



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE FIRST ATHENIAN STUDENT-BUILT AIRPLANE IS FOR SALE!

The *Spirit of Athenian*, a Piper Cub type airplane built by students from The Athenian School in Danville, is for sale at the School's Athenian Parent Association Auction taking place on Saturday, February 23, at the Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. (*Important note: Those interested in purchasing this airplane do not have to be present at the event. Contact information to learn more or bid on the plane is below.*)

The airplane building project began in March 2003, when experienced aircraft builder and Diablo resident Marsh Freeman offered Athenian a tremendous opportunity. He and several experienced aircraft building friends provided instruction to students while they constructed a working airplane. Eighty-eight Middle and Upper School students were part of the two-year endeavor that resulted in a completed full-size, two-person *Spirit of Athenian*. Students did wood and metal working, put in the controls and even disassembled its used 135-horsepower engine before it was professionally rebuilt.

The *Spirit's* first flight was on November 19, 2005, at Buchanan Field in Concord, when its 36-foot wing span carried it soaring over the East Bay. Head of School Eleanor Dase was its first passenger, and all student workers had the chance to ride in the plane they helped to build. The School is now auctioning the plane off to raise the funds necessary to begin the next Airplane Project.

The *Spirit of Athenian* and accompanying package are perfectly suited for an aspiring pilot or airplane enthusiast.

Plane details:

- Piper Cub type, built from a Wag-Aero Super Sport kit
- Only 42 hours flown since new

- Always stored in a hangar
- Engine: Lycoming 0-290 D2, 135hp, rebuilt by Ly-Con
- Wing span of 36 feet, length is 22 feet
- Two 12-gallon gas tanks
- Flies just like a Piper Cub, between 80 and 100 mph
- Passed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspection as "Experimental"
- Completed 25 solo hours before qualified to take passengers

Included with the airplane:

- Flying lessons for one through completed pilot's license
- Cost of ground school instruction for one
- Six months hangar space at Buchanan Field in Concord
- Cost of insurance for the first six months

The value of the plane is \$40,000, and the minimum bid is \$20,000.

If you are interested in bidding on the *Spirit* and would like more information before the Athenian Auction takes place on February 23, 2008, please contact Marsh Freeman at Mfreeman38@aol.com or 925-837-4563. He will be happy to answer any questions and/or show you the *Spirit of Athenian*.

You can also bid on this plane by contacting the Athenian Parent Association Office at apa@athenian.org or 925-362-7275.

ABOUT THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL: A distinctive San Francisco Bay Area college preparatory school, Athenian has been recognized since its founding in 1965 for its exceptional integration of strong college preparatory academics with an innovative, challenging curriculum. The School's diverse and international community of 455 day and boarding students in grades 6 through 12 benefits from small classes which average 15 students. Athenian's 75-acre campus of rolling oak-covered hills lies at the base of Mt. Diablo in Danville, 32 miles east of San Francisco. In Athenian's idyllic setting, students celebrate learning through relationships, exploration, hands-on projects, service and adventure — in addition to their work in the classroom. The Athenian School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the California Association of Independent Schools.

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