GRUMMAN AA-5A Cheetah Model Guide

The GRUMMAN AA-5A Cheetah is a four-place, all-metal, low-wing single with a fixed-pitch propeller and bonded aluminum construction. The documents supplied are the 1975 AA-5 owner manual (Lycoming O-320-E2G, 150 hp), a club checklist and a shared AA-5/AA-5A/AA-5B inspection list. The figures below are AA-5 data, so confirm them against the Cheetah's own handbook.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Figures come from the 1975 AA-5 manual: 2200 lb gross, 150 hp, 38 gal fuel, 120 lb baggage. Confirm against the Cheetah POH.
- Registry family maxima for AA-5/AA-5A/AA-5B: up to 128 kt cruise, 500 nm range, 4 passengers. These are not Cheetah-specific figures.
- AA-5 manual performance: 157 mph top speed at sea level, 660 fpm climb, 12,650 ft service ceiling, carbureted engine.
- The shared annual inspection list stresses bond lines, wing corrosion, the nose gear strut and fuel system. Ask to see those log entries.

PERFORMANCE AND LOADING (AA-5 MANUAL)

Top speed at sea level is 157 mph with wheel fairings. Cruise at 75% power at 8500 ft is 147 mph. Takeoff is 880 ft ground roll and 1600 ft over a 50 ft obstacle. Landing is 380 ft ground roll and 1100 ft over a 50 ft obstacle. Fuel is 80/87 minimum grade, with two tanks of 19 gal each.

WHAT TO CHECK ON A PRE-BUY

The inspection list calls for checking all bond lines for peeling or cracking. It also covers white flaking ash on wing skins (corrosion), nose gear strut-to-yoke corrosion every 12 months, fiberglass main gear struts for cracks and delamination, cable fraying, and ELT battery date. Rudder pedal springs are replaced at 1,000 hours.

ENGINE RUN-UP LIMITS

For AA-5 and AA-5A the inspection list gives static rpm of 2250-2375 and idle of 600-650 rpm. Magneto drop must not exceed 175 rpm, with no more than 50 rpm difference between magnetos. Oil pressure is 60 to 90 psi and the suction gauge reads 4.6 to 5.4 in. Hg.

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine Power Hp	150
Fuel Capacity Total Gal	38
Fuel Each Tank Gal	19
Propeller Diameter In	73

PERFORMANCE

Rate Of Climb Fpm	660
Service Ceiling Ft	12650
Takeoff Ground Roll Ft	880
Takeoff Over 50ft Ft	1600
Landing Ground Roll Ft	380
Landing Over 50ft Ft	1100

V-SPEEDS

Vne Mph	190
Va Mph	122
Max Canopy Open Mph	130
Vy Mph	91
Best Glide Mph	80
Vx Mph	78
Stall Flaps Up Mph	62
Stall Flaps Down Mph	58

WEIGHT & BALANCE

Gross Weight Lbs	2200
Baggage Max Lbs	120

SAFETY NOTES

- The manual recommends not operating the engine with less than 4 quarts of oil, and filling to 8 quarts maximum for extended flight.
- Drain all four fuel drains (each tank and each sump tank) and inspect the samples for water or sediment.
- Do not release the flap switch abruptly. It may snap through neutral into the retract position.

AI-aggregated guide for the GRUMMAN AA-5A Cheetah · sources: GRUMMAN AMERICAN OWNER MANUAL (#100776) · Grumman AA-5 Preflight Checklist (#101738) · Models AA-5, AA-5A & AA-5B Annual or 100-hour Inspection (#102224) · generated 2026-10-18 · Reference only, not for flight. Check the original documents before relying on this guide.