Return to Service Manual

for

PA46 Aircraft

Malibu

PROVIDED AS A MEMBER BENEFIT FOR MMOPA

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Overview

Proper maintenance is essential to safety in aviation. As with all other high-performance aircraft, the PA46 requires close scrutiny and regular maintenance to ensure that all systems are functioning properly. At a minimum, the aircraft undergoes extensive disassembly during the annual inspection. Mid-year events or unpleasant discoveries during routine 100 hour inspections often call for substantial unscheduled maintenance between annuals. No matter the timing or cause, the first flight after extensive maintenance requires an extra dose of care and caution.

The combination of the airplane's incredible complexity and the inherent imperfections of people working on them means that maintenance itself can have the ironic effect of causing systems failures. The more extensive the maintenance, the greater is the chance for a potential problem. The primary means of identifying any issues and correcting them before one or more become catastrophic is to follow carefully an extensive and well-structured checklist.[1]

A good return-to-service post-maintenance checklist covers a comprehensive pre-flight and a structured first check-flight to prove that all systems are functioning properly. Anticipating the unforeseen, the first flight is conducted with certain precautions not routinely incorporated into normal flight operations. An example is staying close to the airport, which of course is not practical for cross-country flying but essential to the safety of an initial check-flight.

Background and History

In 1991 the first edition of our MMOPA magazine included the first of several installments on preparing the plane for return to service after a major maintenance event.
The five part series was written by Andrew Cindric, a former Piper Director of the Aircraft Completion Center in Vero Beach.

His series was converted into booklet form and distributed to all members for easy use with the plane at the point of service. Andrew's introduction is still applicable today:

> *Return-to-Service Test Flight*
>
> *Is it really necessary? Is it a legal requirement? Why should I do it? Who should do it? How long does it take?*
>
> *We will take a look at the answers to these questions and many more in the following discussion. I personally believe a Return-to-Service Test Fight should be performed any time engine or control surface repairs and adjustments were made, an aircraft is coming out of an annual or 100 hour inspection, after major maintenance was performed, etc.*

[1] The pilot-in-command is responsible for the safe and proper operation of his/her aircraft and it is the responsibility of the pilot-in-command to operate that aircraft in compliance with that aircraft's Pilot's Operating Handbook and other official manuals and directives.

Legally, it depends on how the mechanic or inspector interprets the regulations. One shop may indicate a test flight is necessary, another may say don't worry about it. "Why should the answer to this be any different than most other rules regarding aviation?"

The reason a test flight should be performed is to prove that everything is operating the way it was intended to operate. If it initially doesn't, then you can find the problem during a test flight where you the pilot and maybe an assistant are the only ones aboard the aircraft. Some of the discrepancies 1 have come across over the years on the first flight after maintenance, I sure would not have wanted to encounter on a dark, rainy night with the weather near minimums.

Andrew's narrative style manual is no longer in print but the original articles are viewable on the MMOPA web site.

With the addition of new PA46 models, engines and techniques it seems reasonable to update this valuable manual for all members. The Board of Directors commissioned this update by asking instructors and a mechanic experienced in each model to write a Return to Service manual specific to a model and in a format that can easily be used in the plane. Because of the wide variety of avionics and aftermarket products, only the standard systems usually found in the PA46 will are covered.

General Principles

The time to discover a problem resulting from a significant maintenance event and repairs or modifications is before carrying passengers or in hard instrument conditions.
The Test Flight should be performed after the following events:

- Annual Inspection to prove airplane airworthiness and systems function.
- Extensive airframe repairs or alterations to prove basic airworthiness.
- Extensive engine repairs or alterations (such as engine replacement) to prove proper functioning.
- When airplane has not been flown for an extended period of time.
- Extensive avionics alterations or upgrades to prove proper functioning and interfaces with the autopilot, and to prove other systems have not been affected.

And potentially:

- Prior to annual inspection in order to fine-tune the squawk list.
- Prior to purchase.

Common sense dictates that no matter what airplane is being flown, certain essentials must be addressed prior to the first post-maintenance check-flight.

Review and discuss with the mechanic all the maintenance that was completed, and use that as an initial guide to focus early attention for the first flight.

- Pay attention to any parts that were replaced in addition to normal checklist items.
- Consider taking a good look under the cowling and any access panels before taking the aircraft out of the shop.
- Test as many systems as possible on the ground before lifting off. Test the autopilot, but also get a good feel of the plane by hand-flying a portion of the test flight.
- This is a good time to check infrequently-used or rarely-tested systems like emergency gear extension, stall warning and anti-icing, for example.
- Fly multiple approaches to test avionics in multiple scenarios, and to ensure the integrity of the navigation equipment at the most critical moments of a flight.

Following major maintenance, the aircraft preflight inspection should take about one hour. Do not rush through this process. As has been found whether air-racing or just completing a normal flight, the event is usually "won" on the ground and lost in the air. Invest the necessary time up-front to have a safe and uneventful return to service. Use the Piper Event Checklists to help conduct the inspection in an organized fashion so that nothing is missed. These checklists are available from any Piper dealer. Some items on the checklists require tools, but remember this is a pilot inspection, not an annual inspection: do not use tools on the expanded walk-around except for a bright flashlight, notebook and pen. Document all items and functions that do not reflect a normal condition.

Position the aircraft to an area suitable to a comfortable inspection, with the expectation of lying prone on the ground for some time to look into the wheel wells and nose gear bay. If inexperienced, bring along someone with the proper experience to help. The most common problems and issues are highlighted here, but everything must be checked for normal condition and function. Perform the preflight inspection per POH procedures.

If the airframe and/or engine have undergone extensive repairs or alterations, it would be desirable to perform the preflight with a knowledgeable representative of the shop that performed the work. The same is true for extensive avionics work or upgrades. A knowledgeable representative of the shop that performed the work should go through an avionics cockpit check, explain any installation-unique features and review all the interfaces with the autopilot. Note that due to previously-installed avionics many of these avionics alterations or upgrades have features that are unique to the airplane being tested. These features have to be clearly understood by the test pilot before an effective Test Flight can be conducted.

A responsible and knowledgeable representative of the shop that performed the work must also be ready and willing to ride along on the Test Flight, if so requested by the test pilot. This is a non-negotiable condition and should be made clear to the shop before any work is performed. If the shop refuses to agree to these terms, find another shop.

Pilot Qualifications

The pilot performing the Test Flight has to be well qualified in the operation of the airplane and all of its systems. A low-time pilot, or a pilot just qualified in the airplane, should not be performing the Test Flight (no time-builders allowed) without a competent instructor on board. No passengers allowed. No flight training should be conducted during the Test Flight. At the most, a qualified assistant (such as a mechanic or avionics technician) can be carried. If you do not feel qualified to perform the Test Flight, seek assistance.

A test pilot should be prepared for the unexpected and, equally important, should have confidence in his own abilities to deal with emergencies. The test pilot should also be inquisitive as to what was done to the airplane, and by whom. Trust, but verify. Remember, reasonable paranoia is a good attribute for a test pilot.

