



# “I’m Back Baby!”

MSC’s AS-K21 returns to Minnesota

By George Underhill

Photos by author unless noted

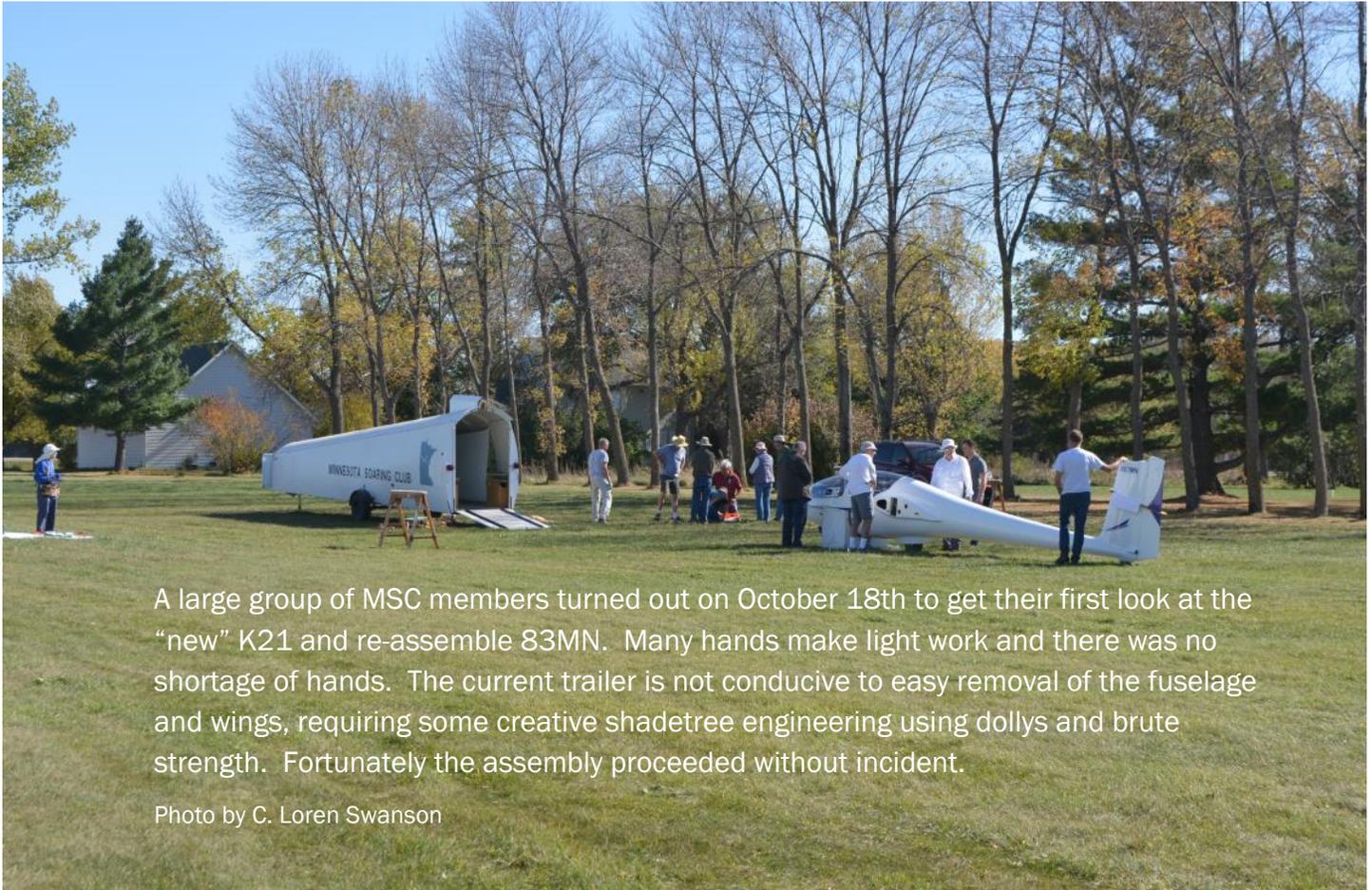
ASK 21

If you've not heard, the MSC's AS-K21 returned from its sojourn to Williams, CA on October 17, 2021. It departed on the hitch of Nick Stolly's pickup on June 13 and returned on Ben Norman's with copilots Steve Metz and Marilyn Meline assisting. [Schaefer Aviation](#) performed a 6,000-hour inspection as well as a full refinish in polyurethane. The cost was \$75,000 to complete the overhaul. Dan Shallbetter and Bruce Von Drashek were instrumental in getting 83MN out to California, coordinating the specifics of the inspection and refinish, and returning it safely to Minnesota. MSC President Ron Houle appointed Bob Wander as chair of the Fleet Fund committee, organized to raise funds to pay for the refurbishment as well as fund a replacement for the Owl. Phase I of the campaign is complete with twenty-one members contributing to the fund and raising \$87,000 of our \$250,000 goal. Phase II is ongoing and donations are needed to reach our goal. Here's some eye candy displaying the quality of the finish.

