

NC-17334

The world's oldest flying DC-3

Our Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 11-3 Sept 2011

KCYS

Cheyenne Frontier Days hosts the Flagship team during the world's largest outdoor rodeo.



KBJC

Jack Greiner, former Flagship Detroit AA pilot visits us at the Rocky Mountain Executive airport in Denver



KPOY

Powell, Wyoming hosted the Flagship at their annual Wings and Wheels Show



36U

Russ McDonald Field in Heber City was a scenic environment to show off the Flagship to Utah admirers



Greetings to our DC-3 fans!

The Flagship Detroit and her crew had a very successful mountain tour in the third quarter. It began with our appearance on July 27th at Air Power put on by the Air National Guard in Cheyenne, WY. The crew consisted of Tom and Marti Taff, Gene and Sheryl Christian, Zane and Deanna Lemon, Lewis Drake, Jeff Selby and Dave Buffington. The young guardsmen and women gave us a hearty welcome and took very good care of us during our stay, which was during the renowned Frontier Days. The people of Cheyenne took to the Flagship and stood in long lines all day to tour the plane. We made new friends, met up with old friends and enjoyed a real western hoe-down experience.

Prior to this flight, a 30 hour inspection had been performed at Alliance by Zane



The Flagship Arrives overhead Park City, Utah

Lemon, along with American Airlines mechanics Greg Petty and Carl Weber. Lewis, Gene, Dave, Zane and Jeff also put in a long day in the 100°+ plus degree heat on minor maintenance issues and re-installing engine cowlings. We are indebted to our friends at Alliance for their dedication to this endeavor.

After the Cheyenne appearance, the Flagship was positioned at Rocky

Mountain Airport in Broomfield, just north of Denver, for an event arranged by Larry Jamison for August 12. The crew headed for their homes to return later. The following Friday Steve Jacobson along with Gene and Sheryl Christian opened the plane at Rocky Mountain to an enthusiastic public. There seems to be a lot of interest in aviation in this area. We were joined mid-day by David and Jane Gorrell. A heritage flight was taken that evening in honor of 90 year old Jack Greiner, who piloted the Flagship for American in the 1940's and lives in the area. (Jack, by the way, is still very actively flying.) The flight went over Jack's home field in Longmont where many admirers were out to witness it. On Saturday we were joined by Jack himself and everyone was very interested in hearing his stories. He told about visiting with Eleanor Roosevelt when she was aboard, among other things. Jack and his wife joined in the evening flight of ten

DC-3 GROUND SCHOOL

Fall ground school will take place on Oct 18th and 19th at the American Airlines Academy in Dallas. Initial training for first-timers will start at 10 AM on the 18th. Recurrent training will start at 9am on the 19th. A working lunch will be provided.

Contact Dave Buffington (817-938-9550 or DC3Detroit@Mac.com) to reserve a space in the class and to inquire about lodging. Manuals and study materials are available on the Foundation website at the "Manuals" button on the home page.



Contact Dave for password access.

If this is your first DC-3 ground school you can also contact Gene Christian for study materials at 770-403-4709 or windemer@bellsouth.net.

very excited people. The Gorrells left us on Sunday morning, but Larry Jamison was a welcome addition. This day was a bit shorter due to impending rain, but we still had a lot of aviation enthusiasts come out to see the Flagship.

August 18 was our station visit to Denver for American Airlines Employee Appreciation Day. There are four in the crew, since our Stewardess, Peggy Fairchild had joined us. We are met at the airport by Jack Greiner and Mark Uriarte, the AA General Manager in Denver who



will make the flight with us. Upon landing we are happy to see Jeff Selby, and Zane and Deanna

Lemon. Mark was just a wonderful host for us in Denver and he and his people looked out for our every need. He brought us food himself and arranged for air conditioning for the plane as the day was warm. The enthusiasm in Denver was unparalleled. We had people from all the airlines, TSA, ATC, fire, police, retired flight attendants and the airport volunteers tour the plane. We almost had to beat them away as we started the engines for our flight to Powell, WY that afternoon.

