



RUNWAY 35



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FIRST FLIGHT

On the 3rd of February, just before the noon hour, Alex Roca flew his beautiful Zodiac CH 601 XL. Based at the Old Boerne Stage Airfield, Alex wisely gathered a minimum crew to assist in this "once-in-a-lifetime" thrill. Bill Bartlett watched over the careful preflight and later manned the handheld radio during the flight. Norris Warner stood by with a large fire extinguisher and a cell phone, both as precautions.

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY N. WARNER, J. FEIGHNY	



Alex's bride, Marcy, their son Christopher, and Alex's Mom made up the cheering section.

The flight lasted 46 minutes, and ranged in altitude up to 5500 feet. Alex reported by radio as he scanned the instruments and felt out the aircraft controls. This was perhaps the least eventful first-flight ever recorded by a chapter member—Alex had everything "in the green" the entire flight, and the aircraft easily flew "hands off". From the ground, the six cylinder Jabiru engine sounded great, and seemed to move the airplane around the pattern at a brisk pace.

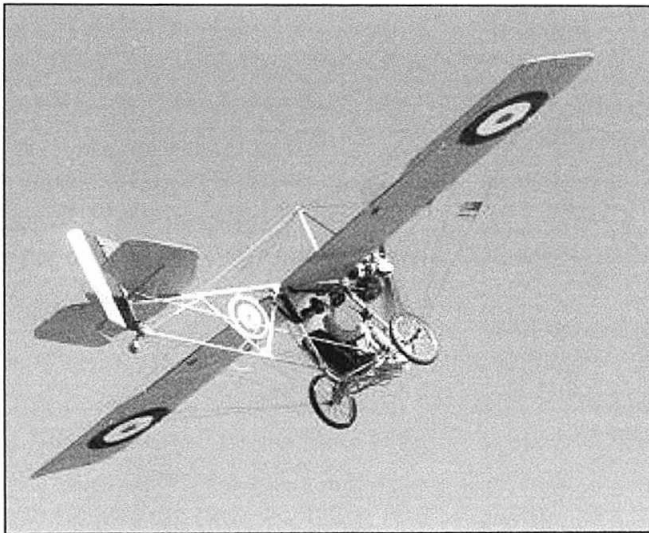
Congratulations, Alex and Marcy—an airplane very well done!

Warren High School Dream Chaser Update

I met with Clarence Smith and Don Copeland on the 16th to get an update on the Dream Chaser project. For members unfamiliar with the project, it was started as a motivational tool for High School students to consider looking at aviation careers. The thought being that a hands-on flying project would be a good way to turn a few towards the aviation field. The project is the Aerodrome Aircraft Dream Classic Ultra lite, a classic three axis, tube and fabric, tractor, tail dragger design. The estimated completion time for this project is about 150 hours.

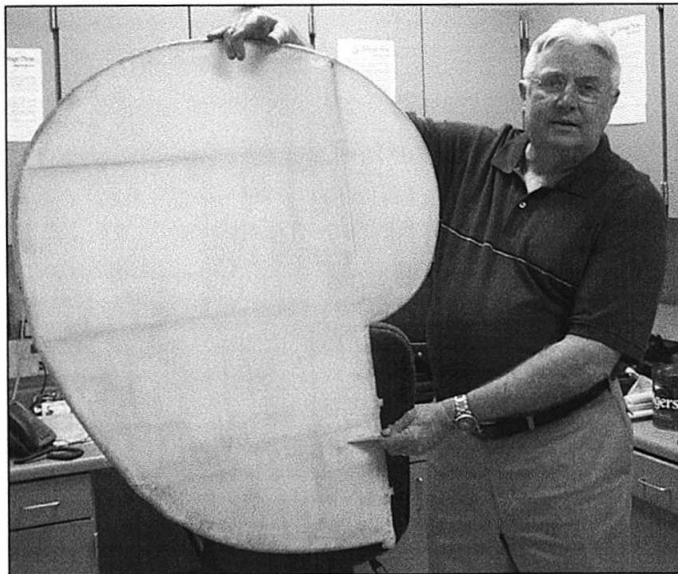
Picture below is from the company web site.

Clarence and "builder" in the "covering" stage



Don holds the fabric covered rudder.

Tube fuselage, running gear, and tooling



Don and

Clarence both teach at Warren HS in the Industrial Technology lab, an interesting combination of training and teaching stations included a hydraulic system simulator and a wind tunnel. Work on the Dream Classic is limited to extracurricular time and as such, competes with the rest of the myriad demands on student time. As a result, the project is not going as fast as envisioned (sounds pretty familiar to the rest of us builders) and we talked over ideas to move it along. The first is to get the engine mounted and get it out into the parking lot for some noise and running publicity. In addition, Clarence is proposing that a school video project be started, showing some Young Eagle flights, and other aviation related scenes. The object is to increase awareness among the student body and pickup a few builders