

**PRESS CONTACT**

Josh Harnagel  
VP, Marketing  
jharnagel@redbirdflight.com  
512-301-0718

**PRESS CONTACT**

Amy Gesch  
Marketing Manager  
agesch@wipaire.com  
651-414-6839

**PRESS CONTACTS**

Dominic Patrick  
Stephanie Burnett  
media@flytropic.com  
800-767-0897

## **REDBIRD FLIGHT, WIPAIRE, AND TROPIC OCEAN AIRWAYS PARTNER TO TRANSFORM AMPHIBIOUS AIRCRAFT TRAINING**

***A new floatplane training device addresses a void in the unique flight training market***

Oshkosh, WI (July 22, 2018) – At EAA AirVenture 2018, Redbird Flight Simulations, Wipaire, and Tropic Ocean Airways today announced a partnership intended to modernize floatplane training. As the design and usage of floatplanes have advanced, the technology utilized for pilot training has remained stagnant. To address the unique training requirements for floatplane pilots, Redbird has customized its immersive, full-motion CRV training device—which represents a Cessna 208 Grand Caravan—to include an amphibious float kit designed and manufactured by Wipaire. Now, without setting foot in their aircraft, the pilots at Tropic Ocean Airways will be able to experience safely and accurately the flight characteristics and training events specific to their business.

“Floatplane pilots have been completely unserved when it comes to modern training technology,” said Redbird Flight Simulations President, Charlie Gregoire. “Organizations such as Wipaire and Tropic Ocean have expanded the possibilities for floatplane operations, but innovation from the training community has lagged considerably behind. This device offers floatplane pilots and training programs access to affordable technology that accurately represents their modern amphibious aircraft.”

Wipaire supplied actual components to Redbird Flight Simulations to create the most realistic training environment possible. The custom Redbird CRV is equipped with the Wipaire-exclusive Laser Gear Advisory system, which provides intelligent alerts when gear position and detected landing surface are mismatched.

“Wipaire and Redbird Flight Simulations share a similar heritage of innovation and responsiveness to customer needs,” noted Clint E. Clouatre, Vice President of Marketing & Sales for Wipaire, Inc. “The CRV training device bridges the gap between Wipaire’s world-leading engineering and quality and the real-world of floatplane operations. This is an unequaled way for pilots to learn the safety features and operational procedures for Wipline float in a controlled, realistic environment. Professional, safety-focused operations like Tropic Ocean Airways are sure to embrace the enhanced level of training now available with the Redbird CRV.”

“Seaplane operations occur in a very dynamic environment, similar to aircraft carrier operations,” added Rob Ceravolo, CEO of Tropic Ocean Airways, a former Naval Aviator and TOPGUN instructor. “Our training program is designed after the U.S. Navy’s program, which applies a standardized approach to training, relying on building the routine skillsets through simulation, allowing the pilot’s focus to be on the dynamic nature of the mission. The partnership with Redbird

Flight Simulations and Wipaire to create the customized CRV will allow us to drill those skillsets at an increased tempo, resulting in a higher level of standardization, accelerated training timeline, and a lower cost per pilot trained.”

For the duration the event, July 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>, AirVenture attendees will be able to experience the floatplane trainer at the Redbird exhibit, booth 304. To schedule a demonstration, please visit [simulators.redbirdflight.com](http://simulators.redbirdflight.com). For more information, contact [info@redbirdflight.com](mailto:info@redbirdflight.com).

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#### **About Redbird Flight Simulations, Inc.**

Redbird Flight Simulations of Austin, TX was established in 2006 with the specific purpose of making aviation more accessible by using modern technology and careful engineering. Since its inception, Redbird has delivered innovative, reliable, and high-quality training devices to flight schools, colleges, universities, and individual pilots around the world. With more than 1,800 devices in service worldwide, Redbird has quickly become the fastest growing and most innovative simulator provider in the industry. For more information, please visit [www.redbirdflight.com](http://www.redbirdflight.com).

#### **About Wipaire, Inc.**

For over 55 years, Wipaire has been engineering and manufacturing a full line of aircraft floats for all sizes of aircraft from the Piper Cub to the Viking Twin Otter, including most single engine Cessna aircraft. In addition, Wipaire has engineered over 100 Supplemental Type Certificated modifications for improved performance, convenience, and reliability. As a leading aircraft service provider, Wipaire offers maintenance, avionics installation and repair, custom interior design and installation, and exterior paint refinishing across locations in South Saint Paul, Minnesota, and Leesburg, Florida. Wipaire is recognized for its quality products and engineering expertise worldwide.

#### **About Tropic Ocean Airways**

[Tropic Ocean Airways](http://TropicOceanAirways.com) is a U.S. certificated commuter air carrier, founded by U.S. Navy TOPGUN fighter pilot Rob Ceravolo in 2009. The airline safely transported nearly 20,000 passengers in 2017 throughout destinations in Florida, the Northeast U.S., The Bahamas, and the Caribbean. Tropic Ocean Airways is the recipient of the highly-coveted ARGUS Gold rating for safety and enjoys a 5-star customer service rating on TripAdvisor. Ceravolo and his team of experienced aviation professionals have developed and implemented standard operating procedures borrowed from the U.S. military, which ensure the highest levels of safety and service aboard each flight.