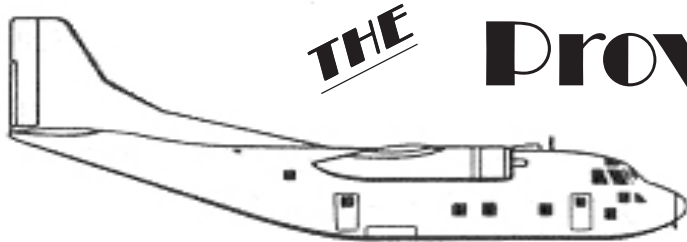




# AIR AMERICA FOUNDATION



## THE Provider

May 2012

**H**ello again from The Air America Foundation. Sorry the newsletters have been few and far between. Things have just been crazy busy for us all.

I know that I say much has been happening lately, but this time it is true.

After the airshow, the towbar was welded and returned. Solid and better than ever. At some point we will give her a test, but that will have to wait.

Cal was able to acquire a replacement hydraulic motor to fix the leaky one. It appears that all this time, the leak was in the motor. The fluid was running past the seals in the motor and down the inside of the wheelwell.

We were able to get the new motor (and I mean brand spanking new) installed and pressure tested. So far after more than a month, all seems well. Cal is now rebuilding the original so we have a spare.

Thanks go out to Sandy Crille for the donation of the new motor! A huge thanks to be exact. Wow!

The next revelation in the hydraulic system was with the accumulator we swapped out. Cal tore it down and had thought the piston had been removed. Actually he found that it was simply stuck at the top.

We removed the current accumulator and he will rebuild them both at the same time. Again for a user and a spare. This is great news for these leaks have been driving us nuts for well over a year.

I would like to welcome Dave Smart to the crew. Dave has started to hang around and chip in some labor and we are glad to have him. Welcome aboard Dave!

A couple of other things have happened lately that are worthy of reportage. We are working with both Thunder Pig in Pennsylvania and also Ponderous Polly in North Carolina. We have been sending them parts that they are much in need of.

Thunder Pig did a swap out of a prop, and rebuilt an IOC, but after getting it back together it appears that the IOC was assembled wrong or had another malfunction. We sent them a new rebuild kit for it.



Mailing Address :

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P.O. Box 796  
Titusville, FL 32781-0796

What's

**NEW** This

**Week**

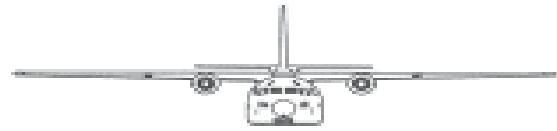
- ◆ Message from the president
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- ◆ Airshow photo

*Continued...*

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

**THE**

# Provider



We are hoping that one day we can get one or both aircraft down here for an airshow or maybe set up an arrangement to winter here. How cool would it be to see three C123's parked on the ramp! We may have to try to get some fundraising efforts for fuel started!

Another big event is that the Caribou is no longer on the grounds. Trevor McIntyre has donated the Air America Veteran to The Cpl. Larry E. Smedley National Vietnam War Museum in Orlando. Trevor and Paul salvaged the nose of the C7-A from the boneyard in New Smyrna.

After many discussions between Trevor and the board, he decided to donate it to the museum as we simply did not have the money, time or staff to manage two projects right now. The other reason I am sure was Trevor's location in Georgia and the logistics of caring for the aircraft.

We are sure she will have a good home and will be well taken care of. This sure makes things around the C123 look a bit different. Their website at the museum is <http://www.nwmvocf.org/>

Lots of small jobs have also been getting done. I want to thank Paul H. for coming down last weekend and helping us get the spoilers on the wings before the storm season hits. We were able to get in one last cycle of the flaps before we put the straps on. We also added a couple more tie downs to the tarmac in case she gets frisky in a storm.

The forklift and Buda tug have been starting regularly and are running well. This has been largely due to Denis and the solar panels he added. It is always nice not to have to mess around with this equipment when you need it.

I also want to thank Ed B. and Dave S. for getting the port side of the semi trailer painted silver! We like Winn Dixie, but we have needed to cover the old paint job for quite some time. We had some paint left over, so we gave the forklift a bit of a quick facelift as well.

I want to thank Brad B. for continuing to give a hand around the plane and grounds. He is always great about pitching in. We also hope his new job is treating him right.

We are slowly getting things cleaned up and looking better around the plane. It is important that we try to look as organized as possible. At some point, we might want to build some skirts around the semi trailer to hide some of the extra things that we have no where else to stash.

Maybe we could get another trailer donated at some point. We would also like to move the conex over the the grounds. It would be much easier on us to have it near when we start the parts inventory.

It is exciting to get all this small busy work out of the way as summer is here! It just gets too hot inside the aircraft and on the tarmac to do much in the summer. We try to get some things accomplished, but we don't want anyone to get sick from the heat.

I would like to take a moment to thank the Gruman Gremlins at the VAC for the great rebuild job on our hydraulic stairs. We would love to have all you guys over to the C123 for a meet and greet and a tour.

