

International Cessna 120/140 Association

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Mark your calendars for Sun-N-Fun and the 2010 Convention



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On the Technical Side, By: Victor Grahn

It is a new year, and this year we're all probably hoping to do some more flying. No more than anyone else I can't comment on whether or not the economic slump is over or not, or on the price of Av gas but I certainly hope we are past the worst of the slump and I hope we continue to have Av Gas.

Mostly I just want to be able to fly more than I did last year. Due to a variety of reasons I wasn't able to get airborne nearly as much as I wanted to.

In the interest in starting out the new year right(or at least new) I've decided to attempt to toss in a few more articles that aren't strictly "nuts and bolts" type articles, and in doing so I'll start with this article.

As I review previous Technical Articles from the past I find myself mostly writing on what you might consider "negatives" about our airplanes. So many times maintenance articles (mine included) go along the lines of "watch out for cracks here, or defects there, or bad parts over there, or failures because of......" and so on. It's almost become a standard to "warn" of impending doom.

We in the maintenance industry feel obliged to pass on the items of note that you need to concern yourself with when it comes to operating your aircraft. Failures or problems we've seen in the past and want you to look for as well. The reason we do this is pretty straightforward, Mechanical defects are best found in several venues.

A. Before they get out of hand and scare you silly or worse

B. While you are still on the ground

Before they cost more money than they already have

Primarily we feel we are doing a great "service" to the flying community by calling attention to defect "such and such," thus the reasoning for all the "negative" articles.

Honestly however, especially in looking at our favorite Cessnas, we have to remain realistic and realize that, "No, these airplanes are not falling out of the sky in droves", there isn't anything terribly wrong with them and they do make for pretty good magic carpets.

One only needs to read the many, many flying articles posted in the Newsletter in the past last 30 years of the Association to realize that folks have flown these aircraft across the globe and must have accumulated zillions of flight hours with no regular major failures and only the usual minor nuisances when it comes to mechanical failures. About as much as any other vintage aircraft from the same period.

Or you can read Dorchen Forman's fine book, "The Cessna 120/140 Story Book" and take trips along with folks as they fly the aircraft under flight conditions that many of us may never see.

Sit down some time with a calculator and multiply the number of hours you have to an average speed. Say if you have flown small single engine two seat aircraft all your life then pick a realistic number like 94 miles an hour as an average speed. It doesn't take too many flight hours to realize you've covered some real distance. If you've flown faster aircraft in addition to your favorite Cessna then pick a faster speed and be prepared to be enthralled with a larger milage number yet.

My Dad who spent his whole adult life flying for a living, and owned just one watch during that same career like to say, "this is my Bazillion Mile Watch".

Getting back to the point, the Cessna 120/140 series which started out as a post World War II basic "trainer" type aircraft has morphed into a personal aircraft that many people have come to love, and many including myself consider a "part of the family".

Given that much, it stands to reason that once in a while even the most practical, pragmatic, & level headed Technician has to admit......"there is a lot that is right with the Cessna 120 and 140's."

To add to the fact of being a good flying machine and time/milage travler, I'd like to point out a few things that the airplane and this Association have going for them that augment these fine aircraft.

On the Technical Side, By: Victor Grahn "cont"

- 1. A well versed and good supply of knowledgeable Technical people ready to assist the owner (or potential new owner) in what ever may come their way in Mechanical situations or questions. A simple perusal of the Members directory in the back pages lists Members who are A&P's and IA's by state. This way should you find yourself flying cross country you can find helphopefully even close by.
- 2. A respectable list of "Options" via STC for your aircraft. There are possibilities of adding a larger engine, several alternators (including one of the new light weight alternators), Cessna 150 exhaust(this is a nice feature which allows for dis-continuation of an AD and also makes for more readily findable parts), Cleveland wheels and brakes, shoulder harnesses, vortex generators, cowl fastners and leading edge lights and so on.
- 3. This Newsletter which allows for folks to advertise their products and airplanes
- 4. The "Cessna 120/140 Technical Manual" which includes all of the relevant airframe Airworthiness Directives and service bulletins. It also has plenty of other useful info to assist the owner.
- 5. Parts suppliers, such as Univair who actually know what a Cessna 120/140 is and stock PMA'd parts for it.
- Our website, www.cessna120-140.org Here is another venue for finding out information and products available to the membership. The forum is a great place to visit and/or exchange info on the airplane and keep up with our friends.

