PRIVATE FLIGHT OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ROYAL AERO CLUB

Malibu-Piper's pressurised cabin-class single

Cessna's P210 Centurion,
unique as a production pres-
surised single since 1978,
could be given a formidable
challenge next year by Piper's
new contender. The Malibu is
not a blown-up Saratoga (de-
scendant of the Cherokee Six)
as might have been expected,
but a fresh design with a slim,
high aspect-ratio wing and a
big cabin-class fuselage that
makes you think of a single-
engined Navajo. Configured
for six with club seating and a
rear air-stair door, cabin

width is 6in wider than the
P210's, is fractionally more
than the Seneca Ill's and very
nearly as wide as a Navajo.
The rear bulkhead is placed
well aft so total cabin length is
effectively longer than that of
the P210 and Saratoga.
At a ramp weight of 3,8671b
the Malibu is 1471b less than a
P210, yet useful load should
be more, the Malibu being
able to carry 25 Imp gal more
than the P210. Early Flight
estimates show that the Mal-
ibu should be able to carry full

Malibu's cabin is up to business twin proportions

fuel, four adults, and weekend
baggage. Piper claims a maxi-
mum VFR range with 45min
reserve of 1,340 n.m. at 75 per
cent power, for a TAS cruise
of more than 200kt. Six adults
and baggage should be possi-
ble with 60 per cent fuel.
The Malibu uses basically
the same 310 h.p. Continental
as the P210, and 5-51b/in2
pressurisation is designed to
give an 8,000ft cabin up to
25,000ft. Optimum per-
formance altitude is likely to
be around the 20,000ft mark,
where fuel burn is estimated
at 16 US gal/hr, or nearly 80
n.m.p.g.

• Piper is not predicting a
turboprop Malibu at present,
but the aircraft certainly
looks a prime contender for
the turboprop single stakes.

Hours flown to date exceed
400; FAA certification is ex-
pected around June 1983.

PIPER PA46-310P PRELIMINARY DATA
Dimensions
Wingspan 43ft. 13.1m; length 28.4ft,
8.7m; height 11.3ft, 3.4m; cabin
length 148in, 375.9cm; cabin width
49.5in, 125.7m; cabin height 47in,
119.4cm; cabin door size 24 x 46in, 61
x 116.8cm.

Weights
Ramp 3,8671b, 1,754kg; gross
3,850lb, 1.746kg; standard empty
2,2751b, 1,032kg; fuel capacity 122
US gal, 462lit; total baggage
capacity—forward and aft 200lb,
90.8kg.

Manufacturer's performance figures
Cruise, mid-weight, optimum alti-
tude. 75 per cent power 208kt,
385km/hr; Range at same conditions
1,340 n.m., 2,482km; climb rate (sea
level) 1,143ft min, 348 m/min; Stall (full
flap) 58kt, 107km/hr; Take-off distance
(to 50ft, 50m) 1,960ft, 597m; Landing
distance 1,520ft, 463m.

Initial panel design has plenty of room for comprehensive avionics

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