We still hang out and go to lunch after getting some things done at the plane.

Lately we have been going to Kelsey's in Port St. John as it is close, but every once in awhile we head into Titusville and eat at the Village Inn. You are always welcome to join us for lunch.

We would also like to once again invite everone to come out and give a hand with the aircraft. We can always use skilled and unskilled labor. We can easily train you to do things and we just need folks who are willing to just roll up their sleeves and get a bit dirty. So stop on out and see what you could do to help. It sure would be appreciated.

I want to thank our new board member Howard, for loaning me a book about the Ranch Hand program in Vietnam. It is a very interesting piece of the history of the C123 Provider. For an aircraft that was being phased out as obsolete by the Air Force, they sure managed to find many uses for the grand old birds.

Update!

This past weekend was a productive one for sure. We were able to continue our cleanup and organization efforts. We moved the props under the port wing which makes the area look much better. We decided that at some point they will be on the plane 24/7 so it made no sense to try to keep them covered.

Another item that came to pass, is the large stairs that we owned were donated to the Gruman Gremlins over at the VAC. The "Grummies" as they are known are a bit of a seperate group that works on static Grumman aircraft. We dontated the stairs to them so they can get folks into the cockpit of their aircraft to help them raise restoration funds.

This means that another piece of unused equipment is getting a new home and making our home a bit neater. We still have plenty of ways to get up on the aircraft.

We also found the Buda tug had a broken brake pedal spring, so Cal decided to tear into the Buda and rebuild the master cylinder. Cal, Mark and Brad worked dilligently, but it has not yet given up it's grasp and is still in the tug. Perhaps we can get it out this upcoming weekend.

Another item crossed off the list is the re-arrangement of some of the tool boxes within the trailer. This organization makes it now possible to put our large air compressor into the trailer out of the weather and still make it accessible to use.

The place is shaping up nice. With painting the trailer and some organizing, I think we are in pretty good shape. I was also able to get the grass mowed under the tail as the airport's gang mowers are too large to fit.

We also coated the top of the semi trailer to guard against leaks and since the material is white, we also hope it will reflect some sun so it is not quite so hot inside.

I guess that about sums this issue up. I am still working on the newsletter vs blog vs facebook thing. Not an easy thing to figure out. If I keep the newsletter and facebook, it is a duplication of effort in a way, but I know there are lots of folks not on facebook. I also don't know how much longer I will myself be on facebook as I am using it less and less each month.

I like the idea of the blog, but I may just have to email the link to everyone once a month to remind them to look at the page for updates. Oh well, I am sure some solution will present itself.

I hope you have enjoyed the last two newsletters and the photos. Take care and talk to everyone soon.

Historically Yours,



President,  
Air America Foundation



Cal & I moving the tool box to the trailer - I made the mistake of telling Brad to get my "good" side.



"Your papers please" - A visitor to the C123 during the last air show.

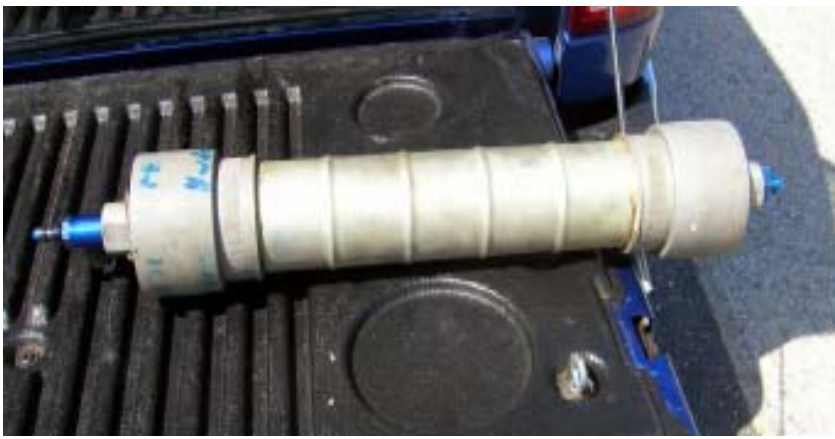


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followers online.*





The C7-A Carobou departs! She was a good bird and has found a great new home.



The offending accumulator.



Brad on the semi trailer roof putting down an elastomeric coat to prevent water leaks and to reflect some sun & Ed supervising.





Paul down from Georgia putting the spoilers up on the wings before the storm season arrives and not a weekend too soon!



Mark's daughter Crystal on her first day! Up on the roof - way to pitch in!





A new paint job on the port side of the semi trailer - Ed & Dave handled this task with minimal paint spatter.



We had some silver left over and decided to make the forklift match the tug.

Remember, we have three levels of membership - \$25 - \$50 & \$100  
All donations go directly to the foundation for the resptoration of the C123  
and are tax deductible.



Yes Cal, you can  
drive the forklift  
today.



That's all for now folks! Thanks  
for reading and stay tuned!



Mark signing the legal stuff. Welcome back  
to the crew Mark.