Equipment on Board

The equipment to be carried is sometimes determined by the nature of the systems to be checked, for example a propeller strobe to measure accurate RPM. Sometimes no specialized equipment needs to be carried for the Test Flight. However, the following basic equipment, at a minimum, should be carried at all times:

- A note pad and a pen (to write down any discrepancies during the Test Flight).
- A pocket multi-tool such as a Leatherman®, or equivalent, but always remember you are not a mechanic.
- A portable VHF transceiver (with a charged battery).
- A Halon (1211 or 1211-1301 blend) fire extinguisher.

Flight Area and Environmental Conditions

Conduct the Test Flight in good day VFR only, and remain close to the airport, straying no more than 50 NM. Make no exception to this rule. An airport equipped with good emergency services (firefighting and first aid) would be highly desirable. Also, depending on the importance of the items being checked (i.e. basic airworthiness of the airframe and engine), it would be desirable to remain closer (within 10 NM or within easy gliding distance) of the departing airport.

Safety

While obvious, safety must be the number one priority of any Test Flight. The test pilot should never be rushed or under pressure to complete the flight. If any condition arises that puts the safe outcome of the Test Flight in doubt, the flight must be terminated immediately. Be prepared to declare an emergency even if suspecting the conditions require such action.

Checklist Structure

Each model of the PA46 has a unique configuration based on engine type and year of production. Reflecting that diversity, there are several versions of this manual. Each devoted to one model:

the Meridian, JetProp, Mirage/Matrix or Malibu. The Matrix is combined with the Mirage, with the expectation that Matrix pilots will simply ignore any checklist items relating to pressurization. Each member will receive the section applicable to his/her model. The return-to-service checklist for each variation of the PA46 is unique, even if much of the checklist is common to all.

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THE PILOT IN COMMAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFE AND PROPER OPERATION OF HIS/HER AIRCRAFT AND IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PILOT IN COMMAND TO OPERATE THAT AIRCRAFT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THAT AIRCRAFT'S PILOT'S OPERATING HANDBOOK AND OTHER OFFICIAL MANUALS AND DIRECTIVES.

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST

Preflight

Since the PA-46 has been in production continuously from 1984 to the present there have been several modifications to the airframe, avionics, and components. Each airplane therefore will be a little different than other production units, with all having more in common than differences. Gear and flap systems, avionics, instruments, switches and interiors are the greatest changes and differ mostly by year of manufacturing. In addition, some Malibu Continental 310hp engines have been refitted with Continental 350hp engines.
Two different hydraulic systems were utilized on the PA46-310P and this is the most significant difference in the Malibu models. The Gar-Kenyon flap and gear system was used initially in 1984. This system operates both the gear and flaps. At the beginning of 1986, the hydraulic flap actuator was replaced with an electric actuator. Mid-year 1986, the Gar-Kenyon gear system was replaced by a new system manufactured by Parker Hannifin and the electric flaps were retained.

Aircraft and Maintenance Documents

- Review with the shop all the maintenance requested on the squawk list.

  Query mechanic as to status and results of each item, including: incoming squawks and new items mechanic may have found; intermittent items or UTD (unable to determine); results of his engine ground check for operation and leaks; results of oil analysis and type of oil used to replenish the engine; and remember to get the keys to the aircraft.

- Aircraft Inspector (IA) signs off in the maintenance logs.

  Maintenance logs must be reviewed for completion of work. Several insurance companies have denied claims because the aircraft was not properly returned to service with appropriate entries entered into the maintenance log books and properly authenticated by an IA.

- Verify that all Airworthiness Directives (AD) are complied with.

- Verify the revision level of the POH.

  Call any Piper Service Center Parts Department. The representative will need the "VB" number in the lower right corner of the page, and the serial number of the aircraft. Piper will provide up to 3 revision levels free of charge. If the book is 4 or more revisions out of date, a new book will need to be purchased. To ensure the timeliest response, contact Piper in writing and inform Piper the request comes from the aircraft owner. Note that the FAA database on ownership transfers can lag 90 days or more.

- Verify that the current weight and balance data sheet is in the aircraft.

- Verify that airworthiness certificate (with correct information) is in the aircraft.

  On board the aircraft must be the pilot operating handbook (POH). It contains three required documents required by the FAA: a) Weight and balance data, b) aircraft limitations, and c) performance data. Also the aircraft registration and airworthiness certificate must be prominently displayed on board, normally on the aft bulkhead.

- Check for complete and correct placards on the aircraft using the up-to-date POH.

  A list of required placards is found in Section 2, "Limitations.

- Check weather and file flight plan for a local flight, if the early preflight to this point has not precluded continuing with the flight.

  Checkouts should be done in VFR conditions or conditions providing adequate weather should unanticipated equipment failures be experienced. Minimal personnel should be on board. One doesn't want to be with her grandchildren over the Rockies en-route home when unresolved maintenance issues are discovered. However, a knowledgeable second person can be helpful during later portions of the checkout when the pilot's attention needs to be focused on flying the aircraft.

Initial Observations

- Observe the general condition of the aircraft as you approach. Verify the struts are level.

  Approach the aircraft with all senses keenly operating. Sight, smell, touch, feel, and hearing must be used on the pre-flight. A polished, clean, and level aircraft is a good start to a preflight inspection. Make sure nothing is hanging, dripping, or inappropriately attached, unattached or missing.

- Check fuel visually and note level. Secure the caps.

- Verify that the correct tires are installed. Mains should be 600x6, 8 ply; nose should be 500x5, 6 ply.

- Check tire pressure with a pressure gauge.

  Use a gauge with the correct pressure range. Bring a small right-angle Phillips screw driver to remove the main wheel fairings that cover the valve stems. Pressures are 40 lbs in mains; 45 lbs in nose.

- Verify the airplane has been washed after the maintenance was complete.

Initial Cockpit and Interior Check

Note: do **not** test the hotplate or windshield heat as it can cause overheat damage to these components.

- Enter cockpit and verify that magnetos are off.

- Confirm gear selector down.

- All switches off as expected.

  Pay particular attention to pressurization switches, knobs, fuel boost switch, day/night dimmer switch, HSI slaving selector, fans, blowers and other high draw items. Some of the switch positions may have been changed by the mechanic and the battery may be low from repeated activation of electrical items during maintenance without use of auxiliary ground power.

- Check that all circuit breakers are in.

  If any are out, verify why.

- Check Ground Clearance Switch.

  With Battery Master OFF and no power on the airplane, turn the Ground Clearance ON: one Com radio should come on. Perform a radio check with an appropriate ground facility. Turn Ground Clearance switch OFF after the radio check.

- Check emergency buss operation

- Check static drain.

  Do not cover the drain when pushing in the valve. Some instructors recommend that pilots avoid draining static system unless there is a clearly indicated need to do so. Instead, verify that the static drain is secure. Draining the system introduces moisture into an otherwise closed system. If the drain is not absolutely secure, the aircraft will experience both pressurization and instrumentation anomalies.

- Check elevator is free and correct.

  Check for free and correct movement with full travel of control wheel. The elevator should deflect trailing-edge up when the control wheel is moved aft, and trailing-edge down when the control wheel is moved forward.

Pull control wheel full aft to the stop and verify that it moves full forward under the force of the spring when released.

- Check elevator trim.

  Move elevator trim wheel manually through its full travel (nose-up and nose-down) and verify indicator accuracy and no binding. The trim tab should deflect trailing-edge up when the trim wheel is moved nose-down, and trailing-edge down when the trim wheel is moved nose-up. Have someone outside confirm.

