Flight Expo Inc.
P.O. Box 155
Zimmerman, MN 55398

"Rising Above for Education"
"Making Dreams Become A Reality"

February 2024

S2F Tracker Moves to Princeton

With much anticipation the S2F Tracker (STOOF) made it's historic journey to Princeton, MN the week of February 4, 2024.

The loading began on February 4, 2024 in the afternoon. The trailer that was used could expand to the length needed. Then Anderson House Moving company extended the width with a metal plate attached to two beams; cradling the two main landing gear.

The STOOF (S-TWO-F) revolutionized antisubmarine warfare (ASW) during the Cold War. It was able to patrol hundreds of miles of ocean on each flight with it's twin engines and crew of four, making sure that American carrier groups could move without harassment from Soviet subs. A search radar was mounted on the bottom of the fuselage in a retractable radome, along with a retractable magnetic anomaly detector that was mounted at the base of the tail fin and air-launched sono buoys carried in the ends of both engine nacelles.

Other unique features of the STOOF include it's wing folding mechanism. The right wing folds forward while the left wing folds slightly aloft. This allows the wings to remain nearly flat on top of the cabin, reducing the plane's width by nearly 40 feet. Continued on page 2.

Photo taken by J. Callahan Photography

On the night of February 5, 2024, it took approximately 4 hours to travel from the Anoka-Blaine Airport to Princeton. Driving at an average of 20 mph for the entire trip.

Making Dreams Become A Reality!

Inside this issue

Special points of interest

- Kruse Aviation, Inc.
- Flight Expo Merchandise
- Spring Build a Plane Session
- Flying Club

STOOF Moves to Princeton

Photo taken by J. Callahan Photography

As years went on, variations of the STOOF design were developed to serve many functions including: fire bombing, target towing, photo-reconnaissance, Carrier Onboard Delivery and multi-engine proficiency training. This particular aircraft made over 744,000 carrier landings and flew approximately 6,100,000 hours in it's 27 years in the Navy.

Brian Mann, USN 1977-1981, shared his story with the STOOF, "I flew on this very plane while in the Navy. I was a qualified Crew Chief/Air Crewman. I was part of the last crew that flew this plane, stationed at naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA. If you look close on the lower portion of the rudder, you can see the letter "Y" and barely the letter "E" above. I and another sailor painted "Whidbey" in Old English letters down both sides of the rudder. I was recently in Blaine, MN (Oct. 1, 2012) and saw my old plane for the first time in over 33 years. It brought back some great memories."

The 7E on the depicts that this aircraft was stationed in Minneapolis, MN.

After so many February's having the state of MN snow bound, we were all concerned that we would be moving this aircraft in a snow storm. God and Mother Nature shined on us this year. Temperatures in the 50's during the day and low 30's at night. Thank you to all of you that were praying and helping financially to move this historical artifact from the Cold War Era.

The STOOF in Princeton. Photo taken by J. Callahan Photography.

