



Come On In – The Water’s Fine!

Brian Addis, Business Manager - Lake & Air Pilot Shop

Most pilots dismiss the idea of adding a seaplane rating to their certificate because they feel there is little chance of using it after the day of the check ride. It’s hard to argue with that logic but consider this: Most pilots that fly seaplanes now had the same expectation on the day of their check ride. Life is a conglomeration of unexpected opportunities and “chance” experiences, no matter how much control we think we have. In any case, it is an easy—and fun—rating to obtain, especially in the warm weather months.

Here are a few “getting started” suggestions: Find a copy of the “Seaplane Training Directory” published annually by the Seaplane Pilot’s Association. Seaplane schools are listed by state. Concerns about the quality of the instructor can be dismissed. If the instructor has reached “insurance approved seaplane instructor” status, it is very likely that instructor is quite competent. Personalities and training methods can vary from instructor to instructor, so you may want to ask some basic questions about availability and training practices ahead of time. Remember, no day is ever the same in a seaplane, so keep an open mind to new experiences.

Prepare by reading any one of the text books on learning to fly seaplanes; there are several on the market. Look online for seaplane training courseware to get an idea of the content of syllabi or simply look at the Practical Test Standard for the required tasks for a seaplane rating.

Choose a school, schedule the training and enjoy a new experience in flying and remember; only a handful of people in the entire world are able to add this experience to their list. No matter what you do with the rating, the experience of obtaining it will open a new dimension in flying.

Brian Addis

Are You Newly Seaplane Rated?

Let us be the first to welcome you to the seaplane flying community! As you have already discovered, the seaplane pilot’s lifestyle is one of adventure and freedom. In celebration of this accomplishment, Wipaire extends to you the opportunity to receive a custom-engraved “Freedom to Explore” medallion*.



Visit www.wipaire.com/medallion for details and to claim your medallion!

* Valid for ratings issued after May 23rd, 2012. While supplies last.

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The Wipaire Window

Wipaire Avionics Receives Garmin "Gold Award of Excellence"

We are proud to share that the Wipaire Avionics Department has once again been recognized with a "Gold Award of Excellence" from Garmin. The Gold Award recognizes top performing aviation distributors. This award represents a first-class level of sales performance, technical expertise, and

customer service. It places Wipaire in the top 10% of Garmin distributors worldwide.

Congratulations to the Avionics team for once again receiving this prestigious award.

Seaplane Pilot Essentials

Seaplane, Skiplane, and Float/Ski Equipped Helicopter Operations Handbook



This book introduces the future seaplane or skiplane pilot to the realm of water operations and cold weather operations, and provides information on the performance of procedures required for the addition of a sea class rating in airplanes.

[View This Item Online](#)

Seaplane Pilot: Training for the Seaplane Pilot Certificate and Beyond



Dale DeRemer's "Seaplane Pilot" guides pilots through the process of obtaining a seaplane rating with plenty of tips, techniques and advice from a pro along the way. It is also designed to function as an excellent tool for review, for those who already have the rating.

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Revere ComfortMax Inflatable Life Vest - Type III Manual Inflation



Revere's ComfortMax PFDs combine comfort with the convenience of manual CO2 inflation technology. Features heavy duty 420 denier nylon construction with two wide back straps and dual waist belt stainless steel adjusters for comfort and security.

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Available in 3/8" and 5/8" rope. Available for all sizes of seaplanes. Small wing ropes work on Cessna 206 and smaller sized aircraft. Large wing ropes work on DeHavilland Beaver and larger aircraft.

View Online:

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[Seaplane Wing Rope - Large](#)

These items and more are available from:



www.lakeandair.com

1.888.525.3247

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Get rid of unwanted water in your floats with these lightweight, corrosion-proof PVC plastic pumps. Draw up to one gallon per ten strokes. Needs no priming. PK end adapter is available.

View Online:

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Have you ever wondered “Why on earth did they do it that way?”

Let's talk about engineering. Engineering is that necessary evil where you take a good idea, wring it out, and are left with something that vaguely resembles the stellar idea that started it all. When you are talking about airplanes, you have two very distinct aspects to bringing new things to market. The first is the “make something work” side of engineering where all of the design requirements are outlined. How much can it weigh? How much does it need to carry? How much can it cost? Does it do the job? The second aspect to engineering for certified aircraft is the “does this meet certification requirements” portion. While certainly not mutually exclusive, there are some areas where those two aspects do not align very well. Let's talk about one such instance.

The flat nose gear spring that Wipaire founder Ben Wiplinger pioneered is one such design item that provides quite a challenge to fit both the real world and FAA certification requirements. One of our current new design projects is the Wipline 1450 float for light-sport aircraft, which is very near to TSO certification. This is the smallest and most weight-sensitive float project that Wipaire has ever undertaken. Due to the weight sensitivity of this installation extra effort was taken to ensure the design was both as light and robust as possible.