- Check ailerons are free and correct.

  Check for free and correct movement with full travel of control wheel. Left turn: left aileron up; right turn: right aileron up. Check ailerons neutral with control wheel level. Check that both control wheels line up with each other. Check that fixed trim tab on right aileron is reasonably faired-in with top surface of aileron (an excessively bent tab likely indicates an out-of-rig condition).

- Check power lever.

  Check for freedom of movement and operation of friction lock, and then move to idle position.

- Battery switch on.

  Check voltage to ensure battery charged. Look for a minimum of 22 volts for start. Charge or arrange power assisted start, if appropriate. Verify power to all equipment

- Check for fuel quantity and verify fuel indicators consistent with visual check.

- Check all internal lights for operation.

  Determine annunciators illuminated as expected remembering to test the in day and night positions. Check remaining annunciators for illumination using test switch, and verify 3 green gear lights.

- Place flap handle in full down position 36 degrees.

  Lower the flaps to the full down or 36 degree position for the walk around inspection outside. Confirm that the flap indicator shows the appropriate position on its gauge.

- Check alternate air door for full and unobstructed operation.

Ensure moves properly, noting proper resistance and confirm sound of opening and closing. Verify shut completely to avoid ingesting debris when start engine. Avoid opening when engine running on the ground.

- With assistance from someone outside, verify pitot heat, stall warning vane, and lights operate.

- With assistance from someone outside, check the function of all exterior lights (position, strobe, navigation, landing, taxi, pulse and ice).

- Battery, radio master and magnetos off and secured.

- Turn on standby vacuum-pump, if still installed.

  Turning the pump on now will avoid the start-up at high RPM which would be experience if activated initially during engine run up. This should reduce the strain on the pump.

- Check side or storm window for cracks and security.

- Interior checks of seats, belts, cabinets, emergency exit, and cargo netting for security and cracks.

- Check hydraulic fluid level in area aft of baggage storage. Remove panel or use sight gauge. Add fluid (MIL-H-5606) if necessary.

  Do not overfill this reservoir or serious damage can result.

- Check all of the seat backs for integrity and cracks beneath the carpeted backs.

- Check the clear plastic document pouch for the presence of the correct airworthiness certificate and registration.

- Remove old and outdated documents.

- Verify that the spring loaded seat back release latches are operating normally and not damaged or binding.

- Check the fire extinguisher.

  The extinguisher should have a placard or sticker certifying the weight. A pull pin should be in the charge handle.

- Ensure that all other required equipment is available in the airplane.

  This list would include at least the following:

- microphone or headset
- self-calibrating precision strobe tachometer
- screw driver
- pencil or pen and paper to record results
- carbon monoxide detector
- handheld Nav/Com
- fuel strainer

- Confirm that windshield hot plate installed and secure; otherwise properly placarded and icing conditions avoided.

Main Cabin Door (MCD)

- Check main cabin door pressure seal.

- Inspect the fuselage below and aft of the MCD for skin and paint damage from baggage transfer.

- Inspect the hinge of the lower half of the MCD for evidence of corrosion.

Left Wing

- Verify condition of flaps.

    - Upside-down bolt in position and secured.
    - No cracks on forward flap bell crank.
    - Flap idler arm secured.
    - Flap rollers free and no excessive play or wear.
    - Flap tracks clear of debris. Light coating of water soluble grease.
    - No dents or cracks in the flaps.

- Check presence and condition of Mylar chafe tape under the wing overhang.

- Check for missing static wicks.

- Inspect the aileron.

    All rollers and cable routings on the aft side of the wing should be free and correct to the aileron sector pulley. Stops on the pulley must be set for the aileron limits of travel. Counterweights on the leading edge of the aileron must be secured. The aileron should move freely throughout its range of motion.

- Check aileron cables for routing, corrosion, and kinking.
- Check aileron guides for positioning and security.
- Sector pulley secured.
- Limit bolts secured.
- Free in all range of travel.
- Aileron counterweights installed.
- Check nav and strobe light wire security.

- Confirm that wing tip is absent any hanger rash.

- Check all surfaces for loose rivets.

- Strobe and navigation lights secured, with no corrosion around light mountings.

- Remove Pitot cover.

- Verify that the main span "I" beam upper and lower surface is free of cracks or deformation (results of a hard landing or turbulence).

- Confirm fuel vent open and clear.

  Ensure that the NACA fuel vent is clear and open. Do not put any object in the fuel vent that can damage the rubber portion of the fuel relief valve.

- Check carefully the dielectric paint (the flat black paint that borders the boot).

- Check boot integrity, looking for pin holes or tears.

  During flight a boot inflation test should be conducted to see if the boots are inflating properly and the appropriate lights showing the boot cycle should be on for the designated time. The only problem with this test is that the pilot cannot see all the positions of the boots in flight. While on the ground and at an RPM of 2,000 the pilot with the assistance of an outside observer should conduct an inflation cycle and have him/her observe each of the boot pads for proper inflation. The 2000 RPM engine speed is required in order to develop enough vacuum pressure for the test. Obviously extreme care must be taken to ensure the observer remains clear of the propeller. If this test is conducted, when complete, shut down and continue preflight.

- Verify that the two stall strips on each wing, located mid-wing and near the wing root, are present and secured.

- Inspect bottom of the wing for fuel leaks.

- Check the landing gear doors for security and proper angle 10 degrees out.

The left main landing gear door should be firmly attached and angled out approximately 10 degrees from the gear strut. This will assist in pulling the main gear out during emergency gear extension operations.

- Verify that the squat switch (left gear only) is clean, and all electrical leads attached.
- Confirm that struts are inflated 3.5 inches with full fuel.
- Verify that there is no excessive play or wear on landing gear torque links.

  The scissor links should have no noticeable play.

- Check tire condition.

  Look for any excessive wear, and no chord should be showing.

- Check brake pad thickness for at least 0.10 “material showing on top of brake pad.(approximately the thickness of two pennies)
- Verify that the brake line security bolt head is facing away from the tire.
- Confirm that no brake lines leaking.
- Verify that the gear actuator attachment point at rod end safe tied.
- Ensure that the wheel well is clean of debris.
- Drain fuel.

  Note that draining the fuel at the collector tank can create problems with a stuck drain. Do not twist the drain valve when draining fuel. This will allow the valve to stick open. While draining the fuel look at the bottom of the airplane; any oil, exhaust, or grease stains should be investigated at this time especially if the stains appear fresh from the last flight or inspection.

Engine Cowling and Nose Section

- Inspect the front baggage area.

  - Confirm that the handle and lock are secured.
  - Check brake fluid level.
  - Check condition of instrument filter for dirt.

- If practical, check that the battery drain orifice is open and unobstructed. (This requires removing the panel in the 310).

- Inspect the exhaust pipe.

    - Verify that the oil breather tube is attached to exhaust pipe (left exhaust only).
    - Confirm no excessive play on the exhaust pipe. This is a no fly condition due to the potential fire hazard.
    - Check under aircraft for signs of excessive oil usage or leaks.

- Ensure that all of the cowling fasteners are present and flush with the cowling.

