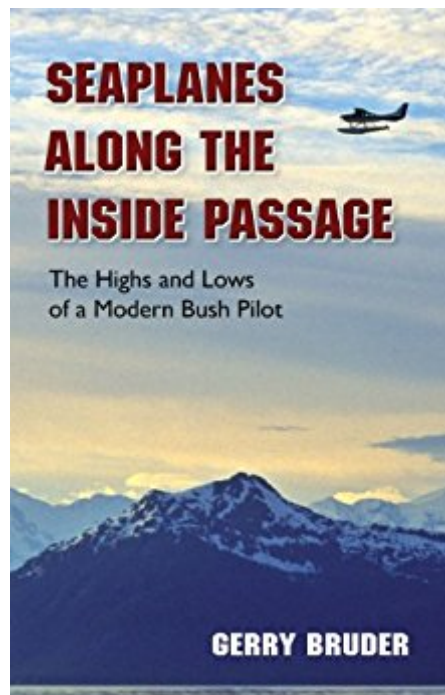




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Seaplanes Along The Inside Passage: The Highs And Lows Of A Modern Bush Pilot



Synopsis

What is it about Alaska that can make a young journalist from the East Coast abandon his career and become a bush pilot? Bruder's fascinating first person account answers that question and lets the reader share his experiences as he becomes seasoned as a seaplane pilot flying the rugged terrain of Western Washington, British Columbia, and Southeast Alaska. The life of a bush pilot in southeast Alaska is filled with the exhilaration of having unique access to one of our last great spans of wilderness, balanced with physical discomfort, extremely long hours, and heart pounding danger. Gerry Bruder gave up a promising journalism career to pursue his passion for flying. This true life adventure provides readers with a fascinating firsthand account of the highs and lows of a modern bush pilot.

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Customer Reviews

I am a bit less than half way through the book, but just couldn't wait any longer to write a review.

Through the years I've read other first hand stories of airplane pilot experiences, and many of these

have faults that make them less than satisfying. Sometimes the stories themselves are dry or poorly organized, and often I find that the editing and writing is lacking. A good book in this genre will put the reader into the story by providing emotion and awareness to what the pilot sees and feels (or saw and felt) in his experience. An example of a granddaddy book that does this with style in both content and writing is "Fate Is The Hunter". An example of a more recent book that takes a specialized area of aviation and meets the criteria is "Fire Bomber Into Hell". "Seaplanes Along The Inside Passage" also covers a specialized area of aviation. It is very well written, has interesting stories, and provides special insight into the life of a seaplane pilot near Ketchikan Alaska - an area of virtual wilderness. I can't account for all that the book holds since I am still savoring through it. One conclusion I have made is that this job of "air taxi service" (as the author tells us the FAA calls "bush piloting") over the long haul involves a certain degree of luck to survive! The book is a little less than 200 pages in length. A lot of good words are packed between the pages because there is not much white space and the font, although clear and crisp, is fairly small. There are no maps or sketches to guide one through what is an alien landscape with unknown locations for most of us readers. One could take this as a negative - but I don't because to supplement the stories adequately would impractically require double the amount of book pages and there is - in analysis - a much better way. The better way to read this book is alongside Google Earth. Use the map of Google Earth and also pull up the photos where they exist. Doing this immensely adds to the experience and enjoyment of reading this book. One last thing to note is that this book is a great armchair adjunct to any flight simulation fan especially anyone focused on bush flying adventures. Misty Moorings, Orbx, Tongass Fjords people take note. I have been flying a Bushhawk amphibian in the Washington, Vancouver, British Columbia area and that is what first attracted me to this book. Overall this is an excellent read and highly recommended.

I flew the Alaska bush for more than three decades. This book tells it EXACTLY the way it is. Most of my own 22,000 Alaska bush flying was in the mountains. Gerry Bruder's experience was mostly in Alaska's Southeast, and in a saltwater environment. This book puts the reader in the right seat and experiences the often white-knuckle conditions of Alaska bush flying. This book is the real deal!

A fantastic memoir about flying seaplanes commercially in Alaska. Be warned, though, this is a re-issue of Bruder's earlier book "Northern Flights," not a new book. As a Bruder fan, I was excited to see his new book; as someone who already owns two copies of "Northern Flights" I was a little less so. On the other hand, it'll make a great gift for one of my pilot friends...

This was a great book. I enjoyed it thoroughly and did not want to put it down.

The author writes with wonderful detail, allowing the reader to really experience the moments. What a view into his life!

I really enjoyed the book. I am sure I will end up reading it again.

the true life flying adventures kept me glued to the reading. The author has the ability to make you feel you are in the plane with the pilot. An excellent and interesting recount of his career. Good reading for all, not just pilots.

This book is outstanding! I flew with Jerry in Ketchikan in the 70s. Well done Jerry.

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