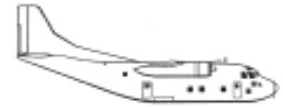




AIR AMERICA FOUNDATION

THE Provider Weekly



Greetings from the Air America Foundation. Once again we will be meeting at the C123 this Saturday to try to get some things done. It is getting hotter each weekend as summer creeps in so we have to make sure that we protect ourselves from the heat.

Some days this means drinking lots of water and other days it just means quitting earlier in the afternoon and calling it a day. The last thing we want is for someone to get heatstroke or to become injured.

We had an interesting day last Saturday. Our crew consisted of Brad Byron, Ed Bloom, myself & the new kid on the block, Josh Conti. We are glad to see Josh C. as he is quite a bit younger than the rest of us old geezers.

During the transport and towing of the old prop hoist from our storage at the Valiant Air Command, I heard some serious banging and serious vibrations. I couldn't see anything so I continued.

Upon my arrival at the C123, I noticed the pin at the top that held the boom arm was gone. Yikes! I called the airport support person and she was kind enough to retrace our path so we were able to locate the bolt.

Once we located the bolt, we realized it was going to be easier said than done to re-install it.

This prop hoist has been sitting outside for over five years. Nothing moves easily on it. At first I thought we could use the forklift to push a two by four against the boom and raise it enough to put the pin in. Wrong.

Then we tried to push the threaded rod that supported the boom up with the forklift. It went up, but the forklift was not high enough. Strike two.

Our third plan was the winning hit. We broke the threaded rod loose with the forklift and secured it with a chain. We put Ed B. up on a set of stairs to direct it manually.

We then got Brad to go on the forklift and steady a two by four to lift up the boom, as I climbed up the hoist to insert the pin manually. If you have seen photos of me, you know the old fat guy does not belong almost thirty feet in the air on a prop hoist.

Well, let me tell ya. We got it done, I climbed down safe, brought Brad down off the forklift and Ed climbed down the stairs. Success.

The new guy? Oh yea, he was the spotter and photo taker guy. Turns out that he will be pretty helpful as the summer goes by.

Continued...

May 26, 2011



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What's

NEW This

Week

- ◆ Message from the editor
- ◆ Prop hoist repair
- ◆ Work update
- ◆ Facebook page
- ◆ Flickr link
- ◆ New website's up and running!
- ◆ New scans

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

THE Provider Weekly



After all that, we decided that the bolt we put in, is not the correct bolt as there are not enough threads that stick out to put a nut on. Well we can get that remedied pretty easy. At least the hoist is stable enough to start the motor rebuild.

We will be moving a few things around this Friday and putting them in storage. We still have projects to tackle out by the trailer and around the plane. I am confident that if we keep taking small bites of these tasks, we will eventually get them done.

We have tasks for all levels of talent. If you are available, stop on out and give us a hand. Even if you want to stop by and visit without getting your hands dirty you can hang around to chat with us and maybe even go to lunch with the gang.

We appreciate it when folks stop by and offer a bit of encouragement. It helps to keep the moral up. This aircraft and all it's needs can be pretty daunting if you don't compartmentalize it a bit.

Our tasks this weekend will be checking air pressure in all our tires and filling them as needed. We actually got our forklift and Buda Tug started last Saturday to great relief. (They get cranky when they sit too long)

We also need to add some tie downs to keep 674 from swaying in the wind as hurricane season approaches. She is a big girl and we don't want to find her on the other side of the taxiway some Saturday morning.

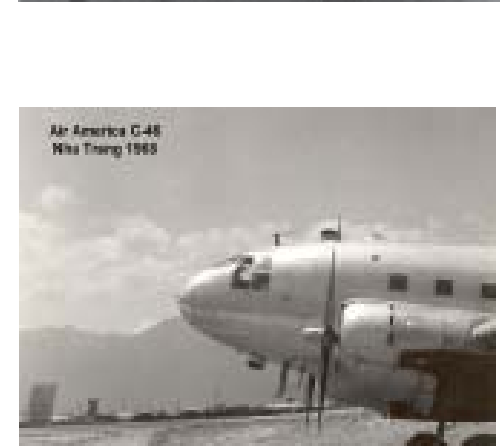
On a more serious note, I want to say thanks to my board of directors who have placed their faith in me to lead us into the unknown future of the Air America Foundation. I hope I don't disappoint them and make them regret their decision.

I also want to thank all the volunteers who continue to come out on Saturday because they love being around aircraft and they believe in our mission. We simply cannot do this without you. Again, thank you.

I have made some great friends while starting this journey. I hope to continue that trend. I learn something new every weekend. I am glad I am still trainable.

The amount of history regarding Air America is amazing. I doubt that I can ever learn it all. I look forward to the day when we have people touring our own museum and being able to tell them about all the incredible things that Air America personnel have accomplished. With your help and support, we can make that dream a reality. Until next time I remain,

Historically Yours,



Got an idea?
Let us know!

Got a question?
Ask us!



**Air America stuff online to
check out!**

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/ed_kindle/
sets/72157624712147513/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ed_kindle/sets/72157624712147513/)

www.airamfoundation.org



Half way up!
Does this prop hoist make me look fat?
Wait! Don't answer that.



Almost there!



This is the pin that fell out.

← The fat guy is almost 30 feet off the ground. Yikes!

These are as high as the stairs go. ↓

↑ This is as high as the forklift goes.

Success!
Four guys, some old equipment and serious determination and serious thinking outside the box got it done!