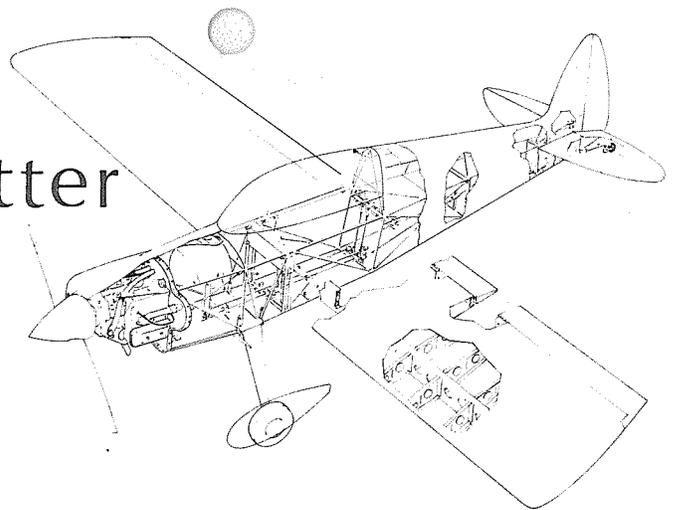


# Sonerai I & II newsletter



Spring/Summer 1980

Dear Planholder,

Would you believe Oshkosh is only a little over a month away. The new low-wing Sonerai II has flown and handles very nicely. It will be at Oshkosh along with all our other Sonerai's and hopefully lots of others from you builders. We will be there early as usual and will stake out a row for Sonerai's. If you plan to fly in (weather permitting) but might not be there the first weekend, drop me a note and we'll be sure to try to save you a spot. In any case, whenever you get there, taxi to the Sonerai parking area and we'll squeeze you in somewhere.

While we're talking about Oshkosh, here's the important dates to remember for this year:

## Hospitality Night Sonerai & Monerai Builders

Sunday, August 3, 1980 - 8:30 p.m. - Butch's Anchor Inn.

The Anchor Inn is just past the Northeast corner of the field. It is on the street that runs in front of the terminal and is about four blocks east of the terminal. The shuttle bus that goes uptown goes very close. Get there anyway you can, there's always enough cars there to give rides home. Beer and hot hors d'oeuvres are on us, so make sure you are there.

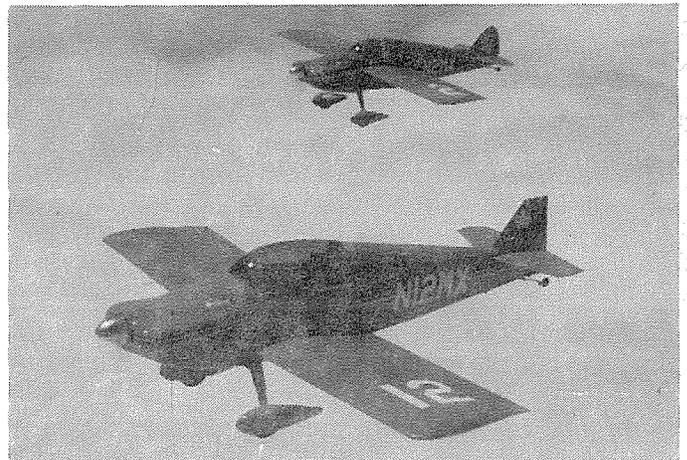
## Forums for Oshkosh '80

Sonerai I & II - Tuesday, August 5th - 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Tent #2.

Monerai "S" & "P" - Friday, August 8th - 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Tent #2.

