

Oil Dipstick Leak – Sharing another Experience

By Hugo Ritzenthaler

Going through the maintenance records of my Pitts S1E, I came across an anomaly that occurred on my Pitts S1E in 2015. Every time I checked the oil level, I noticed a small puddle of oil on top of the “slobber pot” oil separator tank that is located very close to the oil dipstick tube.



First I thought that the O-Ring on the dipstick needed to be replaced. So bought, what I believed was the correct size of the O-Ring and installed it. Still, after every practice flight, I found this small puddle of oil on the “slobber pot”. It seemed to be more severe, when flying outside figures. Next, I went back to the store to look for another size of O-Ring. Again, the slightly different O-Ring did not get rid of the leak. During my next flight up to Bay City I consulted with Doug Dodge of Acro Specialties. It did not take Doug much time to point to the loose rod in the dipstick flange. This tiny gap was large enough for the hot oil to seep through and end up on the “slobber pot”. Cleaning the dipstick before putting some epoxy in and above on the outside of the hole in the flange, where the dipstick rod is secured, fixed the problem. Since then, no more puddles on top of the “slobber pot”.