

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF GP-4 BUILDERS ALL OVER THE WORLD

VOLUME 23

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1998



Bill Berrick at his home base of Omaha, NE

Hi Spud,

I enjoyed the latest Newsletter but was surely sorry to hear of Ernie Holmes' gear problems. I had the pleasure of spending most of the week with him when I had my GP-4 at Oshkosh '97; he is surely a knowledgeable builder and a fine gentleman. My suggestion for trying to prevent that type of failure is

to file the retraction links to lock a little over-center rather than straight away as shown on the plan. It seems like a lot of people are going to the hydraulic retraction. I look forward to seeing reports of successful operation of those, hopefully without the collapse problems that most of us have had with the original design.

My brakes are working normally now, and I have noted that it is important to let the airplane slow down considerably on the roll out with the flaps down for wind resistance and throttle closed. My micro switches on the main gear are set so that any tendency to fold makes the warning light turn on and the green light go out. Stepping hard

on the brakes at high speed tends to make the main wheels turn in which in turn makes them try to push the gear leg in the retract direction—on mine enough to make the red light flash. I go on to the next taxiway rather than using much brake pressure; if I someday see that I'm running out of runway I'll stand on them and see what happens. I'm not likely to intentionally get into a short field or a sod strip with my GP-4; I just don't have that much confidence in the gear.

I used the brake extension design shown on drawing #8 as I am a few inches shorter than George. I made the attach tube for the brake cylinder shaft at the angle shown on the plan. On mine the top edge of the aluminum pedal struck the shaft before the brake cylinder was fully compressed, making an anemic brake response until I removed the whole pedal system and re-welded the attach tube in a nearly vertical position. I had to cut the brake pedal torque tubes to remove the assembly from the finished airplane. I used sleeves to re-attach them with welded in bushings inside the torque tubes for the bolts. Builders might want to consider doing that before everything is closed up.

I have 150 hours on the airplane now and surely wouldn't trade it for any other design I have seen. I'm still working to regain instrument currency and get really comfortable with controlling this complex machine. The ailerons are sensitive but quite heavy compared to my AcroSport or to a Grumman, while the elevator is so light that you only need to think up or down. A friend with a Lancair IV had the same situation, which he solved by putting servo tabs on the ailerons. I went the other way and attached "bungee" springs to the control shaft for the elevator where it is accessible through the opening for the battery compartment. attached a short 5/8" diameter spring and three 1" chain links

each to the frames at stations #97 and #114 and connected the ends of the chains to a clamp on the control tube. I also added a 3/4" square wood strip between the frames so that the frames would not tend to warp from the spring pull. This results in a centering mechanism for the elevator and enough resistance to make it easy to turn with out climbing. I think a person would get used to the way it was eventually, but this surely helped me for instrument work.

I was planning to make Sun & Fun and Oshkosh '98, but collapsed my nose gear and dinged the propeller the week before Sun & Fun while I was practicing night landings. The landings had gone OK and I had been turning off to the left on our unlighted taxiway until the last landing when I rolled on by the first turnoff. Instead of going on to the next one, I did a U-turn on the runway and came back to make a right turn onto the taxiway. I can watch the edge of the concrete for a left turn, but you just can't see much on the right side of our plane; the result was I cut the corner and got off in the sod.

The concrete was about 1" above the level of the sod, which was not really all that soft, but the nose wheel approached the edge of the taxiway at an angle so that it was caught and turned sideways by the concrete, partly breaking off the stop that limits how far it can turn. When I gave it some throttle to move forward, the gear bent the push-pull tube that raises and lowers it, and folded into the retracted position. Suddenly everything was silent except for some words not fit for publication.

I replaced the push-pull tube with one with a thicker wall, and re-welded the tab that limits turning of the nose gear. Also did some cowling repair and tore down the engine which turned out to be OK. The hard part was that certified prop shops won't touch a Hartzel prop with its tips folded back, and it took over three months to get a new prop. I might still be waiting if George hadn't helped out with a little pressure. He called them on a Friday morning and they assembled and tested it that day and shipped it to me on Monday!

