

March, 1981

Dear Sonerai Planholders,

Well, Spring has sprung around here in the midwest. It is actually flying season again. The guys have been getting the cobwebs out of the airplanes the last few Saturdays. So many things are going on in the shop it's hard to know what to tell you about. John and Pete are getting the Sonerai II midwing ready for the new engine we talked about in the last newsletter - the one I can't tell you much about yet! They are making good progress on the design and construction of the Moni. The Monerai Engines are due to arrive any day also, and those engine pod kits are getting ready to go out.

On top of all the new designs and developments to worry about this Spring, John has been busy writing a paper. He was asked to present a paper for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Long Beach, CA in May. The title of the paper is *"The Design of Low Powered Aircraft; A Philosophy for Future Personal Sport Aircraft."* The abstract reads: An approach to design for low cost kit built personal aircraft accepting the challenges of airframe, fuel and production efficiency, FAA regulations, and the limit of the average homebuilder is discussed. Methods of blending traditional construction techniques with advanced technology materials and new lightweight power plants toward the future development of a series of lightweight "interchangeable modular component" kit aircraft are examined relative to the goals of such aircraft. John and Emily and I sweat blood and tears but finally submitted the paper on March 15. What an ordeal! It seems it is easier to design and build an airplane than meet the requirements of writing a paper about it!!

Unfortunately, because of all the activity going on we did not make it to the Sun 'N Fun this year. But I understand it was a nice fly-in as always. Guess the next get together will be Oshkosh '81. So get those Sonerai's buzzing!!

Our Seminar last month was a big success! We had a capacity crowd of 107 at this Sonerai Builders Workshop. Thank you for the nice letters and comments from some of you who attended. It is nice to get feedback. These are really becoming a popular forum, and it looks like we'll be scheduling another one in the fall.

Formula Vee Events

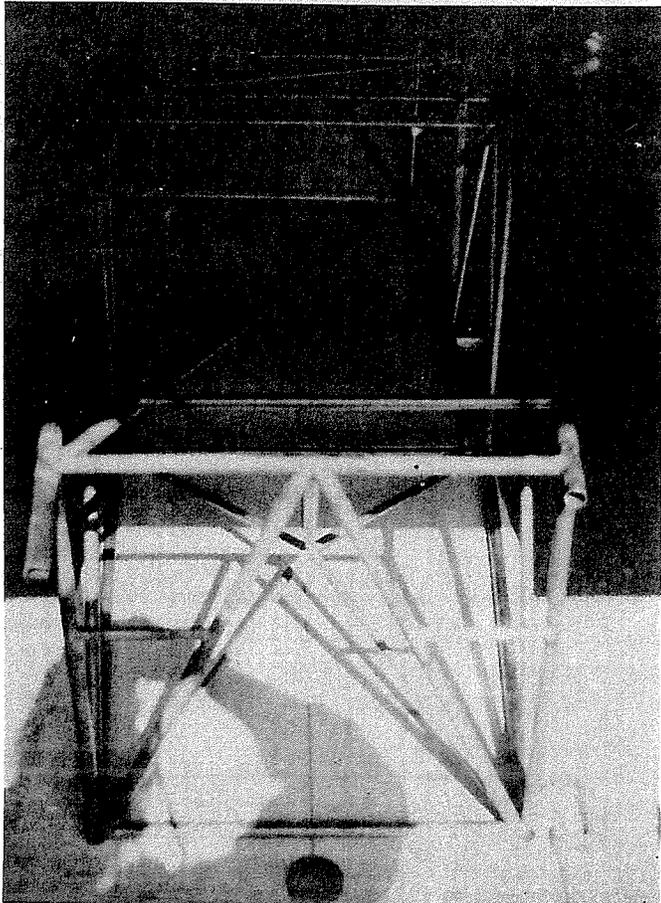
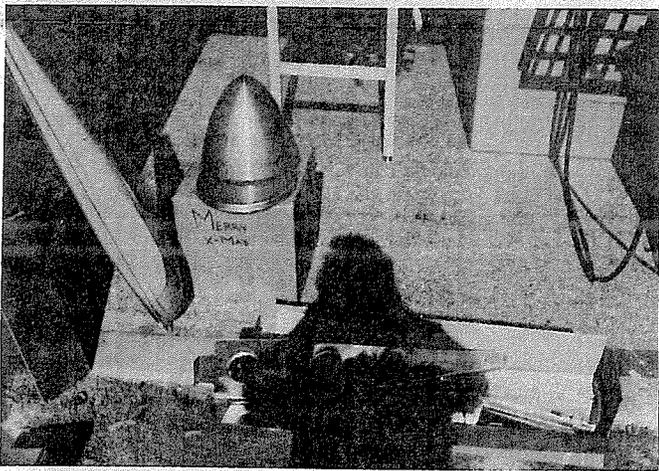
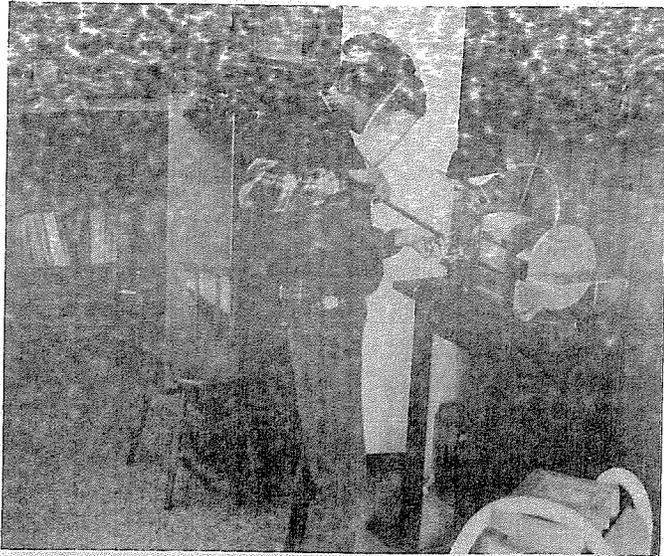
Charlie Terry has asked us to announce the following dates for Formula Vee:

