



EAA-2013-11  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **EXPERIENCE OF 1920S LUXURY AVIATION WITH EAA'S FORD TRI-MOTOR TOUR**

EAA AVIATION CENTER, OSHKOSH, Wis. — (April 9, 2013) — EAA's immaculate 1929 Ford Tri-Motor and its "sister" from the Air Zoo will be touring the country this spring and summer offering an opportunity for passengers to experience flight aboard the world's first mass-produced airliner. During EAA's Ford Tri-Motor Tour, passengers will travel back to the early days of what was considered luxurious commercial air travel.

The Ford Tri-Motor or the "Tin Goose" was first built by the Ford Motor Company in the late 1920s. EAA's Ford Tri-Motor was constructed in 1929 and has an intriguing history, with roles ranging from service as Cuban airliner to extensive background fighting forest fires while transporting smoke jumpers.

After a thunderstorm wrecked havoc on the airplane in 1973, EAA Founder Paul Poberezny purchased the aircraft, which then underwent a 12-year restoration. Since then it has been hangared at the EAA Museum's historic Pioneer Airport and only departs to make public appearances and for its touring.

EAA's Ford Tri-Motor has also made a celebrity appearance in two major movies—1960's "Family Jewels" starring Jerry Lewis and 2009's "Public Enemies" starring Johnny Depp.

It's "sister" Tri-Motor was also constructed in 1929. It was brought to National Air Transport where it traveled across the United States delivering freight and mail. In 1945 it received a complete overhaul from Monroe Airways. From there the Tri-Motor performed a variety of duties providing scenic flights down to the Grand Canyon and also fighting forest fires. In 1991 it was purchased and rebuilt by Kal-Aero and then donated to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.

Both Tri-Motors can carry up to ten passengers at a time, and every seat has a window. Passengers are encouraged to bring a camera to record and share this experience. Tickets purchased in advance are \$70 for adults; walk up tickets are \$75 and \$50 for children 17 years old and under.

2013 tours begin May 24 in Kalamazoo, Mich. and go through July 21 encompassing 11 different states. Book your spot on the historic “Tin Goose” through a secure flight-reservation system at [www.flytheford.org](http://www.flytheford.org), EAA’s Tri-Motor tour website. You can also pre-book a flight by calling 1-800-843-3612.

### **About EAA**

EAA embodies the spirit of aviation through the world’s most engaged community of aviation enthusiasts. EAA’s 176,000 members and 1,000 local chapters enjoy the fun and camaraderie of sharing their passion for flying, building and restoring recreational aircraft. For more information on EAA and its programs, call 800-JOIN-EAA (800-564-6322) or go to [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org). For continual news updates, connect with [www.twitter.com/EAAupdate](https://www.twitter.com/EAAupdate).

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### **Model 5-AT**

Original Engine	P&W Wasp 420HP
Gross Weight:	13,500#
Cruise speed:	122mph
Stall speed:	64 mph
Range:	560 miles
Rate of Climb:	1050 fpm
Ceiling:	18,500’
Engine Out “	10,500’
Wing Span:	77’6”
Wing Area:	835 sq.ft.
Length:	50’3”
Height:	12’8”
Cabin width:	4’6”
Cabin height:	6’0”
Cabin Length:	18’9”
Cabin Cubic ft.	529’
Max. seating	10
Fuel Capacity:	277-355gal



The Ford Tri-Motor was the world's first mass-produced airliner. Between 1925 and 1933, the Ford Motor Co. built 199 Tri-Motors. Today, only about 12 Tri-Motors remain.

The Air Zoo's 5-AT Ford Tri-Motor (N4819) came off the assembly line in 1929 with serial number 58 and was delivered to National Air Transport where it probably delivered freight and mail. It quickly went to Ford Motor Company for modifications and then was sold to Northwest Airways flying the Minneapolis-St Paul to Chicago run. It was one of five Tri-Motors bought by what would become Northwest Airlines.

Eventually it flew out to Seattle, Washington where it was purchased by the co-founder of Northern Air Transport. It was based in Fairbanks, where it carried freight for what became Wien Alaskan Airlines (later to become Alaska Airlines).

Later on, the Tri-Motor was flown all the way from Alaska to Monroe, Michigan in 1945 where Monroe Airways completely overhauled it and used it for barnstorming and selling rides. From there, the Tri-Motor's list of uses included: being used for scenic flights down into the Grand Canyon, delivering smokejumpers to forest fires and was also rented back to Northwest Airlines in 1956 to participate in the company's 30th anniversary where it was even featured on the Arthur Godfrey Show.

Kal-Aero of Kalamazoo (later bought out by Duncan Aviation) purchased the Tri-Motor and started rebuilding it. After many years of work, the new Tri-Motor flew again on July 15, 1991. It was purchased and donated to the Air Zoo, which flew it until it was time for a complete overhaul.