

SCHAF Newsletter for February 2016-

**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, February 13, 2016. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.**

### Foundation Happenings-

We start off this newsletter with big news. This could mark an important step for SCHAF. The folks at Patriots Point in Charleston are planning on restoring their B-25B to military condition and they've asked SCHAF to assist. On Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> members of SCHAF met with the folks at Patriots Point to discuss ways we can help. Got to meet with Mac Burdette, the executive director of Patriots Point as well as members of his staff. They talked about their plans for the B-25 "Furtle Turtle" and SCHAF members offered suggestions on the restoration process. Their Mitchell bomber is currently on the hangar deck and mounted on three poles but they want to restore and have it resting on her landing gear. Burdette said he would like for some of his staff to come to Columbia and assist with the restoration of GF-2.



Was a great visit and it was wonderful to meet with folks at Patriots Point. Nice people. We also got a tour of the U.S.S. Laffey and their Viet-Nam village. If you've never visited Patriots Point or haven't in a while you owe to yourself to do so soon. They are doing great things there and they have even bigger plans for the future.



*Vought Corsair and Grumman Panther at Patriot's Point*

WCIV-TV in Charleston was there that morning and did a story about "Furtle Turtle" and Ken Berry is in the story. Here's the link: <http://abcnews4.com/news/local/furtle-turtle-b-25-bomber-at-patriots-point-to-get-a-face-lift> .

Only a handful of people showed up for the January open house at Hamilton-Owens Field. EAA 242 Young Eagles didn't fly that day because of weather and that impacted the number of visitors to Y-1. Had a few people drop by and it was good to see Alton Blankes who always drops by. Here's a suggestion; if you know of a church, scout, school or civic group you think might be interested, let them know about our open house the second Saturday of each month. If you know of a group that is interested in coming to an open house and plans to attend on a specific date let us know so we can be ready for them.. We love to meet new people and spread the word about SCHAF.

Want to mention that at our next open house on Saturday, February 13th we plan to have members of the family of Horace "Sally" Crouch, who was one of the Doolittle Raiders in 1942. We plan to commemorate the formation of the raiders which took place in 1942 at Columbia Army Air Base (now Columbia Metro). Would love to have a great turnout.

The board of directors of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation met on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the Foster Law Offices in Columbia. Board members were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Cantzon Foster, David McIntosh, Scott Linaberry and Xen Motsinger. There was discussion about the continuing restoration of GF-2 and the general feeling is that more people need to get involved and help out. If you can help, know about working with tools or want to learn, please step forward and volunteer. We need to get the restoration back on schedule. We will be ordering Plexiglas in the near future for the nose section of GF-2. There was also discussion about the successful trip to Patriots Point in Charleston. It was also agreed that the tentative date for the SCHAF hangar dance will be Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Planning will resume in the near future and we will need a lot of folks to get involved. Last year's dance was a big success and we want this year to be even better. 2016 is shaping up to be a big year for SCHAF and we need as many folks as possible to help out with any number of projects.

If you're interested in military history the War History Online site is a good to get to know. Recently they had an article about SCHAF and the restoration of GF-2. Seems the world about SCHAF is getting out. Here's the link: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/b-25-mitchell-restored.html> . And here's a link to a German website with a piece on GF-2: <http://www.klassiker-der-luftfahrt.de/geschichte/flugzeuge/b-25c-mitchell-sucht-neue-heimat/661760> . It's in German but still pretty cool that folks in other countries are starting to take notice.

## Historical Notes-

Some good links dealing with various historical items. Here's one about the Flying Tigers and the CBI Theatre: [http://www.cbi-theater.com/flyingtigers/flying\\_tigers.html](http://www.cbi-theater.com/flyingtigers/flying_tigers.html) .

Here's another one about how an eccentric French balloonist invented aerial photography: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/68322/how-eccentric-french-balloonist-invented-aerial-photography> .

The folks at the Canadian Warplanes Heritage Museum have been great friends to SCHAF. Here's a link about the Americans who died for Canada during the Second World War. They're finally getting some recognition: [http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/10/22/the\\_americans\\_who\\_died\\_for\\_canada\\_in\\_wwii.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/10/22/the_americans_who_died_for_canada_in_wwii.html) .

A link to some really cool color pix of the North American P-51 Mustang: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/military-vehicle-news/wwii-images-51-mustang.html> .

