

## **TTCF Input to Aviation Consumer on the Cessna T303 - March 2013**

I am the President of The Twin Cessna Flyer, the owners group for piston powered twin engine Cessnas including the T303 Crusader. I also have owned a Crusader for the last 14 months and just published an article in our monthly magazine about the experience. It is attached.

The T303 is a different airplane from other Twin Cessnas. While it was designed to replace the 310, it was a clean sheet design. Cessna engineers used everything they had learned from the 300 and 400 series airplanes to incorporate their best features and eliminate their faults. For example, the T303 has heavy duty, hydraulic trailing link gear as did the later model 400 series airplanes. It also has wet-wing fuel tanks....1 per wing....so no complicated fuel tank switching in flight. Improvements over the older airplanes include a true dual-bus electrical system, counter rotating engines and a wing so efficient that VG's are not necessary. Vmc and single engine stall speed are very close and the airplane handles much better than other twins on one engine. It has fowler-type flaps vs. the old split wing design which increases slow speed lift and make shorter runways more accessible.

The 303 is slower than other twin engine Cessnas yet if you are willing to breath oxygen, you can get up in the teens and do 185 or even 190 knots. These days I prefer economy over speed and cruise at 24 " MP and 2350 RPM burning 22 GPH total at 50 degrees LOP. Below 10,000 feet this produces a speed of about 165 knots and up high, about 175. I estimate my annual operating costs will be about 1/2 of those for the 421 Golden Eagle I owned previously.

My airplane has been updated extensively as you can see from the attached article. We have other members who have done the same. The Crusader is still one of the most advanced piston twins one can own and it has an ardent and growing fan base. In an era of \$6 avgas, the Crusader is a great option for those looking for an economical light/medium twin engine airplane.