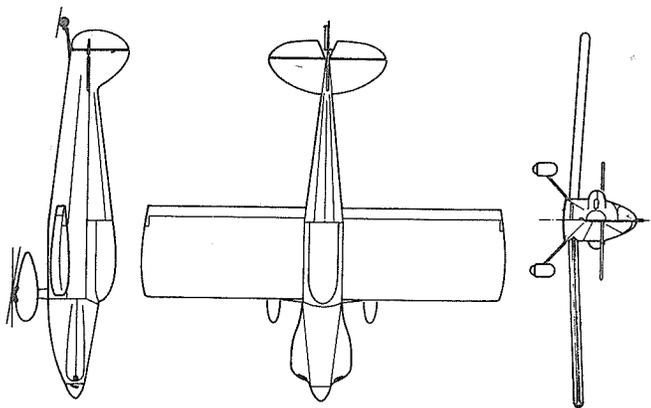
As mentioned above, the low-wing Sonerai II is now flying. After several years of having a fuselage just hanging from the ceiling and the wings stuffed in the corner, John decided it was time for it to come out of retirement.

Those of you that have good memories, will recognize the fuselage as the one we had at Oshkosh in 1976 as the fiberglass shell prototype. Needless to say, that project never got finished and I think its safe to say never will in the foreseeable future. At Oshkosh we will be introducing the low-wing and offering the optional prints to build a Sonerai II as a low-wing. These prints will be just like the pages in the current Sonerai II plans. Actually there is very little to do to convert a standard II to a low-wing, even if you've already started construction.



The only changes are the main spar carry through has been lowered to the bottom longeron and has 3° of dihedral in it. Naturally, the rear spar carry through is lowered also. The control system does not need to be changed at all. The wings will still fold, though ground clearance will be less than a foot. This should be no problem except on extremely rough roads and going over large curbs. Of course, both of these will ream your wheel pants. Only the chicken hearted take them off for towing. Right? I want to answer some questions I know will be asked thousands of times, but not by any of you, of course. The prototype Sonerai II (N12MX) shown in the photo, with the original II in the background. The one that will be at Oshkosh, has square tubing longerons only because it was originally intended to

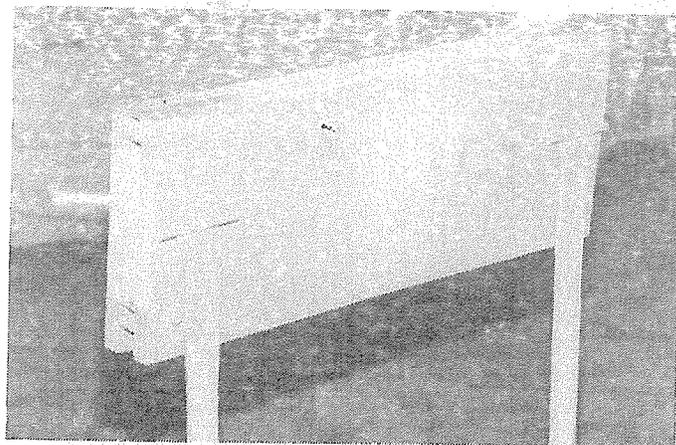
have the fiberglass shell. They are not required to construct the low-wing. Also 12MX has aluminum, squared off tail surfaces. Again, this is because they were intended for the fiberglass shell airplane. With that one, we wanted to completely eliminate fabric work, so we came up with the aluminum tail surfaces. They were much easier to make with squared off tips. We do not plan to offer any drawings for the aluminum tail surfaces, but we will be offering drawings for regular welded tube tail surfaces with the squared off tips. On their own, several builders have already done just this. The three-view shows low-wing with round tail surfaces.



