

SCHAF Newsletter for February 2017-

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, February 11, 2017. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport. We will be marking the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Doolittle Raiders at Columbia Army Air Base in 1942.

Foundation Happenings-

A quiet open house to start off the New Year. It was an overcast day and the Young Eagles program at EAA 242 did not fly that day which in turn cut down on visitors to the SCHAF hangar. Had some folks drop by and they seemed to enjoy visiting and seeing and hearing about GF-2. Did have a number of SCHAF members drop by and we had a great morning of talking about airplanes, aviation history and related subjects. SCHAF members on hand were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Niall McLaughlin, Graham Gilstrap, Alton Blanks, Terri Tokaz, Katherine Cuddy and myself.

Everyone who dropped by was impressed at the progress being made in the restoration of GF-2. The new Plexiglas is mostly installed and looks great. Below you'll see some pictures. She looks great. The SCHAF restoration team has really done yeoman's duty and accomplished a great deal.



New Plexiglas in nose and cockpit of GF-2

As I mentioned above the last open house provided a good chance for SCHAF members to get together and discuss things. Below some more pictures.



Ken and Niall

Niall, Graham and Ken

Niall and Katherine

Also had the pleasure during the open house of meeting Marc Santacroce, a flying instructor who now calls the midlands home. Marc is putting together something called Columbia Aviation Meetup. It's done through meetup.com, an online social networking portal. Marc wants to bring together people in the midlands who are interesting in flying or learning to fly. He plans his first meeting at Hamilton-Owens Airport at 7pm on February 1st. He says it will be a meet and greet sort of get together where folk can talk about what the group's purpose will be.

SCHAF member Gary Byrd passed along the information that in April an event marking the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid will be taking at Grimes Field in Urbana, Ohio and the word is that there will be a gathering of B-25s, maybe as many as 15. Should be interesting. Thank you, Gary for passing along. Will keep everyone posted.

Again, would like to mention that the foundation still has number of prints commemorating the Doolittle Raiders for sale. There are three different prints. If you would to purchase any of the prints or would like more information please contact Katherine Cuddy. Her e-mail is kcuddy@bellsouth.net.



The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation held their monthly meeting at Hamilton-Owens Airport in Columbia on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Board members present were Ken Berry, Xen Motsinger and David McIntosh. Members present were Mary McIntosh, Niall McLaughlin, Terri Tokaz, Ron Skipper, Alton Blanks and Katherine Cuddy.

It was reported that the restoration of GF-2 is coming along nicely. A list of items needed for the restoration project was discussed. Among the items needed; a computer so that documents can be stored and accessed by the restoration team. If someone has an older desktop or laptop they can donate it would be greatly appreciated. Also needed, leather for the seats in the cockpit. It was also reported that the instrument panel is ready to be installed in the cockpit. The foundation is also looking for a retired airframe and power plant person to help the restoration crew.

There was also discussion regarding Midlands Gives which is sponsored by the Central Carolina Community Foundation. Steps are underway for SCHAF to take part in Midlands Gives later this year. Kudos go out to Niall McLaughlin who has done so much recently to lay the groundwork for SCHAF's participation.

There was also discussion about holding a membership appreciation night in April. The tentative date is April 8th. It would be a chance for the SCHAF membership to gather and enjoy an evening of fellowship. There would be pizza, soft drinks, movies and videos on the big screen TV and a chance for everyone to see old friends and make new ones. Will keep everyone posted.

It was reported that another membership renewal mailing will be going out in March. There was also discussion of forming a fund raising committee. If you would like to serve on the committee please let me or any of the other board members know of your interest.

Again, make a note of it; the next SCHAF open house takes place on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at hangar Y-1 at Hamilton-Owens Airport in Columbia. We will be honoring the memory of the Doolittle Raiders, who 75 years ago were formed at Columbia Army Air Base, now Columbia Metro. There is a chance there could be a visit by members of the family of one of the raiders. The hours for the open house are 10am to 1pm. We would love to have a good crowd. Again, that's Saturday, February 11th from 10am to 1pm.

Historical Notes-

I've been known to jump on my soapbox from time to time, especially on the subject of the importance of knowing history. It's vital that the young people of today are knowledgeable and aware of events that took place before their time. Bear with me because in a moment you'll understand why I'm climbing up on my soapbox again. In July the movie *Dunkirk* is set to come out. It's directed by Christopher Nolan. Movie fans will remember him as the director of a number of great movies including The Dark Knight trilogy, *Inception* and *Interstellar*. Anyway *Dunkirk* will include a number of name actors including Kenneth Branagh, Mark Rylance and Tom Hardy. It looks to be a great production; a movie worth seeing. Here's the trailer, take a look: <http://www.dunkirkmovie.com>. See what I mean. It looks to include a number of impressive aerial scenes; that's the aviation hookup. Now here's where I step up to the soapbox. A friend was in my office recently, a friend who is a big film buff and a fan of Nolan. I showed him the trailer and he said it looked great but he hoped Nolan wouldn't mess it up with a surprise ending. He said Nolan was known for that. I replied that he couldn't change the ending.