This short list is simply a highlight of what is available. As many people who read these pages are well aware, it is the "People" that make any organization what it is. Whether the organization thrives, expands, does a "good or great job" or not really depends on the people in that organization and how people volunteer to help out others and assist in any way they can.

The list I've noted above comes about via people taking the extra step and working to add to the ownership of something they hold dear. This was really brought home to me once I made the decision to regularly attend Conventions. Once you see the drive and all the outpouring that goes into one of these events......by People......then you realize what the Association really is all about, an airplane which brings out a common bond to enjoy it and keep it flying. In my case I opted to jump in with both feet and volunteer to help out by being the Technical Advisor. Others help out in their own way.

In keeping with making this a positive year, I'd like to invite anyone that is associated with our aircraft, or a product that is available for it to send in a short note or article that lets the membership know about them and their service or product.

Last year we were fortunate enough that Randy Thompson out of California wrote about his Engine STC option. Many of our members are not "computer types" and the Newsletter is their resource for keeping up to date. Let folks know you who you are and what you do.

Once again, thank you for your support and I hope we'll see each other in the air or at one of the many fly ins around the country!

Victor Grahn, Technical Advisor

Cessna 120/140 Buyer's Guide-PART 2

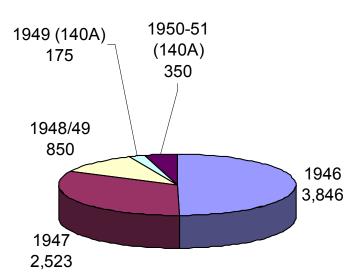
(Continuation of a series begun in the August/September newsletter)

Year Models - Descriptions and Differences.

As we begin considering the various years and models differences, let's start off by reviewing the production numbers throughout the series. As we can see from the chart below, the 1946 year model makes up almost half of all the aircraft produced. Cessna anticipated an eager market and 1946 saw peak production.

If you are considering your first Cessna120/140 purchase, you might have already noticed that there are more 1946 aircraft available compared to any other single year.

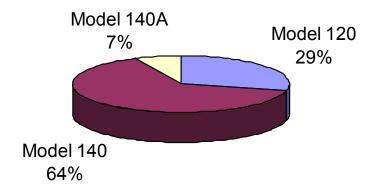
ProductionTotals per Year



Looking at the production of the three distinct models, the first thing we see is that the model 140 makes up the lion's share of the aircraft produced. The Cessna 140 is somewhat unique in this regard. Usually in production units, (whether automobiles, boats, houses, appliances or airplanes) the standard base model sells more units than the finer appointed model with all the upgrades. Luckily for us, there was a good share of fully equipped 140's produced.

It is unclear whether the 120 and 140 production ratios were uniform throughout 1946-1948. It is generally assumed that the 120s produced were evenly distributed throughout 1946-1948 (roughly one 120 per every two 140s).

Model Production Totals (all years)



The second thing we notice is that the 140A model is the rarest aircraft of the series. Model 140A's generally bring a premium price, and this is one of the reasons why. Other reasons for the premium prices will be discussed later as we compare model differences.

Cessna 120/140 Buyer's Guide— PART 2 "cont" 1946 Cessna 120/140

The 1946 Cessna model 120/140 are two place monoplanes with fabric covered wings and an all metal fuselage. They have metal tail feathers and ailerons, with metal flaps on the 140. The Cessna 140 was equipped standard with a complete electrical system, manually operated wing flaps, deluxe upholstery and rear quarter windows. The Cessna model 120 was priced much lower without starter, generator, flaps, deluxe upholstery and trim. A complete electrical system with starter, generator, battery, and lights was offered as options on the 120, but none were known to have been built. All 120s were manufactured without rear quarter windows and flaps.