Bill Berrick 11803 Hunters Cove Bellevue, NE 68123-1119 Home Phone (402) 292-6832 berrick@worldnet.att.net

Builders List

Here is the current GP4BFN subscriber's list as of 1-25-99. The last time we ran a builder/ subscriber listing was back in April of 1996. I didn't realize it had been that long. We'll try to do it annually from now on. The list here reflects the current subscriber base of the newsletter, 130+ people. There has been 400+ sets plans for the GP-4 sold. Not everybody subscribes to the newsletter and since they did not receive the notice of the pending name release, I feel it wouldn't be right to release there names without notification. I feel this newsletter subscriber base probably reflects the most active builders.

Also the list is listed "By State". This should make it easier find builders that are close to you or where ever you may be traveling.

There is also a half page insert with this issue of the balance of the susbscribers.

Regards, Spud Spornitz

Last	First	Address	City	ST	4	Country	Phone
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			KINGMAN		86401		5207577903
TEMPE		2441 E. LA JOLLA DRIVE			85282-6048		838-6699
BAUM			SANTEE		92071		6195625278
BRAVO		P.O. BOX 2414	OLYMPIC VALLEY				9165813041
BROWN	KEN	4440 DATE AVE.	LA MBSA		91941		619 697-6254
CAPPS	DARRY	813 HOYER RD.	NEWMAN		95360		2098622707
CRISTOFAR		9568 ESTATES DR.	GILROY		95020		4088474114
FOSTER		110 MEDLEY LANE	OROVILLE		95966		9165894624
GIANATASI	J TOM	1576 BELLEVILLE WAY	SUNNYVALE		94087		408-733-0693
JACKSON	JAKE	1052 HAYER COURT 444 SARATOGA AVE. #2L 10656 WUNDERLICH DR. 1481 AUTUMN WIND CT.	RIO LINDA		95673		9169920608
KALLUS	THOMAS	444 SARATUGA AVK. #2L	SANTA CLARA		95050		4082493552
LINCH	DENNIS	10656 WUNDERLICH DR.	CUPERTINO	CA	95014		2490211
MORGAN	JEKKI	1481 AUTUMN WIND CT. 5350 STUDEBAKER CIRCLE	PITTSBURG SAN JOSE	CA	94565		5109323721
		4959 WILLOWCREST AVE	SAN JOSE	CA	95136		4082257499
MORTON NYE			NO. HOLLYWOOD				8185450165
PEREIRA		P.O. BOX 5008	MARIPOSA		95338		2099663546
		3741 EL RICON WAY	SACRAMENTO	CA	95864		9164833004
THOMBOOM	CITEDODO	1316 W. VALENCIA MESA DR 18315 RANCHERO ROAD	FULLERIUM	CA	92833-2223		7144491772
THOMPSON	S.FLOYD	1515 CAPALINA RD, #56	HESPSRIA SAN MARCOS	CA	92345-7434		7602447969
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PARKER		310 WOODLAND TRAIL					3527539576
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SATKOWSKI			ST. PETERSBURG				8135266552
WOOLDRIDGE			MCALPIN				8138473499
GLOVER		479 SO. HILLCREST DR.			30064		7704276450
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HAMMERS	SMIT MARTY	1777 OAKRIDGE DRIVE	LAWRENCEBUR		N 47025		
WISZ	JIM	1777 OAKRIDGE DRIVE 2904 BAST U.S. 30	VALPARAISO				8126372122
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DAVIS J	R. CHARLES	499 FURNACE STREET	MANCHESTER	MI MI	10150		3133725145
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BAKKK	CASEY	P.O. BOX 21351	EUGENE	OR	97402-0406		3454657
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WIICHELL	KDWARD	13835 S.W. DEVONSHIRE	BEAVERTON	OR	97005		5036465276
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MANN	SID	P.O. BOX 92201	AUSTIN		78709-2201		5123963171
		7710 MESA DR.	AUSTIN	TX			5123456128
	GLENN R.	109 MEADOWS DR.	BURLESON	TX			1174470400
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SOUGHICH	DIDADN	4308 LAVACA DRIVE	PLANO	TX	5074-3555		

Time to Renew!

Hello Gang!