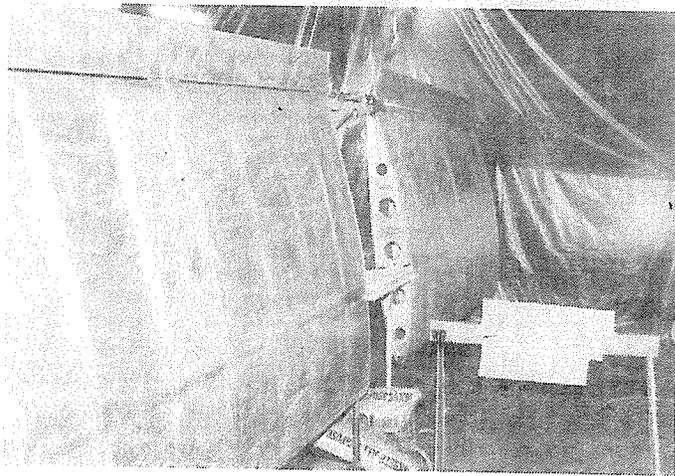
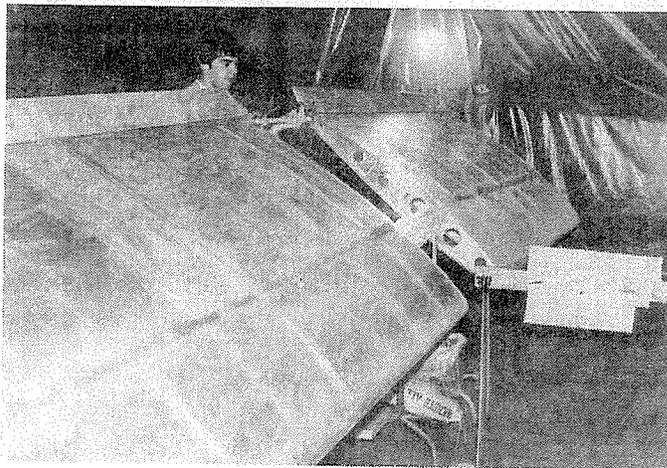
In summary, you will now be able to build your Sonera II as a low-wing or mid-wing and with regular rounded tail surface tips or square tips.

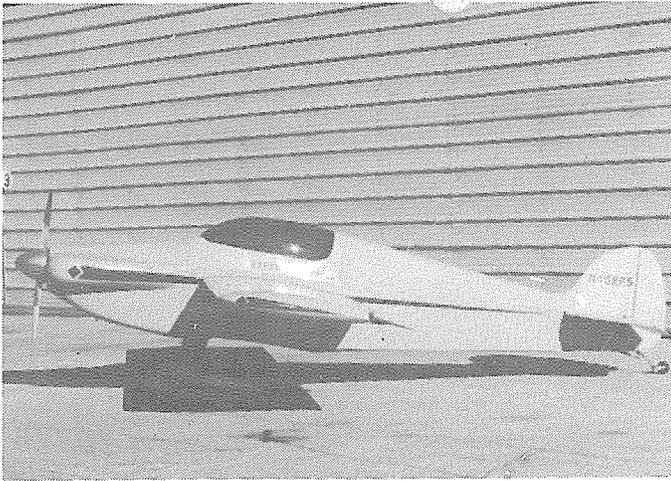
Once again, we have been told by *Playboy* that the Sonera II will be in the August issue which goes on sale in July. I just received my July issue (I talked my wife into a subscription to make sure I got the issue no matter when it came out. She liked the subscription better than me looking through the magazine at the newsstand. It seems I would forget which magazine I was suppose to check and look through them all) and it had the airplane listed as coming attractions.

After the last two newsletters that were printed in this format, many of you expressed an interest in receiving more than two newsletters a year, even if there was a subscription fee. We can see printing four newsletters, one every quarter for \$6.00. How does that sound to you? We'll have photos and would request a little more builder input to pass along. You know; short cuts, handy jigs, rental of your jigs, etc. Naturally, if there is any major change or revision every affected planholder would be notified, but after this newsletter, only those that pay their \$6.00 will receive the next one, scheduled to go out in September. This will be your newsletter as much as anyone's, so please send in your tips to pass along, photos, and what you want to have in it. Also for sale and wanted items.