Firm	May 31	Cincinnati, Ohio
		-\$5,000 purse
Possible	July 4th weekend	Carbondale, IL
Firm	Labor Day weekend	Cleveland, Ohio
Possible	Sept. 18-20 weekend	Reno, NV (Must have 6 aircraft)

If any Sonerai Owners would like to enter their aircraft but do not choose to fly it themselves, there will be qualified race pilots on site. If anyone would like more information about the races, contact Charlie Terry, 131 Boxwood Dr., Kings Park, NY 11754. Home phone: 516/724-3964; business phone: 516/735-4100.

A Special Christmas

Mr. and Mrs. Tedd Rapp purchased a Sonerai IIL kit for their son Michael for Christmas. They write: *"Our son, Michael, now about to graduate from high school and flying since the age of 13, both sail and power, was the proud and thoroughly surprised recipient of #968 IIL Christmas morning. Overjoyed would be a drastic understatement."* When we received the order, we all thought - how neat! What a wonderful Christmas present. What husband or son wouldn't want to find a whole airplane kit under the Christmas tree! Then we immediately almost ruined the surprise. They had given us a shipping address across the street but we



sent the plans first, separately, via UPS to the Rapp's home. Only one of several errors. But Mr. Rapp writes: "Two interceptions of UPS and the mailbox just days before Christmas, hiding four large boxes in the neighbors garage until Christmas Eve, not to mention Dad's excitement, the neighbors help, Freight Company Personnel, and last but not least Monnett Experimental, resulted in the best Christmas ever. At this point, Michael eats, sleeps, and majors in Sonerai III."