"Oh really, why?"

"Because it's history" I replied.

"Really, about what?"

"Dunkirk, when the British rescued almost 340,000 troops from the beaches of France."

"Oh," he said, "I never knew that."

The individual who made those comments is in his early thirties and a bright person but, it seems, lacking in historical knowledge. Sad. We need to educate the younger generation about the events that created the world we live in. I rest my case.

An item from the news late last year. The pilot who flew the Swordfish torpedo bomber that crippled the *Bismarck* passed away in December. Here are a couple of links about Jock Moffat:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-38297099>. And this one: <https://www.navywings.org.uk/news-blog/fleet-air-arm-swordfish-pilot-lt-cdr-john-jock-moffat-sank-bismarck-dies-aged-97/>. Would like to make mention of the aircraft models donated last year by the Stackhouse family to SCHAFF. Among the models, a Fairey Swordfish.

An interesting footnote from the early days of educational broadcasting; TV broadcasts from DC-6s flying over the Midwest: <http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/didyouknow/2014/Q4/did-you-know-midwest-program-on-airborne-television-instruction.html>. Another link about the TV transmitters in the sky: <http://www.chicagotelevision.com/MPATI.htm>.

A nice posting from the always interesting Shortfinals blog about a plane that in the sixties was the eyes of the U.S. Navy- the Vigilante: <https://shortfinals.wordpress.com/2013/07/12/north-american-ra-5c-vigilante-the-eyes-of-the-fleet/>. Another good posting from Shortfinals, this one about Charles Lindbergh: <https://shortfinals.wordpress.com/2013/09/30/charles-lindbergh-the-man-and-his-aircraft/>. While we're on the subject of Charles Lindbergh, an interesting article about the Spirit of St. Louis from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum site: <https://airandspace.si.edu/stories/editorial/stories-inside-spirit-st-louis>.

Inside the cockpit of the oldest surviving Lancaster bomber: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-567103/Pictured-Inside-cockpit-oldest-surviving-Lancaster-bomber.html>.

A piece about the day the Luftwaffe self-destructed: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/featured/operation-bodenplatte.html>.

And speaking of the Luftwaffe, here's something about the forgotten Nazi past of one of America's deadliest warplanes: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/10/12/american-warplane-s-forgotten-nazi-past.html>. Another article about this particular warplane: <http://www.businessinsider.com/a10-bomb-markings-active-against-isis-2016-11>.

The Tuskegee Airmen or “Red Tails” earned their place as pioneers in aviation and in the battle for equal rights and rightfully so. They battled discrimination as well as the enemy and did so with honor and dignity. What about the black pilots in the air forces of other countries. Well, here’s an interesting article from the Vintage Wings of Canada website about the Black Buffalo, the first black bomber pilot in the RCAF:

<http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/342/Black-Buffalo.aspx> .

On the same subject here’s something about black pilots in the RAF during World War II:

<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/whats-going-on/events/pilots-of-the-caribbean-volunteers-of-african-he/> . The posting is about an exhibit the RAF held a couple of years back.

In last month’s newsletter I included a link to a posting about black airline pilots. Here’s another good link about early black pilots: <http://avstop.com/history/blackpilots/index.html> . Also one about black owned airlines: <http://avstop.com/history/commuterair.htm> .

From the early days of air travel; souvenir maps that airlines used to provide to passengers:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2451455/The-souvenir-map-airlines-gave-passengers-1930s-track-long-flights-U-S.html> .

One of the RAF’s historic V-bombers, a Handley-Page Victor was moved late last year to a new location for conservation and restoration work. From FlyPast magazine:

http://www.flypast.com/view_article.asp?ID=10400&pubID=1&t=0&s=0&sO=both&p=1&i=10#continued .

We’re all familiar with the contributions Boeing has made to the Palmetto State and to the aviation industry. Here’s a graphic that highlights some of Boeing’s most important contributions:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/boeing-100-years-business-2016-7> .

Good Reads-

I haven’t read David McCullough’s latest book [The Wright Brothers](#) yet, but I picked up a copy recently and in a future newsletter let you know what I thought of it. If it’s like any of his other books it should be great. The reviews are good: <http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Brothers-of-invention-8198> .

Now here’s a book on an interesting and worthwhile subject but one with a few flaws which I’ll mention in a moment. The book is [The Hunter Killers](#) by Dan Hampton. It’s the story of the “wild weasels,” the daring and bold pilots of the United States Air Force who went head to head and toe to toe with the radar and surface to air missile batteries of North Viet Nam during the war in Southeast Asia. It takes the reader from beginnings of the program to counter the SAM batteries and develop the tactics and technology that would turn the “wild weasel” crews into adversaries feared by the North Vietnamese. The parts dealing with the missions are gripping but at points the focus drifts from the air war and the writing in parts is a bit clunky; at least in my opinion. Overall, though an interesting book worth spending some time with.