The 120 and 140 came standard in 1946 with the Continental 85 hp. engine and wooden Sensenich propeller. No other engine options were available in 1946. As seen in the advertisements below, all 120s and 140s came with a bare polished aluminum fuselage and tail with a simple accent paint stripe. The certified gross weight is 1,450 lbs.

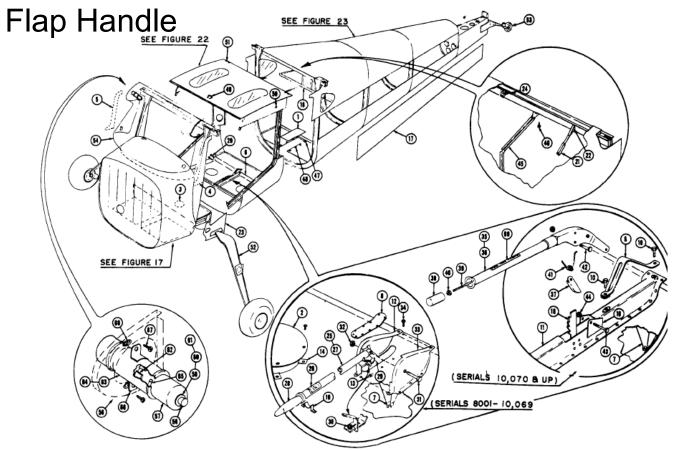




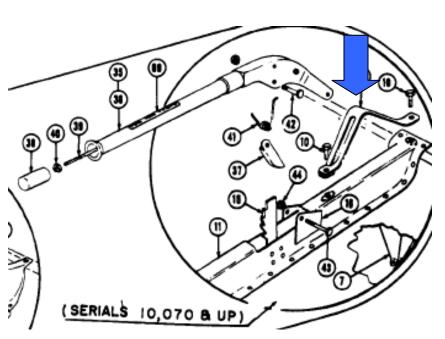
Several design changes occurred during the prototype testing, most notably the engine cowling. As you can see from the two advertisements above, the prototype aircraft was used for the first ad dated February 1946. Notice the oval shaped air intake on the lower portion of the nose bowl as opposed to the square intake on the later ad dated November 1946. All of the production aircraft utilized the square intake, and the 1946 cowling remained unchanged during the production year. A slight change was implemented in 1947 as we'll see later.

1946 Mid-Year Changes

Some of the early design changes carried over into the first year of production, and the 1946 year model saw a few of those changes introduced during the year. One of the changes implemented mid-year '46 was the design of the flap handle on the model 140.



The earlier design, commonly known as the <u>twist lock</u> handle (left), was manufactured on serial numbers 8001 through 10,069. The later design, commonly known as the <u>push but-ton</u> handle (right), was manufactured from serial number 10,070 through the end of 1946. The push button handle remained through the rest of the series until the end of production in 1951.



At the same time the flap handle was changed, a center seat belt bracket was added in-between the two seats. The earlier design employed a single belt across the pilot and passenger. The later design allowed the use of two separate belts which could be adjusted independently. The seat pan assembly was also changed at this time to accept the seat belt center bracket.

There is also a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) available for the earlier style airplanes that will convert them to accept the dual belts without replacing the seat pan. This is very handy since it allows the installation of the Hooker shoulder harness system that has become a very popular upgrade for these vintage airplanes. (Discussed later in the chapter entitled Popular Modifications and Upgrades).