The event in Powell is the Wings and Wheels show. There was a momentary glitch with rooms and at one point it was suggested that surely three retired couples could reside on one room with three beds. (hmmm....) This was thankfully resolved and the crew ended up in nearby Cody, an interesting Wyoming town. The area around Powell is really wide open prairie. We have arrived a day early and use the time to take a quick tour of Yellowstone. David Gorrell and his friend, Rick Smail have joined the crew, so now there are eight. The show organizer, Mike Martin and his crew are so helpful to us. The friendly people of Powell are very grateful to us for coming. They are a small town and a small show and we appear to be a big

deal. We have a long line of people coming through all day and two membership flights at day's end.

On Sunday, August 21, we blast off for Heber City, UT. This is David Gorrell's home airport and he is in the left seat. Shortly before arrival we are joined by a Harpoon and the two



planes fly in formation over Park City before coming in for a landing. The crew was met by Jane Gorrell, Tony DiSantis and Jeff Selby as well as many volunteers from the Heber Valley / CAF Museum. They very kindly treated us to a hamburger cook-out, organized by Bambi Knight. This airport is in a lovely setting



with a large lake at the end of the runway which winds between the mountains toward Provo and Utah Lake.

The museum has two Stearmans and biplane rides up this stunning valley were graciously given to Peggy and Sheryl.

On Monday we opened the plane to a steady stream of nice people and the day was capped with a very scenic membership flight. After a free day in Utah, the crew laid over in Santa Fe en route back to Fort Worth. The scenery on this trip was magnificent, the food was



grand and the cool mountain air was a welcome respite for these southern folk. The Flagship Detroit

Foundation is very grateful to the tireless volunteers who made this mountain tour a success.

There are some really fun opportunities to join the Flagship crew in the fourth quarter. The first is the Plane Pull on Sept. 24 at Dulles Airport, which is a

charity event benefitting the Special Olympics. This will be followed by the Leesburg, VA air show on Oct. 1. Next is Madison County, AL on Oct 15. That is in the Huntsville area.

This will be a busy week as the Flagship will participate in the Spirit of DFW on Oct 20th, to be followed that Saturday by the Alliance air show and Sky Ball that night. If you have not attended Sky Ball, you are missing a treat. It is a very patriotic event put on by American Airlines to honor our men and women in uniform. If you like airplanes and their history, attending these events is an experience you won't forget. And there are entertainers whose names you will know. The most fun is hearing the stories of the people who come to see the airplane. This is a great opportunity, especially for the Dallas and Fort Worth people to come out and join us.

Time to head southeast for the MacDill AFB Air Fest on Nov. 5-6 in Tampa featuring the famous Thunderbirds. This is followed by the season finale one week later in Stuart, FL. This is a great show with live entertainment and fireworks on Friday night and the show on Saturday. All the crew has pledged to attend this one to close out the season with a bang. Crew members Peggy Fairchild, Tony DiSantis, and Bob Gross, who live in the area, are promising a good time will be had by all. Contact George (931-224-5280) or Zane (940-391-2266) to sign up for any of the fall events.

Again, thanks so much to all the Flagship members who volunteer, the American Airlines volunteers, and all the nice people we have met along the way who helped us out in so many ways from free flight charts to pushing the plane back from the gas pumps. We enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to seeing you again.

In Appreciation

The Flagship Detroit Foundation sincerely thanks our members and supporters who keep alive this tribute to the early years of airline aviation. If you would like to renew your membership (just \$100) for the coming year, please go to the [website](#) and do so...the Foundation depends on your contributions to keep this plane flying. Remember the thrill you got when you joined, and keep the thrills coming for everyone.

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- Meridianville, AL
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Volunteer Support

- AA AFW mechanics Greg Petty, Carl Weber and AA Captain Neil Goodfriend

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Membership Questions

Dave Buffington at 817-938-9550 or Membership@FlagshipDetroit.org

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