

# Fred W. Hotson & Matthew E. Rodina, Jr. *proudly introduce...*

**T**he Grumman Mallard is the story of an outstanding aircraft. Its maker saw a post-war market for a small airline amphibian that would use the waterways of the world, but the growth of airports was so rapid that land-based aircraft prevailed in the airline industry.

Grumman sought new customers, and fortunately the Mallard's comfort and flexibility attracted corporate executives. It was the early days of business aviation and what better than an aircraft that could fly to meetings but also land on remote lakes for some salmon fishing?

The Mallard has compiled an amazing record over the last 60 years, even fulfilling Grumman's dream as an airliner. The size was just right for island-hopping in the Caribbean, and it could double as an Arctic workhorse with ease. Some Mallards continue in roles no other aircraft can fill, and some of the finest examples, with sweeping lines, bright colours and meticulously detailed interiors, are cherished by private owners.

When turbine engines appeared, Fred Frakes created the Turbo Mallard, which carried more and flew faster. One Mallard, magnificently restored in the hands of expert Steve Hamilton, was Grand Champion at the 2001 Oshkosh gathering of classic aircraft. Since then, another has been rebuilt exactly as it came from Grumman.

Although Grumman ceased manufacturing the Mallard after 59 machines, the aircraft lives on as one of aviation's enduring classics. This book, based on years of experience and research, is full of details, anecdotes and photos of the Mallard's many lives.

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Cover photo: A superb shot by Jessica Ambats of Mallard J5 taking off from a lake in northern Idaho.

## FEATURES INCLUDE...

- More than 220 photos, drawings and maps, many in colour.
- Many never-before-published pictures from personal collections.
- Detailed production list gives history of all 59 Mallards built.
- Foldout cutaway drawings by Norm Merrin of piston Mallard and turbine Mallard.
- Fred Hotson's reminiscences of corporate Mallard flying in the 1940s and 1950s.
- The story of Mallards in service around the world.

## Specifications

184 pages, high-quality coated paper, 8½ x 9 inches, hardcover with jacket, 200+ b/w & colour photos, production list, glossary, bibliography, index. ISBN 1-896941-44-3. \$39.95

## About the authors

**Fred W. Hotson** began his career at de Havilland Canada in 1935. His war service included training pilots and delivering aircraft to the war zones. He continued flying in the Quebec and Ontario north after the war and took over the first Mallard to come to Canada, operating it for private and corporate owners for the next 18 years. In 1967 he did a study in Afghanistan on the use of Twin Otters there and, on return, rejoined de Havilland for the rest of his career. From the cockpit he moved to writing and has completed four books, including the history of de Havilland in Canada. He lives near Toronto.

**Matthew E. Rodina, Jr.** was born in the Chicago area. His early career involved financial and treasury work but his interest was aviation research and his specialty the Grumman Mallard. He managed to combine both when he joined the Virgin Islands Shuttle Service soon after its inception. The operation lasted five years until the devastating Hurricane Hugo put the company and the island out of commission. The Island of St. Croix recovered and he continues to reside in the Virgin Islands. He has written a number of articles on the Mallard for the American Aviation Historical Society.