To start this specific design effort, a nose spring geometry was selected that would provide a gentle ride over the lumps and bumps of standard airports. This nose gear just felt right. It had the resilience to provide support, but didn't feel like riding a shopping cart downhill over a rough parking lot. Preliminary nose gear drop tests also indicated that this gear spring would provide proper shock absorption. This

effort was off to a great start so far . . . but would it meet certification criteria?

One of the trials of aircraft certification is the need to meet prescribed test criteria. This can make it very difficult to optimize for anything other than the prescribed test conditions. In a perfect world, your design would be able to meet both criteria simultaneously. Unfortunately, that often comes with a complexity premium which is impractical on small aircraft for both weight and expense reasons. The FAA's test condition is for a landing where someone slams the aircraft into the ground and causes the nose spring to flex back so far that it touches the keel of the floats. This condition forces the design of the nose gear spring to be very stiff so that it can absorb that very high load. Unfortunately, this very stiff nose spring means that the amphibious float plane taxis around the airport like a lightly loaded pickup truck.

The benefit to this design is that it is very difficult to damage the nose spring or nose gear of a Wipline float since it is sized to withstand slamming an aircraft into the ground during a 4-point landing.

The moral of the story is that engineering is a compromise. You have to take the good with the bad. The good is that you have a reliable product that will withstand significant abuse for years to come. The bad is that when taxiing your airplane around you may just feel like you are riding in a shopping cart downhill on a rough parking lot. Since the purpose of an airplane is to remain on the ground as little as possible we hope that you will forgive our engineered compromise. Happy flying!

Department Spotlight - Parts Sales and Technical Support

Wipaire's parts sales and technical support department is located on the 1st floor of Hangar 1 near our main entrance. This team provides customer service support, working with customers to understand their needs and performing research to solve customer problems. Additionally, the parts sales/technical support department receives and processes phone and email orders for parts, as well as responding to customer complaints. Our parts sales and technical support department annually processes over 7,750 number of sales order lines. Each representative receives and responds to

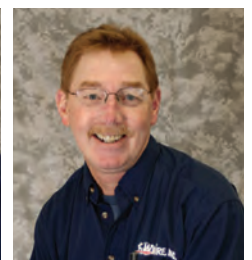
in excess of 15,000 emails per year, ranging from technical support questions to parts orders.



Grant Wallace



Dave Hirsch



Russ Martin

The Wipaire Window

Things to Do at EAA AirVenture

With so many activities, displays and aircraft it is easy to get lost in the Spirit of Aviation at EAA AirVenture. Here are a few must-dos for every seaplane pilot:

- ✓ **Fly In and Camp at the Oshkosh Seaplane Base on Lake Winnebago.** Follow arrival procedures found at: http://www.oshkoshseaplanebase.com/seabase_info.htm. Camping and nightly activities make this the best place for a seaplane pilot to stay at AirVenture. The seaplane base is the most tranquil area you will find at EAA AirVenture.



- ✓ **Attend the Watermelon Social** Make new friends and chat about seaplanes at the annual seaplane base Watermelon Social on August 3rd at 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Get tickets at the seaplane base any time before the event.
- ✓ **Attend the SPA Corn Roast** Featuring fresh-from-the-fields Oshkosh corn, brats, beans, and dessert accompanied by ice cold beer in the huge collectable Corn Roast Mugs. This affair is an Oshkosh tradition.
- ✓ **Come see Wipaire!** You can find our float experts just outside of Building D in spaces 227 and 228 or at the Oshkosh Seaplane Base.
 - Chat with our experts. Get answers to all your questions about Wipline Floats, Modifications and Services.
 - Sign up to win a Dual Electronics XGPS170 GPS + ADS-B Weather & Traffic Receiver for iPad and Android Tablets (a \$700 value!).
 - Visit Lake & Air at the seaplane base for supplies.
- ✓ **Be a Winner!** Enter your seaplane or amphibian to be eligible for a Lindy Award through the EAA.



CONGRATULATIONS TO
Robert Kelly, Anchorage, AK
Winner of the 2000 lb Gross
Weight Increase Kit giveaway!

Entries were taken at the
2013 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering



Trade Show Schedule

Dates	Show	Location
July 29 - August 4	EAA AirVenture	Oshkosh, Wisconsin
September 4-8	International Seaplane Fly-In	Greenville, Maine
October 10-12	AOPA Summit	Fort Worth, Texas
October 22-24	NBAA Meeting and Convention	Las Vegas, Nevada