Odds and Ends-

Last month in our trivia question we were looking for the name of a famous waterfall and the name of the aviator for whom the waterfall was named. The answers are Angel Falls in Venezuela and Jimmie Angel. Congratulations go to Anna Amick and Wayne Fritz, who both had the right answer. Jimmie Angel is one of those fascinating characters you run across in history. He was a legendary aviator though it’s hard to sort out where the truth ends and embellishment begins. Here’s the Wikipedia entry on Angel: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmie_Angel and here’s a link to a website about him: <http://www.jimmieangel.org/History.html> . Here’s an article by a member of the Angel family regarding the myths surrounding Jimmie Angel: <http://www.venezuelaexpats.net/people/foreigners-in-vzla/jimmie-angel-the-truth-about.html> .

Now here’s our trivia question for this month. I’m looking for a company this time; a company with a long and storied history in aviation. Their nickname was the “iron works” because the aircraft they produced were rugged, reliable and built to take a lot of abuse. Sort of the aviation equivalent of “takes a licking and keeps on ticking.” Here are some hints; for many years their biggest client was the U.S. Navy. They are still around

though in the mid-nineties they merged with another historic aviation firm. What's the name of the company I'm looking for? We'll tell you next month.

A Norwegian F-104 Starfighter flies for the first time in 33 years:

<https://theaviationist.com/2016/09/30/check-out-these-stunning-videos-of-the-iconic-f-104-starfighter-flying-for-the-first-time-in-33-years-in-norway/> .

I like the idea. Airline increases weight allowances for passengers with books:

<http://www.mentalfloss.com/article/83895/german-airline-increases-weight-allowance-passengers-books> .

Here's an interesting question. If a mother gives birth on an international airline flight what is the nationality of the child? Want to know? Follow this link: <http://people.howstuffworks.com/air-birth.htm> .

It has become de rigueur these days to complain about airline travel and to pine for the good old days when it seemed flying was so much more civil. Sometimes though it doesn't pay to complain too much. You might find yourself on the world's only one-star airline: <http://www.businessinsider.com/inside-north-koreas-air-koryo-the-worlds-only-1-star-airline-2011-12?op=1> .

An interesting list. Ten revolutionary aircraft from Boeing: <http://travel.cnn.com/explorations/life/10-boeing-aircraft-changed-how-we-travel-247569/> .

It was a different back then, you know. When United Airlines offered men-only flights:

<http://viewfromthewing.boardingarea.com/2015/05/27/united-airlines-men-only-executive-service/> .

This one goes out to all of my friends who serve or have served our country in the United States Air Force.

Eleven things you might not know about the USAF: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/13031/11-things-you-might-not-know-about-us-air-force> .

A bit scary but fortunately a good ending. Video of an unconscious fighter pilot saved by the autopilot:

<http://www.sciencealert.com/watch-f-16-autopilot-system-saves-the-life-of-an-unconscious-fighter-pilot>

Don't know if you've following the news in recent months but it appears there are people who are interested in bringing back the SST. Sir Richard Branson is involved. Here are some links to follow:

<https://airwaysmag.com/industry/boom-technology-unveils-baby-boom-supersonic-prototype/> and <http://www.businessinsider.com/richard-branson-unveils-prototype-for-a-supersonic-passenger-plane-2016-11> .

I've mentioned a number of times in past newsletters about my love for building model airplanes and ships when I was younger. Much younger. Well, here's some news for the modelers out there. [Airfix](#) in the UK, a great producer of excellent plastic models has announced a new model of the Supermarine Walrus, a seaplane designed by R.J. Mitchell, designer of the Spitfire. Airfix has always made great models. As a kid I remember building Airfix models of the Bismarck and HMS Hood. Here's the link about their Walrus model: <http://www.airfix.com/uk-en/news/workbench/new-supermarine-tooling-in-148th-scale/> .

Speaking of models, here's a nice picture of the box of a Revell model of an American Airlines 707 from the early sixties.



I've been returning to this theme a good bit recently but it is really important that we get young people interested and involved in aviation. They're the next generation and the time to get them involved is now. Here's a piece worth reading: <http://iateo.org/uncategorized/the-next-generation-of-aviation-professionals-deserve-next-generation-thinking/> .

In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. We're already a month into the New Year and now is a great time to become more involved with SCHAF. We've accomplished a lot in recent years and ambitious goals are being developed for this year and next, but your help and participation is needed if we are to achieve those goals. There are a number of areas you can become involved with including the fund raising committee being organized as well as helping the restoration crew or helping with membership. Please, step up and get involved with SCHAF. To ensure the continued success of SCHAF will need the involvement of more people in a number of different areas. We want to make 2017 the year that great things happen.

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

Dave McIntosh (dmcintoshone@att.net)

South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation 803 731 3254

www.schistoricaviation.org

3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205

