

## A Ford type rating, a birthday, and many new advertisers.



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PUBLISHER

### Dear Fellow Owner/Pilot:

Last month I mentioned that I was going to Grand Canyon airport for a type rating in the Grand Canyon Ford Tri-motor, N414H. I'm pleased to report that there are now two more pilots typed in the Ford 5-AT, or in FAA nomenclature, the FO-5. Getting the Ford rating was a wonderful experience.

When I arrived at the Canyon, I checked into the Grand Canyon Squire Inn, and ran into fellow "student" Douglas Conciatu in the lobby. Doug is from Sterling Heights, Michigan. He is a flight instructor, EAA volunteer and Young Eagles pilot extraordinaire. The Valle Airport folks had everything in order from the moment we walked in. Our instructor, Bryan Godlove, was there waiting for us. Bryan's father had flown N414H over the Canyon years before and Bryan is now filling his father's shoes as the Ford Tri-motor instructor.

Three days of ground school and flying followed. We received more "stick time" in the Ford than I had expected and both Mike and I loved every minute of it. After each day's flying we enjoyed a relaxing dinner at the Squire Inn, bantering back and forth with Bryan, John



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Dillon and John Seibold. The latter two, having come in to observe the first 5-AT class in thirty years, regaled us with the storied past of Grand Canyon Airlines and the history of N414H.

The Ford is a joy to fly. It's ponderous and a bit heavy on the controls but that makes it all the more fun. I will say, when you pull the

power off the left or right engine, before long you can definitely use both feet on the opposite rudder. Despite starting out at 6,000 feet, the airplane performed very well, aided perhaps by the relatively cool air and light passenger load. I posted a fly-by of 414H at the Valle Airport on YouTube. If you want to see it go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and Search: 414H.

Our check ride was given by Bob Davis. It was an extremely professional experience. When we finished we both felt we had earned the rating. I am actually somewhat surprised that, given the value of this rare aircraft, the opportunity to earn the type rating is being made available. It's the first time in decades. If you have any desire to get typed in America's first truly successful airliner, don't miss this experience. To find out more, visit [www.ValleAirport.com](http://www.ValleAirport.com) or call 928-635-5280.

### It's Our Birthday!

When I sat down to write this letter, I noticed that this issue is #36. That means this is *AircraftOwner's* third birthday. As they say, "How time flies!" Somehow it just does not seem like we started publishing three years ago. Perhaps it's because we have been having such great fun with the concept of delivering product offerings to the most exclusive group of people in aviation – 100,000 individuals who own and fly their own aircraft and the 30,000 people in business aviation who are responsible for the operation of their company's aircraft. Fortunately for all of us, more and more advertisers are joining us every month. This month is no exception.

### The Advertisers In *AircraftOwner* Support You Too!

Please join me in welcoming our new and returning advertisers. As with all the advertisers in *AircraftOwner*, we urge you to support them. After all – every one of these advertisers are supporting you. Please give them first shot at your business.

Take a good look through this month's issue. *Lycoming* has joined us on page 3, along with *ASL Camguard* on page 13, both with beautiful full page ads. By the way the Camguard product is exclusively sold by *Aircraft Specialties*, joining us again on page 12. *Precision Hose Technology* is here for you on page 17. If you need to be baffled and sealed, turn to page 10 and check out *Brown Aircraft Supply*. Another new advertiser, *Nav-Data*, is on page 8, featuring aviation products all under \$100.

Look through the pages and you will see numerous new advertisements, including those from *Concord Battery*, *LightSpeed* (love that new Zulu headset), *Northwest Backcountry* has a nice new look on page 9. Also, don't miss ads from *Production Software*, *The Air Store*, *Tulsa Towbots*, *Advocate Consulting*, *AOPA Insurance* and *Erikson Aviation*. *Gippsland* is back on the back cover. And our friends at *Liberty Aerospace* are showing the ultimate sport and training airplane – the amazing XL2.

*Sky-Tec*, the leading starter company, wants you to check out what their starters can mean to you, just visit them at [www.SkyTecStarters.com/AO](http://www.SkyTecStarters.com/AO).

*Mountain High Oxygen* will help you breath easier. They are with us for the first time to serve all your aviation oxygen needs; give them a call at 877-923-4110 for a quote or visit [MHOxygen.com/AO](http://MHOxygen.com/AO).

A special "thank you" to all of our advertisers for enabling us to bring *AircraftOwner* to you every month free of charge.

Fly safe!

PS: Don't forget you can shop for, and advertise your aircraft for sale, free of charge on [www.AircraftOwner.com](http://www.AircraftOwner.com).