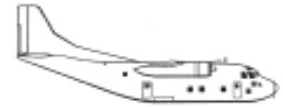




AIR AMERICA FOUNDATION

THE Provider Weekly



Greetings everyone! It is almost Christmas so of course I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I know you have not heard from us for a while, but we have been here, quietly working. That is until lately as I gave everyone the rest of December off a week ago so they could be with their families and get something done on a Saturday for themselves for a change.

Rest assured, 54-674 is still here, as are we.

This is the year end issue of "The Provider Weekly". There has been much going on both at the aircraft and in my personal life which has caused the lack of newsletters being published.

I have scaled back some of my other volunteer commitments, and started a new venture. I am now an antique dealer at a new antique mall in Titusville. I had no idea when I signed up that it would be as time consuming as it is. I have also been kept busy as many of you also are, with the never ending "Honey Do" list.

So I have had to let the newsletter slip a bit. My apologies go out to all of you for this.

We have been working on the aircraft, but have not been making much progress. It seems we are continually fighting the same old gremlins lately, so this means there is little new to write about. We hope to correct that after some time off and a fresh start in the new year.

Membership: This is a topic that I must get you all up to speed about. I have been working with some promotion companies regarding shirts, hats and mugs as incentives for the various levels of membership.

I must tell you now, that the foundation just can't afford to purchase any of them. Hats required a minimum order of 100 which made the cost about \$600 or so. Mugs needed a large quantity and embroidered shirts are astronomical. This is seriously distressing me as far as our membership campaign goes.

I had grand plans of about seven different membership levels starting at \$25.00 all the way to \$2500.00. I was trying to find levels that would allow everyone a comfortable amount to budget for. I don't think we can make this work without any membership gifts to give out. I have scaled things back and am hoping that after the first year of the membership program, we will have some funds to work with.

Continued...

December 2011 Year End Issue



Mailing Address :

Air America Foundation
P.O. Box 796
Titusville, FL 32781-0796

What's

NEW This

Week

- ◆ Message from the editor
- ◆ Saturday work update
- ◆ Membership info
- ◆ CAT advertisements
- ◆ Work photos
- ◆ Website link

*The Air America Foundation
is a 501 (c) 3 organization.*



The only gift we have at this time, are some small pieces of sheet metal from 54-674 that Rod has trimmed out for us. I hope for now that this will suffice for the "Supporter" Level. If you choose the \$100 dollar level, I hope that in the near future we can get your mug to you, after we can get them made, or you could choose the souvenir sheet metal.

Here are the three introductory membership levels for 2012. Please remember all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law as the foundation is a valid 501 (c) 3 organization.

1. Friend - \$25.00

~ Provider Weekly
~ Membership Certificate

2. Supporter - \$50.00

~ Provider Weekly
~ Membership Certificate
~ Free Admission to the C123 during airshow
~ Souvenir metal from C123

3. Benefactor - \$100.00

~ Provider Weekly
~ Membership Certificate
~ Free Admission to the C123 during airshow
~ Air America Foundation Coffee Mug (when available)

Another option is we have a full R2800 in the shed that we can't seem to sell so we might have 16 pistons, 16 cylinders, 32 valves and other goodies to give away with higher membership levels or to use as auction items to raise some funds.

We are hoping that everyone will try to purchase a membership as we are in serious need of funds to support the preservation efforts on the C123. We just cannot try to create a budget based on what we have.

We need to have a recurring set of donations that we can rely on in order to plan the years activities based on what we need and what we have to spend.

Some time ago, I had asked that if you were a lifetime member, to send me a quick note so we can work out how to honor those memberships. I am disheartened to say that only two out of the almost 300 people we send this newsletter to replied.

I am hoping to turn this around for the new year. If we can get even half of the folks on our mailing list to sign up and join, then we can have a fighting chance to continue the preservation of the C123.

Another area of critical need is volunteers. Right now, we have Cal, Ed, Brad, Denis and myself on a regular basis. Once in a while we get Rod and Paul from Georgia. We cannot preserve the aircraft and maintain all the support equipment with five people.

We also need at least one person to step up to the plate and fill our vacant secretary position. This small group of people are showing up every Saturday and giving their time and the board members are shouldering all of the financial burden right now with most of it falling upon Cal and myself.

I am here to tell you that this will have a very limited life expectancy. I can only put so much financially into the foundation before I have to stop.

So, what does all this mean? This means that without an increase in support via donations, memberships and volunteers, the foundation could cease to exist when the balance of the check book reaches zero.