- Inspect the nose gear doors.

    - Check the piano hinge for security.
    - Check for cracks or bend marks on the doors (indicating sequence valve failure).
    - Confirm there are no rub marks on the doors.
    - Verify that Mylar chafe tape is attached to RH gear door leading edge.

- Inspect the nose wheel.

    The nose gear should be tight with little as .025" play in the steering arm rollers fore and aft when moving the nose gear strut. Check for excessive turn limits of greater than 30 degrees by checking the turn limits stops on the left and right portion of the steering arm. Ensure that the locking pin on the nose wheel is in place.

    - Check tire for cuts or excessive wear. No chord should be showing. Inflate to 45 psi.
    - Confirm the stem valve is in good condition and properly positioned.
    - Strut should be inflated to a minimum of 1.5 inches with fuel tanks full.
    - Confirm that the torque link is secure, with no excessive play.
    - Place your foot on the top of the nose wheel tire and try to push the tire rearward. There should be no play in the strut.
    - Check the gear-assist spring for security. Ensure that the safety wire is installed through the gear actuator bolt.

- Look up into the nose wheel bay.

    - Lie on your back to get a good look into the engine well
    - Check the nose steering bar for security.
    - Check the position of the gear door sequence valve. You should see no bending on plunger.
    - Check for oil leaks on engine bottom pan and landing gear actuators.

    - Check control cables for throttle, prop, mixture, and alternate air box for security. Ensure there are no bends in the cables.

- Inspect the cowling.

    - Check for cracks.
    - Check security of the nose bowl.
    - Ensure that all of the cowling fasteners are present and flush with the cowling.
    - Check security of air box.

- Check oil level and condition.

    - Check the quantity to ensure 8 quarts full and 7 quarts minimum.
    - Check the condition of the oil. Black oil after eight to nine hours of usage indicates excessive carbon on the pistons, or oil rings leaking.
    - Check for oil leaks on the bottom of the engine.

- Inspect the propeller.

    Inspect for nicks and gouges. This prop allows for some filing to dress the props of any nicks picked up by small stones on the taxiway.

    - Check for cracks, nicks, and dings on the blades.
    - Check the back spinner for cracks.
    - Check the prop hub for cracks, dents, or bulges.
    - Inspect prop de-ice pads for security.

- Test the alternator belt to ensure the belt is tight and verify that the #1 alternator is attached securely.

- Check the heat muff.

    The heat muff on the lower right cowling should be checked for security. No visible oil or any other fluids should be observed leaking out of the engine compartment of the aircraft.

Right Wing

- Drain fuel.

    Move directly from checking the heat muff to inspect and drain the right fuel sump.

- Repeat inspection as with Left Wing.

Fuselage Right Side

- Check emergency exit for security.

  No corrosion should be observed around the attachment point of the window. The window should have been removed and replaced in accordance with procedures outlined in the aircraft maintenance manual.

- Check that the relief tube is operational (using water).
- Confirm that the drain vents on bottom of fuselage are clear.
- Verify that the A/C drain bevel is facing aft.
- Look for oil, hydraulic fluid on belly of aircraft.
- Look for corrosion where the alternate static ports and outflow valve pads are located under aircraft.
- Check the inspection port for the rudder and elevator for security.
- Check static ports for water contamination.
- Check the upper empennage for antenna security.

Horizontal Stabilizer

- Check attachment bolts for security.

  Also note that forward of the elevator the forty-five degree rivet line should have no working rivets.

- Move the stabilizer up and down.
- Check boots for attachment and holes.

Tail Cone

- Check trim tubes for security. No fore or aft play.
- Check drain hole in tail cone is clear.
- Check rivets on top of horizontal stabilizer.

Rudder

- Exert pressure on the rudder gently to make sure it is securely attached and does not move appreciably.

  Lift the elevator smoothly from the center rivet line. Listen and feel for signs of binding. A misaligned pitch trim capstan retainer can cause a faint but noticeable scraping sound when the elevator is exercised, and could cause damage to the capstan.

- Check attachment bolts visually for security.

- Check for cracks or dents.

Fuselage Left Side

- Check static ports for water contamination.

- Check A/C condenser screens for security.

- Confirm chocks and tie downs removed.

- Enter airplane and secure door.

  Verify locked by jiggling door handle. It should not move.

Pilot and Copilot Seats

- Check all functions just as with the passenger seats.

- Check seats for positive engagement of seat latch, and for installed stops at each seat track.

- Check the height adjustment, the fore/aft slide adjustment.

- Verify proper seat belt function.

  Make sure that the seat belts on all seats are installed correctly and not bound by the seat track or seat position.

  Check lap belts and shoulder harnesses for fraying. Check shoulder harnesses for proper operation of inertia reels (should lock when tugged).

FIRST TEST FLIGHT

Before Engine Start

- Check the security and function of each and every switch, left to right around the cockpit.
- If subdued light is needed, put the aircraft in a hanger.
- Turn the night lights up and verify that all lights and dimmer knobs are working.
- Press the annunciator panel test button and observe all annunciator lights illuminate.
- Verify the primary static air source is selected.
- Complete all other items listed in the POH checklist.

Engine Start

- Start the engine using the approved checklist in the POH.

  Before completing the check list, turn on the 5 important switches. These switches are master, 2 mags, and 2 alternators. Then complete the checklist as indicated. This approach will help avoid trying to start the aircraft with the mags off as can easily happen if distracted while completing the checklist per the POH.

  When using the primer switch, verify "high boost" annunciator illuminates. Change fuel selector to other tank while priming to verify both wing pumps are working and illuminate annunciator. Leave on fullest or desired tank.

  When starting in cold weather, turning the fuel pump switch to low boost before starting can assist in smoothing the starting process by avoiding the need for repeated applications of prime to prevent engine stoppage. Ensure the fuel pump switch is turned to the off position after the engine has warmed and stabilized.

  After successfully starting the engine, verify all annunciators are as expected. If everything is operating properly, none should be illuminated. Attend to any displaying anomalies. An alternator light, low voltage light or low vacuum light can often been remedied by increasing power to at least 1000 rpm or turning on a high draw items such as the pitot heat to ensure both alternators are providing amperage.

  Confirm "starter engage" light illuminates when starter engaged.

- Yaw damper (if installed) off.

  Verify rudder trim is neutral and make sure Yaw Damper is OFF before taxiing.

- Test brakes before taxiing.

- Navigation and anti-collision lights on or off, as required.

- Check operation of cockpit lights.

- Verify proper operation of heating and air conditioning.

  Check operation (with OAT <20 degrees C). Verify AUX HEAT does not operate with VENT/DEFOG fan OFF. Check operation of Air Conditioning (HI and LO fan).

After Engine Start

- Conduct the post-start checklist per the POH, and note any discrepancies.

- Verify all data subscriptions are up to date and that all avionics boot up correctly.

- Copy and set the clearance into the panel in the usual way.

  Note any discrepancies as data are entered. An IFR clearance will be needed for the portion of the checks done above 17,500 feet, but that does not mean flying in IMC. Fly in VMC on the first flight test; some low altitude checks require VMC. To avoid delays, take off VFR and pickup the IFR clearance at a filed time, altitude and fix (a VFR/IFR flight plan).