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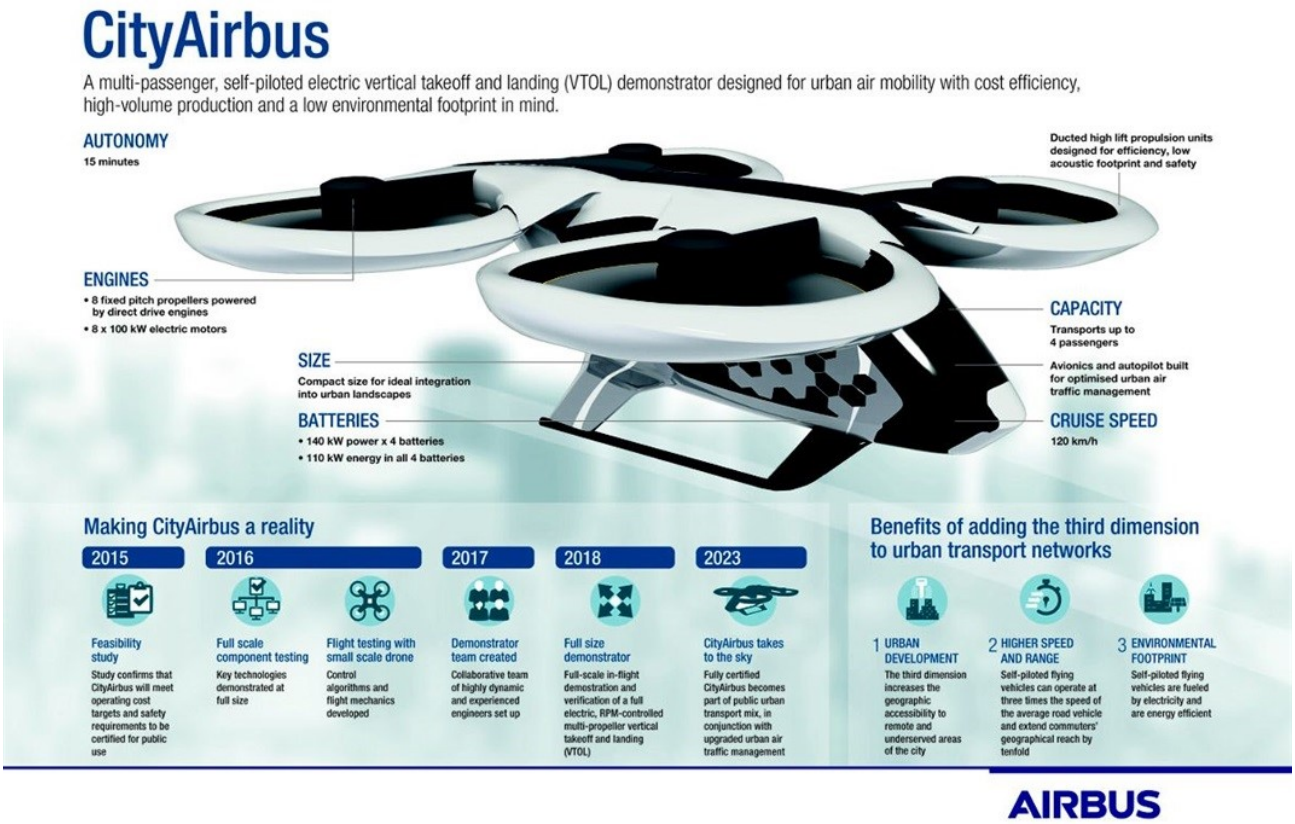
AIRBUS

Airbus, a global leader in aerospace industry, is redefining the industries' ability to manufacture components for it's helicopters and aircraft for Airbus by using a new TRUMPF TruPrint 3000 at its 3D printing center in Donauworth, Germany.

To date, the 3D Printer has been used to manufacture structural components made of titanium and high-strength aluminum. Its now expanding to additive manufacturing which allows them to create lighter components. An additional benefit is that less material is wasted in the manufacturing process and unused metal powder can be reused.

Airbus will create components for its electric-powered CityAirBus diagramed below.



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10 Year Anniversary of the Kitfox Donation

On May 5, 2014, Build a Plane received it's very first donation of a Kitfox and trailer. It was donated to us by Dennis and Mary Biros. Dennis was a psychologist that built the plane from a kit in his spare time. This plane was the first to be donated into the program and gave us our start!

Kitfox started in 1984 in Indiana and has been sold world-wide. The aircraft featured a 2 seat side-by-side with a stick-and-rudder designed for backcountry adventures and short field takeoffs. The wings included a unique feature of being retractable so that the plane could be put onto a car trailer or stored in a garage. It was classified as an Experimental Aircraft because it was built by an individual and not in a factory.

When it came to us, the aircraft was roughly 90% complete. Much to our excitement, by the spring session we had the engine up and running. This allowed the Build a Plane students to start the Kitfox and taxi it around the airport.

The Kitfox took roughly an additional year and a half to complete. John and Duane took the time to collect all the necessary paperwork and inspections. Eventually it was decided to sell the aircraft in 2017 because we could not use it in our Flying Club Program. It had a very low weight limit and we needed a certified aircraft. A certification for an aircraft shows that it's design and all component parts (including propellers, engines, control stations, etc.) are in compliance with airworthiness regulations. Proceeds from the sale of the Kitfox were then used to purchase our certified Cessna 150 that we use in our Flying Club still to this day.

As we look back, we want to extend the deepest gratitude to all of our many supporters that have helped us in any way. Without your generosity, Flight Expo would not be able to accomplish it's mission of promoting aviation through education and preservation.

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S2F Tours

Starting in April 2024, we will be hosting tours of the S2F Stoof.

United We Shiver was a huge success! We had 6 jumpers participate for Flight Expo. Donations can still be made at Sherburne United Way through 2/17/24.

Spring Build a Plane begins in April 2nd and runs through May. Classes take place every Tuesday from 5:30pm -8:00pm and every other Saturday from 9am—12pm. Youth ages 12-18 are encouraged to participate. Students will have the unique, hands-on opportunity to build real airplanes.

Class size is limited.

For more information or to register for Build a Plane or Flying Club, contact Sharon at flightexpoinc@aol.com

Contact Us:

www.flightexpo.org

flightexpoinc@aol.com

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