Oh, here's a great story from the forgotten files of aviation history, the woman who did what Amelia Earhart didn't do: <http://www.buzzfeed.com/amyksaunders/the-untold-story-of-the-first-woman-to-fly-around-the-world#.ir3PZ8vQ> .

We've already mentioned the trip to Patriots Point in January. Here's a link to a story in early January about the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Patriots Point: <http://abcnews4.com/news/local/patriots-point-kicks-off-40th-anniversary-celebration> . Patriots Point is one of the truly outstanding things about the Palmetto State. Again, if you haven't visited it in a while or have never taken the opportunity to visit, what are you waiting for?

Oh, and speaking of South Carolina, below is a picture of the USAF's B-2 bomber "The Spirit of South Carolina" flying alongside a T-38 Talon trainer. Neat picture.



A nice article from Mental Floss: 15 Uplifting facts about the Wright Brothers. Follow this link: <http://www.mentalfloss.com/article/72273/15-uplifting-facts-about-wright-brothers> .

I grew up learning that the "Memphis Belle" captained by Robert K. Morgan, a native of Asheville, North Carolina was the first American bomber to complete 25 missions over Europe. A documentary movie would be made during World War II and in the 90s there was a feature movie entitled "Memphis Belle." According to this article from the War History Online the "belle" was not only not the first to complete 25 missions but the third. Interesting. Here's the link: <http://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/memphis-belle-v-b-24-hot-stuff-history-came-celebrate-wrong-wwii-warbird.html> . Whatever the facts Morgan and the Memphis Belle will go down in the books as the pilot and plane to make it to the 25 mark. What's that line from *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*? Oh yes, it's when the newspaperman says "when the legend becomes fact, print the legend."

A piece about the experience of being a Nazi POW during World War II and surviving: <http://adst.org/2015/03/the-light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel-surviving-a-nazi-pow-camp/> .

A heart-warming article from last year about the world's oldest living Lancaster pilot who got one last ride in the big four engine heavy bomber from World War II: <http://www.argunners.com/oldest-surviving-lancaster-pilot-went-for-one-last-flight/> . The Lancaster he flew in last year was "Vera," the "lanc" that belongs to our friends at the Canadian Warplanes Heritage Museum.

A link dealing with a command performance for King George VI during World War II. The king was at a radar station one night and was able to witness the downing of a German bomber by a Bristol Beaufighter of the RAF. Here's the first link: <http://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/shot-king.html> .

Remembering some great test pilots: <http://www.urbanghostsmedia.com/2015/04/past-lives-12-test-pilots-early-aviation-pioneers-history/> .

Bill Rouw, a SCHAFF member from Canada sent in this story about an airplane landing in that took place in Cobourg, Canada in 1951. Interesting thing, Cobourg has no airport. Read on: <http://www.cobourghistory.ca/stories/plane-landing-in-cobourg-1951> . Thanks Bill.

In January the man who piloted the Concorde on its maiden flight passed away. Here's his obit from the Daily Telegraph of London: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/12087391/Andre-Turcat-Concorde-pilot-obituary.html> .

Here's the story of a fly-past last year honoring a female veteran pilot from World War II: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/fly-past-for-world-war-two-female-veteran-pilot.html> .

## Good Reads-

[\*The Mighty Eight: The Air War in Europe as Told by the Men Who Fought It\*](#) by Gerald Astor. A great book by the late Gerald Astor who lets the words, letters and diaries of the men who fought and flew in the skies over tell what it was like to be part of a vast aerial armada that took the war to the German homeland and ultimately would play a major role in bringing Hitler's war machine to heel. Heart breaking yet at the same time heartwarming as you feel and experience the lives of the air crews who manned the planes, the ground crews that supported them and the men in charge who had to make life or death decisions that would affect those in their charge. More than just a history containing dates and statistics; this tells the story of great air battles over Europe and the human and emotional cost of being a participant. It is also inspiring to recall that the individuals who peopled the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force came from all walks of life, from all parts of America and answered the call. Read it then ask yourself; would you have been made of stern enough stuff to have to have endured what the men of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force had to endure during those trying and heroic times. Read it and be reminded of the qualities that make free people great.

