

NAME THAT PLANE

Grumman F8F-1 Bearcat

The Grumman F8F Bearcat was first delivered in 1944, and was built to meet the Navy's desire for aircraft carrier protection. The idea was to launch, get up high quickly, and pounce upon the enemy at short range. The first production Bearcat model designated was the F8F-1. This model featured folding wings, self-sealing fuel tanks, and a retractable tailwheel unit. Power was supplied by the Pratt & Whitney company and their [R-2800-34W Double Wasp](#) series of radial piston engines. A maximum speed of 421 miles per hour was possible along with a rate-of-climb topping 4,570 feet per minute. Bearcats were noted for outperforming even the earliest of jet-powered designs. With no early end to WWII in sight, the Navy ordered 4,000 Bearcats in 1944 (roughly 2,000 each from Grumman and General Motors). When the war ended the Navy cancelled the entire GM order and cut 1258 from the Grumman order. Despite its late entry into the Second World War, where it saw no service, the Bearcat went on to provide many faithful years of service to the US Navy since production continued for another four years, with Grumman building 765 F8F-1s as well as 501 other F8F variations.

The F8F Bearcat went on to serve into the mid-20th century in the United States Navy, the United States Marine Corps, and the air forces of other nations. It would be Grumman Aircraft's final piston engined fighter aircraft. The Bearcat on the first page was rebuilt to Zero Time standards by Bruce Lockwood / Museum of Flying during 1993-1995. All systems were either new or overhauled. The aircraft was painted in an authentic Bearcat paint scheme and it was placed on display at the Santa Monica Museum of Flying from 1995 until 2000. That Bearcat was then operated by Tony Banta for many years until it was purchased in 2006 by Rod Lewis.

(Data and information from [Northrop Grumman Corp.](#), [militaryfactory.com](#), [warbirddepot.com](#), [aviation-history.com](#), [Jane's Fighting Aircraft of World War II](#), [AvwebFLASH 01/10/14](#), [lewisairlegends.com](#), [USS Valley Forge](#), [wikipedia.org](#))



youtube 2:21 min. Great vintage [footage](#) of a couple of Grumman Bearcat Fighters doing some very high speed passes!
Amazing R-2800 radial engine sounds!

Grumman F8F-1 Bearcat Specifications

General characteristics

Crew: 1 pilot
Length: 28 ft 3 in.
Wingspan: 35 ft. 10 in.
Height: 13 ft. 9 in.
Empty weight: 7,070 lb.
Loaded weight: 9,600 lb.
Max. takeoff weight: 12,947 lb.
Fuel capacity: 260 gal.
Powerplant: 1 × Pratt & Whitney R-2800-34W
"Double Wasp" two-row radial engine, 2,400 hp

Performance

Maximum speed: 421 mph
Range: 1,105 miles
Service ceiling: 38,700 ft.
Rate of climb: 4,570 ft/min (record rate!)

Armaments

Guns: 4 × 0.50 in. machine guns
Rockets: 4 × 5 in. unguided rockets
Bombs: 1,000 lb. bombs

Photo # 80-G-705399 F8F "Bearcats" fly past USS Valley Forge, 28 April 1948



If you did not receive a mailed newsletter but only the e-mailed *Pea Patch Post* and you also wanted the mailed version you need to contact the club Secretary at EAA172@jcmservices.net and indicate that you want the newsletter mailed to you. This should be done by deadline date, which for March is February 23, which is also the deadline for any articles for the March issue. Note that mail has slowed during the past year, so it may take at least two days from the mailing date for you to receive the newsletter. The production and mailing of the paper *Pea Patch Post* costs EAA 172 \$26 annually per recipient. Also note that if you have the newsletter mailed, and **do not inform the EAA 172 Secretary about an address change, the Postal Service will charge you a 50 cent fee for mail forwarding.**

EAA 172 CALENDAR for 2014 *(tentative version 01/27/14)*

(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 11 - Saturday: Chili Cook-off at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

February 8 - Saturday: Winter Soup Party at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

March 8 - Saturday: EAA 172 Fish Fry Fly-in. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: March 26 - 29: Bensen Days Rotorcraft Fly-in 2014 - Wauchula, Florida

NOTE: April 1 - 6: Sun 'n Fun® 2014 Fly-In - Lakeland, Florida

April 19 - Saturday: EAA 172 Breakfast Fly-in 9:00-10:00 AM at the Pea Patch.

NOTE: April 20: Easter. (Passover is sundown April 14 to sundown April 22.)

NOTE: April 24 to 27: Thursday-Sunday: Vidalia Onion Festival Fly-in, Vidalia, GA.

NOTE: April 26 to 27: Saturday-Sunday: Boshears Skyfest Fly-in. Daniel Field, Augusta, GA.

May 10 - Saturday: Club Meeting. Food at 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome.

NOTE: May 11: Mother's Day.

June 13 - Friday: 6:00 PM - EAA 172 "Bring your own meat to grill meal" Wrens airport.

June 14 - Saturday: EAA 172 O.B. Brown Memorial Fly-in, Wrens airport.

NOTE: June 15: Don Gay "Low Country Boil" at the Hacienda De Gay, Garfield, Georgia

NOTE: June 15: Father's Day.

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

NOTE: July 28 - August 3: Monday-Sunday: EAA Oshkosh Airventure® 2013. Oshkosh, WI.

NOTE: August 5 - August 9: PRA Rotorcraft International Convention. Mentone, Indiana

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

NOTE: September 3 - 7: Wednesday-Sunday: Triple Tree Fly-in. Woodruff, SC.

NOTE: September 7: Sunday: Bob Rhodes Barbecue Fly-in.

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

NOTE: *tentative* October 2 - 5: VAA 3 Fall Vintage Fly-In Woodward Field, Camden, SC.

NOTE: *tentative* October 10 - 12: Great Georgia Airshow, Peachtree City, Georgia

NOTE: October 18 - 19: Wings Over North Georgia Air Show, Rome, Georgia

October 24-25: Friday, Saturday: EAA 172 Wrens Fall Fly-In at the Wrens airport.

October 25: Saturday: EAA 172 Fall Breakfast Fly-in 9:00-10:00 AM at the Wrens airport.

November 8: Saturday: *tentative* Keith Brock Memorial Fly-in. Jenkins County Airport, Millen, GA.

December 13: Saturday: EAA 172 Christmas Party 12:30 PM. Pea Patch Aerodrome.

