

## Long-EZ, SPEED, SPEED, and more SPEED

*ave Irwin (CA)* - Stan Sniderman and I left from Santa Monica to enter our Long-EZs in the Sun 100 Race in Lakeland.

The race is handicapped based on estimated speed. I guessed 215 mph so was assigned 29th starting place. A total of 46 airplanes staged for the race. Each airplane was released at 20 second intervals so it was about 10 minutes before it was my turn to start. I slowly climbed to 1200' to get smooth air. I passed a Glasair RG and was passed by a RV-6. Those were the only two planes I saw during the entire race. My oil temp never exceeded 220 degrees and the max RPM was 2925. My speed was clocked at 222.339 mph.

When I started flying my EZ I was pleased with the overall performance. I could go out and pass spam cans like they were standing still. I was very happy with my airplane until I made the mistake of going to the R. A. C. E. event at Kanab, Utah. My speed over the 100 mile course was only 159 mph, about 10 mph slower than the next EZ. I had the slowest EZ in the world. I was heart broken.

After going to a few more of these events, looking and listening to what mods the fast airplanes made, my speed had increased to 187 mph. Changing the air induction system to a ram type resulted in the greatest performance increase. Bob Campbell, in his award winning EZ, was always faster. He is usually in the 190+ mph range. Mike Stolle showed up to these events a couple years ago and has the fastest stock Long-EZ around. His race speeds are usually in the 200+ mph range.

When my engine needed a major overhaul I replaced it with an O-320.

I built a new induction system that uses a foam filter instead of the paper one I had on the O-235. At the first

race at Kanab I ran second to Tom Coughlin. He turned 214 and I turned 213 mph. At Jackpot, Nevada I turned 214 but that was only 5th place behind Gus Sabo, Dick Kriedel, Verne Simon, and Tom Coughlin. At the Wendover race I came in 3rd but ran 223 mph. Wendover is the most fun because you are running over the salt flats most of the course.

Without a doubt, Gus Sabo has the fastest O-320 powered Long-EZ. At Jackpot, I plan to listen when he talks.

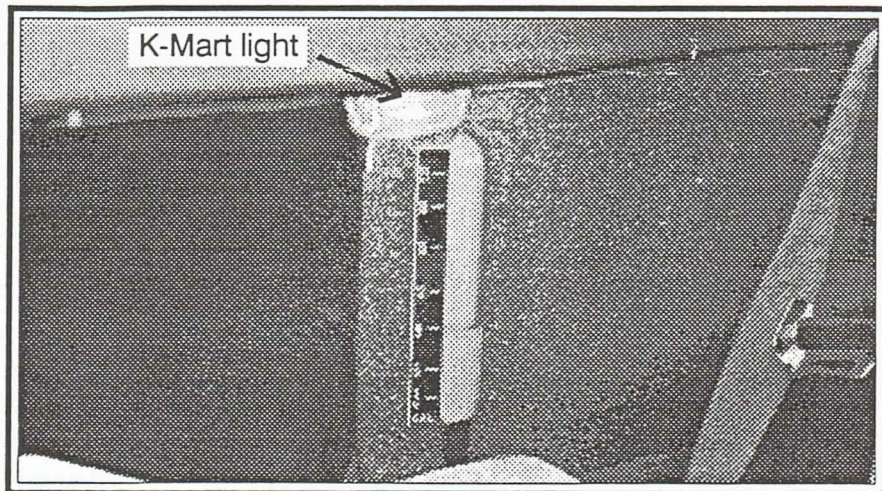
I strongly recommend that everyone with an EZ make the trek to one of the R. A. C. E. events. The knowledge one picks up just sitting around the pool and listening to what others are doing is always useful. The races are held at 6 to 7 thousand feet so it is not real hard on the engine.

Next year I plan on going to the KCGIG and listen to what is happening.

## VFR Position Reporting

Recently, I flew to Ohio State University airport to meet Jim Willer, Vari-Eze driver from Denver. The traffic pattern entry reminded me of one of my pet peeves. I make a special effort to announce my position report when directly over an exact geographical point. It really frustrates and worries me when I hear another airplane reporting over the same point at nearly the same time. Immediately I go into a frantic visual search, realizing that the EZ series is hard to see. I normally find the conflicting traffic a mile or more from the position he reported.

I would suggest more emphasis on **accurate** position reporting and maybe even inclusion of your altitude in an aid to maintain separation. Many a pilot's blood pressure would be reduced and mid air collision hazard would be lessened that way.



Fuel Gage Lighting

In the July newsletter, I told of a red LED being used to illuminate the protruding Atkinson fuel gages but couldn't remember who had done it. At Oshkosh I found the modification is on Dave Haggard's Wichita Express. He used a 12V large LED from Radio Shack. It is the only one they sell so part number is not needed.

He attached it to the bottom of the fuel gage via a black cylindrical housing made out of the sleeve from a phono plug. More of that Haggard ingenuity.

I noticed that he has also installed a small map light on the longeron right above the fuel gage. For easier installation, the K-Mart purchase has its own toggle switch attached. *Hmm, I wonder if it has a blue light ?? (Sorry, I couldn't resist.)*



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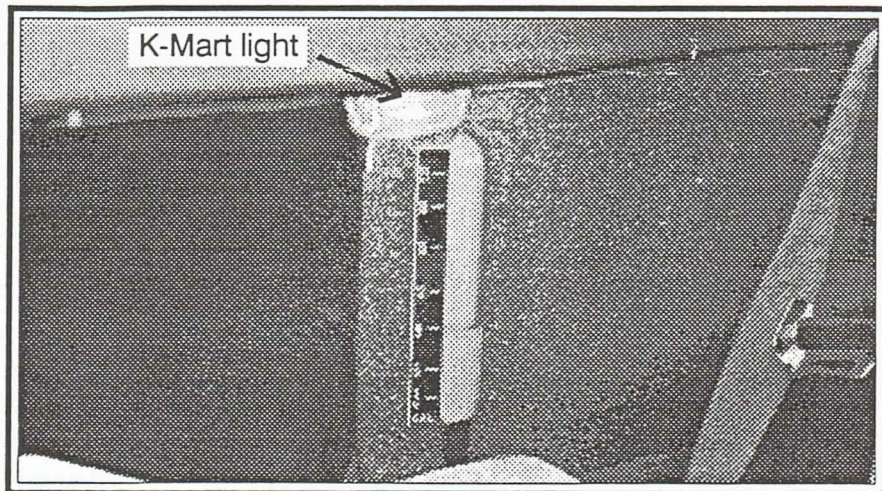
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