

THANK YOU ... Bob, Bob, and Jim

Pete Swan's completed Kitfox Lite plane received lots of assistance and advice from three other Chapter 1093 members – Bob Baringer, Bob Harrington, and Jim Dobben. Pete insists that he would never be flying in this plane today if it weren't for their help.

Pete's tube and fabric Kitfox Lite's kit arrived in September, 2000, shortly after his heart attack and his building it proved to be great recovery therapy. The construction was done in our EAA hangar which at the time he shared with Bob Trent's and Bob Harrington's projects. His original kit cost \$14,000 and his plane was constructed for the ultralite category. The original engine was 35 hp and was a belt driven 2 si inverted 2 stroke.

Its first flight was June 13, 2001; then 141 hours later Pete decided to change his engine to a dependable 40 hp Rotax 447 engine with a 3 bladed prop. This electrical system would support strobes. This was not an easy engine trade as the fibre glass firewall had to be extended to fit the cowling. This new engine gave him a speed of 60 MPH @ 5000 RPM with 800 FPM (feet per minute) climb at 6200 RPM.

In November of 2007 Pete, with the revised FAR, applied for and got a special Airworthiness Certificate which now qualified his plane in the Light Sport Category; his new number is N65429 to replace his previous E007WS.

He presently has 200 hours on the plane and states that "It's great fun to fly." He does most of his flying locally 600 to 1000 feet above the ground burning a scant 2 ½ gallons of fuel per hour. Pete grinned as he said, "And the annual state tax is \$6.06!"

Pete as a youngster knew that he wanted to fly someday and was pushed in this direction with the purchase of a plane ride from an auction at Northwood University. He started his training at Saginaw Harry Browne then finished up with Jim Gofton here in Midland getting his license in 1986. His first airplane was a share of 10 Charley then Pete built his first plane, a Kolb, in the present day 'Ghetto Hangar'. He later 'parted' this plane and donated it to our 1093 Chapter.

He doesn't know if the Kitfox will be his last project as he wishfully commented "If I were to ever build another airplane I think it would have to be a RV12!"



