Best Wishes

Bill McNeil one of our builders from Wichita, KS is recovering from a stroke. We certainly wish him well! He has completed his Sonerai II #382 and has it all signed off. We received a clipping from Bill's local newspaper which featured an interesting article about him. I would like to quote a few things from it:

To Fight Boredom of Retirement, He Decided to Build Own Plane

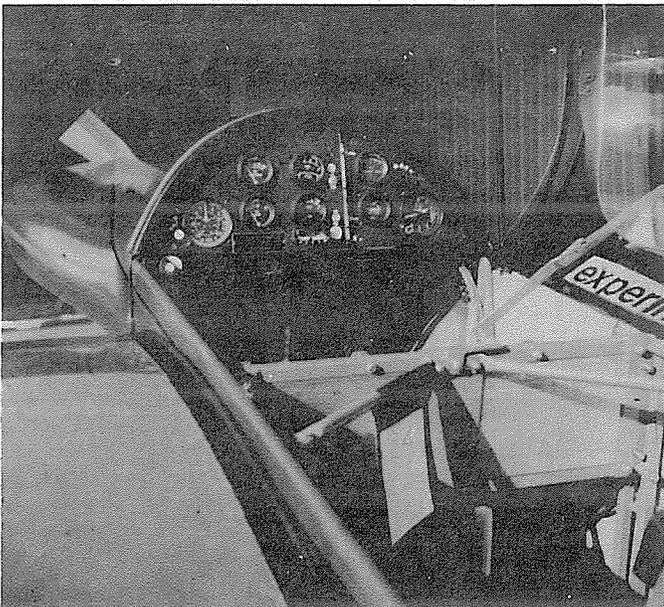
There's an old saying that "you can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy." With appropriate modification, the same sort of thing could be said of some pilots. Bill McNeil, 2440 S. Minneapolis in Wichita, is one of them. After 54 years and more than 28,000 hours of flying, he decided there was only one way to combat the boredom of retirement. Build an airplane! McNeil, originally from Clay Center, says he's flown everything from World War I Jennies to jets, so building a plane in his garage was more or less natural. . . .

He learned about safety as a test pilot - 24 years with Cessna and several years with the old Culver company in north Wichita. There also was a stint as a crop duster and a flight instructor. And he remembers the time he had to leave a Culver plane in mid air. "Glad I didn't stay with it," he says. "They brought the whole plane back in a little, two-wheeled trailer." He still has an ashtray made from one of the pistons, and the badly battered wing section from another plane that had two ducks inside it when he landed.

"Well, it's something to do," McNeil says. "You can get mighty bored when you're retired, and this sure beats watching TV and drinking beer."

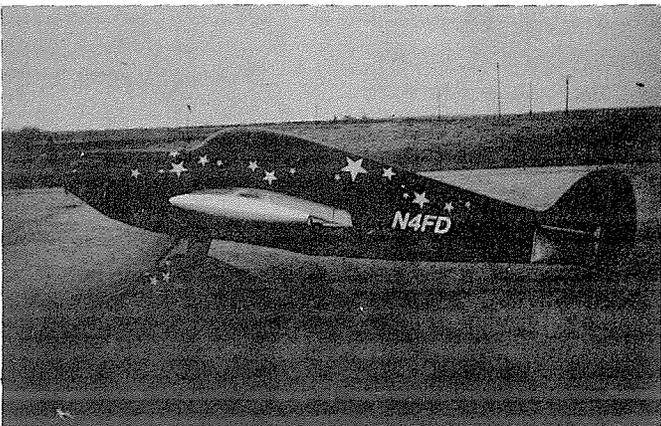
Sonerai Flying

Marland Malzahn #270 II, Rt. 1, Antigo, WI 54409.



First flight 1/17/81. Congratulations, Blackie. Note: Arm to lock canopy open. Push button to close.

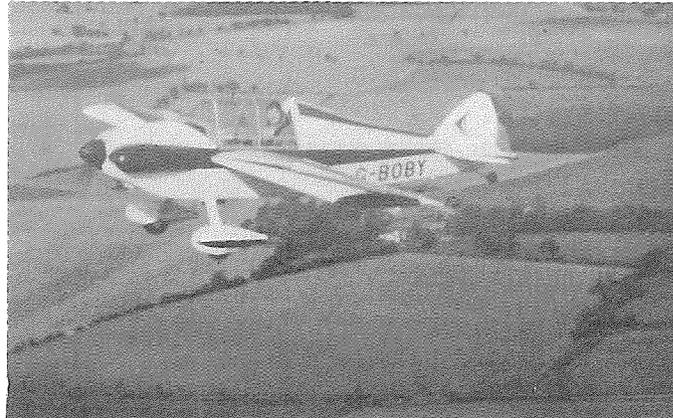
Don Hedeman #267 II, 1812 Keyway Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001.



