

Vol. 3 No. 1  
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Dear Sonerai Planholder,

Spring has sprung and spurred a little activity around here - for a change!??? The II plans have been out since February and we now have about 100 II builders, plus about 250 I builders. Due to shortage of my time, this newsletter will now be for both I & II builders combined.

The Sonerai II manual is finally completed. Seems like that has been on the priority list for a long time! John finished his part some time ago and I'm to blame for delay. I just couldn't seem to get it typed and run off on our mimeo machine. (really hoped he'd have it printed) Anyway after much "cranking", its done. It will be available to any I builders who want it for \$5.00. John says it is basically a general outline of how to proceed with construction and you will be able to adapt most of it to building the I.

The II has had its hours flown off and has been flying all winter. when the restrictions were taken off, the F.A.A. ok'd it for 455 Lbs. useful load! John has flown it this heavy and it performs very admirably. Yes! I got my ride. I wasn't the first passenger however and my nose was a bit out of joint as the list grew longer of those who had ridden. But it was still a thrill when we did go up.

The Prototype Sonerai I has been grounded since January and is undergoing a revamping. John has put on smaller tailsurfaces to test them out. He has put on the new full fiberglass cowl, has metalized the cockpit section - fuselage from the cowl to the seat back. The fuse now has removeable side panels made out of .020 aluminum. Along with the complete cowl, this will allow complete access to the Engine and cockpit area. He has covered the plane with a new covering process that we are testing for Cooper Aviation. It is very fast and a minimum of work! It has only 2 spray coats and it is ready for final paint. We will have more on this later I'm sure. He has made a .020 Aluminum seat as in the II. Also, he has fitted the tapered rod tailspring. For the most part the prototype now sports all the latest equipment!! He hopes to have it in the air again by the end of the month. He will be running the fiberglass prop on the I, and is anxious to see what it will do. With that and the modifications, he is expecting a fair amount of increase in performance.

In addition to the prototype, two other I's were brought up to date and recovered right along with it. The other one built with the prototype three years ago but never flown, now belongs to Vance Graeber, our good friend mentioned quite alot! The I built up for display at the workshop at Oshkosh two years ago is John's third airplane now. Both of these should be airborne this summer!

As you can see the shop has been a busy place. Now there's another shop sprouting Sonerai's. John Brosseau, another friend and loyal supporter, has a back room at one of his factories where two Sonerai II's will be donning new fiberglass bodies this spring. Our Fiberglass man is now finished with the plug and will be taking a mold soon. John Brosseau and John are building the new square tubing fuselages and wings and anxiously awaiting this new body. At least one will be at Oshkosh if all goes well. This fiberglass shell will be available to builders as soon as it is tested and proven. There will be augmented drawings provided for the fuselage.

All this has been going on in addition to developing components. The last thing left to work out is the II canopy. Everything else is at least in process! John will be working on the canopies as soon as possible. We are sorry for any delays in deliveries. It has been a slow process but we are trying to build up a bigger "stock pile". We have to produce

in larger batches in order to offer components at the present rates. Of course, this takes more time and means more delays right now. Our only hope is that you plan ahead. It is imperative if you wish parts when you need them! Order with two months lead time if possible. A deposit of 50% is all that is required. We would expect full payment on delivery then. Of course we appreciate full payment with order!

Available very soon from us will be the Posa Injector Carb. It is very similiar to the "Lake" only much less expensive! Will get more information on it to you soon.

A slide presentaion of over 150 slides, combining the I and II construction, is available to all of you. We can schedule two a month allowing you a week with the slides, and a week for delivery and return. We are charging \$5.00 for their use- Plus a \$10.00 deposit which is refundable if the slides are returned on time. We request that you send them back UPS where possible. If not possible, then air mail, special, insured.

Due to open heart surgery, a Sonerai I planholder has a fuselage kit for sale. The basic truss is tacked, includes steel plate, tires, control cables. Call him for more information. He is asking \$200.00 for all. Bob Rusch, 3730 Meacham Rd., Itasca, Ill. 60143 312-529-2075

#### Tips to Builders

Consider a set of aluminum wedges under the landing gear mount which will make the gear fly at 0° anle of attack in level flight.

A good modification to both I and II is to metalize the cockpit section. It consists of three removealbe panels- a bottom, two sides. The fabric only covers the turtledeck section of the fuselage. The fabric and panels on the sides and bottom are attached to .025 x 3/4" x 3/4" chrome-moly angles that are tack welded to the seat back station and face reward. The side metal panels are formed so they hook over the top longerons, have a slight fold in them to simulate the middle side stringer, and wrap around the bottom longerons and screw to the floor or bottom panel. The rear cowl mount screws or cam locks will also hold the metal panels in place.

Again, John advises I builders to raise the turtledeck height to 15" or 16" above the longerons instead of the 13" or 14" shown on the plans.

Oshkosh seems to be around the corner. John will have a booth again this year. The I & II prtotypes will be there of course. Hopefully, a fiberglass shell II as I mentioned. Bob Hughes and Vance Graeber and how many more???? The industrial arts teachers and students workshop will be building a Sonerai this year. John and Gregg will be giving rides in the II, especially to planholders, as many as time will allow!

Keep us posted of your progress. We are anxious to hear from you. Hear Duane Kinman in Colo. is almost ready for take-off!

I Builders are receiving this newsletter and our new catalog printed the end of February with a new price list.

II Builders are receiving this newsletter, the builders manual, the first correction sheet to put in the plans, and a new price list for the catalog. If you are missing any of these things, let me know! I have been know to goof!

Anxiously awaiting MY Homebuilt,

Betty Monnett