

NAME THAT PLANE

Northrop Alpha

The Northrop Alpha was an American monoplane fast mail/passenger transport aircraft used in the 1930s. Design work was done at the Avion Corporation, which in 1929, became the [Northrop Aircraft Corporation](#) based in Burbank, California. Designed by John K. "Jack" Northrop, the Alpha was a great step forward in metal aircraft. Many of its features, particularly the multicellular wing design, were later used in the Douglas DC-2 and DC-3. Always pioneering new ideas and new techniques, Northrop became one of the most influential men in the aviation industry. Although more powerful twin-engine aircraft rendered the Alpha obsolete for passenger service, it continued to serve as a fast express cargo plane. The Alpha could enclose six passengers in a snug, comfortable cabin, but the pilot remained exposed to the elements. The aircraft was all metal and streamlined, but had fixed landing gear and only one engine. The Alpha was the first commercial aircraft to use rubber deicer boots on wing and empennage leading edges which, in conjunction with state-of-the-art radio navigation equipment, gave it day or night, all-weather capability. The aircraft first flew in 1930, with a total of 17 built. The Alpha entered service with Transcontinental & Western Air (future TWA) making its inaugural flight on April 20, 1931. Three Alphas were operated by the US military as C-19 VIP transports until 1939.). Three Alpha 2s were built, one of which went to the NAT Line (National Air Transport) and seated seven passengers. Five Alpha 3s were delivered to TWA and were of the three place combination mail-passenger type. Five variants were built: Alpha 2 - six-passenger version; Alpha 3 - two-passenger plus cargo version, several Alpha 2s were converted to this configuration; Alpha 4 - cargo version with 2 ft. increased wingspan and large metal fairings encapsulating the main gear for drag reduction. All were converted from Alpha 3s; Alpha 4A cargo version, all converted from Alpha 4s; YC-19 & Y1C-19 – military VIP transport.

(Data and information from [Northrop Alpha, National Air & Space Museum](#), [Ed Coates Collection TWA Northrop Alpha](#), [National Museum of the US Air Force](#))

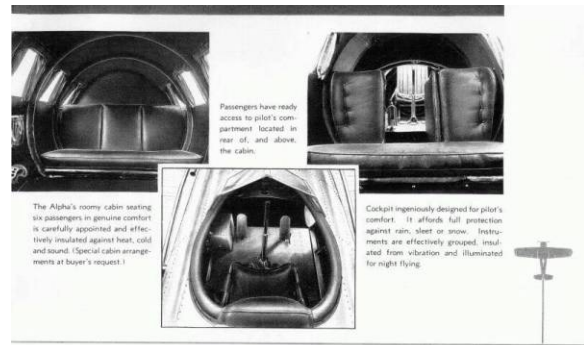
Northrop Alpha

General characteristics (Alpha 2)

Crew: one
Capacity: six passengers
Length: 28 ft. 5 in.
Wingspan: 41 ft 10 in.
Height: 9 ft. 0 in.
Wing area: 295 ft²
Empty weight: 2,590 lb.
Loaded weight: 4,500 lb.
Useful load: 1,910 lb.
Powerplant: 1 × Pratt & Whitney Wasp R-1340-SC1, 420 hp

Performance

Maximum speed: 177 mph
Rate of climb: 1,400 ft/min
Cruise speed: 145 mph
Range: 1,650 miles
Service ceiling: 19,300 ft.



Views of the Alpha 2 interior. On-line readers click the above for a larger photo.

The deadline date is January 28 for any articles for the February issue of the *Pea Patch Post*.

SOUTH CAROLINA BREAKFAST CLUB

- Sunday, January 4: Aiken Municipal airport, Aiken, South Carolina (AIK)
Sunday, January 18: Lake City Municipal Airport - CJ Evans Field, Lake City, South Carolina (51J)
Sunday, February 1: Lancaster County McWhirter Field Airport, South Carolina (LKR)
Sunday, February 14: Rowan County Airport, Salisbury, North Carolina (KRUQ)

To read the entire *Pea Patch Post* type the following into your Browser: <http://jcmservices.net/PeaPatchPost0115.PDF>

If you had not renewed your EAA 172 membership by January 1, 2015, please mail or give your \$40 check or money order made out to EAA 172 to club treasurer Don Bush.

EAA 172 CALENDAR for 2015 (version 01/01/15)

(This calendar is *Dynamic* – it will occasionally change. Don't just print it out and forget it. Check the [calendar link](#) often for changes!)

January 10 - Saturday: Chili Cook-off at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

February 14 - Saturday: Winter Soup Party at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

March 14 - Saturday: EAA 172 Fish Fry Fly-in. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: April 5: Easter. (Passover is sundown April 3 to sundown April 11.)

NOTE: April 15 - 19: Bensen Days Rotorcraft Fly-in 2015 - Wauchula, Florida

April 18 - Saturday: EAA 172 O.B. Brown Memorial Fly-in, Wrens airport.

NOTE: April 21 - 26: Sun 'n Fun® 2015 Fly-In - Lakeland, Florida

May 9 - Saturday: Club Meeting. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: May 10: Mother's Day.

NOTE: May 16 - 17: Saturday-Sunday: Boshears Skyfest Fly-in. Daniel Field, Augusta, GA.

June 13 - Saturday: Club Meeting. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: June 21: Father's Day.

July 11 - Saturday: EAA 172 Barbecue Fly-In. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: July 20 – July 26: Monday-Sunday: EAA Oshkosh Airventure® 2015. Oshkosh, WI.

NOTE: July 28 - August 1: PRA Rotorcraft International Convention. Mentone, Indiana

August 8 - EAA 172 Breakfast Fly-in 9:00-10:00 AM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: September 2 - 6: Wednesday-Sunday: Triple Tree Fly-in. Woodruff, SC.

September 12 - Saturday: Cold Cuts Fly-in. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: September 13: Sunday: Bob Rhodes Barbecue Fly-in.

NOTE: *tentative* October 1 - 4: VAA 3 Fall Vintage Fly-In Woodward Field, Camden, SC.

NOTE: October 3 - 4: Wings Over North Georgia Air Show, Rome, Georgia

October 23 - 24: Friday, Saturday: EAA 172 Wrens Fall Fly-In at the Wrens airport.

October 24: Saturday: EAA 172 BBQ lunch 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Wrens airport.

NOTE: October 31 - November 1: Great Georgia Airshow, Peachtree City, Georgia

November 14 - Saturday: EAA 172 Election meeting. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: November 26: Thanksgiving

December 12: Saturday: EAA 172 Christmas Party 12:30 PM. Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: December 25: Christmas