First flight 11/15/80. Mentioned last time but here's a picture. Quite a paint job - red with white stars!

K.W. Sample #257 II, P.O. Box 168, TETEKO, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. First flight 2/14/81. Happy Valentine's Day Someone!!

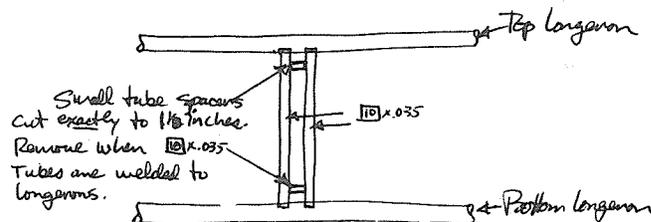
Bob Halland #402 II, Fallows Hall Cottage, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England.



First flight 2/1978 (We just received photograph). Bob writes, "My Sonerai II was the first built and flown in Europe with all homemade parts - a true homebuilt in that sense!"

Builders Tips

Bill Reeves, #983III, 809 Silver Spring Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910. Bill sends us this tip:



When building the fuselage sides, to ensure the distance between the square 5/8 X .035 tubes is exactly 1 1/8 inch make some metal tube spacers cut exactly to 1 1/8 inch. Insert them between the 2 square tubes before welding the square tubes to the top and bottom longerons and you'll be sure to come out ok. I got this hint from another Sonerai builder -George Phillips.

For Sale

Donny Cannon, 513 Estancia Drive, Albuquerque, NM 87105. (508) 831-4518 after 5:00 p.m.

1 pair Sonerai II wings with folding mechanism. Signed off, skinned ailerons on, wired for lights. Without tips on wing or aileron.

Harland Cavin, 1009 E. Cherry, Springfield, MO 65807. (417) 862-1604.

Sonerai II Fuselage, Landing Gear, Hardware Package.

Wanted

Tom Morley, 5721 W. 55th, Chicago, IL 60638.
(312) 735-8555.

Wants to buy a Sonerai II Project.

John Klapac, Sport Aviation Center, P.O. Box 3322, Silver Spring, MD 20901. (301) 593-7430.

Wants a sponsor for a Sonerai II Project Course begins end of May - delivery in September.

New England Fly-In

Milt Gordon (Sonerai II #902) asked us to announce there will be a fly-in at Orange Municipal Airport, Orange, MA. June 27-28. There will be a few Sonerai's on display, so go on over if you are in the area!

Hope all of you saw or heard about Jack Cox's new magazine entitled *Sportsman Pilot*. Jack and Golda are publishing an aviation quarterly with the major emphasis on homebuilt and ultralights. It is only \$7.50 per year and will no doubt be an excellent magazine. We certainly wish them the best of luck with this new endeavor.

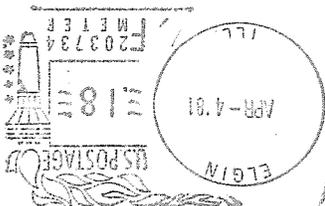
More changes ahead!! With the June issue of the Newsletter we will be combining the Monerai and Sonerai Newsletter and just have one newsletter from Monnett Experimental. We will continue with the same format as we have been except it will be published every two months - six times a year. We will have expanded coverage on everything that is going on at Monnett Experimental. Features will include Monerai and Sonerai "News from Builders", "Builders Tips and Photos", "New Products", "Flight Testing", "Updates On All The Aircraft". The subscription fee will be \$10.00 a year next time you subscribe. (For most of you this is not until September).

Until June then, I'll have more scoop on Oshkosh '81 and hopefully some exciting news about some test flights! Thank you all for your pictures and builders tips. Keep those cards and letters coming!

Warm Regards,

Betty Monnett

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