

Sept 83

FROM THE  
DESIGNER'S  
NEST



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#18

Fellow Osprey Builders,

Peg and I are trying to get back in the groove again after returning from Oshkosh 83. It's difficult since my thoughts keep returning to the many builders I talked to. The hundreds of questions I tried to answer, and I am sure I was remiss many times, the photos I saw from proud builders. It was a great thrill for me to share some of your problems and your achievements.

Two beautiful Ospreys were there, complete with well worn track in the grass around each one. Tom Tyler was busy fielding questions about his pretty metallic brown and white Osprey as was Bill Jonas with his beautiful white with multi-color trimmed Osprey. Both flew in the home built parade which gave Peg and I a thrill. Tom, just prior to Oshkosh, was the recipient of the Wright Brothers award. You will no doubt read about it in Sport Aviation. Bill Jonas had a very innovative set of three axis trim tabs that were worked off toggle switches on the center console. Perhaps Bill will enlighten us in detail in a future newsletter? I believe this is the fourth time out of five that the Osprey was selected as one of the ten most popular homebuilts. (I won't tell em any different if you won't!)

At our very successful and tasty Osprey dinner party, thanks to Lynn and Ken's hard work, there was a show of hands on who will fly in 4 to 6 months. It was a sizeable showing! Flying your pride and joy for the first time is the culmination of years of hard work and sacrifice from you and your family. I just have to say again, "Please don't get stampeeded into testing before you're ready."

I will welcome any call from you builders prior to flight test. Let's talk about it. I am most concerned about your weight and balance and I will check it for you if you want me to. Don't use bathroom scales and be sure to weigh it at the proper wing incidence angle. (1.5 to 2 degrees pos.) I would like to know your runway length, winds, weather. Is your fuel system correct? How close is your airspeed? If you have made modifications let talk them over. I welcome the chance to talk to some other pilot that may be testing your aircraft. I don't have all of the answers but I just might be able to offer something that could make your first flight a safer one. Again, please don't hesitate to call me.

It seems testing is much on my mind of late. I expect to start flight tests on the GP-4 in November!

I will try to keep you posted via our newsletter on some mods we hope to make on Ken Snow's Osprey. The mods are designed to improve performance. They may or may not work, however, Ken is willing to give them a try if I do the design work. Ken is a very busy Pam Am Captain and doesn't have much time so the results may be a bit slow in coming. They will be documented however for the newsletter.

Regards,

George

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