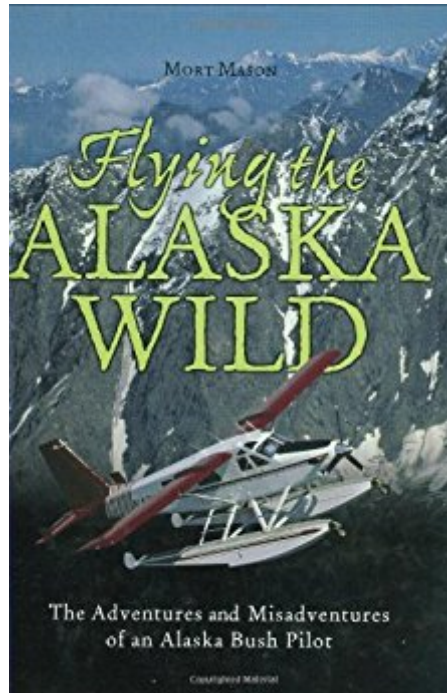




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Flying The Alaska Wild (History & Heritage)



Synopsis

Imagine flying through wildly unpredictable weather conditions and over the unforgiving terrain of the Big Empty, with only yourself to rely on in life and death situations. This type of true grit adventure was a common occurrence for Alaska bush pilot Mort Mason, who encountered numerous white-knuckle situations while honing his skill--and his luck--in a profession that only a handful of pilots have had the stamina to endure. Flying the Alaska Wild is a heart-pounding, edge-of-the-chair collection of fascinating stories about the rough-and-tumble life of an Alaska bush pilot--straight from the pilot's seat. Recounting thirty years of adventures, skilled storyteller Mason presents tales of his own experiences, and also tells the legendary stories of other old-time bush pilots.

Book Information

File Size: 3328 KB

Print Length: 336 pages

Publisher: Voyageur Press (July 21, 2002)

Publication Date: July 21, 2002

Language: English

ASIN: B003GALJAG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #924,628 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #37

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Customer Reviews

I just finished this book yesterday, and loved every page that I read. I laughed so hard when I read about Mort trying to pee out the door while flying and it all came back inside! I am a pilot and will be moving to Alaska in the next short while, and would like to try bush flying, which is why I got these books in the first place. This has definitely opened my eyes to what bush flying is really like. I would recommend this book to any pilot, because as we all know...pilots love to talk and swap stories with

other pilots, and read about them as well. My mother is next in line to read this book because of how great it sounded to her when I talked about it over the phone. I will be starting on the sequel to this book tonight, and have high hopes for this one as well. Do yourself a favor...get this book and add it to your collection! you will not be disappointed!

Interesting stories of extreme flying. But I was impressed more by the bush repairs than the flying. Not to diminish his flying accomplishments because they were certainly impressive. However, I worked as a crew chief in the USAF for 11 years including three at Elmendorf in Anchorage, AK. So I'm looking at this writing from the mechanics viewpoint. Hearing of the creativity and skill used to make aircraft repairs in the middle of nowhere with virtually no materials or tools made me think about what I would have done in the same situation. I wish I could turn the clock back and take another flight into the Alaskan bush! I would recommend this to anyone with an interest in aviation and interested in Alaskan adventure. But it may not appeal to those without an aviation background due to the constant references to the technical jargon associated with flying.

I just finished reading Mort Mason's "Flying the Alaska Wild," and it was a superb book, one that is difficult to put down---the reader wants to go on to see what it was like for Mort in another flight situation in a part of our country that is very unforgiving to anyone but a great pilot. Mason also does a great job of writing it (as a retired high school English teacher, I can be very critical of writers, but there is nothing to be negatively critical of here!). The book was extremely interesting for me personally, because I spent the summers of 1958 and 1959 working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a radio operator in one of the locations that Mason mentions, the village of King Salmon. At King Salmon, we had a Grumman Goose amphibian (N789, now on display at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum in Anchorage) in which I spent many sorties riding "co-pilot" with our pilot who had to fly supplies to our streamguards and then also to patrol the salmon fishing boundaries in the Bristol Bay area. But---enough of that. I just want to say that anyone who is interested in flying and especially anyone who likes stories of flight in Alaska, should, by all means, read this one!

I have been to Alaska 3 times in the last 10 years as a ground based tourist and am planning a trip up to the "Big Empty" this summer with some friends and wanted to do the sightseeing by air. I am a pilot and wanted to tie in some Alaska float plane and bush flying training into the trip. I wanted to know more about flying in Alaska before I just went out and booked some instruction, so I decided to pick up "Flying the Alaska Wild." What a great find! The book was filled with great stories about Mort

Mason and his trials and tribulations as a Bush Pilot in Alaska. My jaw was on the floor throughout the book. How did Mort survive all of these adventures? Great read! Highly recommend it! The most amazing thing happened after I read the book. Mort left his email address in the back of the book and I emailed him about my upcoming trip. He gave me all sort of tips about the trip. Mort is not only a great bush pilot, but also a scholar and a gentleman. I true ambassador to the "Big Empty." Thanks Mort! Looking forward to your new book in February.

Mort Mason is akin to a Swiss Army Knife...the biggest one with the most tools. Mason has a solution for any problem that might confront a pilot flying the Alaska Wild. You feel as though you are in totally competent hands when you fly with Mason. He has escaped the fate of many of Alaska's pilots, i.e. death, by sheer instinct and daring split-second decisions. His book takes the reader soaring over the Alaskan mountain ranges, and expertly landing on tiny slivers of sand or touching down on a narrow gravel spit. We travel at night and in haze through slender mountain passages. We travel by day into sudden wind gusts or unexpected fog. The planes Mason piloted developed about every mishap possible, yet he had a remedy for each and every one. His brilliant use of twigs to replace lost bolts, newspaper to replace torn cloth on a wing, and his method of hammering straight a bent prop, all leave you in admiration of the control Mason had over his situations. He explains much of the technical jargon of flying, giving the feeling that we are in the plane with Mason at all times. His expertise extends from medicine to math to astronomy. There seems to be no area in which Mason lacks competency. His love for our largest State is patently apparent, and his knowledge of its lakes and mountains and wildlife is limitless. Mason's book is an adventurous, thrilling read, in which you will marvel at his escapades and admire his quick thinking. I was reluctant to come to the last page, wishing for more of Mason's adventures of flying in the Alaska Wild. He has done it all, and miraculously, lived to tell the tale.

Written by a pilot and especially delightful for other pilots to read since the author unapologetically describes situations in lingo that fellow flyers can appreciate. As an instrument rated and instrument current pilot with over ten years of experience in the lower 48 I have to say how deep my respect of the Alaskan Bush Pilot has grown after reading this book. Nonpilots will find the anecdotes and philosophy comprising the remainder of the book entertaining and entirely worthwhile.

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