- Note Hobbs time, local time and fuel on board.

- Check the flight control systems for free and correct operation.

  This is so basic but is perhaps one of the more important checks made during any flight preparation but especially return to service. Completion of this check cannot be overemphasized. Aircraft should track straight ahead with rudder properly trimmed. No excessive drifting should be observed.

- Check the free and normal movement of the power lever.

- Check normal operations of the autopilot.

  This will include a check of all lights and disconnects, and a full check per the King KFC-150 supplement.

- Elevator trim test.

  Check manual electric operation for full travel in both directions; check each half of split-switch; check trim disconnect; check priority of Pilot's trim over Copilot's trim (if installed); pull pitch trim C/B and verify electric trim is disabled; reset pitch trim C/B and set trim for Takeoff.

Taxi

- Verify braking action on all four pedals if a co-pilot is on board.

- Check for play in the rudder steering mechanism. There should be none. Check the copilot side as well.

- Note the free and correct movement of all of the instruments including the compass.

  Pay close attention to the HSI, turn and bank, and attitude indicator. Verify the presence and correctness of the compass card.

- Check the ELT.

  Plan to run the ELT for a few cycles while monitoring 121.5, but only during the first 5 minutes after the hour.

- Flaps to take-off position.

- Verify COM and NAV frequencies are set properly.

- Verify flight instruments.

  ASI (zero reading) / ADI (erect) / ALT (indicates within 40 feet of field elevation when set to current altimeter setting) / TC (check when turning and no red flag) / HSI and DG (check for proper indication on known heading; reset DG as required) / VSI (zero reading).

- Check magnetic compass.

  Check for proper indication on known heading. Check agreement with HSI within 10 degrees (with air conditioning and re-circulating blowers OFF).
  Expect compass inaccuracies when air conditioner is on.

- Verify fuel selector properly selected.

  Select left tank if full fuel is on board.

Run Up

- Listen for any new, changed or unusual sounds.

  Investigate anything that seems out of the ordinary. Remember that the aircraft just underwent major maintenance.

- Hold brakes, parking brake not generally sufficient.

- Run at least 3 minutes on each fuel tank to ensure no air in line

- Conduct a full-power check.

  In accordance with the POH, conduct a full power check for thirty seconds to observe any abnormalities in the power plant, not just 2,000 RPM. Check both magnetos at full power and switch fuel tanks to check for any interruption of fuel flow. Anti-ice and aircraft de-ice should be checked at the 2,000 RPM level.

- Complete a normal run up according to the POH.

  Be extremely thorough. Function test every system in the aircraft. Use a flow starting at the left top of the panel and "read" right until everything in the top row has been tested and each switch operated, then start back at the left and go across again. Continue this process until everything has been checked. Any circuit breakers not exercised by now should be pulled and verification of the proper result and warning (equipment fails, annunciators on, flags up) confirmed. Take the time to test the electrical system with each alternator separately, with #1 on and #2 off first, then #1 off and #2 on.

- Complete a high-speed taxi test.

  If significant engine work has been completed, a high speed taxi run is advised. Ensure runway length adequate and brakes have been tested during taxi to run up area. After being cleared on to runway and centering up on center line, apply power smoothly while holding brakes. During the test, look for the following after releasing brakes:

  - Full Manifold pressure of 38" (TSIO 520 engine) or 35 ½ "(TSIO 550 engine) should be obtained. Note reading.
  - RPM of approximately 2600 should be obtained. Note reading. Engine should not surge and power should not vacillate.
  - Oil temperature and pressure should be in range.
  - Fuel flow should be 38-40 gallons. Note reading.
  - Cylinder temperature and TIT should increase with the application of power.

- Aircraft performs normally; acceleration and distance to obtain speeds approaching take off speeds as anticipated.
- Do not exceed safe speed to stop aircraft on remaining runway.
- Brake, stop, exit runway.

Take-off/Climb

- Identify emergency landing sites near the airport.

  For all practical purposes this is a new aircraft and special consideration should be give to engine-out procedures on takeoff. Several alternate landing areas left and right of your departure path should be identified if the engine quits at low altitude.

- Verify again that flaps and trim are in take-off position.

- Use normal callouts for the take-off roll and initial climb.

- Note engine instrumentation on take-off roll and during climb and record them once the autopilot is engaged.

  Check and note oil temperature and pressure, fuel flow, CHT and TIT.

- Note the length of the take-off roll and record once the autopilot is engaged.

- Observe gear cycle time and verify normal operations.

- Record the tachometer reading and also take an actual reading of the propeller using the precision strobe tachometer.

  These readings should be taken again in cruise.

- Maintain Vy (110 KIAS) and remain close, within 2 NM of the airport.

- Check flight controls

  Verify normal and proper response during climb.

- Confirm the pressurization system is active passing 1,000 ft AGL.

Low Altitude

- Set up for VMC cruise flight between 8,000 and 10,000 AGL if possible; verify all pilot and copilot instrumentation are in agreement and within limits.

- Verify engine parameters are operating in normal range.

- Verify proper operation of the fuel system.

  Switch tanks and verify normal operations.

- Check wing balance and airplane rigging.

  Fuel should be precisely balanced and the rudder trim centered. Verify that the ball is centered in the turn and bank indicator. At cruise airspeeds disconnect autopilot, if employed, and release control wheel. If aircraft rolls left or right, it is wing heavy. Note how many seconds it takes to make a 20 degree change in bank angle and provide this information to the mechanic. Adjustment of the ground adjustable tab on the right aileron can improve this condition but it is a bit of a hit and miss proposition and may take more than one attempt.

- Check flap operations and rigging.

  Trim the airplane for 110 KIAS in level flight (below full-flaps extension speed of 120 KIAS) and set rudder trim for zero yaw.

  While maintaining 110 KIAS, cycle flaps through each position (10, 20, 36 degrees and then UP) while visually verifying the flaps position and agreement with the flap handle position.

  With landing gear retracted, verify that the gear warning horn sounds and the gear warning light illuminates when the flaps position is 20 degrees or greater.

  While maintaining 100 KIAS in level flight with flaps fully deflected (36 degrees), release ailerons and time any roll to a 20-degree angle of bank. It should not exceed 10 seconds.

- Check ice protection.

  Check function and verify ammeter reading.

  Check proper functioning of propeller heat, stall warning heat, and windshield heat.

  Check proper inflation and sequence (empennage-lower wing-upper wing) of pneumatic boots. Check complete deflation of boots after inflation cycle.

- Verify airspeed indicator operations.

- Verify attitude indicator (AI) operations.

Check proper functioning of pilot, copilot (if installed) and stand-by (if installed) Attitude Indicators.

Perform a 45-degree bank turn (for a full 360 degrees) in level flight and check agreement of all AI's.

Perform a 15-degree pitch climb and descent (for at least 500 feet) and check agreement of all AI's.

- Verify turn coordinator operations.

  While maintaining level flight, perform and time a left and right standard-rate turn for 180 degrees. The 180-degree standard-rate turn should take 1 minute (+/- 7 seconds).

- Verify HSI/DG operations.

  Check proper functioning of pilot's HSI, and copilot's DG (if installed).
  Perform 30-degree bank turns and check agreement of HSI/DG with each other and with magnetic compass at the end of the turn. The DG should not precess more than 4 degrees in 10 minutes.

