

SPECIFICATIONS



Type:
F8F-2, single seat carrier-based fighter, by Grumman Aircraft Co., Bethpage, L.I.

Powerplant:
One 2250 H.P. Pratt and Whitney R-2800-30W 18 cylinder radial air-cooled engine, with variable speed supercharger and automatic engine control. Produces 2450 H.P. with water-injection.

Performance:
Almost 500 m.p.h. at 19,000 ft., in a lightened, tuned, stripped and polished condition. Carries 225 gallons of 145 octane fuel; 5555H made it ("chock to chock") from New Haven to Washington, D.C. in 42 minutes — giving an average ground speed of 415 m.p.h., for a fuel consumption of 50 gallons per hour.

Weight (5555H):
empty, 7000 lbs.; normal, 9000 lbs.; maximum gross, 13,000 lbs.

Dimensions:
Span, 35'6" (folded — 23'3"); length, 27'6"; height (3 pt.) 13'8"; wing area, 244 sq. ft.

Put excitement, thrills and electric suspense into your next Club, community or political outing. For festivals, airshows, rallies, games, commemorations — conferences, openings, half-time shows . . . etc., — Hanson's Bearcat can whip the audience up into a frenzied focus of attention. This precision performance can then be followed by, e.g., a leaflet drop, or any one of many other publicity devices. For further details concerning terms, conditions, and guarantees, call:

Prof. Norwood Russell Hanson
47 Deepwood Drive
Hamden, Connecticut 06517
Phone (203) 777-0007

Russ Hanson is an outstanding aerobatic pilot, a fine addition to any air show. He makes flying a Grumman Bearcat look easy and exciting. It is a great pleasure for me to recommend him for his great flying skill.

Bevo Howard
(President, Hawthorne Aviation, S.C.)

Early Naval Aviators commented on Hanson's brilliant presentation of "aerial precision flying," and had a flash of nostalgia as they watched his Bearcat twist and turn, a scant few feet off the deck at Quonset Point. Those 100,000 people fortunate enough to see his performance testified to the Prof's "prowess" at the stick. What a show! Professor Hanson is more than just a pilot — he is an Aerial Maestro.

M. H. Tuttle
Rear Admiral U.S. Navy
(Commander Fleet Air Quonset, R.I.)

Russ Hanson was a tremendous pilot twenty years ago in the Marine Corps — and he is even better now. Precision, speed, timing, twisting, rolling, diving . . . it's all there during "The Flying Professor's" Bearcat-taming act.

Robert L. Bryson
(Colonel, U.S.M.C. Chief of Staff
Martcom, N.A.S. Glenview, Ill.)

Professor Hanson and his Bearcat are beautifully matched. From his astonishing take-off — during which he does four aileron rolls right over the runway — through to his carrier-landing finale, he fills the air with inverted climbs, hammerhead turns, four point rolls, vertical pullups and high speed Dutch rolls inches off the ground. It is a rewarding experience to witness this, the fastest of all propeller-driven fighters, performing aerobatic gyrations as if it were a biplane. More power to Russ Hanson and his magnificent flying machine.

Sherman Griswold
(Griswold Air Service, Conn.)

Russ Hanson is nonpareil: He flies with ease his Bearcat trapeze.

Lloyd S. Swenson, Jr.
(Research Associate Univ. of Houston)

Hanson's aerobatic performance on July 4, 1964, had me hanging on for dear life. It was an extraordinary display of sheer courage and skillful flying — particularly impressive when performed by such a distinguished philosopher of science.

Alvin M. Weinberg
(Director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

"The Flying Professor" is one of the most spectacular and daring aerobatic pilots flying today. His performance at the 1964 Barnum Festival Air Circus was so fantastic that, by public demand, he was back again in 1965 performing before 75,000 spectators. His aerial prowess is even more crowd-stunning because it is demonstrated in the most powerful and fastest propeller-driven aircraft in the world today, his own Grumman Bearcat.

Nicholas Mainiero
(Airport Manager,
Bridgeport Municipal Airport)

I've seen the "Flying Professor" perform twice in his Bearcat: at Bloomington, Indiana on April 6, 1963, and again at Oak Ridge, Tenn. on July 4, 1964. It's a thrilling aerial aerobatic show — one of America's most powerful and effective World War II type fighter planes flown by a skillful and experienced "hot" fighter pilot.

