

Vintage Air North DC-3 takes flight for first time in over a decade

BY DAYNA FEDY-MACDONALD | JULY 28, 2022
Estimated reading time 5 minutes, 48 seconds.

A vintage Douglas DC-3 aircraft (previously owned by Yukon-based Air North) recently flew for the first time in over a decade after receiving a complete restoration by aviation enthusiasts in the U.S.

The plane, known as the "Yukon Sourdough," took to the sky in mid-July from Hagerstown Municipal Airport, Maryland, with pilots Jim Sells and Mike Macario at the controls. Pilot Ken Casady, who was involved in the plane's restoration, was also on board.



The restored DC-3, known as the Yukon Sourdough, in Maryland. Air North DC-3 Yukon Sourdough/Facebook Photo

Casady said while there were some small glitches, which required a few adjustments, the flight was still a success as the plane did everything it was supposed to do.

After the engines fired up, they had to be shut down briefly as the pilots were not able to hear air traffic control on the radio. A member of the restoration team, Malcolm Van Kirk, was able to get on board and quickly rectify the issue.

The plane was then able to take off, allowing Sells and Macario to fly it to a practice area near the airport to perform several maneuvers. Observers on the ramp cheered as the plane became airborne.

The aircraft was originally built in 1942 as a C-47A Skytrain. In 1982, it was purchased by Air North, registered as CF-OVW — a Douglas DC3C-S1C3G — and operated with the name and tail art "Yukon Sourdough." Air North sold the plane in 1998, and in 2001, it was picked up and partially restored by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in a hangar at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



The restored Air North DC-3 in a hangar in Hagerstown, Maryland. Air North DC-3 Yukon Sourdough/Facebook Photo

The EAA then received a donation of another DC-3, and decided to sell the Yukon Sourdough. Malcolm Van Kirk and his brother, Stephen (a retired airline pilot), purchased the plane and brought it to Maryland. When the plane was put up for sale again, Casady came across the listing and reached out to the Van Kirk brothers. Casady said he could tell they didn't really want to sell the plane, so he decided to partner with the Van Kirks to completely restore the aircraft. The plane still wears the yellow-and-green Air North livery, but now has a new tail number: N963DC.

Malcolm Van Kirk said the plane had an inspection in late 2009, and likely flew some in 2010, before it was damaged in a windstorm while parked outside.

When the DC-3 finally flew again just a few weeks ago, it was a bittersweet moment, as Malcolm's brother, Stephen, passed away on July 1, just prior to the flight. His name is painted just below the left pilot's window as a tribute.

In a near-full circle moment, this week, the plane flew once again at EAA's annual AirVenture Oshkosh airshow, which is currently being held at Wittman Regional Airport, Wisconsin, from July 24 to 31.



"Good enough is good enough," will never fly with us.

Others sell parts, WE SELL SUPPORT

DC ONE-X
The most comfortable, premium ANR headset in aviation >

HOME SAFE
TEM 350

CONTACT US TODAY CALL OUR TEAM EXPERTS (800) 575-0001

LATEST HELITRADER LISTINGS

- Leonardo AW109**
Contact seller for price
Year: 2019
- MD Helicopters MD600N**
CAD \$ 1,300,000
Year: 1984
- Leonardo AS300K2**
USD \$ 1,200,000
Year: 1996
- Airbus Bo105 LS-A3**
Contact seller for price
Year: 1992
- Bell 505**
Contact seller for price
Year: 2002
- Sikorsky S92A**
Make an offer
Year: 2013
- Robinson R44 Clipper II**
USD \$ 495,000
Year: 2008
- Airbus AS350B2**
USD \$ 995,000
Year: 2004

[All Listings](#)

Visit us at MRO Booth #1205/1305

Avionics
Components
Engines
Manufacturing
Sub Assembly
DER

NEWS FROM THE WEB

- [American Airlines plane engine catches fire after possible bird strike](#)
- [Pilot escapes plane crash in Collingwood, Ontario with minor injuries](#)
- [Women are less than 3% of aviation maintenance technicians. Why?](#)
- [Vancouver-based KinectAir helps firms connect with ride-hailing aviation app](#)
- [Arrival of new aircraft, lack of trained staff will cause 'significant disruption' for RCAF, generals told](#)
- [The airline industry is working on cleaner fuel — but how quickly can it decarbonize flying?](#)

[All Web News](#)

PRATOR 500
BY EUROPE

WELL CONNECTED.

experience full-matrix centered flight >



The Yukon Sourdough at this year's EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. Air North DC-3 Yukon Sourdough/Facebook Photo

The question remains if the plane will ever make its way back to the Yukon.

Casady said the costs to operate and maintain the DC-3 are fairly steep: it costs roughly \$1,500 per hour just to fly the plane. He noted that if people are willing to support these costs through small donations, the team would absolutely fly the aircraft to the Yukon.

Long term, the team would ideally like to keep the DC-3 operational, rather than see it hanging from the ceiling of a museum on display.

[Follow along the Yukon Sourdough's journey at its Facebook page.](#)

Notice a spelling mistake or typo?

Click on the button below to send an email to our team and we will get to it as soon as possible.

[Report an error or typo](#)

Have a story idea you would like to suggest?

Click on the button below to send an email to our team and we will get to it as soon as possible.

[Suggest a story](#)

Leave a comment

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment *

Name *

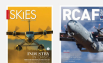
Email *

Website

Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

[Post Comment](#)

MAGAZINES



[READ NOW](#) →

CONNECT

FOLLOW US



[About Our Magazines](#)
[Contact Us](#)

DAILY NEWS

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS

[Subscribe](#)

[Submit A Press Release](#)
[Read Today's Newsletter](#)

MORE

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS

[Vertical](#)
[Insight](#)
[eVTOL](#)

CORPORATE LINKS

[Media Kit](#)
[Advertising Inquiry](#)

500 Trillium Dr. Unit 23, Kitchener, ON N2R 1E5 | Phone: 519-748-1591 | Toll-Free: 1-855-834-1114 | Fax: 519-748-2537
Vertical and Vertical Valor are part of MPM Publishing Inc. © All Rights Reserved 2020 | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

