



# The Seawind Flyer

Spring 2007

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*"The evolution of an intelligent design."*

## FLIGHT TESTING

I wish I could report that the flight testing was successfully completed. No such luck. Like everything else in certification of an aircraft, nothing goes smoothly or fast.

Mother Nature has not been kind to us this winter. We planned to move the Seawind to the midwestern area of the U.S. only to arrive at the same time as one of the worst ice storms in recent years.

The decision was then made to relocate flight operations to the southeastern or the southwestern U.S. Both areas are normally flyable almost every day. I need not remind you of the severe tomadoes in Florida or the snow in Malibu, California. Although worse than previous years, the weather here has still been better than trying to test in Canada or in the northeastern U.S.

Because of the unusual configuration, the flight test team has very cautiously expanded the flight envelope, even though the experimental version has been flying for years.

Obviously the testing has been going more slowly than expected. On the brighter side, we still have made substantial progress and there have not been any show stoppers.

## PROPELLER

While in the Midwest, we conducted performance tests on the Hartzell propeller and a similar McCauley three-blade propeller. The performance was virtually identical in take-off, climb, and cruise. However, the flight test team found the McCauley propeller to be noticeably quieter. McCauley performed a complete vibration survey and analysis for certification with Transport Canada and, prior to our leaving, they performed a dynamic balance of the installation. The entire McCauley network will be available to Seawind owners for warranty and service and dynamic balancing. So, for that reason, we have settled on the McCauley propeller as standard equipment.

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**SpinLift Dock:** These lift docks are designed for float planes but can be used for the Seawind with the gear down. They can be made into a turntable type, providing the stationary dock is clear of the wings on the way up and back down.



*The SpinLift™ Dock is available from Sunstream Corp.*



*The Sunstream SpinLift™ Dock.*