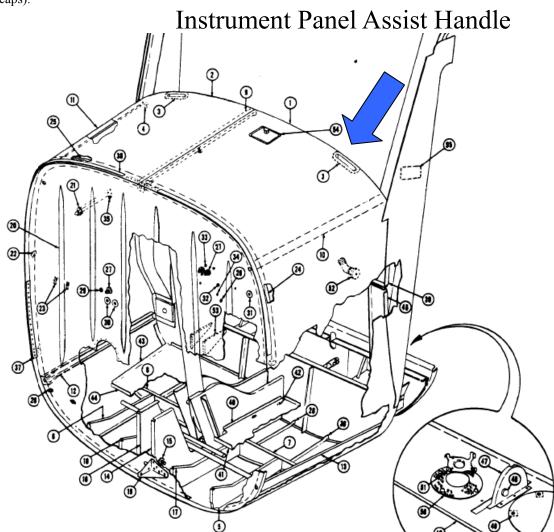
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Wheel Extenders

Immediately after its introduction, the 120 and 140 became popular aircraft for student flight training. It also quickly became apparent that an inexperienced student could have a moment of panic and upend the aircraft on its nose. A quick solution from Cessna was to offer landing gear extensions (commonly known as wheel extenders) that could easily be bolted on to the bottom of the gear leg. This would effectively move the main wheels three inches forward, thus providing a change in the ground handling characteristics and lessen the likelihood of a surprise ending to the day's flight lesson.

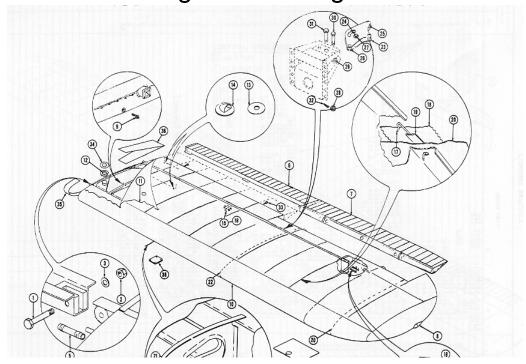
A more complete description of wheel extenders can be found in a later chapter entitled <u>Popular Modifications and Upgrades</u> – <u>Optional Equipment</u>.

The next two items are not documented in the Illustrated Parts Catalog, but can been seen anywhere a large gathering of 120s and 140s convene. It is not known when these changes occurred in the production line. It is often simply a matter of trivia shared over a couple of drinks (similar to the 1953 Chevrolet Corvette trivia - in which the first 300 units rolled off the assembly line with Impala hub caps).



The very early 1946 aircraft did not have the assist handle on the top of the instrument panel. It is not known when these handles were installed, but it must have been very early after production began since only the lowest of serial numbered aircraft are missing them. Aircraft serial number #80049, N89045 is one such example.

Cessna 120/140 Buyer's Guide— PART 2 "cont" Wing Root Fairings



The very early 1946 wing root fairings employed additional brackets attached to the fuselage above the door frame.



These brackets are seen on aircraft serial number #80049, N89045 (waiting to be restored).



Early fairing with extra attachments

These early fairings are somewhat rare. The above picture was taken at the Cessna 120/140 convention fly-in in Dayton, Ohio.



Common wing root fairing

Cessna 120/140 Buyer's Guide— PART 2 "cont" Features unique to the 1946 Year Model

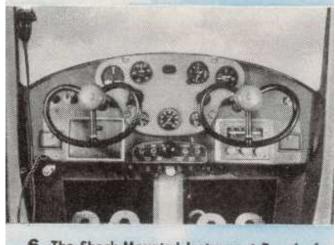
Pretzel Style Yokes

(Up-side-down or Right-side-up?)

The 1946 model was the only year that used a control yoke design commonly known as the <u>pretzel style</u> yoke. These yokes were identical on the models 120 and 140, and were replaced on both models in 1947. Pictures of the prototype airplane showed the yokes facing up. Several ads throughout the year show the yokes facing both up and down.



Instrument panel of c/n 8000, the prototype Model 140.



6. The Shock-Mounted Instrument Panel of the new Cessna 140 prolongs the life, accuracy and trouble-free service of the instruments ... another feature usually found only on planes of much higher price.



