

# FLAGSHIP DETROIT NEWSLETTER

October 2006



## THE 2006 AIRSHOW SEASON COMES TO A SUCCESSFUL CLOSE!



The Flagship Detroit DC-3 just finished the first year of air shows and events. It truly was a full and fun-packed season. Lots of hard work, big decisions, and complicated schedules were handled with poise by our dedicated members – all with the same goal of keeping this pretty American Airlines DC-3 in the air. Everyone has done a tremendous job getting through the first year of operation.

Thankfully, we had very little go wrong mechanically and many thanks go to Captain Terry Barker and his cadre of skilled machinists for the care they took in completing all the inspections required to fly this

plane around the country. Please thank Terry when you see him for the great job he has done. It takes a lot of effort to keep this 70-year-old plane flying, and we could not have done it without our skilled volunteer mechanics.

We just completed two long weeks of functions; one in Nashville and three in the DFW area. Nashville was a wonderful event held for the BNA employee appreciation day. They served a great BBQ lunch and we took a special sunset flight around the Nashville downtown skyline and the surrounding areas. You missed a very good time. See a video news report on the Nashville visit [here](#).

The Foundation extends its appreciation and congratulations to all the members that gave so unselfishly of their time and energy to present our lady-of-the-air to the airshow and AA employee admirers. Your hard work and commitment has really paid off in the daily messages of thanks and congratulations that the we receive!

On Friday, September 29th, we did a static display at Alliance for the fourth annual [Skyball](#) fundraiser



It was a huge success. We were told that nearly \$500,000 was raised for our National Guard men and women

and their families. The Skyball organizers did a great job and we were happy to be a part of their gathering. That also was the week-end of the big Alliance air show. Over 100,000 people had a chance to visit our airplane and talk with our member volunteers. The last function was the DFW employee appreciation day. We brought the airplane in on Wednesday evening and were able to get it cleaned it up in spite of eager onlookers wanting to see the marvelous flying machine. I want to thank everyone who worked all these shows for making the events such a success!

The good people from AATV at AMR headquarters have produced a short video on the Flagship Detroit with the Chicago Air & Water show in the background. Our thanks to Foundation member and AATV reporter Jana Sinn for the nice coverage. Click on the link below to see the video.



[Chicago Air & Water Show](#)



Retired AA Captain George Kahak in his 1945 uniform. Capt. Kahak is a volunteer at the [C.R. Smith Museum](#).

*Captain Jack Grainer (Center) found us with the "Detroit" on the ramp at Longmont, CO*



*in September and recognized it as an airplane he had accumulated many hours in during the 1940's. Jack attended the Skyball as our guest and he has been kind enough to share his logbooks with us detailing his flights in NC-17334. .*

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We also need money to prepare two new "quick-change" engines and lastly, it is time to reduce the debt on the airplane. Please take a moment and send whatever you feel you can to help continue the mission of preserving this fine

As most of you know, the Flagship Detroit Foundation is a non-profit organization, funded only by donations we receive from our members and other interested parties who have the same love for keeping this plane flying. We are not financially supported by American Airlines. With that in mind, we have set some financial goals, looking forward to next year to improve our program. We are asking each of you to search your hearts and wallets to help us reach these goals. We have specific places to use this money. We are in need of new radios to replace our 30 year-old equipment.

airplane. **Remember**, tax time is approaching and we are a fully deductible entity.

Once again, on behalf of the Flagship Detroit Foundation, I want to personally thank each and everyone very much for all your hard work, your commitment, and your contributions of time and financial support. I hope to see you at the next airshow.

Sincerely,

*George Dennis*

931-224-5280

[GeorgeDennis@FlagshipDetroit.org](mailto:GeorgeDennis@FlagshipDetroit.org)



**DC-3**

**PILOTS:**

We will have another ground school at the American Airlines Flight Academy on October 27th, 9am to 5pm. Please contact Dave Buffington at [AA777@Mac.com](mailto:AA777@Mac.com) to sign up for the training day. The cost is \$180 including PDF copies of manuals and lunch. If you need the manual please e-mail David Gorrell at [David@Gorrell.com](mailto:David@Gorrell.com) and he will point you to the files.