

FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

2020 HANGAR HIGHLIGHTS

BELLANCA SKYROCKET II

The latest addition to the Bellanca Airfield Museum is the Bellanca 19-25 SkyRocket II. This is a six seat, low wing monoplane constructed using an aluminum honeycomb and fiberglass composite material and was the last aircraft to be designed and built by Giuseppe Bellanca and his son August. Its innovative design and extraordinary aerodynamic qualities proved it to have outstanding performance in the air. During its initial test flights it set five world airspeed and efficiency records for an aircraft of its class. Plans to certify the design and manufacture a hundred units per year were never achieved. The money could not be raised and the project was discontinued when August died in 2010.



The SkyRocket II took its last flight from Summit Airport to Georgetown Airport in Delaware and for the next ten years it remained in storage. In early 2020 the present owners of the SkyRocket offered to donate the plane to the Bellanca Airfield Museum. The Museum Directors were anxious to add this historic Bellanca plane to the Museum, but were unable to come up with a conventional plan to move a plane of this size from Georgetown to New Castle. Removing the wings



was not considered to be an option. The wings were essentially molded into the fuselage and would have to be cut off. Bill Boyle, one of our directors, came up with a solution. He would remove the engine, motor mounts, rudder and elevator which would then allow the plane to be trucked as a wide load and barely fit thru the hangar doors which no longer could be opened more than 20 feet. This plan was adopted and the SkyRocket was successfully moved into the Bellanca hangar. The plane will be reassembled and put on display with our other aircraft.