As an example, here's some photos of a wing painting fixture Pete made. The upright stands can be anything. The carry through section is made of two wood sides bolted to two pieces of 7/8 square tubing. This allows a sloppy fit and slight droop to the wings, but it is only a paint fixture and you want the wings to go in and out easily. As you can see, hardware hinges are screwed to one side and attached to the uprights. This allows the wing to be flipped over so both sides can be painted. The wings are cantilevered out from this fixture so no supports are needed at the tips to mar the just painted side. A piece of angle is clamped to each rear spar. This gives you something to hold onto when flipping wings over and also a little extra support as it rests on a saw horse.

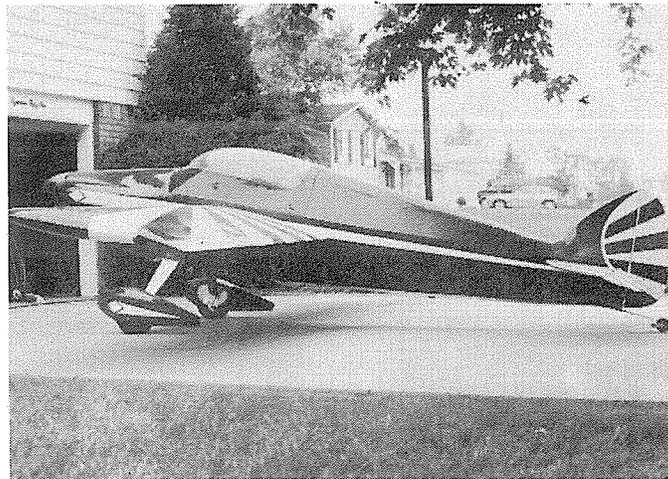




**Paul Sebern, 3863 Leeward Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60103.**



**George Wiley, 3701 Wiley Ave. Chattanooga, TN 37412.**



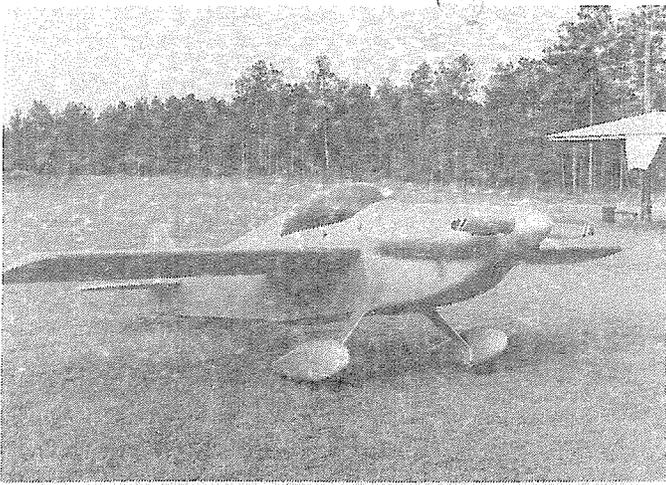
**Len Jacobsen, 1851 Greenmeadow, Walled Lake, MI 48088.**



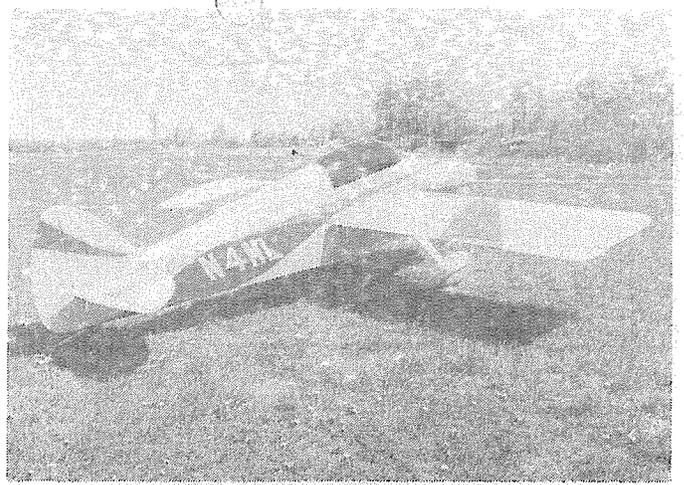
**Michael Geary - Sponsor, Al Roth - Instructor, Eastern Michigan University [class project].**



