial Art Teacher's workshop this summer is just about ready to fly. The plane was completed and on the line at Oshkosh with the new EV Sub and Cow1 on it. Three weeks and seventeen men produced this fine project. Hats off to Bill Shan of Mansfield, IC again as a terrific organizer, motivator, and teacher.

The fiberglass body project is still coming along slow but sure. We really hoped to have it at Oshkosh flying but other things kept getting in the way----- like running the business and building the booth! Now it is being worked on again. The shell has been changed three times as John has not been satisfied with the results, this fourth one should be a winner! I hesitate to say when it will be flying--- but who knows maybe this fall yet?

The hottest thing is a powered sailplane which John has been designing. Anyone that has been at the building has probably caught a glimpse of it and it is talked about around the shop alot. There is extreme excitement about this project and it will be off the drawing board and under construction very soon.

Besides the airplanes, there are a few other things happening and high priorities.

One is our new house. In true tradition, we saw the house one day and bought it the next. Jumped in with both feet and now own two houses! The new one is a beautiful 30 year old English Tudor in an old established neighborhood of Elgin. We are thrilled with it. Painting, repairing and decorating has us busy.

Another project is a 1934 Frazier Dash replica which John works on in his spare time. (Will he ever have any spare time?)

Another priority is DOGS. The story goes: The shop had a male newfoundland watch dog named Spot. He was soon joined by a female Doberman named Binky. Within a few months we had 6 Spotermans!! now they are 4 weeks old. Anybody need a puppy, or a Doberman, or a Newfoundland? Think we will go back to an alarm system.

That we try to keep as our highest priority is our children. They are all super and see they even survived without me for the week of Oshkosh!! John is 5½ and walks off to kindergarten every day. (By himself--heaven forbid!) Jason and Jeremy are 2½ and what can I say!! I can only add this thought. I recently saw what I thought to be the greatest bumper sticker; "Have you hugged Your Kids Today?"

Back to business at hand here!

There will be another Builders Seminar at the building Sat. and Sun., November 13 & 14, 1976. This is sponsored by Stout State University and you will find an information and registration form enclosed. The seminar involves two days of working on the phases of construction of the Sonerai; ie: welding, fiberglass, metal working, etc. The information includes a list of Motels and hotels. There will be a social meeting at the building Saturday evening with slides and movies. So please join us!

Write for a current catalog if you haven't already received one. The latest one is dated July 1973, the ones we had at Chiskosh. It has the chrome-nolly and aluminum prices in it. You do know we stock chrome-nolly and aluminum now?

New items for sale soon include:

Baffle Drawings- Full size patterns for the E7
baffle installation (adaptable to a 3V)

Capaculator- Nothing available now seems to suit
our needs so Mike and Jean have developed one that
does.

Find enclosed a Special Holiday Sale Flyer. These special
offers are made only to our Planholders. Please enclose the coupon with your order. Give this to your wife, girlfriend, kids--
anyone you want to buy you a Christmas present! This is just a
special way of thanking our planholders for their enthusiasm,
patience and support.

Our staff is working hard to do as good a job they can on
your orders. We still make errors but hopefully are learning to
correct them the next time! In addition to Kerla, we have three
kids (as our oldest son would say, "Dad, they are not kids!")
Indeed, they are alot bigger than all of the nonnets! Two high
school students, Rob Laddox and Keith Anderson, and one college
student, Jeff Anderson, who works part time after and in between
classes. They are all working hard and we are happy to have them
aboard. I must mention our most loyal supporter and hardest
worker, Dad Connett. He is seen about the place doing everything
and anything that needs to be done. Call him our right and left-
hand man!! Gross Erikson's new titles include: Photographer,
Advertising Manager, Public Relations Manager, and Flying Director!

We know there are alot of Sonerai's completed, close to flying,
and flying! Please send us a picture of your project! We
have several scrapbooks and would even honor you on our Dulcintin
Board when you Fly Yours. So send a snap or two!

We truly enjoyed seeing many of you at Oshkosh and at the
Hospitality Get-together. Hope we can do it again next year.
It is a nice chance to say thanks to our Planholders and to chat
with you away from the commercialism we are into with the business.

The Retirement Board, (!)

Betty Connett

P.S. Corrections to Sonerai II Plans page 4.

2. II Place rear spar carry through mount bushings, should be
2" I.D. bushing stock not 5/16" as shown the rear spar carry -
through mounts with 40-4 bolts.

see lower with
revisions