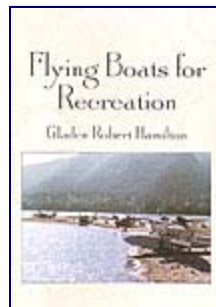




Flying Boats for Recreation

by *Gladden Robert Hamilton*



110 pages, softcover
Eastern Dakota Publishers, 1997
Available from SPA
\$19.95 plus shipping and handling

Book Review

Gladden Robert Hamilton's new book, Flying Boats for Recreation, is an easy-reading first-hand narrative about piloting, owning and maintaining flying boats. Bob's renowned love of flying boats and extensive experience in seaplanes is evident in his direct and knowledgeable writing style.

Flying Boats for Recreation is divided into two parts. Part I is titled "Overview: How to Buy and Fly." The first three chapters give a brief introduction to flying boats, including history, floatplane/flying boat comparison, a very practical set of pointers on purchasing a seaplane, and an introduction to corrosion and leak prevention. The next three chapters give aircraft-by-aircraft summaries of most of the flying boats in civilian use, including the Lakes, Skimmers, Riviera, Seabee, Twin Bee, Royal Gull and the Grumman boats. Information provided includes performance statistics, some information about the evolution of the design, and a summary of the strengths, weaknesses, and flying characteristics of each design. Chapter 8 provides an outline of a multiengine seaplane syllabus along with details of flying boat operations and Ranger Widgeon stats and operational details in particular.

The second part, titled "A Blueprint for Seaplane Adventure," is a collection of articles about specific trips, such as Southeast Alaska, the Alaska Highway, and the Midnight Sun Seaplane Fly-In.

The entire book is practical and to the point. Whether you're new to flying boats, ready to trade your present seaplane for a different flying boat, or interested in practical maintenance tips and travel ideas, this book is for you.

Contents:

About the Author and Acknowledgments

Author's Statements

PART I: How to Buy and Fly

Chapter 1: Introduction and Hydro-Aviation

Chapter 2: Floats Versus Boats

Chapter 3: Buying a Seaplane

Chapter 4: Caring for a Seaplane

Chapter 5: The Affordable Boats of Marginal Useful Load:
Colonial C-1 Skimmer

Thurston/Schweizer TSC-1A1 Teal

Chapter 6: The Affordable Adequate Ability Flying Boats:

Colonial C-2 Skimmer, Lake LA-4, and LA-4 200

Lane/Siai-Marchetti Riviera

Republic RC-3 Seabee (and the Super Bee)

Lake Renegade 250 hp. and 270 hp. Turbo

Chapter 7: The Twin-Engine Flying Boats:

Twin Bee UC-1

Trecker/Piaggio Gull and Royal Gull

Grumman G-44 Widgeon (and the Super Widgeon)

Grumman G-21 Goose

Grumman G-73 Mallard and Turbo-Mallard

Grumman G-64 Albatross HU-16A and HU-16B

Chapter 8: How to Fly a Boat

PART II: A Blueprint for Seaplane Adventure

Chapter 9: You Have What it Takes to Go to the Top

Chapter 10: One Highway at a Time

Chapter 11: The Midnight Sun Seaplane Rendezvous

Chapter 12: Mayday at Pike Heaven

Appendix

Bibliography



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[[Back](#)]