



Bill Kyle (left), a retired Piedmont pilot, and Herb Thomas, a 737 captain, flew the DC-3 from Oshkosh, WI, to Winston-Salem in February.

## DC-3 in Piedmont colors rekindles fond memories

"There are two crazy nuts in a DC-3 on our frequency claiming to be with Piedmont!"

That's the message a DTW agent sent to CAK in February.

"We were on our way from Oshkosh to Akron/Canton to have de-icer boots put on the aircraft," Bill Kyle, a retired Piedmont pilot, chuckled. "Most employees didn't know that the company had purchased a DC-3. Fortunately, the folks at Akron/Canton knew we were coming."

Both Kyle and Herb Thomas, a 737 captain for Piedmont, have great affection for the aircraft.

"I first flew the DC-3 on a trip from Raleigh/Durham to Wilmington in March 1949," Kyle, who flew his last trip in the cockpit of a 727 on August 20, 1985, said. "For a living, I would rather fly the jets, but for fun, the DC-3 is great."

Thomas first flew on the DC-3 from Myrtle Beach to Winston-Salem in 1953 when he was a child. "And it's a thrill to fly on it again, especially in the cockpit," Thomas said. He joined Piedmont in 1973 as a charter pilot for general aviation and for the past 10 years has flown for the airline.

Our "new" DC-3 was purchased last summer from Basler Flight Services in Oshkosh, WI, and this fall, underwent a facelift. On February 9, it arrived at its new home in Winston-Salem where it will be maintained by general aviation.

The DC-3 made its first appearance at a special event when Kyle and Thomas flew the aircraft to Fayetteville in February for the opening of the airport's new facilities.

"The first time I ever flew to Fayetteville was the fall of '49, and I

landed on a grass runway," Kyle reminisced.

Thomas added: "We had a lot of fun with it. Any place you go, the DC-3 draws a crowd. I'm looking forward to seeing it around the system."

Affectionately known as the "Workhorse" or "Gooney Bird," the DC-3 made its debut on the airline's inaugural flight February 20, 1948. The aircraft was retired from our fleet 15 years later.

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Reproductions of artist George Greig's original oil painting of a Piedmont DC-3 in flight are available through the Piedmont Gift Shoppe in Winston-Salem. A limited number of the 16 x 20 color prints, which are \$12.77 each, are signed by the artist. To purchase a print, call extension 5510 or stop by the Shoppe located at Smith Reynolds Airport.

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### DC-3 schedule

The marketing department has scheduled the DC-3 for airshows and other special events as a way of telling Piedmont's success story.

Following are tentative dates and locations where the aircraft will appear:

April 11	Pope Air Force Base Airshow, Fayetteville, NC
April 12	Travel Show '87, Newport News, VA
May 2-3	Tallahassee International Airshow, Tallahassee, FL
May 30-31	Lynchburg Airshow, Lynchburg, VA
June 4-7	AOPA Airshow, Louisville, KY
June 13	Allegheny County Airshow, Pittsburgh, PA
June 15	London Inaugural, Charlotte Douglas International Airport
July 23-26	Dayton Airshow, Dayton, OH
July 31	
August 7	Experimental Aircraft Assn. Show, Oshkosh, WI
September 5-7	Cleveland National Airshow, Cleveland, OH
September 18-20	Piedmont Airlines National Balloon Rally, Statesville, NC
October 3-4	Florida State Air Fair, Kissimmee, FL
October 17	Richmond Airport Opening, Richmond, VA

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## He's TOPS!

"John Tadros is a folk hero in my eyes. This extraordinary combination of good faith and goodwill is the sort of thing that really instills some lost faith in one's fellow man."

These words of praise for EWR Agent John Tadros appear in a letter recently sent to Piedmont by a couple who had arrived at EWR just as their flight was preparing to leave. They were told that they could not make the flight because it would take them at least a half hour to park their car.

"John Tadros stepped forward and said, 'Go ahead, catch the flight; I'll park your car for you.' . . . I handed him the keys to my brand-new 1986 Saab turbo and caught the plane," the passenger wrote.

"Tadros called RDU before I arrived to reassure me that everything was on the up and up, and to reconfirm where the keys would be upon my return. . . . On Sunday, we arrived back at Newark and we were greeted by John Tadros. . . . He simply stated, . . . he was happy to have helped."



A new concourse opened at FAY in February. Piedmont now has two gates with loading bridges, and a third loading bridge will be operational by early summer. Above: Agents (l to r) Curtis Matthews, Quintin McKinney, Johnny Fermanides (supervisor), Donna Matthews, Andy Ray, John Brown, and Frank Verginio show off the new ticket counter. The new facility provides us with support areas on the upper level, and operations and maintenance areas on the lower left. Left: (l to r) Red Smith, maintenance; Donna Reese, Christine Rosas, and Dwain Wilkins, all ramp agents; and Tom Slappe, air freight supervisor; are proud of the new 8,000-square-foot air freight facility (in background).

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