Bruce and Dan are all smiles now that the job is complete.



Photo by C. Loren Swanson



A large group of MSC members turned out on October 18th to get their first look at the “new” K21 and re-assemble 83MN. Many hands make light work and there was no shortage of hands. The current trailer is not conducive to easy removal of the fuselage and wings, requiring some creative shadetree engineering using dollies and brute strength. Fortunately the assembly proceeded without incident.

Photo by C. Loren Swanson



Marilyn and Brian stabilize the fuselage.

Photo by C. Loren Swanson



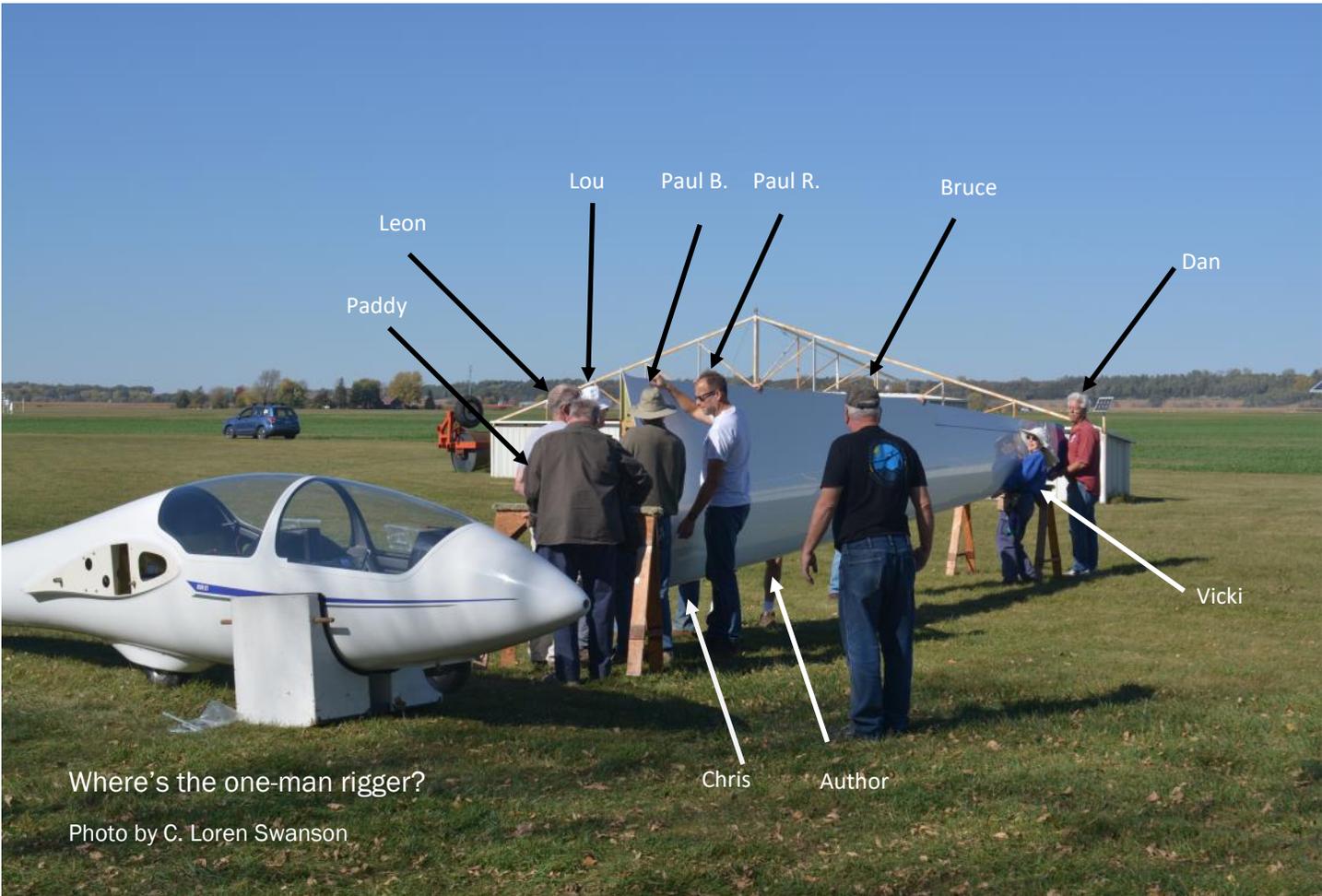
The fuselage is rolled out first and positioned in the fuselage cradle. The horizontal stabilizer rides in a cradle on the floor of the trailer. This requires raising the tail of the fuselage to remove it, which is quite a labor intensive process.