- Verify vertical speed indicator (VSI) operations.

  While maintaining level flight, the VSI(s) should indicate zero.
  Per the VSI indication, time a 500 ft/min. climb and descent for 1 minute. After 1 minute, the indicated altitude change should be 500 ft +/- 100.

- Verify landing gear operations.

  With the landing gear retracted, accelerate to Vno (173). The red gear warning light should not illuminate. Check for any unusual vibrations and buffeting.

  Slow down to below 170 KIAS and extend the landing gear. In smooth air, accelerate to Vle (200). Check for any unusual vibrations and buffeting.

  After this test, slow down to at least 130 KIAS and retract the landing gear.

- Test the Emergency Gear Extension system per the POH.

  Perform the emergency gear extension using precisely the procedure as outlined in your POH. It is essential that the procedure be completed properly to avoid equipment damage. Make sure you select the proper procedure for your system as many POHs list both Gar-Kenyon and Parker Hannifin procedures and they are different. If gear does not extend using the specified airspeed, deactivate each switch/knob in the reverse order and start the procedure again at a slower airspeed

until deployment of gear using the emergency procedure is achieved. Note speed at which gear will extend. Avoid speeds so slow as to incur stalls. Use of up to 20 degrees flaps can decrease stall airspeeds during this procedure. If gear does not extend properly with this procedure, the gear nose spring likely needs to be replaced.

- Engage the autopilot and confirm the settings on the altitude pre-select and autopilot annunciator panel.

  Check all modes (refer to POH/Pilot's Guide for procedures of specific autopilot installed in airplane). Confirm heading and navigation modes for tracking. Allow the aircraft to level off at a predetermined altitude and ensure that the autopilot captures the altitude smoothly and accurately. If adjustments are required, note if the up/down trim selector allows precise changes to the altitude mode on the autopilot. Use the Control Wheel Steering (CWS) function on the control wheel and adjust the altitude 100 ft or more, and note if the autopilot hold reflect the new altitude.

- Activate the alternate static system and verify correct operation.

  In level flight at approximately 160 KIAS with static source on primary (toggle down), note the altimeter reading. Switch to the alternate static source (toggle up) and record new altimeter reading. It should be within 50 feet of previous reading.

- Test cabin heat and defrost.

  Check operation of (push-pull knob). Check operation of defrost knob (with VENT/DEFOG FAN on, check flow on both sides of windshield center-post).

  Check operation of Auxiliary Electric Heat. Verify AUX HEAT does not operate with VENT/DEFOG fan OFF.

- Test recirculating blowers and air conditioning.

  Check operation of recirculating blowers in LO and HI positions. Check operation of Air Conditioning (HI and LO blower settings). Check heading of Magnetic Compass with Air Conditioning and/or blowers.

- Reduce power until the gear warning horn sounds (do not stall). Return cruise power and verify that the horn silencer has reset.

- Perform imminent stalls to verify that the stall horn works correctly in dirty and clean configurations.

  Perform a power-off, wings-level full stall (beyond the aerodynamic buffet) with flaps up and with flaps full down. When approaching the full stall, the rate of

airspeed reduction should be 1 knot/second or less. The airplane must be controllable before, during, and in the recovery phase of the stall.
Suggest this test be done only by experienced operators or with an instructor.

- Operate and verify correct operation of all threat ID equipment on board: NEXRAD, RADAR, lightning detection/sferics, terrain awareness, ground proximity warning, TAS, and TIS.

- Test all avionics.

  Check all modes, (refer to POH/Pilot's Guide for procedures of specific avionics equipment installed in airplane).

  Execute a coupled ILS and GPS WAAS (if so equipped) approach to verify proper interface/coupling with the installed autopilot.

  For each Com radios, check the squelch and volume control. For each Com radio, perform a radio check in flight with the appropriate ATC facility.

  Check the proper functioning of the Audio Selector Panel.

  For transponders, ask ATC for a discrete code to check the Mode C/S accuracy.

- Communicate with ATC and ensure transponder altitude matches aircraft's.

High Altitude and Cruise

- From low altitude testing, complete a full power climb to FL250 if ATC clearance allows, but at least to 19,000 feet.

  A full power climb to 25,000 ft provides the best assessment of engine operation. Climb at 120 KIAS. Full manifold pressure of 38 inches should be maintainable until critical altitude of about 19,000 feet. After critical altitude, manifold pressure should decrease approximately 1 inch per 1,000 feet of climb with the throttle advanced completely. If the engine does not maintain power in this fashion, an induction leak is likely, but other causes are possible. If an induction leak, it may also be impossible to properly lean the engine to the lean side of peak as specified by Continental. If the engine does not initially achieve 38 inches on the ground, it may just be a minor adjustment easily remedied. Fuel should be full rich during this process.
  Record manifold pressure, RPM, fuel flow, CHT and TIT every few thousand feet through 15,000 and every 1000 feet thereafter to note critical altitude, including OAT in IAS.

- Check max cabin pressure differential during the climb and periodically during the flight.

  With the cabin Isobaric Pressure Controller set at 1000 ft. (outer scale). The cabin pressure differential (Delta P) could reach the maximum (5.5 psi) at 14,000 ft. Pressure Altitude. After reaching 14,000 feet, set cabin altitude on cruise altitude plus 500 feet and rate of climb about 9 o'clock position. Confirm that the cabin climbs about 500 FPM or aircraft climb.

- In cruise flight, lean the engine to high, normal, and low cruise power settings, and confirm power settings and fuel flows per the POH in each configuration.

  Use the auto pilot during this phase when attention is diverted. Lean slowly. As approach peak TIT, lean at no more than about ½ gallon per adjustment or you will quickly exceed peak and see TIT start to drop prematurely. After each fuel reduction, allow TIT to stabilize before reducing further. After carefully defining peak, lean to 50 degrees lean of peak.

  Engine should have normal oil, cylinder, and TIT temperatures. Any surging or bootstrapping in the aircraft, the pilot should note the altitude, OAT, DA, IAS, MAP, prop RPM, and fuel flow settings at the time of the abnormality.

- Communicate with ATC and ensure transponder altitude matches aircraft's.

- Check electrical loads.

  Cycle alternators to ensure both pick up the applicable loads.

- Confirm proper function of fuel system and boost pump.

  Fuel tanks should be switched and no interruption in fuel flow should occur.

- Complete any additional checks your mechanic may have requested if he is not in the airplane.

- Conduct an emergency descent per the POH.

  If in very smooth air, descend briefly at a higher than normal speed, for instance 180 KIA to verify the gear warning light does not illuminate, and that there are no whistles indicating possible leaks or other odd sounds.

  Prior to arrival reduce to normal descent speed of 170 KIA or less. This speed allows deployment of either one notch of flaps or gear at any time, if desired.

Arrival

- Reduce power slowly.

  Power reductions should be made slowly, no more than 2 inches per minute, when able. Reduce RPM in 100 rpm increments comparing and note aircraft tach reading compared to precision strobe tach reading. Engine should operate vibration free.

- Fly multiple approaches.

  Conduct a variety of instrument approaches to include ILS, GPS, and VOR with the autopilot engaged. Check the complete operation of coupled approaches. Ensure tracking limits on the approach once established inbound on the approach from the final approach fix.