First off let me apologize for this very late issue of GP4BFN. It as been a challenging last thirty days! Because of some out of town work responsibilities, I needed to wait until the week of Christmas to start production of GP4BFN #23. As I started putting things together for the newsletter, things started to fall apart (Computer wise). Every time I turned the computer on, something quit working or dis-appeared! Then I couldn't get anything to even reload. To shorten up a long story. They say I must have down loaded some type of virus and everything had to be re-formatted and re-loaded. Again I deeply apologize for the delay.

Issue #23!! It doesn't seem that long ago since we did the first issue. Volume #1 was March — April of 1995!

The newsletter will continue to be published six times a year for \$20.00, Canada \$23.00 and Overseas/Airmail will be \$30.00.

We also have all the back issue available. Just list whatever one(s) you need on the renewal form and add \$3.00 per issue.

Mail your renewals and newsletter submissions to:

Bill Spornitz, 1112 East Layton Drive, Olathe, KS. 66061

You'll also find a renewal form enclosed

Very Best Regards.

Spud Spornitz

GEORGE'S CORNER



Fellow GP-4 builders:

Some of you may be getting close to fitting an exhaust system to your Lycoming 10-360. The exhaust system shown on drawing 57 has worked quite well on my prototype for the past 700+ hours. The fourpipe design did not come easy. I first started with a cross over system. It was made from very expensive 231 stainless tubing, 1 3/4" diameter. I spent about \$1800.00 with six slip joints and many elbows to get it fitted in the shallow GP-4 cowl. The two crossover tubes that cross under the oil sump, caused so much heat that my oil was running over 250 degrees. With all of the slip joints, the thin stainless tubing (.035 wall) cracked in several places after less than four hours of flight time. To get back in the blue, I welded up the four pipe design from mild steel 1 3/4" tubing. The elbows and slip joints I bought from a local hot rod store. If I remember correctly, it was less than \$50 in 1983. I used four MILD STEEL exhaust flanges, available from Wicks or Spruce, 4 slip joints and 4 U shaped units that will give you 2 elbows per unit. This mild steel tubing is about .050 thick and cadmium plated. The plating will burn off so I bead blasted the four pipes and painted them with a high temp paint

after all the welds were completed. I fitted the elbows and straight sections with the engine mounted and the exhaust outlets on the bottom of the firewall in place as shown on drawing #57.

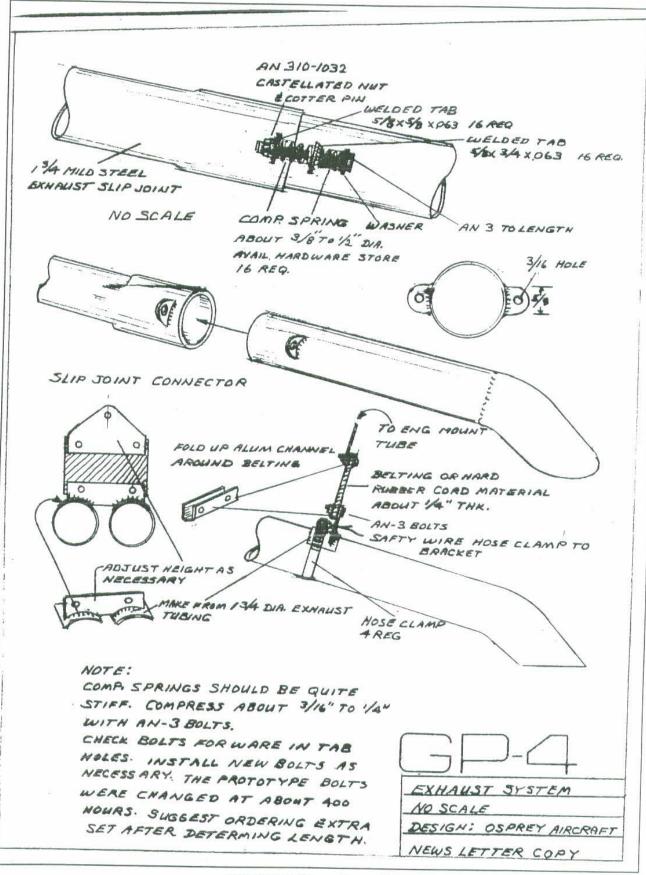
You start by bolting the flange with gasket to the cylinder. I like the metal blow- proof #77611 gaskets. The first section of tubing is pressed into the flange. If you are sure that it is the correct, you can carefully unbolt the flange and tack weld the tube to the flange in a couple of places. I welded the tubing to the flange on the inside. This will give you room for the nut and a socket wrench for bolting the flange to the cylinder. You set the tube about 1/16" below the flange surface and run a bead around the inside of the flange hole. I surfaced each flange on a belt sander for final attachment.