Photo by C. Loren Swanson



The left wing being carefully removed. There is no wing dolly to move the wing like a modern Cobra trailer. Bruce engineered a furniture dolly to use on the tip, reducing the back-breaking position needed to remove the wing.

Photo by C. Loren Swanson



Where's the one-man rigger?

Photo by C. Loren Swanson

Right wing is slid into position under the watchful eyes of Leon, Bruce, Lou, Paul B. and Marilyn.

Photo by C. Loren Swanson





“Hold it right there.” Vicki and Stephen wrangle the left tip.

Photo by C. Loren Swanson



Stephen inserts the drag pin.

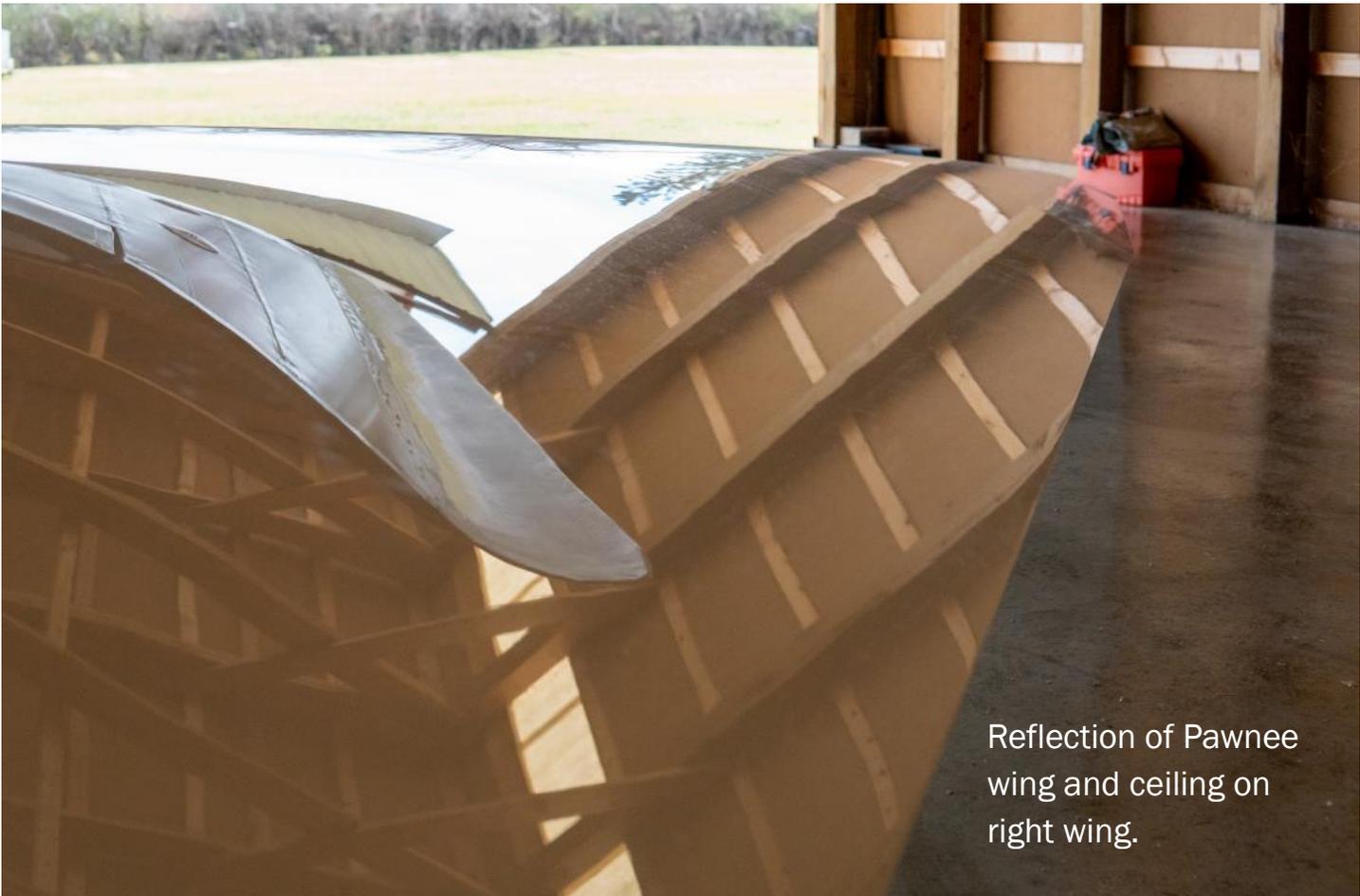
Photo by C. Loren Swanson

N83MN heading back to its hangar. The finish is truly beautiful.



New canopies were installed front and rear.





Reflection of Pawnee wing and ceiling on right wing.





The [MSC.21](#) campaign is ongoing and soliciting donations. If you have any questions or would like to donate, please send an email to [mnsoaringclub@gmail.com](mailto:mnsoaringclub@gmail.com) Thanks!