- Test brakes before landing.

  Pressurized air can force its way into the system via the actuators resulting in air in the lines and soft braking. Pumping the brakes may restore pressure if brakes are soft, or sometimes the brakes will operate properly on the co-pilot side if the pilot side does not. If you are comfortable landing from the other seat, go for it. In any event, select an adequate runway for a no brake landing.

Landings

- Complete several landings.

  Include normal, short field, cross wind, and no flap landings. Aircraft should track true in all landing configurations.

- Test brakes after landing.

  Application of the brakes should be without any grabbing or veering of the aircraft.

Shutdown

- Normal engine shutdown.

- Note Hobbs and total elapsed time.

- Complete shutdown per the POH.

  Make sure all switches are turned off. Lights and blowers often are left on and these can be high draw items depleting the battery for the next start. Mags off, then

battery and alternators last. Always verify one last time that the same 5 switches used to start the aircraft are turned off before leaving the aircraft.

Post Flight

- Check the exterior of the aircraft for evidence of leaks.

  Check the fluid level of the hydraulic pump inside the cabin.
  Once outside of the cabin, walk around the airplane and pay careful attention to check for any leaks (fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid) and check:

  - Engine oil level.
  - Left hand side of the nose wheel tire.
  - Actuators and struts.
  - Nose wheel bay.
  - Belly and the tail tie-down ring.

  After using the air conditioner, it is normal for water to drain from the evaporators drain (short pipe) below the aft fuselage.

  Log all discrepancies noted during preflight and flight.

  All discrepancies noted during the flight should be logged and submitted to the maintenance chief. If the aircraft is going to be returned to service immediately upon the conclusion of the test flight, the log books should have a statement noting that the aircraft meets all appropriate maintenance FARs and procedures and found acceptable to be returned to service. The plane is considered at this time to be legal and ready for flight depending on the Kinds List certifications listed in Chapter 2 of the POH.

ACTION CHECKLIST

Preflight

Aircraft and Maintenance Documents

- ☐ Review with the shop all the maintenance requested on the squawk list.
- ☐ Aircraft Inspector (IA) signs off in the maintenance logs.
- ☐ Verify that all Airworthiness Directives (AD) are complied with.
- ☐ Verify the revision level of the POH.
- ☐ Verify that the current weight and balance data sheet is in the aircraft.
- ☐ Verify that airworthiness certificate (with correct information) is in the aircraft.
- ☐ Check for complete and correct placards on the aircraft using the up-to-date POH.
- ☐ Check weather and file flight plan for a local flight, if the early preflight to this point has not precluded continuing with the flight.

Initial Observations

- ☐ Observe the general condition of the aircraft as you approach. Verify the struts are level.
- ☐ Check fuel visually and note level. Secure the caps.
- ☐ Verify that the correct tires are installed. Mains should be 600x6, 8 ply; nose should be 500x5, 6 ply.
- ☐ Check tire pressure with a pressure gauge: 40 psi for mains and 45 psi nose.
- ☐ Verify the airplane has been washed after the maintenance was complete.

Initial Cockpit and Interior Check

- ☐ Enter cockpit and verify that magnetos are off.
- ☐ Confirm gear selector down.
- ☐ All switches off as expected.
- ☐ Check that all circuit breakers are in.
- ☐ Check Ground Clearance Switch.
- ☐ Check emergency buss.
- ☐ Check static drain.
- ☐ Check elevator is free and correct.
- ☐ Check elevator trim.
- ☐ Check ailerons are free and correct.
- ☐ Check power lever.
- ☐ Battery switch on and check voltage.
- ☐ Check for fuel quantity and verify fuel indicators consistent with visual check.
- ☐ Check all internal lights for operation.
- ☐ Place flap handle in full down position 36 degrees.
- ☐ Check alternate air door for full and unobstructed operation.
- ☐ With assistance from someone outside, verify pitot heat, stall warning vane, and lights operate.
- ☐ Check the function of all exterior lights (position, strobe, navigation, landing, taxi, pulse and ice).

- ☐ Battery, radio master and magnetos off and secured.
- ☐ Check side or storm window for cracks and security.
- ☐ Turn on standby vacuum-pump, if still installed.
- ☐ Interior checks of seats, belts, cabinets, emergency exit, and cargo netting for security and cracks.
- ☐ Check hydraulic fluid level in area aft of baggage storage. Remove panel or use sight gauge. Add fluid (MIL-H-5606) if necessary.
- ☐ Check all of the seat backs for integrity and cracks beneath the carpeted backs.
- ☐ Check the clear plastic document pouch for the presence of the correct airworthiness certificate and registration.
- ☐ Remove old and outdated documents.
- ☐ Verify that the spring loaded seat back release latches are operating normally and not damaged or binding.
- ☐ Check the fire extinguisher.
- ☐ Ensure that all other required equipment is available in the airplane.
- ☐ Confirm that windshield hot plate installed and secure; otherwise properly placarded and icing conditions avoided.

Main Cabin Door (MCD)

- ☐ Check main cabin door pressure seal.
- ☐ Inspect the fuselage below and aft of the MCD for skin and paint damage from baggage transfer.
- ☐ Inspect the hinge of the lower half of the MCD for evidence of corrosion.

Left Wing

- ☐ Verify condition of flaps.
- ☐ Check presence and condition of Mylar chafe tape under the wing overhang.
- ☐ Check for missing static wicks.
- ☐ Inspect the aileron.
- ☐ Confirm that wing tip is absent any hanger rash.
- ☐ Check all surfaces for loose rivets.
- ☐ Strobe and navigation lights secured, with no corrosion around light mountings.
- ☐ Remove Pitot cover.
- ☐ Verify that the main span "I" beam upper and lower surface is free of cracks or deformation (results of a hard landing or turbulence).
- ☐ Confirm fuel vent open and clear.
- ☐ Check carefully the dielectric paint (the flat black paint that borders the boot).
- ☐ Check boot integrity, looking for pin holes or tears.
- ☐ Verify that the two stall strips on each wing, located mid-wing and near the wing root, are present and secured.
- ☐ Inspect bottom of the wing for fuel leaks.
- ☐ Check the landing gear doors for security and proper angle 10 degrees out.
- ☐ Verify that the squat switch (left gear only) is clean, and all electrical leads attached.
- ☐ Confirm that struts are inflated 3.5 inches with full fuel.
- ☐ Verify that there is no excessive play or wear on landing gear torque links.

- ☐ Check tire condition.
- ☐ Check brake pad thickness for at least 0.10” material showing on top of brake pad.
- ☐ Verify that the brake line security bolt head is facing away from the tire.
- ☐ Confirm that no brake lines leaking.
- ☐ Verify that the gear actuator attachment point at rod end safe tied.
- ☐ Ensure that the wheel well is clean of debris.
- ☐ Drain fuel.

Engine Cowling and Nose Section

- ☐ Inspect the front baggage area.
- ☐ If practical, check that the battery drain orifice is open and unobstructed.
- ☐ Inspect the exhaust pipe.
- ☐ Ensure that all of the cowling fasteners are present and flush with the cowling.
- ☐ Inspect the nose gear doors.
- ☐ Inspect the nose wheel.
- ☐ Look up into the nose wheel bay for any discrepancies.
- ☐ Inspect the cowling.
- ☐ Check oil level and condition.
- ☐ Inspect the propeller.
- ☐ Test the alternator belt to ensure the belt is tight and verify that the #1 alternator is attached securely.

