

BABY GREAT LAKES
DAVE SCHMELZER
DECEMBER, 2007

Dave Schmelzer's hands have to be busy building 'something'. This new 'something' is a partially built Baby Great Lakes. The original owner from the Caro Airport died and the new owner was going to use this project as a lawn ornament. Dave didn't want that to happen so he flew to the Caro Airport and made the owner an offer and now this project is in our EAA hangar. Since the original builder was a machinist the workmanship on this 50% completed Baby Great Lakes is good. The airframe is welded and the wood wings are fabricated.

Dave just received his ordered prints for the plane (they were missing) and is now in the process of critically inspecting the quality and specifications on the completed parts of the plane. The engine will be a 108 HP Lycomming 0235, the plane will cruise at 118 mph and will be able to pull 9 G's. The plane will gross at 850 lbs. and the rate of climb will be 2000 feet per minute. The color scheme will be white with orange trim. Dave estimates he has 20 hours in on the job and is predicting another 600 to go.

He is assisted by Bob Harrington and ever standing guard over the process will be the Baby Lakes Guru of the Barstow Airport – Bob Baringer. His Baby Great Lakes which he finished in 1977 has over 1300 hours on it. Perhaps we'll see them side by side at one of our upcoming Pancake Breakfasts.

THREE PHOTOS BELOW (Wait for them to load):



