



WIPAIRE, INC.

WIPLINE FLOATS | SKIS | MODIFICATIONS | AIRCRAFT SALES
AVIONICS | INTERIOR | MAINTENANCE | PAINT REFINISHING



Media Kit



WIPAIRE, INC.

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Company Overview



Wipaire is a three-generation, family-owned, diversified general aviation company that manufactures aircraft floats, skis and STC kits for an extensive variety of aircraft. Company services include airframe and engine repair, maintenance, aircraft paint, interior refurbishment and modifications, avionics repair, sales and installation, pilot services and aircraft sales. As the world's largest aircraft float manufacturer, our customer base spans the entire globe and services the needs of private aircraft owners, pilots, commercial operators and government agencies. Wipaire has and continues to develop new and innovative products to enhance the flying experience for business, recreational and commercial operators.

In 1960, Bernard “Ben” Wiplinger set out ‘to build the toughest float anybody ever stuck under an airplane.’ This was a tall order, set by an individual with a passion for success and engineering innovation. This vision and passion have been the driving principles for three generations of Wiplingers, over 50 years of Wipline Float design and manufacturing, and over 60 years of total aviation experience. Today, Wipaire, Inc. is excited about what the future holds and proud to celebrate this storied history.

Building a Foundation: 1940s and 1950s

Ben Wiplinger had a strong interest in aviation long before he began working on Wipline Floats. As a child, he built his own glider in the backyard of his parent’s home. Out of concern for his safety, his parents dismantled the aircraft before he could take it on its maiden voyage. His passion for aviation grew stronger as he went on to study aerospace engineering at the University of Minnesota before moving to California to work for Douglas Aircraft for a period of time. He then returned to Minnesota to work for Northwest Air Activities and Peterson-Curtiss Flying Service at the St. Paul Airport. At the age of 25, Ben was one of only six certified aircraft mechanics working in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Ben was drafted into the Army Air Forces of the United States before Pearl Harbor and spent time working in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he developed a pre-oiling system to help the performance of the bombers. He was awarded several decorations by the military for this engineering contribution.

After WWII, Ben returned once again to his roots in Minnesota and began converting surplus military aircraft into corporate aircraft at South St. Paul Airport. In fact, he sold 3M their first corporate aircraft in 1947. By the close of the 1940s, Ben was operating Wiplinger Aircraft Service, an FBO offering fuel service, aircraft sales, maintenance, restoration and upholstery.

During the 1950s, Ben grew and expanded his scope of services. He purchased his first seaplane in 1951 and began flying north on fishing expeditions, thus beginning his passion for seaplane flying. He even developed an improved hydraulic system for his Edo floats. In 1959, Ben sold his FBO business to focus on the next chapter of Wiplinger Aircraft.

Over 55 Years of Wipline Floats, cont.

Wipline, Inc. Founded 1960

After incorporating Wipline in 1960, Ben set up shop in a World War II barracks building on the eastern boundaries of the South St. Paul Airport. After many conceptual drawings on the walls and posts of the barracks and much tinkering with aluminum parts, he began constructing his first set of floats. Having seen much room for improvement on other existing floats of the day, Ben set out to incorporate many new features. He worked with experts at 3M to develop a metal bonding technique that would allow him to use fewer rivets and therefore achieve a smoother and lighter float. It took him three years and \$8000 to get the patent on this process, but Ben knew it was the way to go. He also incorporated flat top decks on the floats, allowing the pilot and passengers to maneuver into and out of the airplane with much less risk of taking an impromptu swim.

In 1961 Ben purchased a Cessna 185, N9881X, to flight test his new floats on. By 1962 he had sold his first set of floats to Ontario Central Airlines. In the coming year, Ben would receive FAA certification for the Cessna 185 on Wipline 3700 Floats. This certification was soon expanded to include many models of the Cessna 206 as well. During the first decade of Wipline Float production, approximately 30 sets were installed on various aircraft.

