

History and Details of Pitts N418JS

Rev 1 3/27/23

John Schmidt's Pitts, N418JS – Originally built by Roland Harrington on 6/17/1980 as N244B serial 262. Sold to Kirby Chambliss on 9/21/1986 which changed the registration to N24KC. It was then sold on 12/31/1993 to David Avila. David had a local pilot keep the engine running by starting it periodically while David was on TDY. On one occasion, on March 5 1996, at 1500 rpm, the plane got loose, took off and cartwheeled between the runway and taxiway. The insurance company deemed it was a total loss so John Schmidt bought it from David Avlia as salvage and completely rebuilt the airframe and engine and registered it as N418JS in Oct of 2003 and completed the project in March of 2004. The plane had made several local flights and cross countries. Always hangared. Last flown in 2006. Shortly after that , John purchased an RV7 Fast build kit and started building. John took ill sometime after that ceased flying or building.

This plane is almost as beautiful today as the day John finished it with the following issues:

1. We cannot find the wheel pants
2. We cannot find the airworthiness certificate
3. ~~And worse; we can't find the logbooks~~ Wait! We found the log books!!

We do have the complete pictorial build log while John was rebuilding it along with several receipts for material and some yellow tags. We also found the operating limitations. We also have copies of the various Bill of Sale documents from the original builder to Kerby Chambliss to David Avlia then to John F Schmidt.

Engine inspection: Mags: S4LN-21 P/N 10-51360-37 S/N A104995 and S4LN-20 P/N 10-51360-29 S/N A58050, chrome cyls, bore scope showed no rust so continued with compressions.

Compressions cold: #1 72/80, #2 71/80, #3 74/80, #4 52/80 (Not bad for sitting for 17 years!)

Timing checks: L= 24.45 deg, R= 23.9 deg