



ALASKA AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRESS RELEASE

Alaska Airmen Member Wins Super Cub!

- Rob Stapleton, Alaska Airmen's Association

He couldn't believe it when the phone call came from Alaska Airmen's Association president Adam White that he had won a Piper Super Cub complete with belly pod, floats, tundra tires and skis.

"I thought it was a prank call, this is just the kind of thing that a former co-worker would have done," said Jim Sitkiewicz, of Anchorage. "Today I feel like the luckiest man walking, this is just a dream come true for us."

Sitkiewicz number was mixed, picked and read by White's three daughters from the 7,500 entries for the newly refurbished PA-18 by Dan's Aircraft Repair. The aircraft was raffled off with a full suite of modifications perfect for Alaska flying.

After realizing that the May 2nd telephone call was real, and that he had won the airplane he got off the phone and told his wife Laurie that they were going immediately to the FedEx hangar to claim the airplane that he had just won.

"Her response was, 'I didn't even know that you bought a ticket---let's go,' Laurie Sitkiewicz said.

The beauty of this situation according to Jim Sitkiewicz, an A&P, AI, Private Pilot is that he had been actively looking for a new plane. Sitkiewicz lost his 1957 Cessna 182 to a landing related accident by other aircraft 3-years ago.

"I had been researching different types of aircraft, and looked at Cubs, but Laurie didn't like the idea of the tandem seating," he said. "But once she saw how beautiful this Cub is she fell in love with it too."

Sitkiewicz later discussed selling the recently acquired Cub with his wife, thinking of her earlier comments. "She said, 'NO WAY, we are never going to sell this airplane it is too beautiful,'" Sitkiewicz said.

In charge of getting the aircraft refurbished, Dan Hollingsworth, president of Dan's Aircraft Repair called the airplane "Every pilots dream aircraft."

Part of the dream of winning this aircraft is the time, physical effort, and money put into getting the approvals for the Cubs modifications, according to the winner.

“I am very appreciative of what it has taken to make this airplane what is, he said. “ I have to pinch myself to believe it. I am benefiting from years-and-years of work”

The former aircraft mechanic took legal possession of the raffle plane on Friday May 7th and is getting his float rating from Float Ratings of Alaska.

The aircraft will be tied up at the float dock in front of the Alaska Airmen’s Association office at Lake Hood until Sitkiewicz can find the blue and white PA-18 a permanent spot.



Alaska Airmen President, Adam White (left) hands over the keys to Jim Sitkiewicz.