**Dennis Irwin, 16 Lakewood Cres., Naughton, Ont. Canada, [Dennis promises details on ski conversion for future newsletters].**



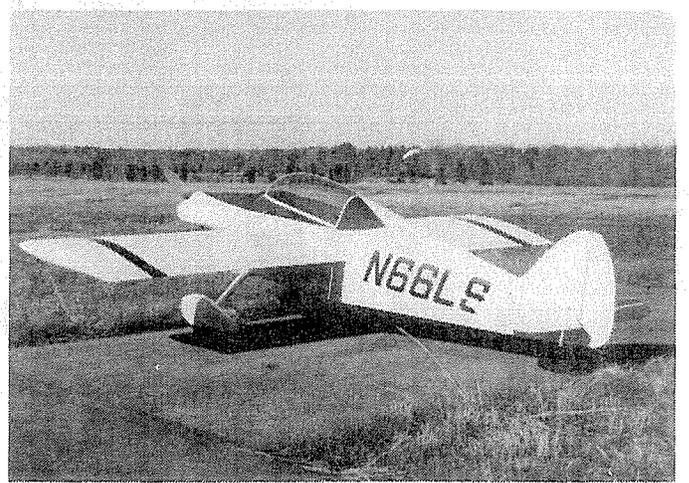
**K.V. Lundy, 225 W. Old Pass Rd., Long Beach, MS 39560, [K.V. is now rebuilding his plane, as last years hurricane collapsed the skyport onto it. Should be about ready to go now.]**



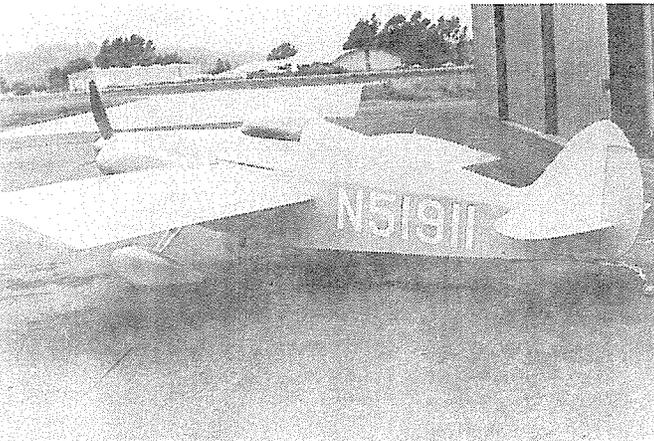
**Mel Lamb, 7338 Taft St., Merrillville, IN 46410 [1st Plans built Sonerai II to fly].**



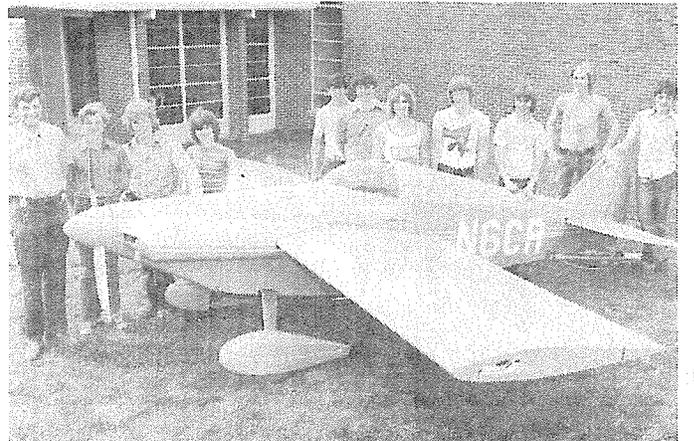
**James "Kelly" Dunn, 205 W. Cherokee, Shabbona, IL 60550.**



