

1939 PIPER J-3C



PRICE:

\$35,000 USD

SALE STATUS: For Sale
YEAR: 1939
MAKE/MODEL: PIPER J-3C
REGISTRATION #: N23413
SERIAL #: 3150
LOCATION: San Antonio, TX USA

Alamo Liaison Squadron

(210) 842-0429

Gene Jensen

General Specs (cont.)

Total Time: 2936

Engine 1 Time: 693 SMOH

Flight Rules: VFR

of Seats: 2

Additional Classifications

Antique/Classic

Light Sport

Rebuildable

Warbird

Detailed Description

Flitfire Texas is a classic Piper J-3 Cub aircraft in a unique pre-WWII era paint scheme. Built in 1939 by Piper Aircraft Corporation, it was acquired by Alamo Liaison Group (ALG) in San Antonio, Texas, in 1983, and returned to service following a restoration. Flitfire Texas has been well-maintained and kept in flying condition at Cannon Field, home of ALG, for more than 36 years.

For More Information Visit: <http://als-cannonfield.com/Flitfire.htm>

Avionics / Equipment

Instrument panel includes: Piper Airspeed Indicator 0-140 MPH, Piper Tachometer 0-3,500 RPM, Slip/skid Indicator, Altimeter, plus separate 2-1/4" Temperature Gauge 100-250°F/40-120°C and Oil Pressure Gauge 0-80. Also on the panel are an original Kohler Co. Engine Primer and a Cabin Heat push-pull knob. No electrical system, hand-start required (thus ADS-B Out is not mandated), 406 MHz ELT, Handheld Radio (antenna only) and Intercom equipped

Airframe

TTAF 2936, Auxiliary Wing Fuel Tank, Sealed Wing Struts, Atlee Dodge Safety Cables (on main landing gear), New Bungees 2017 (on forward landing gear), Original Type 800-4 Tires and Brakes

Engines / Mods / Prop

Powered by a Continental A65-8 Engine

SMOH 693, Metal Propeller (original style Wood Propeller is available), New Carburetor and Air Filter 2018, Auto Gas STC #SE634GL, Rebuilt by ALG, Always Well-maintained in Flying Condition

Interior / Exterior

Flitfire Texas Paint Scheme includes: ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND (on fuselage), PIPER FLITFIRE Texas (on boot cowl), and a Red/White/Blue Fin Flash (on the vertical stabilizer)

Remarks

Flitfire Texas is a classic Piper J-3 Cub aircraft in a unique pre-WWII era paint scheme. Built in 1939 by Piper Aircraft Corporation, it was acquired by Alamo Liaison Group (ALG) in San Antonio, Texas, in 1983, and returned to service following a restoration. Flitfire Texas has been well-maintained and kept in flying condition at Cannon Field, home of ALG, for more than 36 years.

Though not one of the original 49 factory-designated "Flitfires" produced by Piper, Flitfire Texas was painted to resemble the these uniquely manufactured J-3 Cubs. The Flitfires were conceived by Piper as a means to provide to aid families of fallen British soldiers. Flitfire Texas reflects on this benevolence by Piper in the 1940s and, more recently, through the charitable activities of ALG.

ALG was formed in 1981, expressly to honor WWII liaison pilots. The group acquired a collection of liaison aircraft, a.k.a. L-birds including the Piper L-4, and to this date maintains them in flying condition. The aircraft are shared at public events and flyovers, frequently performing in memory of those who served.

Piper produced the J-3 Cub, including the Flitfire and L-4 variations, from 1938 to 1947. While essentially the same, these three aircraft offered slight variations in equipment and styling. All Flitfires, however, were manufactured at Piper's Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, plant in twelve days between April 10-22, 1941. They were given the Flitfire nickname in homage to the famed British Supermarine Spitfire.

The first Flitfire was registered as N1776, a reference the "Lend-Lease Act" of 1941 recorded as H.R. 1776 and also coinciding with the year the United States declared its independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Through fundraisers involving the Flitfires, Piper provided financial support to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, an established organization founded in England in 1919. The beneficiaries of the organization were the families of fallen British soldiers from WWI.

As of September 2019, only 14 original Flitfires remain active on the FAA registry. Three known originals and three replicas, sporting Flitfire paint schemes (including Flitfire Texas), are held in public or private museums.

We do not claim that Flitfire Texas is one of the original 49 (or 51, see note) special edition J-3 Cubs that Mr. Piper created and sold. What we wanted for our museum was to create a representative of that series. We had a 1939 Piper J-3 Cub in need of fabric replacement, and a decision was made to make a careful copy of the Flitfire series, and that was done. - Gene Jensen, president of Alamo Liaison Squadron (formerly ALG)

Note: There were 48 states until 1959, when Hawaii and Alaska joined. 49 Flitfire aircraft were created, one for each state plus one representing Piper. Factory data actually shows that a total of 51 were built and painted silver. It is presumed that Mr. Piper had a couple backup airplanes ready to go if any of the 49 developed problems or were otherwise not airworthy for his fundraising activities.

Flitfire Texas is a great flying J-3 Cub. It's not a project, as are many Cubs available for sale. Nor is it an aircraft that requires any major maintenance from neglect. This aircraft does have a 36-year history with Alamo Liaison Group/Squadron. It has performed in numerous formation flights over public events and has flown often in missing man formations to honor departed military veterans.

N23413, a.k.a. Flitfire Texas, features many upgrades and popular Cub modifications. It yearns to be flown, and it sports an appealing, unique paint scheme. Flitfire Texas will remain an icon of Alamo Liaison Squadron as the organization intends to memorialize this special J-3 with photos and stories of its time at Cannon Field. However, the time has come for Flitfire Texas to find a new owner.

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