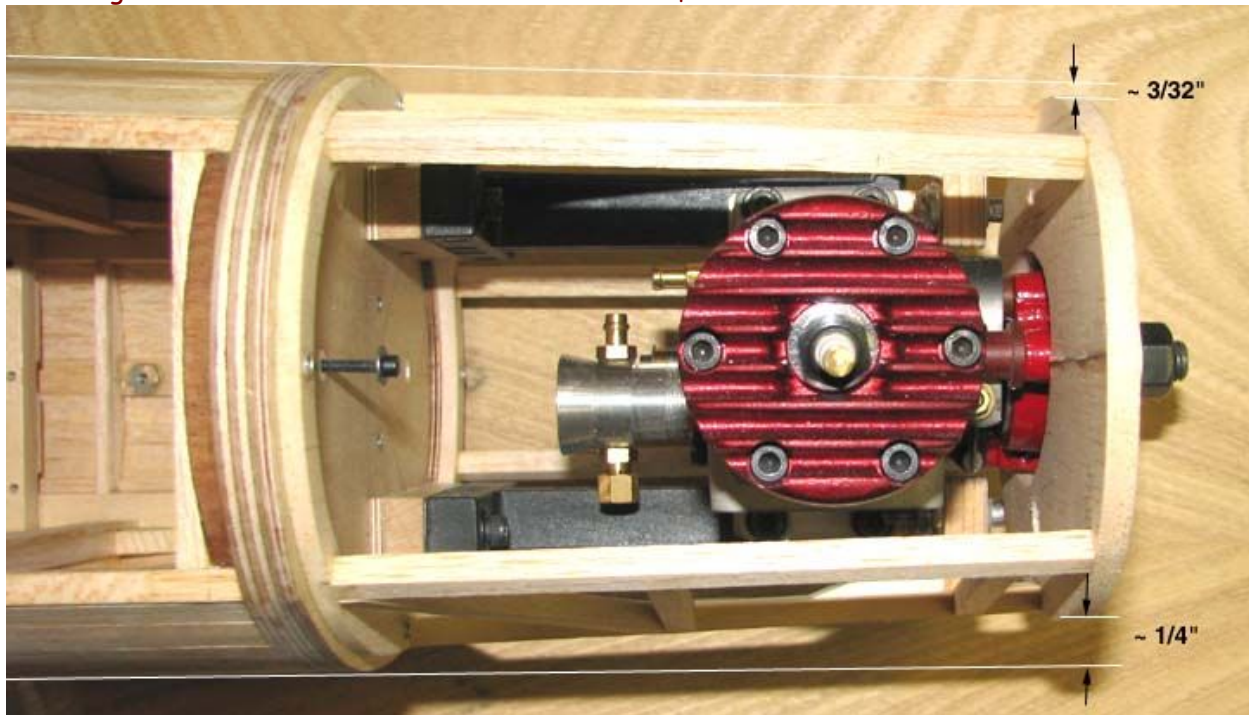


From: "Tandy C. Walker" <tandyw@flash.net>  
 To: "Lollar, James" <jlollar@cableone.net>  
 Date: 3/27/2009 8:57:21 AM  
 Subject: 64a Sailplane Unfortunate Problem Discovered

### *Comet Sailplane Project*

Good Morning James,

I have uncovered an unfortunate problem on the Sailplane. However, I am only going to share this with you and three others, but not the entire distribution list because I am embarrassed. The problem has been there from the moment I first mounted the engine, but I failed to recognize it. Last night I suddenly became aware that the slope of the cowl side lined up with the slope of the fuselage on the left side, but for some reason was much steeper on the right. With the shape of the elliptical fuselage, this was not apparent until I got the cowl framed up. After making a series of measurements, I found that the actual engine mounting was skewed to the left as shown below! %\$#@& .



My error was in assuming that the engine mounting automatically aligned thrust line with the fuselage's axis of symmetry, which it did not. I did some experimenting this morning and found that the proper thrust line alignment can be achieved with a small plywood shim behind the left engine composite mount. While this is much of a correction, it destroys the pristine fit of the cowl frame. I am not just sure what the individual error contributors are, but taken collectively they are more than I can tolerate. So the only thing I can do is to start over and build a new cowl frame. :O< I will try to dismantle the existing cowl frame later on this morning and see if I can salvage the rear bulkhead as it is the most complex cowl piece that interfaces with the fuselage's firewall.

I have really learned a lesson here. Never assume that anything is straight, always check it first.....Tandy