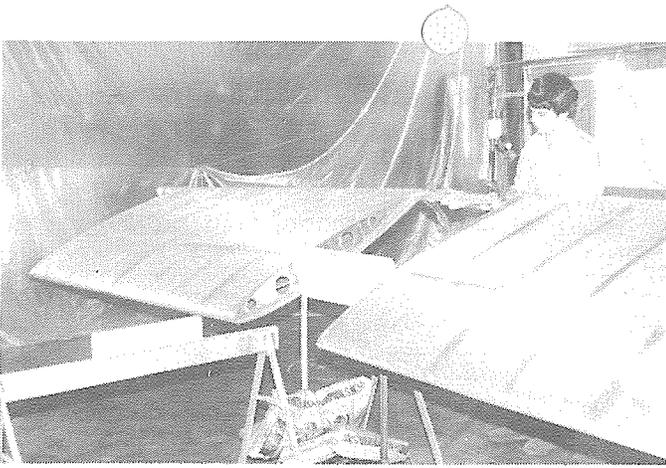
**Pete Yarder, Indiana builder; Sandy Hudson, NC finished project; Steve Lawing, owner now Highpoint, NC.**



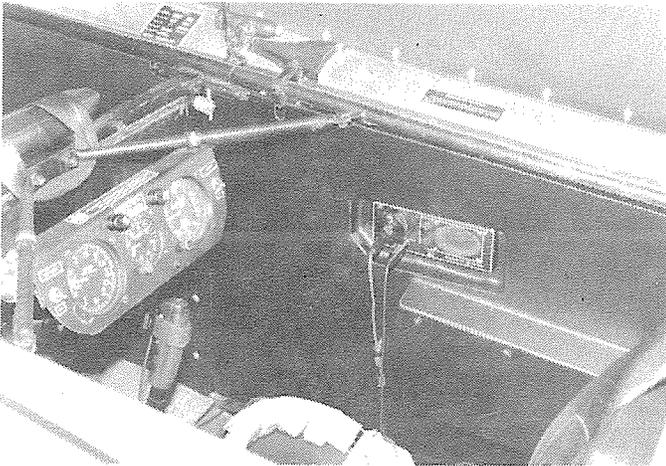
**Herb Robbins, 3535 Ross Ave., San Jose, CA 95124 [very early Sonerai I, Serial #48]**



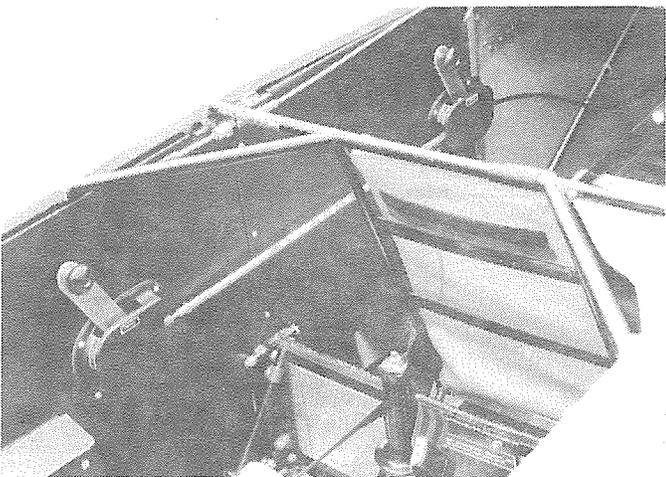
**School Project, Mansfield R-H Schools, Mansfield, MO 65704, William W. Ghan, Instructor.**



