

SCHAF Newsletter for March 2014

Greetings to all members and friends of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. Hope everyone survived the snow and ice of recent weeks. Things continue to be busy and some really good things are in the works for later this year. So, let's dive in and see what's happening.

Foundation Happenings-

SCHAF held their monthly open house at Hamilton/Owens Airport on Saturday, February 8th, 2014 and it was a pleasure to welcome Boy Scouts from Troop 37 of Shandon United Methodist Church in Columbia. Also taking place that morning the Young Eagles program of Chapter 242 of the EAA where some 25 young people were introduced to the thrill of flying. SCHAF president Cantzon Foster was one of the pilots for the Young Eagles flights and the faces of some of the young people who flew that day was a testament to just how important it is to bring along another generation and introduce them to the excitement of aviation.



Also Ed Colie gave a great presentation on navigation and shared his collection of sextants and other navigational tools. Everyone learned about the importance of navigating by the sun and the stars, even in these days of GPS. Ever wondered how the Vikings were able to cross the Atlantic with confidence, or World War II bomber pilot knew if he was on course for his target? Ed Colie answered those and other questions. A great program; thanks to Ed. I can tell you the scouts and all of the adults loved his presentation. Among the SCHAF members present were Cantzon Foster, Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Ron Skipper, David Moxley, Scott Linaberry and David and Mary McIntosh.



Ed Colie and Scott Linaberry



Cantzon taking kids on Young Eagles flight

Sunday, February 16, 2014 SCHAF was honored to host the monthly meeting of EAA Chapter 1467 from Lexington. Ken Berry and his family catered the event and did a

great job. Kudos to Ken's mom Virginia and the rest of the Berry family for their efforts. Heard a couple of great presentations; Brian Steed of S&S Aviation in Winnsboro briefed everyone on ADS-B, the navigational system going into effect and replacing most radar based systems by 2020. Scott Linaberry also brought everyone up to speed on the project to restore the Curtiss-Wright hangar at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Things are still on track though Scott says there are still a number of things that need to be worked out before restoration gets underway. This is a project that SCHAF fully supports and anyway you can help will be not only appreciated but will mean a lot to the preservation of the Palmetto State's aviation heritage;



Brian Steed



EAA 1467 and SCHAF members

For our March open house we will have several World War II aviators who will meet with guests and talk about their experiences; among them Mr. Maynard Cusworth, who trained on B-24s and flew a number of different types of aircraft including some time in B-25s.

Here's an upcoming event that is always a lot of fun and we would love folks to get involved with, the 2014 Earl Yerrick Aircraft Static Display will take place at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia on Saturday, April 12th from 10am to 4pm. Last year's event was a lot of fun. SCHAF member Barry Avent brought down "Bones," his C-47 and an AT-6 trainer. We got to meet a lot of really nice people and all in all had a great time. Well, if you want to spend a fun Saturday meeting with people and telling the SCHAF story this is something to get involved with. Let us know that you plan to come to Hamilton/Owens and tell the story of SCHAF. Let me or any of the board members know that you plan to be on hand. The more the merrier. By the way, proceeds from the Earl Yerrick event will go to support the American Cancer Society, so you can support SCHAF and another good cause by volunteering and helping out.



Great picture of GF-2 and Ron Skipper's truck during last year's visit by a Ford Tri-Motor to Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia. Thanks to Ron Shelton for sharing with me.

On Thursday, February 20th SCHAF President Cantzon Foster was recognized by the board of directors of the Gills Creek Watershed Association for flying GCWA member

Elliott Powell over the watershed a number of times to photograph and document various areas where the association is working to improve water quality in midlands.

The board of directors of SCHAF met on Thursday, February 20th at the hangar at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Items of discussion included upcoming events including the Earl Yerrick Fly-In that takes place in April. Also later this year SCHAF will be present at two events in the lowcountry; one in Hilton Head and the other at Lady's Island near Beaufort. As always volunteers are needed and welcome. A number of other things are in the planning stages and the more who get involved the better.

Want to make mention of a new member of SCHAF of note. George Patton Waters or "Pat" as he is known to friends, recently joined SCHAF. Pat Waters is the grandson of Gen. George S. Patton who became a legend during the Second World War as one of America's great battlefield commanders. Pat lives in Mount Pleasant and is a former naval aviator. Welcome aboard Pat.

Plans are underway for an event marking the 70th anniversary of June 6th, 1944, the D-Day landing and the start of the liberation of Europe. Plans are for a dance and food. Ken Berry is spearheading this project and it will take a number of volunteers. If you want to get involved get in touch with Ken, his e-mail is: kenberrycae@gmail.com .