John G. Burke
(Professor, U.C.L.A.)

Professor Hanson's aerobatic performance in his beautiful Bearcat is a splendid demonstration of superb pilot skill and of the handsomest of pre-jet fighters. His show is worth travelling many miles to see; I did so when I saw him at the Naval Air Station (Quonset Point) on 28 June 1965.

Robbins W. Allen
(Rear Admiral U.S.N., Ret.)

The Professor pulled his "Cat" up off the runway and showed everyone just how good he was. Doing everything usually done in specially equipped 'planes,' he went into some maneuvers they could not even attempt. He seemed born to this ship as he put it through its high speed paces. "The Flying Professor" is definitely the best I have seen in my years in aviation.

A. L. Bachman
(Director, Air Shows, U.S.A.)

Plaudits for Professor Hanson's fine performance during the Navy Relief Carnival Air Show last July 25! His proficiency and experience as a pilot, and his mastery of airmanship, were superbly demonstrated as he literally dusted the runway in a series of breathtaking feats. Man and machine were a single element as he smoothly transitioned from one intricate maneuver to another. We were all fortunate to have witnessed such aerobatic prowess.

Capt. Wm. J. Scarpino
(Commanding Officer U.S. Naval Air
Station, Quonset Point, R.I.)

It was an exciting exhibition of high-speed aerobatics in the Bearcat, the last of a great line of propeller-driven Grumman shipboard fighters. A virtuoso's performance in a highly-maneuverable, rugged fighter plane.

R. J. Lombardo
(Manager, Plants Technical Section
E. I. duPont Company)

A beautifully executed performance: **Precision Plus.** Aviation and aircraft are superbly matched. "The Flying Professor" has a talent rarely seen. To see an aviator handle the Bearcat as Russ Hanson does, is truly a memorable experience.

Lt. A. R. Trupp
(Naval Aircraft Torpedo Unit NAS,
Quonset Point, R.I.)

Seeing his Bearcat perform at its best is an impressive experience for one such as myself. Hanson's spectacular performance — a propeller-driven fighter flashing through this jet age — is indeed a dynamic and refreshing act to see.

