



Ford Tri-Motor Fact Sheet

- ✈ The Air Zoo's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor is a restored 5-AT-C model (N8419).
- ✈ It flew in many roles during its career, but was last used as a smoke jumper aircraft for Johnson Flying Service, operating out of Mazola, Mont.
- ✈ While Johnson Flying Service was flying the Tri-Motor, it crashed and was a total write off. However, Kal-Aero Inc. of Kalamazoo, Mich. purchased its remains and the remains of two other Tri-Motors to be used for parts. At that time, Kal-Aero Inc. was in the process of restoring another Tri-Motor that had been operated by Island Airlines in Port Clinton, Ohio. Following the restoration of the Island Airlines Tri-Motor in 1978, Kal-Aero Inc. reassessed old 8419 and decided that it could be brought back to life too.
- ✈ Although the Tri-Motor was originally manufactured in 1929, it now features a number of modifications to bring it up to current standards.
- ✈ As it rolled off of the assembly line, the aircraft featured three Pratt & Whitney 975 engines, but it now has three Pratt & Whitney 985-14B engines, producing 450 horsepower each.
- ✈ The aircraft features full-feathering props, a modernized fuel system and an updated electrical system with alternators on two engines. It is instrument flight rules capable and is updated with hydraulic toe brakes for the pilot and co-pilot.
- ✈ The Tri-Motor weighs more than 12,500 pounds and features the paint scheme of a C-4 of the 60th Service Squadron, a military medical transport from 1930.
- ✈ After the Air Zoo's Ford Tri-Motor was restored, it took its first flight on July 24, 1991. Over the next 10 years, it flew tens of thousands of Air Zoo visitors.
- ✈ In 2001, serious corrosion was discovered in the wing spar, grounding the Tri-Motor for the next several years. Now, with new wing spars installed, it is back, providing the thrill of the golden age of flight once again.