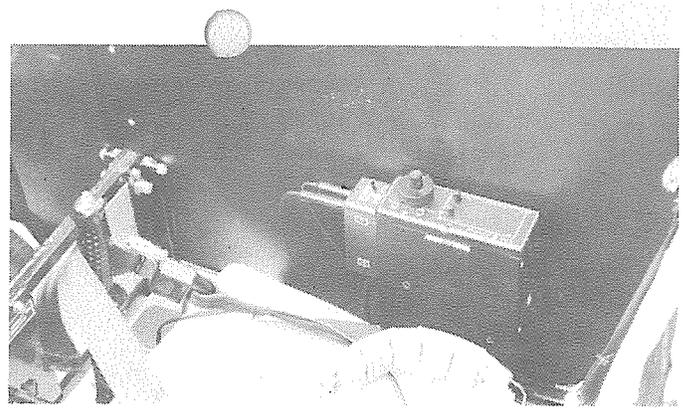
We have developed a really nice light weight ABS interior for the Sonerai II's. For the mid-wing version, the right rear panel has a moulded in area



where the radio plugs into the wing. The left side panels have moulded covers for the throttle arm mounts and the linkage from the rear throttle to the front throttle. Both rear panels have moulded in map



and document storage areas that when the lid is closed, serves as a arm rest. (See photo above.) We have these installed in N2MX and N12MX so you can see them at Oshkosh. Pricing will be finalized by Oshkosh. This is an easy way to really spiff up the interior. (The following photo shows how radio and intercom are mounted in low-wing.)



While the idea for pewter Sonerai desk models and tie-tacs in dormant for a lack of interest, we have developed and commissioned some real nice gold wings. These are perfect for a lapel pin or worn on your hat. The center incorporates the Sonerai logo in green with the word Sonerai in gold letters. These are genuine gold plated and are for sale at \$7.00 each. In addition to special awards for the best Sonerai I & II, one of these new gold wings will be given to each Sonerai that shows up at Oshkosh this year.

We have purchased some more taper pin reamers, as the rental sets have been real busy lately. Looks like alot more fellows are nearing completion. Here's the bad news, the cost of the reamers has skyrocketed. The new deposit required is \$80.00 with a \$70.00 refund upon prompt return.

We now have clecoes. We are stocking the 3/32" and 1/8" sizes along with the cleco pliers. Clecoes will sell for .45 cents each and the pliers \$5.50 each. We have special Sonerai builders cleco kits which include 100 (1/8") and 25 (3/32") plus the pliers for \$42.00.

We also have in stock now, the little suction cup compass we have been using in the Sonerai's for years. They stick to either the tip of the canopy or the side of the canopy shirt. Both of these areas are pretty much away from the steel tubing, so the little compasses are very accurate. Those of you that have tried to put a regular compass in the instrument panel know of the problems all the steel tubing causes. This is not a problem unique to the Sonerai, just look at all the aluminum spam cans, most of them have the compass way up at the top of the windshield to get it to work. What's the price of this handy dandy little jewel you ask? Would you believe a mere \$2.00.

Sonerai II builder Paul Sebern and his wife Pam just completed a vacation trip in their Sonerai to the NY, NH, and NJ areas and back home to the Chicago area. All in all, the trip went very good. The only problems in twenty hours of flying time, was two flat tires. Would you believe both occurring at the same time!

Our shop/factory will be closed during the Oshkosh Convention. No one will be here from noon Thursday, July 31st to Monday, August 11th.

**Wanted - Sonerai Sponsor:**

Dr. Joyce Montgomery, N. Mercer R3, Box 648, Mercer, MO 64661 (816) 382-4214 is looking for someone to sponsor a school built project in her district.

**For Sale, Etc.**

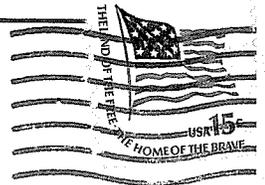
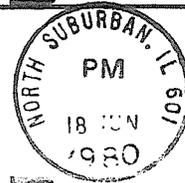
Sonerai II S-V cowl, never used - Larry Pritchard, Elgin, IL (312) 888-4477.

Sonerai II, 1850cc E-V, nav-lights, tips strobes - Dave Culver, Madison, WI (608) 255-6756.

*Happy Flying,  
Gregg*



Monnett Experimental Aircraft, Inc.  
955 grace street  
elgin, illinois 60120



Frederick J. Keip  
11428 Six Mile Rd.  
Franksville, WI 53126