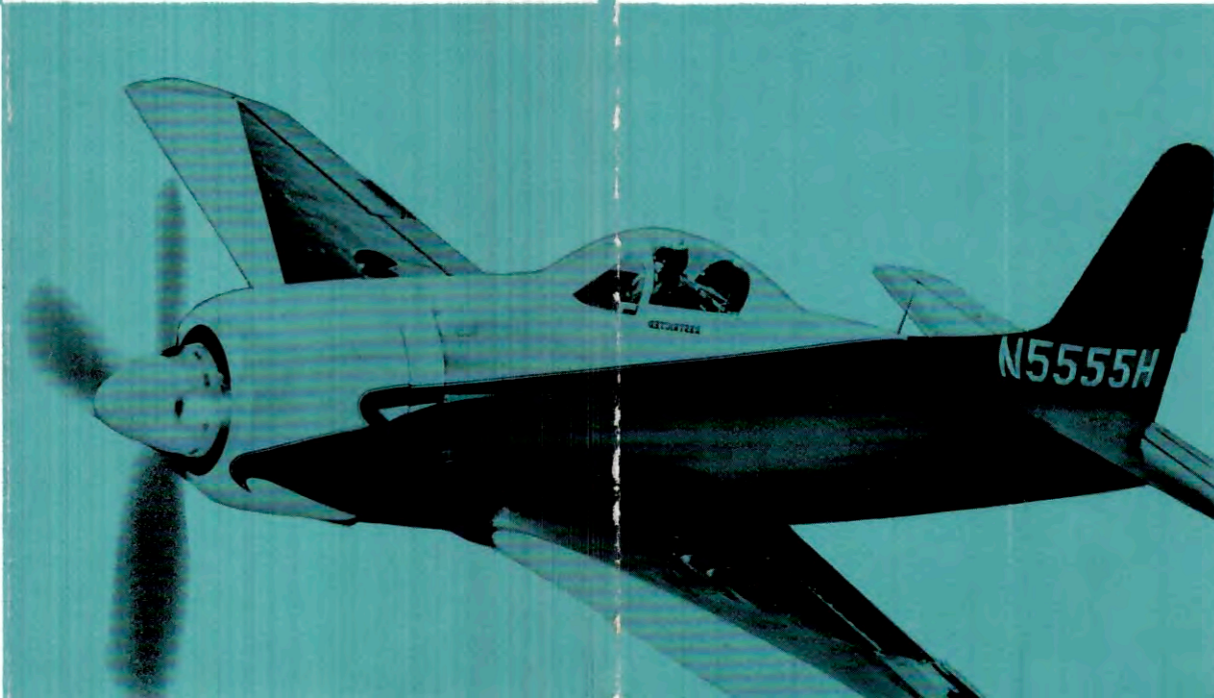
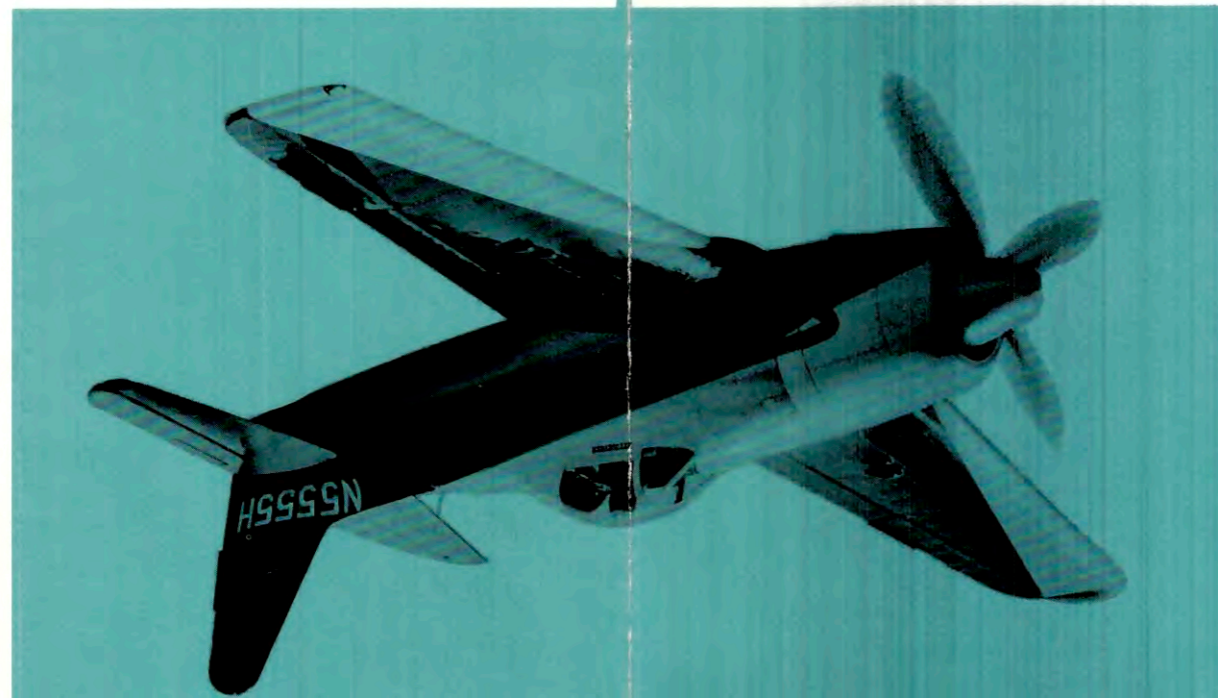
Les Middaugh
(Chief Test Pilot Lycoming Aviation)

All the glamour and valor of World War II came back to me as I watched Hanson's splendid performance of aerobatics last summer at Bridgeport. (If he doesn't stop those roles on takeoff some of the fright of World War II may come back too.)

Howard Weaver
(Office of The President,
Yale University)

"Here comes the Professor. Wooooow. What an airplane! What a pilot."

Stanley J. Venoit
(Reporter New Haven Register)



The Flying Professor & his Magnificent Flying Machine