

Stinson NX8563K
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By Larry Westin - March 9, 1996
updated - Rev. C - 09/03/14 - Page 1 of 2

"The Stinsons," a pictorial history by John Underwood, page 76 in the third printing, has a picture of a Stinson Voyager, NX8563K. This airplane, serial number 108-1563, is unusual for several reasons. Most noticeable is that the airplane is equipped with a single lift strut, using only the front lift strut. Careful examination of the cowling shows what appear to be two bumps, which are additional air cooling for the engine.

NX8563K first flew in January 1947 and spent the first six months devoted to test work. According to the airplanes' records the test work was conducted at the Consolidated San Diego factory rather than Wayne, Michigan, where the airplane was built. The engineering drawings originated in San Diego.

The single lift strut demanded changes to the wing. Additional strengthening of the wing plus shear reinforcement was added to the fuselage tubing immediately behind the rear seats. Although the airplane documentation indicates the reinforcement behind the rear seats was removed, the current owner, Bill Stoos, tells me he found the reinforcing pieces still in the airplane.

February 1947 a Lycoming O-435A 190 Hp engine was installed. Several propellers were tested on the airplane. These included propellers with different pitches and even included the test of a three bladed propeller. Changes in the cowling provided increased air flow over the cylinders.

This was the test airplane for the "Big Tail" vertical stabilizer and rudder, later used on the production models 108-3, 108-4 and 108-5.

After test work was complete the test wings were removed and replaced by standard wings. The "Big Tail" was replaced with a standard 108-2 tail. A Franklin 165 Hp engine, serial number 30083, replaced the Lycoming engine on April 10, 1947. With all the test parts replaced the airplane reverted to a standard "NC" license, NC8563K and sold.

As of this writing the airplane is still active as a standard Stinson Voyager 108-2.

This airplane is sometime misidentified as the model 108-4. The single Stinson 108-4 was serial number 108-4693. If anyone can provide more information about this particular Stinson please contact me. My E-Mail is westin@westin553.net

My Thanks to Mr. Bill Stoos, of Mulberry, Florida, the current owner of N8563k, who was kind enough to review the airplanes' records for me.

If you have corrections or additional information about Stinson 108 NX8563K, please contact me.

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