Bob 'Wip' Wiplinger joined Wipline, Inc. in January 1970 after having received his aeronautical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota in 1968. By early 1970, Wipline, Inc. had outgrown its current facility at Fleming Field. In February of 1971, Ben moved Wipline, Inc. to a new 23,000 square foot facility on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. The new site had great river access and the Wipline Seaplane Base (09Y) was established. Production increased in the new facility and by December 14, 1974, the 100th set of Wipline amphibious floats came off the production line. During the 1970s, Ben and Wip took on an extensive engineering project to float the N.22B Nomad, a twin engine utility aircraft built by the Australian Government Aircraft Factories (GAF). Though the Nomad aircraft had a short production run, the design for the Nomad float opened the door to other larger scale projects and became the forerunner for the popular Wipline 8000 float.

In 1974 Wip expanded the range of services by founding Wipaire, Inc. to perform maintenance as a certified Cessna Service Center at Fleming Field. In 1979, Wipline, Inc. and Wipaire, Inc. came together when Wip purchased Wipline, Inc. from his dad.

Over 55 Years of Wipline Floats, cont.

Continuing in a tradition of engineering excellence, Wipaire introduced Wipline 6000 floats for the de Havilland Beaver in 1982. In addition, over ten performance and safety modifications were made available, allowing Wipaire to transform the Beaver into a true seaplane workhorse. In 1985, the first Wipline 8000 floats for the Cessna Caravan were launched. The combination of Wipaire's rugged amphibious float and Cessna's sport utility aircraft has proven through the decades to be a successful combination with many applications.

Wipaire expanded their service offerings in 1989 with the addition of avionics and paint departments. The avionics department, under the leadership of Rick Wahlman, began providing repair and installation service to float customers. The paint department allowed floatplane owners to give new life to their airplane. The addition of these services enabled customers to truly leave Wipaire with their dream floatplanes. By the mid-1980s, Wipaire, Inc. had grown to 35 employees and had sold an incredible 700 sets of floats.

The 1990s saw many new modifications and float certifications. Wipaire's largest float, the Wipline 13000, was certified on the de Havilland Twin Otter in 1992 and the smallest float, the Wipline 2100, was certified in 1997. The Wipline 2350, 3000, and 4000 also joined the Wipline family of floats during the 1990s. Among other modifications, Wipaire certified a co-pilot door and Wip Tip wing extensions for the Cessna 206 and gross weight increases for the Piper Cub and the Cessna Caravan.

Wipaire introduced the Boss Beaver in 1996. The Boss combines a selection of Beaver modifications, a turbine engine and Wipline 6100 floats to create a high-performance seaplane. The last float approved of the century was the Wipline 3450 for the Cessna 206 in 2000.

The year 2000 brought about the next generation of Wiplingers coming to work at Wipaire. Nancy graduated from Gustavus Adolphus with a degree in business management in 2000. Chuck graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in aerospace engineering in 2003. Both have held various positions in Wipaire since.

In 2001 Wipaire moved their headquarters to a new 54,000-square-foot facility on Fleming Field. The new facility includes over 10,000 square feet of space for research and development for the growing engineering department. With their added capabilities, the team was able to certify several projects in the last decade. The Wipline 10000 float was approved for the Air Tractor 802A in 2003 and on the Air Tractor 802 in 2008.

Over 55 Years of Wipline Floats, cont.

Wipaire, Inc. received Supplemental Type Certification (STC) the Wipline 7000 amphibious float installed on the Quest KODIAK in 2010. The Wipline 7000 hulls were modeled after the successful Wipline 13000 floats, and feature improved rough water handling qualities for float-equipped aircraft. The main gear system was completely redesigned, which improves reliability and makes for easy maintenance.

After 25 years in production and nearly 200 sets in use around the world, Wipaire retired the Wipline 8000 float for the all-new Wipline 8750 float in 2012. The Wipaire engineering team drew upon the successes of the Wipline 7000 and 8000 floats to reinvent this new float for the Cessna 208 Caravan. The Wipline 8750 was certified in July 2012 on the Cessna 208 Caravan. Certification was received for the Cessna 208B Grand Caravan and the Grand Caravan EX on Wipline 8750 floats in July 2013.