The next section is butt fitted and masking taped together until you have routed the tubing from flange to exhaust outlet at the firewall. You are now ready to remove the masking tape one section at a time and tac weld each section. You can now take the entire unit off and finish welding each section. In routing the pipes, you can get as close as 3/16" to any of the four intake tubes. You do need room for vibration and avoid heat transfer to these tubes.

After several modifications, I finally found a slip joint connection that works well. The exhaust hanger was also a problem. Both designs shown in the accompanying sketch works well.

Regards to all,

George



The Classifieds

For Sale: New Hydraulic Gear Plans Upgrade. Convert your GP-4 manual landing gear system to hydraulic - electric system. Complete with emergency back up system. (Note: System must be installed prior to wing skinning!, no retro-fits) Complete print package for \$150.00 Mail your checks to: George Pereira 3741 El Ricon Way, Sacramento, California 95864 phone (916) 483-3004 Fax (916)978-9813 E-mail GP-4@juno.com

For Sale: Pre-fabricated composite components for GP-4. Cowling, exhaust blisters, inlet ramps, tailcone. Complete four-piece package. Call or E-mail for current pricing. Shipment will be sent "Freight Collect" - Jake Jackson - Rio Linda, CA (916) 992-0608 E-mail J7200@aol.com

For Sale: Quality custom fabricated metal components for your GP-4. See GP4BFN issue #4 for complete component listings and pricing. Please allow generous time allowances for your orders. Darry Capps, 813 Hoyer Road. Newman, California (209) 862-2707

<u>Back Issues:</u> We have all of the GP-4 back issues (#1 thru #23) available for \$3.00 each. Mail your checks to Bill Spornitz - 1112 East Layton Drive - Olathe, KS 6061-2936

Wanted: Looking for a GP-4 project that is "well under way" through "close to being finished". Will consider all projects. Contact me at (503) 646-5276 or by mail at Edward Mitchell, 13835 S.W. Devonshire, Beaverton, OR 97005

Wanted: An original video (not a copy!) that George Pereira made on the GP-4. I have a multi-copied video now, but is very poor. Will gladly pay a reasonable price. Contact: Spud Spornitz (913) 764-5118 or 1112 East Layton Drive, Olathe, Kansas 66061

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GP-4 Builders & Flyers Newsletter (GP4BFN) is currently published Bimonthly at a rate of \$3.00 per issue/\$18.00 a year in U.S. \$3.33 per issue/\$20.00 a yr. in Canada, Alaska & Mexico. \$4.83 per issue/\$29.00 a yr. (U.S. funds) per 6 issues to foreign subscribers. Send remittance to: GP4BFN, 1112 Layton Drive, Olathe, Kansas 66061. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BILL SPORNITZ

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913-764-5118

E-MAIL BSPORNITZ@AOL.COM

George Pereira
Phone (916) 483-3004
Fax (916) 978-9813
E-mail *GP-4@juno.com*

The Grin Department!

On Sept 29th 1998

The photographer for a national magazine was assigned to get photos of a great forest fire. Smoke at the scene was too thick to get any good shots, so he frantically called his home office to hire a plane.

"It will be waiting for you at the airport!" he was assured by his editor.

As soon as he got to the small, rural airport, sure enough, a plane was warming up near the runway. He jumped in with his equipment and yelled, "Let's go! Let's go!" The pilot swung the plane into the wind and soon they were in the air.

"Fly over the north side of the fire,"said the photographer," and make three or four low level passes."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm going to take pictures! I'm a photographer, and photographers take pictures!" said the photographer with great exasperation and impatience.

After a long pause the pilot said, "You mean you're not the instructor?"



1112 EAST LAYTON DRIVE OLATHE, KANSAS 66061

NEWS FOR CRAFTSMEN OF FAST WOODEN AIRCRAFT!

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