We are good stewards, but we cannot work miracles.

The foundation has expenses that need paid, most immediate, the liability insurance is due on the aircraft.

We were charged to tell the story of Air America and restore a C123 to flight. The board of directors has decided that we do not have the manpower and monies to restore it to flight, but we can preserve it for a future attempt with your support.

We can help to tell the story of Air America, if you want us to. Again, we need your help. Specifically, we need the help of the veteran pilots, air crews and personnel of Air America that live locally to come and inspire and educate us in this mission. We cannot do this without you.

We are working to form an alliance with the organization in New Bern, NC that owns "Ponderous Polly". We are working on supplying them with assistance and parts. If the Air America Foundation cannot maintain their mission, one of the options it to donate what we have to Polly to help keep her flying.

Not a very cheery newsletter just before Christmas I agree, but I can no longer sugar coat the facts. Plain and simple we need you.

I personally do not think we can justify all the time, effort and money we are personally putting into this project if no one joins, donates or even visits us at the aircraft.

We hope you will take a moment to fill out the enclosed application and mail it in with the amount for your desired membership level. Remember additional donations are tax deductible.

Mail to:
Air America Foundation
P.O. Box 796
Titusville, Fl 32781

Okay now on to other items!

We were sort of successful in isolating the hydraulic leak. Well, sort of. We, and when I say we, I mean Cal, was able to bypass the system a bit, so we can still use the back door and ramp, but we have slowed down the other leaks by taking most of the pressure off the system.

We need to remove and rebuild the hydraulic flap distribution valve to stem that leaks, then see where we are. The original accumulator was disassembled and found to be a hollow tube! No piston or other critical parts. No wonder it never worked right. We hope to get it rebuilt soon.

Denis has been working on the batteries on the plane and buda. The forklift needs a new battery but they are not cheap.

The equipment gets used so little, that the batteries slowly lose their charge when it is cold, and the sun bakes them in the summer.

We had another small success a short time ago when we were able to cycle the flaps. Since hurricane season is over we took off the wing spoilers.

I am also happy to report that we were able to finish the prop hoist!!

After getting our electric lifting platform working, we were able to orchestrate a multi person effort to lift the boom end to raise it and then drive the new pin home. We charged up a 24 volt battery and check it out again and everything seems fine. The next step is a load test. If anyone suggests that we pick me up with it, you are out of the club.

We are also going to need to create a master inventory of parts and tools so we know what we have. We need to work on the parts inventory before the sun comes out again and bakes our brain in the container. We also need to work up a venting system in the container as serious humidity creates major condensation on the ceiling of the container.

Many of the spare parts are wrapped in cosmoline, bit water plays havoc with everything. If we can get the venting done, we can preserve the parts we have.

There are lots of jobs that need tending to, so if you are in the slightest bit interested, we have a job that you can do. Don't worry about skill levels as there are plenty of things to get finished. You don't need to be an aircraft mechanic.

We are still looking for an additional board member to fill the secretary's spot. It would be best if we can find someone locally as we already have three board members that live out of town.

If you are interested, please let me know and we can meet after the holidays to talk about the requirements. There are only a few, but they are important.

Thank you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I remain,
Historically Yours,



President,
Air America Foundation



**Got an idea?
Let us know!**

**Got a question?
Ask us!**





AIR AMERICA FOUNDATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Current address:

Mailing address (if different):

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Home Phone:

Cell:

Birthday:

Email Address – required:

Membership Level Desired:

Do you wish to volunteer with the C123 restoration crew?

Skill set(s) possessed:

Days / Hours available:

SPOUSE INFORMATION IF JOINT MEMBERSHIP - ADDITIONAL MEMBERS \$10.00 EA

Name:

Birthday

CHILDREN IF MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES DESIRED - ADDITIONAL MEMBERS \$5.00 EA

Name

Name

Name

Name

CURRENT AAF MEMBERS YOU KNOW

Name (s)

OTHER INFORMATION WE SHOULD KNOW

EMERGENCY CONTACT (RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS ONLY)

Name of a relative not residing with you:

Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Relationship:

I hereby provide the above information on this form for my membership with the Air America Foundation. I authorize Air America Foundation to use my email address and phone to keep me apprised of events and information. I understand the Air America Foundation will never sell or use my email address or other information for any reason other than foundation business.

Signature of applicant:

Date:

Signature of spouse *(only for a joint membership):*

Date:



Cal's truck is there for a sense of scale.



