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Plane & Pilot Magazine - A22 Amphib (Cape Town)



The August issue of USA's Plane & Pilot magazine featured an article on the A22 Amphibian - known in the States as the 'Cape Town'.

"The sensation has no match in landplanes. Once you've flown a floatplane, you'll forever look at flying through a new lens". So says article author Dan Johnson, he of 'bydanjohnson.com' website fame. (This website is one of the most comprehensive sites in the world for information on recreational, ultralight and light sport aircraft - highly recommended!) Click or copy & paste this link to go to his site: <http://www.bydanjohnson.com>

Float plane flying is to many people the ultimate flying experience...to quote Dan: "Imagine flying a mere wingspan above the water...safely, hopping over small islands and zooming down to the water's surface on the far side, always landing directly into the wind, taxiing up to a dock or beaching on the sand or stopping to do a little fishing while standing on one float. Let me put a finer point on it: If you haven't tried float flying before, you're missing out on one of the truly fun things to do with an aircraft."

More specifically, about the A22 amphib he says: "My experience with the Cape Town revealed responsive slow speed handling and benign stall characteristics. Low take-off speeds are great for water based operations, and handling was fluid if not fast."

There is much more in the article, with insights into float flying as well as about the aircraft itself. For the full article, click or copy & paste this link:

<http://www.planeandpilotmag.com/aircraft/las/capetown-racing.html>



More amphibious flying - Coastal Empire Flight Training



The other day I received an e-mail introducing Denis Boissonneault, owner and CFI of Coastal Empire Flight Training in Savannah, Georgia. Denis probably has more flight time on the A22 amphibian than anyone else in the world - over 500 hours. Now there's a challenge to our Australian A22 amphibian owners!

Coastal Empire Flight Training is a flight school who believes in treating everyone like they are part of their family. They believe in the southern hospitality which both the LowCountry of South Carolina and Coastal Empire of Georgia are known for. The company is comprised of people who have a true love and passion for all aspects of aviation. They truly enjoy sharing this passion with everyone and invite anyone who has an interest in aviation to contact them to share your thoughts and love of flying.

Based on his own experience of flight training on the A22 amphib, Denis also offers specific tips and hints on flying this aircraft, as well as a few handy suggestions to help maintain the aircraft in top condition.

Interested? Here are the contact details:

Website: <http://www.idreamofflying.com/>

E-mail: denis@idreamofflying.com

Phone (from Australia): 0011 1 912 966 0630



Second A22LS Foxbat Amphibian delivered in Australia



I am pleased to confirm that our second A22LS Foxbat Amphibian has been delivered in Australia. Resplendent in golden yellow, the aircraft belongs to float plane instructor Richard Holgate, based at Polo Flat airfield south of Canberra. The aircraft will be put to work in flight training, as well as used for private flying.

We are hoping this aircraft will be on display at the Avalon Airshow, near Melbourne, in early March, with the Seaplane Pilots Association of Australia - watch this space for more information.

Once again, many thanks to Steve Hobby and the engineers at Flight Safety Australia (part of Oxford Aviation Group) who re-assembled the aircraft at Moorabbin airport after it reached Australia. And thanks to Rod Gunther, who ferried the aircraft from Moorabbin to its new home, in less than perfect weather conditions.

New Foxbat website



This is the last Foxbat newsletter you will receive in this format - from around Christmas time, we are moving to a new website design and newsletters will be sent to subscribers as a link to the newsletter section of the website.



Apart from the re-design of the website, this method of sending newsletter information should overcome the problem some recipients have with firewall and other issues which produce a page of gobbledegook instead of my carefully crafted words and pictures.

there will be a lot more information on the site, including manuals, service bulletins, and documentation. There will also be a growing area where you will be able to order A22 accessories like cabin covers, caps, basic parts and so on, direct from the site.

Finally, for the first time, our information pack will be available on a USB stick. This will contain HD video, latest photos, current prices, and other information for potential buyers.

Something Lite?



In my continuing search for an inexpensive single seat light aircraft I recently found the Belite family of planes.

Basically, they are a highly modified and developed version of the old Kitfox Lite. The rights to manufacture the aircraft were bought by James and Kathy Wiebe, who set about updating and improving what was basically already a sound aircraft, using modern materials and design.

The result is a series of FAR103-compliant carbon fibre and aluminium aircraft with folding wings, about a 2-hour duration and full 3-axis controls. Almost unbelievably the aircraft weigh in empty at around 110-115kgs ready to fly and will carry at least their own weight in pilot and fuel.

The aircraft come as taildraggers, nose draggers and a float plane. The fuselage can be covered or left open. There is a selection of engines. And very interesting, James has developed an amazing set of solid-state flight and engine instruments - a complete panel, with mounting hardware and connections, weighs only 450 grams!! This even includes a G-meter.

Early in 2011, I am aiming to visit either the Sebring Expo or Sun 'n Fun to have a closer look at these exciting little planes to assess how suitable they are for Australian conditions. I'll keep you posted!