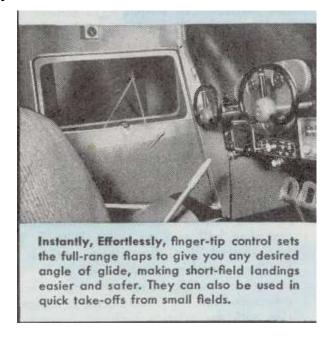
June advertisement

July advertisement



July





September

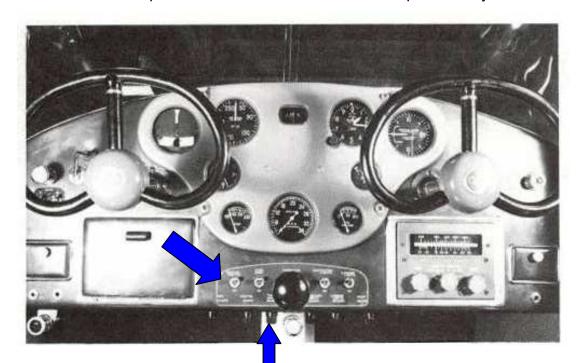
October

Yokes facing up or down seem to be personal preference and they are easily switched to either position.

If you are looking at a 1946 model, you may see the center trim hub showing its age. These are easily replaced with newly manufactured pieces available through a vendor advertising in the Cessna 120/140 club newsletter.

Cessna 120/140 Buyer's Guide— PART 2 "cont" Instrument Panel

The instrument panel on the 1946 model is also unique to that year.

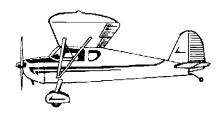


The front face of the panel, adjacent to the throttle control, is where you will find several toggle switches used to activate the various electrical features on the model 140. These toggle switches control the master electrical solenoid, generator/alternator, navigation lights, interior instrument lights, etc.

These toggle switches were replaced on the 1947 model 140 with a different style switch commonly known as the piano keyboard switches (discussed in the next chapter – 1947 model changes).

The model 120 instrument panel is virtually identical with the exception of the radio and the other electrical features standard on the model 140. The model 120 did not receive the new piano keyboard switches in 1947 or 1948. The model 120 panel remained unchanged throughout all years of production.

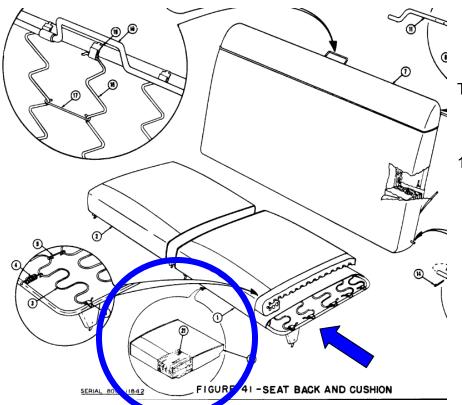
Also note the location of the electrical fuses under the front face of the instrument panel. These fuses remained in this location throughout all years of production. It is only mentioned here because it is common not to find these fuses today. Many aircraft have been upgraded to modern circuit breakers which provide ease of maintenance, added safety and quick resetting during flight. Circuit breakers can be mounted in the same location as the original fuses and do not have to affect the appearance of the panel.





Here are two very nice examples of modern 1946 model 140 instrument panels that have been kept close to original. The example below shows a nice, clean supplemental panel added to the bottom (under the throttle control) for mounting the new circuit breakers.





Seats

The design of the seat bottom cushion is also unique to the 1946 year model.

The 1946 seat bottom cushion (circled) is a deep foam core that fits the contour of the seat pan. It was reconfigured in 1947 using a metal frame and no-sag springs, covered with a layer of foam (arrow). The later design remained in use for the remainder of production through 1951.

Several owners have discovered the versatility of the 1946 seat bottom which can also be used as a suitcase. Simply unzip the cover, remove the foam core and pack with clothing.



Typical 1946 style seat bottom cushion. (Looking for a better picture)



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Cowling and Exhaust

The engine cowling and exhaust are the last significant features of the 1946 model that are unique to that year.