It is lonely at the top.

Putting in the pin!



This is how we repay Paul for driving down from Georgia! We stick him 20 something feet in the air on a forklift and give him a 2 x 4.

I think Brad was there to make sure he didn't land on anyone if he fell. - Actually, Brad was there to make sure he didn't fall. Safety first.

It doesn't look high until you get up there and realize you don't heal fast after you get old.
Bumbles don't bounce no more!

Thanks to Ed B. for the photos.
Hey! Why wasn't he up there with us?



Full page shot for effect!



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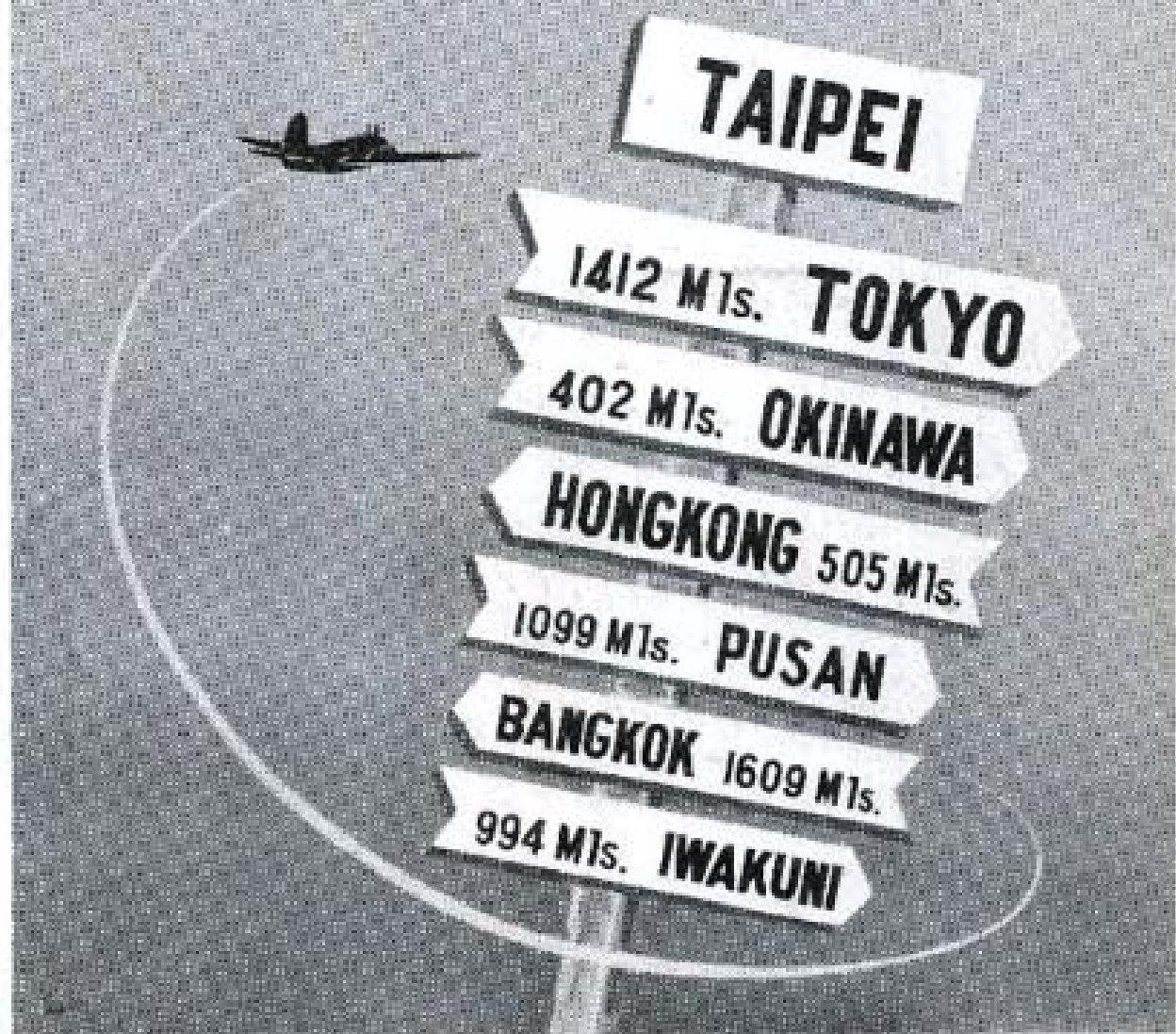
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