Wipaire established its first-ever offsite service center in February of 2013. Located in Leesburg, Florida, the service center offers a convenient location for customers in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean for float maintenance, float changeovers, avionics work, and installation of select Wipaire modifications, including Wipline floats.

Wipline Floats Today

In addition to creating floats for new markets, Wipaire is dedicated to continually improving our existing product line. In 2014, Wipaire received approval for the Boss 182 engine conversion on the Cessna 182. Coupled with gross weight increases, the Lycoming IO-580 engine conversion transforms the Cessna 182 into a versatile and high-performance floatplane.

Wipaire is celebrating 55 years of building Wipline floats in 2015. The tradition of engineering innovation and thoughtful features such as flat top decks will continue into the future, with product introductions like the Aurora interior for the Cessna Caravan series. The Aurora interior offers luxurious appointments to an aircraft known for its utilitarian nature, without sacrificing comfort or usability.

In recognition of Ben Wiplinger's vision and contributions to the aviation industry, the Ben Wiplinger Memorial Seaplane Rating Scholarship was introduced in 2015 to encourage pilots to experience the world of seaplane flying.

2016 OVER 55 YEARS OF AVIATION INNOVATION

1946: WIPLINGER AIRCRAFT SERVICE FOUNDED
1951: BEN WIPLINGER PURCHASED HIS FIRST SEAPLANE
1960: WIPLINE, INC. FOUNDED
1961: WIPLINE 3700 FLOATS DESIGNED
1962: FIRST SET OF WIPLINE FLOATS SOLD TO ONTARIO CENTRAL AIRLINES
1970: BOB "WIP" WIPLINGER COMES TO WORK FOR WIPLINE, INC.
1971: FLOAT MANUFACTURING MOVED FROM FLEMING FIELD TO 8520 RIVER ROAD WHERE IT REMAINED UNTIL 2012
1974: BOB STARTED WIPAIRE, INC. AS A CESSNA DEALERSHIP & MAINTENANCE CENTER
1979: BOB PURCHASES WIPLINE, INC. FROM HIS DAD
1980: NOMAD APPROVED ON 9500 AMPHIBIAN FLOATS
1982: WIPLINE 6000 FLOATS CERTIFIED
1983: A SERIES OF MODIFICATIONS FOR THE BEAVER ARE INTRODUCED
1985: WIPLINE 8000 FLOATS APPROVED
1989: PAINT AND AVIONICS DEPARTMENTS STARTED
1990: CO-PILOT DOOR FOR CESSNA 206 CERTIFIED
1991: "WIP TIP" WING EXTENSIONS FOR CESSNA 206
1992: INTERIORS SHOP STARTED & WIPLINE 13000 FLOATS CERTIFIED
1994: 8360 LB GWI FOR CESSNA 208 CERTIFIED
1996: BOSS BEAVER CERTIFIED
1997: WIPLINE 2100 FLOATS CERTIFIED
1998: WIPLINE 2350 FLOATS CERTIFIED
1999: WIPLINE 3000 FLOATS CERTIFIED & GWI TO 2,000 LBS FOR PA-18
2000: WIPLINE 3450 FLOATS CERTIFIED & BEAVER GWI TO 5,600 LBS
2001: WIPAIRE'S HEADQUARTERS MOVED TO A NEW FACILITY ON FLEMING FIELD
2003: WIPLINE 10000 FLOATS CERTIFIED
2008: AIR TRACTOR 802 AND 1600 HP CONVERSION CERTIFIED
2010: WIPLINE 7000 FLOATS, CESSNA CARAVAN SINGLE POINT FUEL AND TWIN OTTER EXECUTIVE INTERIOR CERTIFIED
2011: CHUCK WIPLINGER NAMED PRESIDENT/COO OF WIPAIRE, INC.
2012: WIPLINE 8750 FLOATS CERTIFIED ON CESSNA 208, MANUFACTURING MOVED TO THE NEW WEST GATE FACILITY & EXPANDED TO INCREASE CAPACITY
2013: WIPAIRE EXPANDS BY OPENING A SERVICE CENTER IN LEESBURG, FLORIDA
WIPLINE 8750 FLOATS CERTIFIED ON CESSNA 208B AND 208B EX
2014: BOSS 182 ENGINE CONVERSION CERTIFIED
2015: AURORA INTERIOR INTRODUCED, BEN WIPLINGER MEMORIAL SEAPLANE RATING SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED



I Never Imagined...