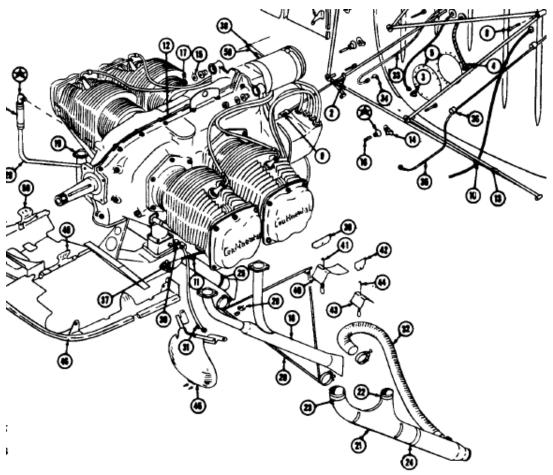


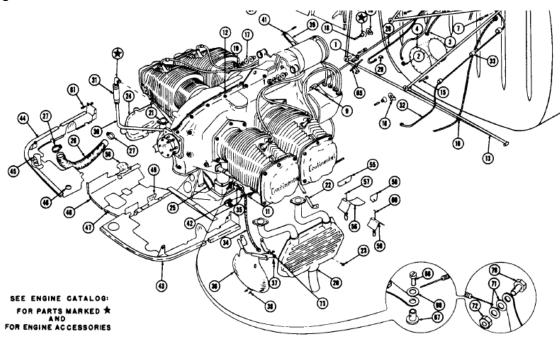
FIGURE 37 -ENGINE INSTALLATION (1946 MODEL)

The 1946 exhaust is commonly known as the <u>straight pipe</u> exhaust. As its name implies, it is little more than straight pipes from the exhaust ports of the cylinder heads that extend to the bottom rear of the cowling and exit just in front of the firewall.



There is a large group of folks who love the sound of these old pipes. Most pilots who have flown aircraft with the original straight pipe exhaust admit that a good set of headphones is a wise investment.

If you are considering a 1946 model 120 or 140, you will discover that most of the 1946 aircraft have been upgraded to a later model exhaust system that employs an effective muffler to quiet the engine noise.



There are two popular options of late model exhaust upgrades that will be discussed in more detail in a later chapter entitled -Popular Modifications and Upgrades. But quickly, the first option is simply to install the 1947 and later style exhaust commonly known as the *pancake* muffler. It is assumed that the term pancake was coined due to the muffler's flat, oval

FIGURE 38 - ENGINE INSTALLATION (1947 & 1948 MODEL)

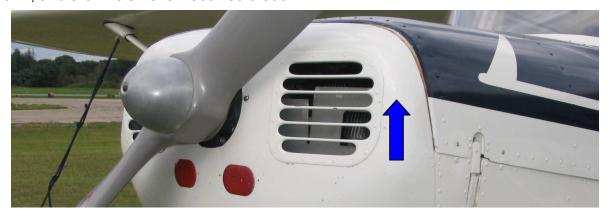
The second option for a quieter sound is to install the exhaust system from a Cessna model 150, commonly known as the <u>150 exhaust</u>. The Cessna 150 uses a 100 horsepower Continental 0-200. The 0-200 engine is so similar to the Continental C-85 that some of the parts are interchangeable. A model 150 exhaust can be installed in a Cessna 120 or 140 with no modifications to the engine or exhaust system.

But, as can be seen by the above illustration, the later style exhaust does not extend down to the bottom rear of the cowling. Modification of the 1946 cowling must be made to finish the installation. This is accomplished by cutting two holes in the bottom cowling for the exhaust to exit. These two holes are standard for the 1947 and later cowlings, so 1946 aircraft sporting these two holes do not stand out to a casual observer. 1946 aircraft that have been upgraded to a later style exhaust system can be identified by the exhaust exiting the cowling in a fashion similar to the 1947 and later

models.



And finally, a couple of other unique features of the 1946 cowling. The model 140 received an additional trim piece outboard of the grills for 1947 and later. A stock 1946 cowling will not have that trim, and the 120's never received that trim.



