

Flagship Detroit Foundation

WINTER 2010

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER



*Scenes from
the 2009
airshows*

Flagship Detroit Foundation Winter 2010 update

Greetings from the Flagship Detroit Headquarters !

This is the first newsletter of 2010. I certainly hope this new year will be much better than 2009. We all know last year was a tough year for our country with respect to employment and our economy. It is no surprise that our Foundation was affected by the fallout of that situation. Without going into the details, the bottom line is that our Foundation lost several opportunities for funding from cancelled air shows and financial support from some of our sponsors. Nevertheless, we didn't just dry up on the vine. Through hard work and financial

sacrifices, we were able to complete approximately 16 air shows and special events. The positive side of this is that because of the reduction in air shows, there was a reduction in flight time on the airplane and consequently less maintenance cost to our foundation.

We finished up last year with two events in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The first, [Skyball](#), is a fundraiser for military families, and the second was the American Airlines Employee Recognition Day at DFW Airport. Both events were a huge success. I want to personally thank each and every volunteer who came out to make these events successful. It took a lot of effort to get the airplane

ready and to serve as ambassadors for the Flagship Detroit Foundation.

"Detroit" is currently undergoing one of its major inspections

*The Flagship team
completed over 16
appearances
throughout the 2009
show season!*

at the Alliance Airport in Ft. Worth, Texas. In addition to the inspection, we are working on the last two items on our wish list to get the airplane back to the



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DC-3 75th Anniversary Celebration

December 17, 1935, was a sunny but cool afternoon in Santa Monica, California. It was another ordinary day at Clover Field. A big, polished propeller caught the sun's light as it began to turn. Slowly it revolved and then a belch of blue-white smoke appeared. The engine roared into life, and the propeller was lost in its own motion. A second propeller came to life. For a few minutes, the engines roared and then the plane began to move forward. A few engineers and draftsmen watched the shiny airplane taxi out to the runway.

The DST sat at the edge of the runway for about five minutes, its engines running at full throttle. Then it began to move, slowly at first but within 1,000 feet it lifted off, effortlessly. The lives of millions of people throughout the world were about to change.

This year at the Oskosh Airventure gathering, the Flagship Detroit and perhaps 40 other Douglas sister-ships will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first flight of the DC-3. Flagship Detroit, as the oldest flying of the remaining aircraft will be a star participant.



original 1937 configuration. The first item is replacing the current wing-tips, PanAm speed tips, with the original wings tips that came with delivery. The second item is installing an original "Flagship" galley, which through the hard work of one of our dedicated members, Jeff Selby, was found in a DC-3 boneyard in San Antonio. Other volunteers are completely refurbishing the galley to its original condition. Our plan is to have all the work projects completed by the end of February.

The Air Show Committee is working diligently to complete this year's [Air Show/Event Schedule](#). Our goal is to have the complete schedule for 2010 posted on the website by the end of February. That will give everyone an opportunity to look ahead and decide which air shows and events you are interested in working. Last year many of the same volunteers did most of the work. I must take full responsibility for that. Because of the cancellations we received and the lack of funding for several events, I was unable to communicate the schedule in a timely manner. This year will be different. We will have the full schedule on the website and you will be able to sign up for events online.

2010 is the 75th Anniversary of the DC-3. Because of our extensive renovation, the Flagship Detroit is one of

the premier DC-3s in the country and we will have opportunities to display this beautiful airplane at many special events. We encourage everyone to become involved in this year's activities. We need help in every aspect of our operation--from folding brochures, to manning air shows, to maintenance on the airplane to fundraising, we welcome any and all to join in and become a part of the activities.

In closing this newsletter and closing out 2009, I want to once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank each and every group and individual who contributed to our success. You have given countless hours of labor for our day to day operation and also provided much-needed financial support to our foundation.

Please take time to renew your membership or sign up for the lifetime (\$1,000) membership and don't forget to tell your friends about our group and this really cool American Airlines DC-3.

Sincerely,

George Dennis

Executive Director

