

NAME THAT PLANE

Curtiss A-1 Triad

The 1911 Curtiss Model D (the featured *Name That Plane* for October, 2011) set the basis for production of the world's first seaplane, the [Curtiss Triad](#).

The Curtiss Triad, a successful flying boat, was popular with foreign navies, particularly the Japanese, who founded their naval aviation with the purchase of three of these craft. The A-1 Triad was the first Seaplane and Amphibian ever made. The name "Triad" stands for three: Land, Air and Water. Glenn Curtiss developed the Triad for the US Navy and sold a few to them after it met their requirements. For example: It had to carry two men aloft for two hours and fly from the town of Hammondsport to the bluff (about ten miles up the lake) and back. The A-1 Triad which Curtiss himself had test flown on Feb. 25, 1911, was the first seaplane to fly in this country, the first amphibious aircraft and the first U.S. Naval aircraft. It earned Glenn Curtiss the title of "The father of Naval aviation". On June 30, 1911, Theodore (Spuds) Ellyson became the first naval aviator when he piloted a floatplane off Keuka Lake near Hammondsport, N.Y. The aircraft was a Curtiss Model E pusher mounted on center float with balancing wingtip floats. The Navy designated it the A-1.

In all, fourteen type A-1s were built, all with different options available. The Glenn H. Curtiss museum elected to build a reproduction of the A-1 model with all the extras: Long range fuel tank, Curtiss OX-5 engine, two seats, a throw over yoke and retractable landing gear. The work was done under the direction of Art Wilder and his band of volunteers. Keeping the aircraft as close to original as possible was the main priority. For this reason, the flying and landing wires are adjusted by using the original Curtiss motorcycle spoke turnbuckle system. As bamboo was used in the fuselage of the original A-1, they also used it. They even purchased it from the same company that sold it to Glenn Curtiss. And the shoulder yoke control system was used (This is where leaning to the left or right operated the ailerons.). Turning the wheel operates the rudder, while pushing and pulling it operate the pitch controls which are made up of a canard and elevators.

Curtiss A-1 Triad Specifications

ENGINE 75 hp Curtiss V-8

Crew: one, pilot

Capacity: 1 passenger

Take-off weight 1576 lb

Empty weight 926 lb

Wingspan 37 ft 0 in

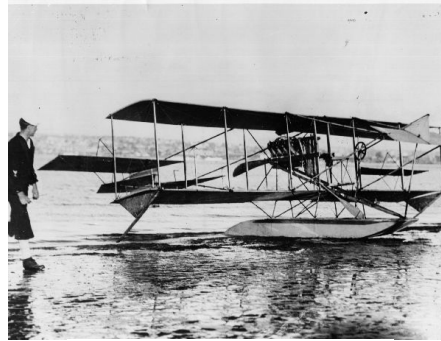
Length 29 ft 7 in

Height 9 ft 10 in

Wing area 286.00 sq ft

PERFORMANCE

Max. speed 60 mph



Curtiss Triad 1911

100 YEARS LATER - Curtiss A1 Triad Seaplane on San Diego Bay (2011)

Celebrating 100 years of Naval Aviation in San Diego California. Hand Built Replica of the Glenn Curtiss A-1 Triad Seaplane, Model 1911. Click for the [YouTube four minute video](#) made July 19, 2012.

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@jemservices.net and indicate that you want the newsletter mailed to you. This should be done by deadline date, which for September is August 26, which is also the deadline for any articles for the September issue. Mailing the *Pea Patch Post* costs EAA 172 \$18 annually per recipient. Note that if you have the newsletter mailed, and do not inform the EAA 172 Secretary about an address change, EAA 172 will need to assess you the 50 cent fee the USPS charged EAA 172 for mail forwarding.

Sport Aviation EAA Chapter 172 Membership Form

Name: _____

Your Birthday (day, month) _____ *Purpose: for newsletter listing for the event month*

Spouse/Partner's Name: _____

Spouse/Partner's Birthday (day, month) _____ *Purpose: for newsletter listing for the event month*

Anniversary date (day, month) _____ *Purpose: for newsletter listing for the event month*

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Other: _____

Business phone: _____

Email address: _____ Even if you have email would you like to save the club \$18 annually and receive the newsletter only by e-mail, not by USPS mail – check here if you agree:

EAA Number (if you belong to the national EAA): _____

If you're a pilot, your ratings: _____ Hours: _____

Aircraft owned, including tail number: _____

Please complete this form and return it to:

Don Bush, EAA 172 Treasurer
3076 Old Waynesboro Rd.
Hephzibah, Georgia 30815-6791

EAA 172 Membership for 2012

Please include a check or money order made out to EAA 172 for \$30.

Thank you for your support!