## Odds and Ends-

For last month's trivia question we were looking for the name of an airline that once served the south. When you flew on them you were flying the "Route of the Pacemakers." The answer is Piedmont Airlines. They were headquartered in Winston-Salem and would later be absorbed into U.S. Air which recently merged with American Airlines. Over the years they built a solid reputation for offering quality, consistent service. If you were a plane watcher at Columbia Metropolitan in the 60s and 70s you probably saw their Fokker F-27s and Martin 404s. They were also one of the few airlines to operate a Japanese airliner, the Nihon YS-11 (I had occasion to fly on one in the early 80s). Before becoming part of U.S. Air they would also fly the Charlotte to London/Gatwick route. Had a number of folks who came up with the right answer. Congratulations go out to Niall McLaughlin, Fred Knudson, John Tokaz and Ron and Linda Skipper who all had the correct answer. Also providing the right answer were Anna Amick, Frank Young and David Moxley. Fred mentioning that he enjoyed Piedmont and has good memories of it as great airline. John mentioned in his reply that Gordon Bethune at one time was a VP for maintenance at Piedmont. John worked for Bethune at Western Airlines Bethune would later become CEO of Continental Airlines, another great carrier from the past. Again, congrats to everyone who remembers the "Pacemakers" of Piedmont.

Since last month's trivia question dealing with airlines was so successful and had such a great response we'll continue on an airline theme. Which airline was "the Route of the Aristocrats." Hint, they served Columbia Metropolitan in the 60s and 70s. Among the aircraft they flew were Martin 404s and Douglas DC-3s and DC-9s. Name the airline I'm looking for. Answer next month.

Speaking of Columbia Metropolitan Airport, here's a picture of the old terminal building in the 1950s. It was replaced by a new terminal in 1965, which has since been expanded. The observation deck on the roof was a great place to go plane spotting as a kid. If I remember correctly at that time only Delta and Eastern served Columbia.



An item from the news. In January a British woman Tracey Curtis-Taylor completed her flight in a Boeing/Stearman biplane from the UK to Australia. She started her journey in October of last year and when she landed in Oz her first words were "I need a drink." She deserved it. Had I made that flight I might have needed a second or third. Here's the story from the BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35271182> . Another story from The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/jan/09/i-need-a-drink-british-woman-lands-in-sydney-after-21000km-flight-in-vintage-biplane> .



Another item from the news, the pre-game flyover for the national college football championship game between the Clemson Tigers and the Alabama Crimson Tide was led by a South Carolinian, Major Matthew Mayer of Lexington. Here's the story: <http://www.wistv.com/story/30929257/lexington-native-to-lead-national-championship-flyover> .

Here's a good article from the New York Times that SCHAF president Ken Berry sent about how aviation museums can make the imagination soar: [http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/17/travel/aviation-museum-seattle-washington.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/17/travel/aviation-museum-seattle-washington.html?_r=2) .

Story from The Aviationist website about the B-2 flyover at this year's Rose Bowl. Includes a great picture: <http://theaviationist.com/2016/01/04/b-2-flyover-aerial-photography/> .

A piece from Airway News marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of DC-9 service on Delta Airlines: <http://airwaysnews.com/blog/2015/12/04/50-years-ago-delta-air-lines-first-dc-9-flight/> .

Another good article, this one from the BBC website on Miracles of Aviation History: <http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20141209-miracles-of-aviation-history> .

Would like to put in a plug for our friends at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. In 2014 the CWHM's Avro Lancaster VERA flew across the pond to the UK to tour the British Isles with the Lancaster of the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Late last year the documentary *Reunion of Giants* was released. If you look closely you'll see SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin who was part of the support crew for Vera. It's a great film. To order a DVD follow this link: <http://www.warplane.com/reunion-of-giants.aspx> . Over the last year or so the folks at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum have been very supportive of SCHAF and the restoration of GF-2. Ordering a DVD would be a nice way of saying thanks.

## In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. With 2016 here you might be looking for something to get involved with. Here's a suggestion, get involved with SCHAF. We have a lot going on and more is planned. Just get in touch and see how you can help. If you have an idea or an area of interest let folks know. Maybe you're interested in some of the South Carolinians mentioned in a newsletter and would like to research their lives and contributions. Do you have stories to share, remembrances or a friend or relative with a story? Write it down, contribute a few paragraphs to a future newsletter. Do you have a skill in wood or metal-working? Put it to use in helping restore GF-2 or putting together displays. This year make it a point to become involved with SCHAF.

If you have something you would like to share please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion in future newsletters. **Oh, and by the way, if you have not renewed your membership, do so at your earliest convenience.** [Go to the SCHAF membership page on the foundation's website.](#) Your support of SCHAF is greatly appreciated

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