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OSPREY 2 NEWSLETTER
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FROM THE PEN
OF
GEORGE PEREIRA

Fellow Osprey Builders:

It is with great pleasure that I can write this article for the first Osprey 2 Newsletter.

Some form of communication is invaluable from builder to builder as it allows us to pass on some new ideas that will produce better built aircraft and higher safety margins.

The success of this newsletter will depend a great deal on each builder passing on problems, cures, flight tests, etc. to the Zillmer's, editors of the Osprey 2 Newsletter, or to me so we can address the problem and pass the information back to you.

OSHKOSH '80

The Osprey 2 prototype made the long 2,000 mile trek to Necca again this year along

with three more from California. I flew about two hours a day at Oshkosh hopping rides to builders in stiff cross winds, rain and general confusion. (Brave souls you builders!) The prototype has about 500 hours now. It has been to Oshkosh five times now and its holding up much better than I am!

Going through Northern Wyoming its made close to gross weight takeoffs as high as 13,000 ft. density altitudes. Speeds have averaged about 120 to 125 (true) M.P.H. at just over 7 G.P.H. or about 60% of power. The Osprey 2 does very well in high mountain flying. The prototype, empty, weighs 260 lbs. I know they can be built lighter than this, however some builders are as much as 130 lbs. heavier than the prototype. Two of the Ospreys at Oshkosh were very heavy. They flew well with two people on full fuel, however that sparkling performance was not there on those high density take offs in Wyoming! You have to be weight conscious from the first saw cut to the last dab of paint!

SAVING WEIGHT!

It seems the biggest culprit in adding weight to the Osprey is the fiber-glas application. If you don't know what micro ballons are you may have to chase down a Vari-Eze builder and learn a few techniques in glass finishing. I recommend making a slurry of micro ballons and polyester resin (very hot) and brush or squeegee it on all of the foam prior to applying the cloth. It sands easily and makes a great surface for the glass. Squeegee all of the excess resin out of the glass and when dry, re-fill the weave