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The overall shape of the 1946 cowling is somewhat unique as well. Most notably, the top cowling hinges do not extend all the way to the nose bowl like the 1947 and later hinges.



It would be extremely rare to see a mix-matched set of cowlings on an airplane, but it has been known to happen. Legend has it that you can squeeze a 1947 top and a 1946 bottom cowling together, but you will need a strong arm to do it. Simply look for the shorter hinges on top, and the wider cutout on bottom, and you will have a matched set of 1946 cowlings.



Remember, this is our project together — send any corrections or additions to Christian.s.vehrs@delta.com

Christian Vehrs 225 Middling Lane Fayetteville Georgia 30214

Taildragger Aviation (815) 547-3991

Replace those expensive, worn Cessna cowl latches with our STC'd units. No butchery required. Return to stock any time you want your headache back. Complete shipset costs less than one factory latch. Available with Phillips head or "wing" type camlocs. www.CowlLatchSTC.com

Recovering your wing? If your cessna wing clips are loose, you can replace them with Pop Rivets using the Pop Rivet STC! www.PopRivetSTC.com

Replace your straight stacks or pancake mufflers with Cessna 150 Mufflers using our STC! www.150MufflerSTC.com





Upcoming Events

March 31 – Scottsdale, AZ, Free Garmin seminar, 6:30pm 480-991-0900

<u>April 3</u>– Pineville, LA-2LO-Pancake breakfast. 318-452-0919

April 10 – Liberty, SC, KLQK-Wings and Wheels 864-843-9692

April 10-11, 2010 – Elgin AFB Open House-Thunderbirds 850-882-3931

April 13-18, 2010-Sun-N-Fun— stop at the type tent for details

April 25, 2010-Cumberland, MD-pancake breakfast EAA 426, 814-784-3576

2010 Convention NEWS

Black Hills-Clyde Ice Airport (KSPF), Spearfish,
South Dakota
September 22-26, 2010
Hosted by Bruce Bowen.



Want your yoke to look like NEW?

New production hub covers made from modern, injection molded, colored plastic. Also, center spoke trim replacement kits and complete yoke refurbishment service.

Skyport East 603-729-0312 www.skyportservices.net John@skyportservices.net



Also available: black or maroon, Taylorcraft and Ercoupe Logos.

<u>Items for Sale/Items Wanted...</u>

WANTED: Looking for LEFT fuel tank for a Cessna 140A, part#0426508, Gary, 312-480-7066

WANTED: Cessna 120 RIGHT side window lock. myork7@gmail.com

FOR SALE:1946 Cessna 140, \$11,000 OBO lylellc@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: 1947 CESSNA 140, C90-14F \$27,500 -- Great looking, great flying aircraft. 20 SMOH 4400 TTAF, Slick mags, new plugs, new Bracket air filter. KX125, Sigtronics SPA-400 Intercom with P and CP yoke-mounted push-totalk. Collins TDR-950 Transponder.

New windshield, plastic panel, headliner, tires/ tubes, panel mounted antenna- and powerconnections for hand-held GPS. Wheel extensions, toe brakes, retractable Grimes landing/taxi light and Cessna 150 seats,

Complete logs, all AD's complied with. Great Imron paint on fuselage, new Ceconite 102 fabric/dope on wings. May 09 Annual.

Plane is at MD1, Massey Aerodrome, Massey, MD. Contact Don Sloan, dsloan4487@comcast.net or cell 609-458-3568.

