



AIR AMERICA FOUNDATION

THE Provider Weekly



Greetings all. Well the events of the past couple of weeks have been diverting my attention away from the provider, so I thought I had better get busy.

It has been difficult being around the 123 without Josh at the helm and I am sure this will continue for some time. It is still difficult when we sit and remember Paul, since it has not been all that long since he left us.

We were able to attend the airshow this past week. We moved the plane a day ahead of schedule to beat some weather and we were in place by Wednesday afternoon. Moving the plane was Cal, Rod and I.

We opened up Friday and the crowd for the show was good, but not great. We did not take in much money. Saturday and Sunday were a whole other thing.

Saturday and Sunday had great crowds and we had lots of tours through 674. She showed herself off beautifully. It was great to see folks walking through the plane and interested in what we are doing.

Staffing the plane were Cal Crocker, Rod McIntyre, Brad Byron, Paul Hedtke, Pam Crone, Ed Bloom, Lyle Barney & Myself.

We were really pleased to have Marius Burke with us all day Saturday. Thanks Marius! You were a huge help.

We had a few Air America vets pass through and several people who flew or jumped out of 123's. It seems the consensus about jumping out of them was they are not such a good plane to do so.

We had a few items on display in the plane. We were a bit short on artifacts as I did not have access to them, but we did okay. We had a display case with some 123 models, some Hmong head-dresses, and we had a large canvas of the memorial plaque and of course Josh's photo.

I was also able to print off many of the old Fairchild advertisements, labels and patches I had, as well as other C123 and H-34 information cards to make a photo book. It was well looked at the entire weekend.

The airshow was a really great one. The best one I have attended since moving here in 2006. At one point on Saturday I think there were at least 25 aircraft in the air at one time. We were disappointed the C-46 was grounded, but the highlight was the B2 bomber flyby! What an amazing aircraft.

March 17, 2011



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What's

NEW This

Week

- ◆ Message from the Editor
- ◆ New board roster
- ◆ Work update
- ◆ Painting photos
- ◆ Flickr link
- ◆ Still need a lift truck
- ◆ Airshow update

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

Continued...

THE

Provider Weekly



There were C-47, B-25, T-6, biplane and Huey flights that you could buy. I am sure it was a tough choice to pick one.

We were pleased to have Charlotte & Bill Ison stop by. It was a pleasure to see them again. Their health does not allow them to actively help with the manual labor anymore but they have a great desire to see us succeed. We think they were pretty pleased with what we have done.

I have for the last six months or so been learning to dive the Buda tug and operate the forklift. So...when it came time on Monday to return the 123 back to our workspace who do you think Cal made do it. Yup!

This was the first time for me to move 674 and the experience was pretty awesome. It takes a lot to make me nervous and this I have to say did just that.

I was however, assisted by two of the best. I had Cal on the starboard side and Flea from the VAC on the the port side. All I had to do was listen to them and they got me through it. I even got a couple attaboys afterwards which really made my day.

We will be continuing with our interior preparation and painting as soon as we return all of our tools and supplies to the aircraft this week.

After the airshow on Saturday, the foundation assembled and had a board meeting. We discussed the future of the organization and of the C123.

The first decision made by the board, instigated by Cal Crocker was to change my status from interim president to president.

This passed unanimously. It looks like I will have the honor of leading the Air America Foundation for the foreseeable future. I want to thank my fellow members for their faith and confidence in me.

The next item on the agenda unanimously added Ed Bloom to the board, so we are back to a full compliment. Obviously this means we have the intent of continuing onward. Congratulations to Ed on his appointment and welcome to the board.

As decided by the board, our mission is the same, but the intent on the aircraft is a bit different. The board has voted to continue with the restoration with the intent of preserving as much of the aircraft as possible and utilize it as a static display and classroom until sufficient funds come available to do a flight worthy restoration.

We simply have to be practical and realize our foundation does not have the funds or resources to restore the 123 to flight at this time.

If we continue to work on the aircraft in a preservation mode, and we attract a sponsor, then perhaps we can once again fly 674. Until that happens, we have to do the best we can.

We are still interested in acquiring other Air America aircraft, flying or static as the opportunity arises. We are also interested in acquiring artifacts related to Air America to create a museum worthy display to help tell the story of Air America.

We have safe and secure storage to accomplish this task and for now, can display the artifacts at airshows as well as during local speaking engagements.

If you have anything to donate, please let me know and we can discuss it.

I would like to take this final space to thank everyone who emailed and called with kind words and comments regarding Josh. I have printed them out and will pass them along to his wife.

It is never easy when you lose a friend, but somehow knowing that others feel the way you do, helps somewhat. We shall miss his leadership and sense of humor. It will be difficult for a time, but we know that he is watching over us and is hanging out with Paul complaining about how we are doing things.

I know I will see them again someday, but I still miss my friends. We will advise everyone via the Provider distribution list regarding any memorial service here in Florida as soon as we know.

Until then, please stay safe.

Historically Yours,

Air America stuff online to check out!

http://www.flickr.com/photos/ed_kindle/sets/72157624712147513/



Port Side Before



Port Side After



Starboard Side Before

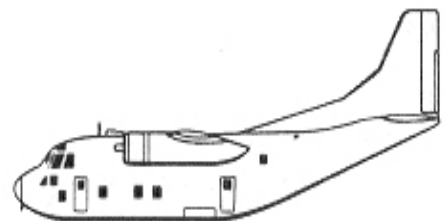


Starboard Side After



Overhead Bulkhead After

These images were taken prior to the airshow



Pre Airshow Work Detail



Ed Bloom continues paint prep



Special visitor all the way from the UK - Peter Witt
Thanks for stopping by Peter!



Ed & Brad clean cowling in prep for paint and
airshow



More of Ed in action - Great hose control Ed -
Thanks for not getting me wet! I can't say if Cal's
truck stayed dry though.



Paul Hedtke found a new friend at the airshow

Airshow Weekend 2011



I know this look - This is the "I need Ed to do something" look.



Marius and guest



Vistors to 674



The Blooms enjoying the beautiful weather

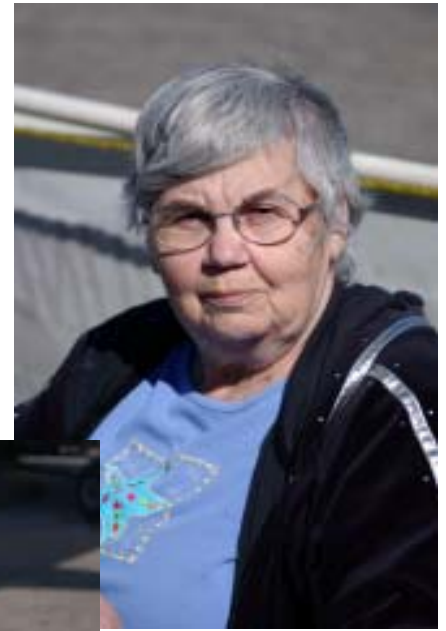


...and he wonders why we call him "Headcase"

Love Ya Paul!



Brad Byron & Guest



Charlotte Ison



Lyle Barney checks on lunch



Bill Ison



Your Officers & Board Members

- President - Edmund M. Kindle
- Vice President - George Simon
- Secretary - John Plotnicky
- Treasurer - Cal Crocker
- Lead Mechanic - Rod McIntyre
- Air Crew Supervisor - Paul Hedtke
- Board Member - Ed Bloom



Bill Ison & Pam Crone