Good Reads- [Area 51- An Uncensored History of America's Top Secret Military Base](#) by Annie Jacobsen. No, this is not a book about little green men and alien flying saucers that crashed near Roswell, New Mexico or the sort of thing that fevered imaginations latch on to. Jacobsen, a contributing editor at the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* has written something even more interesting. According to her the real story behind Area 51 is that since the 50's it's been a secret military base for the CIA and the USAF and all of the UFO stories are related to secret projects involving aircraft such as the U-2, Oxcart and the SR-71. Kelly Johnson, the genius behind Lockheed's "Skunk Works" figures heavily in the story. By and large a well-researched book that the author claims is the result of numerous interviews with people who have finally decided to talk. For aviation buffs who are interested in the "story behind the story" this is an interesting book.

Odds and Ends-

Last month we mentioned that Carolyn Donelan at Richland District One's Challenger Learning Centre was looking for information about a trophy that had been donated to the centre. We also included a picture of the trophy in the February newsletter. At least one member wrote to say he was posting the picture on a number of aviation forums and bulletin boards he belongs to. Ron Shelton e-mailed to ask if anyone has heard anything. Anyone out there found out anything or uncovered some leads? This is a mystery we need to solve.

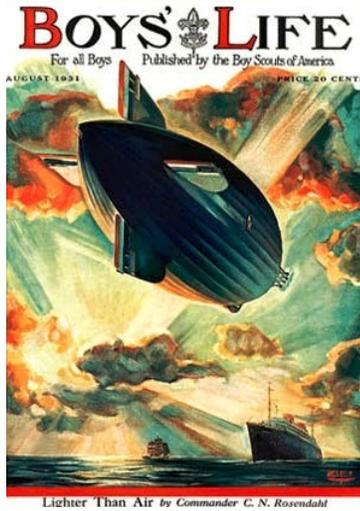
Gary Byrd sent in this article about a Marine Corps aviator who survived an amazing experience. Read about the man who rode a thunderstorm. Thanks Gary, great article, great story. Here's the link:

<http://biggeekdad.com/2012/07/the-man-who-rode-thunder/>

Here's an interesting but somewhat disturbing article from The Washington Post. It seems that not enough young people are becoming interested in careers in aviation and aerospace. This could have a very negative impact in the coming years. Given that one of the missions of SCHAF is to interest future generations in aviation it seems this is a trend we need to keep an eye on. Here's the link:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/on-small-business/small-aviation-businesses-say-pilot-shortage-could-drive-industry-into-the-ground/2014/02/08/2422cadc-8f5c-11e3-b46a-5a3d0d2130da_story.html

I guess I'm in an airship sort of mood this month. Just thought I'd share some images I ran across on the Internet. First is a cover of a 1933 issue of *Boys Life* magazine. The second of the U.S.S. Akron, the airship in which Admiral William A. Moffett (a South Carolinian) lost his life in 1933. The third picture is of an airship hangar in Weeksville, N.C. It seems the U.S. Navy had an airship base at Weeksville and the hangar survives to this day. The hangar was known as Airdock #2 and was part of a World War II naval base for airships. Might be worth a road trip.



Our trivia question last month was who was the first person to make a double crossing of the English Channel by air? The answer is Charles Stewart Rolls. If the name sounds familiar, it should, it's the Rolls in Rolls-Royce, who would go on to make automobiles that are considered the world standard for luxury and craftsmanship as well aircraft engines. Rolls was both an aviation and automobile pioneer in Britain and along with Frederick Henry Royce would form Rolls-Royce. On June 2nd, 1910 he would become the first man to make a double crossing of the English Channel by air. Rolls died on July 12th, 1910 when the tail broke off his Wright Flyer during a flying display in Southborne, England. He was the first Briton to die in an airplane accident. The firm he co-founded would go on to develop and build some of the iconic airplane engines of history including the Merlin, which powered the Spitfire as well as other historic planes; the Dart propjet engine, which would power the Vickers Viscount and Fokker F-27 Friendship airliners and engines that today still power airliners and military aircraft around the world.



Our trivia question for this month: in August 1943 a B-24 Liberator of the USAAF carried out what was at that time the longest bombing mission that had taken place. Can you name the plane and maybe supply some information about the mission. Here's a hint; it was not in the European Theatre of Operations. It was on the other side of the world. Answer next month.

Quick reminder; if you have missed any of the past newsletters or want to just catch up on an earlier newsletter, remember at SCHAF's website there is now an archive of past e-mail newsletters.

Here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/downloads.htm> . Also be sure to check out the multimedia page at SCHAF's website. Interviews with some interesting people and news on SCHAF activities. Here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/multimedia.htm> .

In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. If you have something you would like to share please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion in future newsletters. Also, get involved with the foundation. **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

Till next time

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