



Lift up her voice.

[contact-us](#) [subscribe](#)

The Gazette

Tuesday, Aug 19, 2014


Weather 82°

marketplace


- kcrg autos
- homes
- here's the deal
- classifieds
- milestones
- directory
- corridor careers
- garage sales

- [Home](#)
- [NEWS](#)
- [OBITUARIES](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [OPINION](#)
- [LIVING](#)
- [ENTERTAINMENT](#)
- [WEATHER](#)


top stories



Liberia fights Ebola in crowded capital



Historic plane lands in Iowa City



Smulekoff's will close, not relocate

Historic plane lands in Iowa City

Flagship Detroit DC-3 first commercially viable passenger plane

By B.A. Morelli, The Gazette

Published: August 19 2014 | 12:01 am - Updated: 19 August 2014 | 1:25 pm in [Front Rotator](#), [News](#),



Photos



The Flagship Detroit DC-3 sits on the tarmac at the Iowa City Municipal Airport on Monday, Aug.18, 2014. The plane was manufactured in 1937 and is oldest DC-3 currently flying. (Liz Martin/The Gazette)

◀ 1 of 6 ▶

Follow The Gazette



Most Popular

- Smulekoff's to leave downtown Cedar Rapids
- Historic plane lands in Iowa City
- Researchers to search Iowa River for Higgins eye pearly mussels
- Ranking Iowa's 2014 football games: No. 3 Maryland
- Smulekoff's will close, not relocate

Find a job

corridor careers.com Experience a whole new way to find your next job.

Find a Job.

IOWA CITY — An historic airplane that played a key role during the early stages of passenger aviation made a landing in Iowa City on Monday.

The aluminum 21-passenger twin propeller plane called the Flagship Detroit DC-3 was one of the first commercially viable passenger planes. This particular aircraft built in 1937 for American Airlines may be the

oldest DC-3 still flying.

"This plane was the birth of passenger aviation," said Sheryl Christian, a member of Flagship Detroit Foundation. "It's the first airplane that could make a profit."

Before the DC-3, airlines relied on contracts to carry mail for the government, she said.

According to MuseumofFlight.org, the DC-3 carried 95 percent of airline passengers in the United States by 1938. American Airlines operated the DC-3 from 1934 to 1946, according to the foundation.

The Flagship Detroit stopped in Iowa City on Monday on its way to an air show in Greeley, Colo. later this week. The plane will be at the Iowa City Airport until this afternoon or Wednesday before continuing on its journey.

Eastern Iowans can stop by to see the plane, and foundation president and pilot Zane Lemon said rides can be offered with at least 12 passengers. The rides are available to people who purchase a \$150 Flagship Detroit Foundation membership.

When Denny Verry saw the silver vintage airplane with a 100-foot wingspan pass overhead on its way to the Iowa City Airport, he knew his young daughters would die to see it.

Verry immediately called home for the girls to look up to the sky, and later they stopped by the runway to check out the historic plane.

"She loves planes of all kinds," Verry said of his 6-year-old Madison, who visits the airport several times a week.

The family was one of a handful of people that explored the plane on Monday.

Alan Murray, a pilot and foundation member from Grapevine, Texas, sat in the cockpit to show off some of controls.

The plane is mostly manually controlled, though it has a hydraulic pump for the wing flaps and landing gear. It has one upgrade — a global positioning unit (GPS).

The cabin isn't pressurized so cruising altitude is about 11,500 feet, though the plane can go up to 14,000 feet for about 30 minutes at a time, Murray said.

The foundation purchased the plane in 2004 in hopes of raising awareness about this early era of aviation.

It was being used as a bug sprayer in Virginia until the foundation bought it. A volunteer crew led the restoration of the plane that took nearly two years. Its base is an American Airlines hanger in Tulsa, Okla.

Foundation members have been flying around the country to air shows several times a year ever since.

"It requires a lot of monitoring," Murray said. "There's no autopilot, but it's a good stable airplane."

I Comments: (319) 339-3177; brian.morelli@thegazette.com

MOST POPULAR

Smulekoff's to leave downtown Cedar Rapids

Historic plane lands in Iowa City

Researchers to search Iowa River for Higgins eye pearly mussels

Ranking Iowa's 2014 football games: No. 3 Maryland

Smulekoff's will close, not relocate



Have you found an error or omission in our reporting? Is there other feedback and/or ideas you want to share with us? Tell us [here](#).

You Might Also Like



Tom Hanks Reveals Startling Health News On 'Late Show...
Lifescrpt



10 Small Cities You Should Think About Retiring To
AARP



14 Reasons You Really Belong in the 1920s
Ancestry.com



Retiring Soon? Hope You Don't Live in These 10 States
Bankrate

More From the Gazette

- [Smulekoff's to leave downtown Cedar Rapids - TheGazette](#) (The Gazette)
- [Cedar Rapids design committee OKs new NewBo building - TheGazette](#) (The Gazette)
- [Cedar Rapids developer takes step on Nash Finch site - TheGazette](#) (The Gazette)
- [Ranking Iowa's 2014 football games: No. 3 Maryland - TheGazette](#) (The Gazette)
- [Ground Floor: Sage + Sky in Iowa City, a store within a store - TheGazette](#) (The Gazette)
- [Southwest Cedar Rapids shooting injures two - TheGazette](#) (The Gazette)

From Around the Web

- [Lifestyle Calculator: How Much Money Do You Actually Need?](#) (LearnVest)
- [Can You Live a Full Life in 220 Square Feet?](#) (Houzz)
- [This is what's actually happening on the Texas/Mexico border](#) (Blue Nation Review)
- [Tour Bruce Willis' Idaho Home for Sale](#) (HGTV FrontDoor)
- [The great Boeing metal-airplane shop \(pictures\)](#) (CNET)
- [9 Things You Should Throw Away Immediately](#) (AARP)

Recommended by

FEATURED JOBS from corridorcareers.com

Senior Technical Support Manager IA-Iowa City MetaCommunications	Software Project Manager IA-Iowa City MetaCommunications	Software Trainer & Market Specialist IA-Iowa City MetaCommunications	Marketing & Technical Writer IA-Iowa City MetaCommunications
--	--	--	--

The Gazette	Our Content	Our Local Sites	Our Online Products	Iowa SourceMedia Group
About Us	Email Newsletters	Iowa Prep Sports	Corridor Careers	KCRG-TV9
Advertise with Us	RSS Feeds	Iowa Bridal Planner	The Gazette Classifieds	The Gazette
Subscribe	Apps	Hoopla Now	Here's the Deal	Color Web Printers
Order Back Issues	Archives	Fusionfarm	Directory	Penny Saver
Customer Care	Green Gazette	KCRG Autos	KCRG A-list	
Newsroom Staff	Puzzle answers	We Create Here	Photo Store	
Newspapers in Education	Policies			