We hear it time and time again, "I never imagined Wipaire was this big. I thought you were just the float people." Over the years as we have expanded our operations into maintenance, paint refinishing, interiors and avionics, our facility footprint has grown to over 180,000 square feet.

South St. Paul Airport - Fleming Field (KSGS)



I Never Imagined..., cont.



A. Hangar One

This hangar serves as our corporate headquarters, including Customer Service, Sales, and Engineering, among others. The center hangar is our state-of-the-art Avionics and Maintenance hangar. The west hangar hides our top secret research and development projects.



B. Maintenance Hangar

To be able to serve increasing demand, our maintenance department expanded their capacities by moving into this hangar in 2012. Float installations and general maintenance are performed here as well as in Hangar One.

I Never Imagined..., cont.



C. Paint Hangar

Our hangar is capable of handling aircraft up to small jets for services ranging from touch-ups to full custom refinishing with airbrushing.



D. Hangar Two

Our renovated hangar includes a design center for interiors, paint and avionics. Our Interior fabrication and install capabilities are also housed here.

I Never Imagined..., cont.



E. Hangars 6, 7, and 8

This historic hangar complex houses our Float Installation Center, as well as our Major Airframe Overhaul Center, capable of handling de Havilland Beavers and Cessna Caravans.



F, G, H, I, J. Aircraft Storage

We have nearly 50,000 square feet of storage spaces that we can store your aircraft in when you come for service or to visit.

I Never Imagined..., cont.



K. Production Facility

Opened in 2012, this modern facility houses both small and large float production. Floats are also prepared for installation or shipment. This 22,000 square foot facility houses the majority of our machinists and craftsmen in float construction. This is where you see our professionals at work, building Wipline Floats.



Float Factory on the Mississippi River Bank

This production facility is located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Inver Grove Heights, MN. This 23,000 square foot facility houses operations in support of the main production facility located adjacent to the airport.

I Never Imagined..., cont.



Wipline Seaplane Base (09Y)

Just off the mighty Mississippi River, the seaplane base is truly the epitome of a seaplane getaway. Who could have imagined such a facility would exist within a major metropolitan area, just 20 minutes from an international airport? At this facility, seaplane float installations and maintenance are carried out or performed. A grass strip nearly 3000 feet long is also adjacent.



Leesburg, FL Service Center

To be able to serve increasing demand, our maintenance department expanded their capacities by establishing Wipaire's first service center in 2013. Float installations, general maintenance, interior installations, avionics installations, and installations of select Wipaire modifications are performed at this central Florida facility.



Wipline 2100 Floats

- Aviat Husky A1, A1A, A1B, A1C
- American Champion Scout 8GCBC
- CubCrafters 2300 LB Top Cub
- Cessna 170 A, B
- Cessna 172 Series / F172 / 175
- Glastar GS-1
- Piper PA-12
- Piper PA-18

Wipline 2350 Floats

- Cessna 172 Series
- Cessna F172 Series
- Cessna 175A, B, C
- Maule M6-235
- Maule MX7-180
- Maule MX7-235

Wipline 3000 Floats

- Cessna 180 (Through K model)
- Cessna A185 E, F
- Cessna 182 P, Q, R, S, T
- Maule M6-235
- Maule M7-235
- Maule M7-260
- Maule MX7-235
- Maule M7-420

Wipline 3450 Floats

- Cessna A185 E, F
- Cessna 206H, T206H
- Cessna T/U206 Through G Model

Wipline Floats, cont.



