

ATTACHMENT #4

Goose "elevator speech"

The Grumman G-21A Goose was originally designed and built in 1937 as an aerial yacht for the well-heeled sportsman, but the design was pressed into service during WWII and saw extensive use with multiple branches of the armed forces. After the war, many Gooses were used commercially. The amphibious design and rugged construction of the Goose made it particularly well suited to Southeast Alaska. It was at home in sea conditions that would destroy more modern aircraft and could also handle the few short, rough runways and it became the backbone of air transportation in the region. Alaska Coastal Airlines operated a fleet of 17 Gooses at one time but construction of jet-capable runways at the larger communities in the sixties and seventies made the Goose obsolete on the "mainline". Smaller operators such as Channel Flying and Southeast Skyways out of Juneau, Alaska Island Air out of Petersburg, Webber Air and Westflight in Ketchikan continued to operate the type for several more decades. Shell Simmons is credited with bringing the first Goose to southeast near the end of the war. N48550, S/N 1061 flew with Alaska Coastal Airlines well into the sixties, then went to the Virgin Islands, then into private hands. Recently, a comprehensive restoration of this aircraft was completed but it was discovered that materials used extensively in the restoration did not meet specifications so the airplane is not airworthy. The owner is offering the aircraft as a display item and would very much like to see it come to Juneau.