For Sale: David Clark H10-80 headset \$140 210-834-1780

Sale: Pull Starter 209-770-1065

WANTED: Nice Cessna 140 for flight school for primary training. 479-422-2473

FOR SALE-For Sale-1946 Cessna 140 N76MW TTAF 3835.8 SMOH 1055.4 and 5 since ECI Top Overhaul...O-200, autofuel stc, tanis engine preheat, oil filter, dorsal fairing, scott 3200, strobe light, tail pull handle, brackett filter, cleveland w/b, hooker harnesses, wired for 396, cig lighter, kt76a x-ponder w/mode c, klx 135A gps/com, new Oct. 08' annual. This is a great airplane and I don't Want to sell, but have a new baby and a 5 year old, and there just isn't the time right now. I'm an A & P/ IA and have taken good care of this airplane. Always in a hangar here in Kansas. \$24,500 o.b.o. Call Eric at 1-620-218-3566

FOR SALE: FOR SALE: 1946 ragwing Cessna 120 (hangared) with C90 engine and McCauley 7152 prop. TTAF 2343, TSMOH 370. GX55 GPS, NARCO 12D nav/com with indicator, PTT, KT76A transponder with encoder, altitude alert with audio, intercom, Aerotech LC-2 digital clock/timer, OAT, avionics master switch, pretzel yokes, C150 seats, cowl only winterization kit. \$28,500 for this jewel. 937-667-1679 or 937-361-6100. Active flyer, times will change. Tried to upload more photos, but couldn't. PM for additional pictures..

SALE: C-85-12 core parts email ifly140@shaw.ca

WANTED: C-120 with runout engine or no engine.678-773-2990



WANTED: low time C-140, trade for RV-8 quick build kit 219-309-8144

Send your ad to: BlakeMathis@yahoo.com or call 256-479-1000

Our Website www.cessna120-140.org

Our website is located at www.cessna120-140.org Our website Committee is staffed by the following members:

John von Linsowe - "Chairman"

Matt Lahti - Moderator

Mike Smith - Moderator

Victor Grahn - Technical & maintenance Advisor

Yvonne Macario - Webmaster

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We invite everyone to explore the website as a wealth of information can be found at your fingertips

www.cessna120-140.org

Is THE *official website* of the International Cessna 120/140 Association. www.cessna120-140.org offers club information, Officer and State Rep contacts, membership information, a guestbook, merchandise and club calendar. The discussion Form is a favorite place to communicate with members. The photo album is available to show off your "baby". You can update your contact and aircraft information in the Members Only section as well as join or renew your membership and purchase club merchandise from our online store. There are links to member sites, printable membership applications and merchandise order forms and much more. Stop by and sign in!



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Application for Membership International Cessna 120/140 Association 9015 E. Coleman Rd., Coleman, MI 48618 Phone No. () Your Name Street or Box No. Email: _____ State Zip A/C Info: Model:____S/N Year ____Engine __ Engine Mods Parts Your Prime interests in joining: Maintenance \sqcup Fly-Ins Other (please specify) ANNUAL DUES - \$25.00* (U.S. Currency) - Overseas Members add \$10 for postage (total \$35) *Family Membership add \$5.00



Disclaimer...

This newsletter is for educational and informational purposes only. Readers are reminded that Federal Air Regulations Part 91 places primary responsibility for ensuring the airworthy condition of the aircraft on the owner or operator. Any person who maintains, modifies, or otherwise changes an aircraft must do so in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and all applicable FAA regulations.



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■ Active STC's ■

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Continental O-200 120/140
Gary Rice

Continental O-200 120/140/140A

Randy Thompson - 530-357-5440

Alternator Installation

Fred Lagno - 410-827-7896

Cessna 150 exhaust

Morris Family - 815-547-3991

Shoulder Harness Installation

Jack Hooker - 815-233-5478

CK 1100Kei - 015-255-5470

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John Nichols - 845-583-5830

International Cessna 120/140 Association

9015 E. Coleman, Coleman, MI 48618

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Go to the Website and download or view this newsletter in FULL COLOR.

It is in the Members Only Section!



COMING EVENTS

<<< ALWAYS BRING YOUR TIEDOWNS >>>

35th Annual Convention—International Cessna 120/140 Association

Spearfish, South Dakota Sept 22-26, 2010

Blackhills-Clyde Ice Airport
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
Check club website often for updates...

Got Newsletter Ideas?

Email or call Blake Mathis to let him know if you have any ideas, articles or photos for the club newsletter.

BlakeMathis@yahoo.com

256-479-1000