Wipline 6100 Floats

- de Havilland DHC-2 MK I
- de Havilland DHC-2 MK III
- Wipaire Boss Turbine Beaver
- Pilatus PC-6 B2/H4

Wipline 7000 Floats

- Quest KODIAK 100

Wipline 8750 Floats

- Cessna 208 Caravan
- Cessna 208B Grand Caravan
- Cessna 208B Grand Caravan EX

Wipline 10000 Floats

- AT802A
- AT802

Wipline 13000 Floats

- de Havilland DHC-6 Twin Otter



C2200

- Aviat Husky A1, A1-A, A1-B, A1-C
- Maule M-4, M-5, M-6
- Piper PA-18

C3000

- Cessna 170 A, B
- Cessna 180 (Through F Model)
- Cessna 182, 182A
- Maule M-4, M-5, M-6, M-7

C3000A

- American Champion Scout 8GCBC

C3200

- Cessna 180 (Through K model)
- Cessna 185 - A185F

C3600

- Cessna 180J - 180K
- Cessna 185 - A185F

2000T Tail Ski

- deHavilland Beaver DHC-2 Mk I, II, III

CT3000 Tail Ski

- Tail ski for all models listed
- Tail Ski for Scott 3200 and 3400 Tail Wheels



Cessna 208B

- Single Point Fueling System
- Seaplane Firewall Modifications
- Wipline 8750 Floats
- Executive Interior Modification

Cessna 208

- Single Point Fueling System
- Horsepower Increase to 675 HP
- Seaplane Firewall Modifications
- 8360 lb Gross Weight Increase
- 8750 lb Gross Weight Increase on Wipline 8750 Floats
- Executive Interior Modification

Cessna 206

- Co-Pilot Door and Step
- "Wip" Tip Wing Extensions
- IO-550 Engine Upgrade

Cessna 185

- IO-550 Engine Upgrade

Cessna 182

- IO-580 Engine Upgrade
- Gross Weight Increase to 3,370 lbs
- Gross Weight Increase to 3,500 lbs

Other Modifications, cont.



Piper PA-18

- 2000 lb Gross Weight Increase

de Havilland DHC-2

- Wipaire "Boss" 650 HP Turbine Conversion
- Gross Weight Increase To 5600 lbs
- Extended Rear Cabin
- Articulating Seat Adapter
- Flap Pump Handle Relocation Kit
- Hartzell 3-Blade Prop
- Electric Fuel Pump / Primer System
- Shoulder Harness Restraint Set, Pilot & Co-Pilot
- Door Catches (set)
- Center Bench Seats
- Jasco Alternator System
- Firewall Battery Kit
- Electric Flaps System
- Gross Weight Increase 5370 lbs
- Flow Energizers/Vortex Generators

de Havilland DHC-6

- -34 Engine / 750 HP Land & Seaplane
- Hartzell 3-Blade Prop & Spinner
- Executive Interior Modification

Quest Kodiak 100

- Single Point Fueling System
- Hartzell Propeller Upgrade



Avionics

- Authorized distributor and warranty/service center for most major manufacturers including: Avidyne, Aspen Avionics, Bendix/King, Bose, Chelton Flight Systems, Flight Display Systems, Garmin International, L-3 Avionics, PS Engineering, S-Tec, Sandel Avionics, WSI Weather Driven Business Solutions.
- Garmin top 15% dealer world wide
- Custom in-flight entertainment systems
- Installation of satellite phone and fax, internet connections and data transfer
- Sales and Installation of custom avionics suites
- Service for existing avionics
- IFR Certification

Interior

- Modification and upgrades
- Custom design service
- Headliners, sidewalls, seating, cabinets and more
- Installation of certified Wipaire Executive Interiors
- Expert upholstery technicians

Paint Refinishing

- Custom design service
- Custom airbrushing art and decals
- Touch up or full refinishing
- Single engine aircraft to small business jets

Wipaire Services, cont.



Maintenance

- Cessna single engine & Caravan service center
- Lycoming authorized service center and Echelon installation center
- Ice Shield de-icing systems
- Wing X Stoll installation
- LoPresti authorized dealer
- TimeTrac authorized dealer and installation center
- Experienced technicians on a wide variety of single and multi-engine piston and single and multi-engine turbine aircraft
- Cessna 208 major airframe repair capability

Wipaire Services, cont.

Aircraft Sales & Acquisitions

- Used aircraft sales
- Brokerage service
- Pre-buy & borescope inspections
- Importing / exporting services



For more information about Wipaire, please contact:

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