☐ Check the heat muff.

Right Wing

☐ Drain fuel.

☐ Repeat inspection as with Left Wing.

Fuselage Right Side

☐ Check emergency exit for security.

☐ Check that the relief tube is operational (using water).

☐ Confirm that the drain vents on bottom of fuselage are clear.

☐ Verify that the A/C drain bevel is facing aft.

☐ Look for oil, hydraulic fluid on belly of aircraft.

☐ Look for corrosion where the alternate static ports and outflow valve pads are located under aircraft.

☐ Check the inspection port for the rudder and elevator for security.

☐ Check static ports for water contamination.

☐ Check the upper empennage for antenna security.

Horizontal Stabilizer

☐ Check attachment bolts for security.

☐ Move the stabilizer up and down to feel for binding.

☐ Check boots for attachment and holes.

Tail Cone

- ☐ Check trim tubes for security. No fore or aft play.
- ☐ Check drain hole in tail cone is clear.
- ☐ Check rivets on top of horizontal stabilizer.

Rudder

- ☐ Move the rudder gently to make sure it is securely attached.
- ☐ Check attachment bolts visually for security.
- ☐ Check for cracks or dents.

Fuselage Left Side

- ☐ Check static ports for water contamination.
- ☐ Check A/C condenser screens for security.
- ☐ Confirm chocks and tie down removed.
- ☐ Enter airplane and secure door.

Pilot and Copilot Seats

- ☐ Check all functions just as with the passenger seats.
- ☐ Check seats for positive engagement of seat latch, and for installed stops at each seat track.
- ☐ Check the height adjustment, the fore/aft slide adjustment.
- ☐ Verify proper seat belt function.

FIRST TEST FLIGHT

Before Engine Start

- ☐ Check the security and function of each and every switch, left to right around the cockpit.
- ☐ If subdued light is needed, put the aircraft in a hanger.
- ☐ Turn the night lights up and verify that all lights and dimmer knobs are working.
- ☐ Press the annunciator panel test button and observe all lights illuminate.
- ☐ Verify the primary static air source is selected.
- ☐ Complete all other items listed in the POH checklist.

Engine Start

- ☐ Start the engine using the approved checklist in the POH.
- ☐ Yaw damper (if installed) off and trims neutral.
- ☐ Test brakes before taxi.
- ☐ Navigation and anti-collision lights on or off, as required.
- ☐ Check operation of cockpit lights.
- ☐ Verify proper operation of heating and air conditioning.

After Engine Start

- ☐ Conduct the post-start checklist per the POH, and note any discrepancies.
- ☐ Verify all data subscriptions are up to date and that all avionics boot up correctly.
- ☐ Copy and set the clearance.

- ☐ Note Hobbs time, local time and fuel on board.
- ☐ Check the flight control systems for free and correct operation.
- ☐ Check the free and normal movement of the power lever.
- ☐ Check normal operations of the autopilot.
- ☐ Elevator trim test.

Taxi

- ☐ Verify braking action on all four pedals if a co-pilot is on board.
- ☐ Check for play in the rudder steering mechanism. There should be none. Check the copilot side as well.
- ☐ Note the free and correct movement of all of the instruments including the compass.
- ☐ Check the ELT.
- ☐ Flaps to take-off position.
- ☐ Verify COM and NAV frequencies are set properly.
- ☐ Verify flight instruments.
- ☐ Check magnetic compass.
- ☐ Verify fuel selector properly selected.

Run Up

- ☐ Listen for any new, changed or unusual sounds.
- ☐ Hold brakes, parking brake not generally sufficient.

☐ Run at least 3 minutes on each fuel tank to ensure no air in lines.

☐ Conduct a full-power check.

☐ Complete a normal run up according to the POH.

☐ Complete a high-speed taxi test.

Take-off/Climb

☐ Identify emergency landing sites near the airport.

☐ Verify again that flaps and trim are in take-off position.

☐ Use normal callouts for the take-off roll and initial climb.

☐ Note engine instrumentation on take-off roll and during climb and record them once the autopilot is engaged.

☐ Note the length of the take-off roll and record once the autopilot is engaged.

☐ Observe gear cycle time and verify normal operations.

☐ Record the tachometer reading and also take an actual reading of the propeller using the precision strobe tachometer.

☐ Maintain Vy (110 KIAS) and remain close, within 2 NM of the airport.

☐ Check flight controls.

☐ Confirm function of pressurization system passing though 1000 feet.

Low Altitude

☐ Set up for VMC cruise flight between 8,000 and 10,000 AGL if possible; verify all pilot and copilot instrumentation are in agreement and within limits.

☐ Verify engine parameters are operating in normal range.

- ☐ Verify proper operation of the fuel system.
- ☐ Check wing balance and airplane rigging.
- ☐ Check flap operations and rigging.
- ☐ Check ice protection.
- ☐ Verify airspeed indicator operations.
- ☐ Verify attitude indicator (AI) operations.
- ☐ Verify turn coordinator operations.
- ☐ Verify HSI/DG operations.
- ☐ Verify vertical speed indicator (VSI) operations.
- ☐ Verify landing gear operations.
- ☐ Test the Emergency Gear Extension system per the POH.
- ☐ Engage the autopilot and confirm the settings on the altitude pre-select and autopilot annunciator panel.
- ☐ Activate the alternate static system and verify correct operation.
- ☐ Test cabin heat and defrost.
- ☐ Test recirculating blowers and air conditioning.
- ☐ Reduce power until the gear warning horn sounds (do not stall). Return cruise power and verify that the horn silencer has reset.
- ☐ Perform imminent stalls to verify that the stall horn works correctly in dirty and clean configurations.

- ☐ Operate and verify correct operation of all threat ID equipment on board: NEXRAD, RADAR, lightning detection/sferics, terrain awareness, ground proximity warning, TAS, and TIS.

- ☐ Test all avionics.

- ☐ Communicate with ATC and ensure transponder altitude matches aircraft's.

High Altitude and Cruise

- ☐ From low altitude testing, complete a full power climb to FL250 if ATC clearance allows, but at least to 19,000 feet.

- ☐ Check max cabin pressure differential.

- ☐ In cruise flight, lean the engine to high, normal, and low cruise power settings, and confirm power settings and fuel flows per the POH in each configuration.

- ☐ Check electrical loads.

- ☐ Confirm proper function of fuel system.

- ☐ Complete any additional checks your mechanic may have requested if he is not in the airplane.

- ☐ Conduct an emergency descent per the POH

Arrival

- ☐ Reduce power slowly.

- ☐ Fly numerous approaches.

- ☐ Test brakes before landing.

Landings

- ☐ Complete several landings.

☐ Test brakes after landing.

Shutdown

☐ Normal engine shutdown.

☐ Note Hobbs and total elapsed time.

☐ Complete shutdown per the POH.

Post Flight

☐ Check the exterior of the aircraft for evidence of leaks.

☐ Log all discrepancies noted during preflight and flight.

NOTES