



SCHAF Newsletter for April 2014

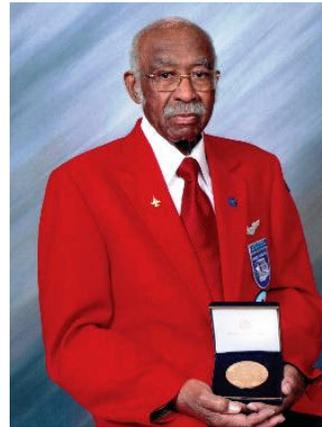
Greetings to everyone, things have been busy so let's get down to business.

Foundation Happenings-

It is with great sadness to have to report that Dr. Leroy Bowman passed away on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. Dr. Bowman was South Carolina's last surviving Tuskegee Airman. As a fighter pilot in the 332nd Fighter Group he flew 36 combat missions escorting American bombers as they struck deep into the heart of the Axis. After World War II Dr. Bowman would embark on a distinguished career in education. In 2007 he was one of 300 members of the "Red Tails" presented with the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush. In September of 2013 Dr. Bowman was guest of SCHAF during their monthly open house where he delighted everyone with his remembrances of flying and fighting in the Second World War; a true gentleman. Your contributions and sacrifices will be remembered.



*Charles Hall and Leroy Bowman
(Hall was the first Tuskegee Airman
to shoot down an enemy airplane)*



Dr. Leroy Bowman

Later this month the 2014 Earl Yerrick Aircraft Static Display will take place at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia. It takes place 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 SNJ trainer. He'll be bringing them back again this year. 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.

SCHAF held its monthly open house on Saturday, March 8th and was it ever a busy one. We had four groups visit and view our B-25 and look over other exhibits and learn more about South Carolina's impressive aviation heritage. The first group to visit was comprised of Air Force JROTC cadets from C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia. It was a pleasure to meet Major Reggie Slade and his cadets. Some fine young people in his group, who seemed interested and excited to see a real World War II bomber. We were also paid a visit from the American Heritage Girls from First Presbyterian Church in Columbia. The next group through were cadets from the Air Force JROTC program at

Spring Valley High School in Columbia; got to meet Major Frank Ward and his cadets who impressed everyone with their interest in aviation and SCHAF. The final group visiting that day was comprised of students from Epworth Children's Home in Columbia who were really nice young people who seemed interested not only in GF-2 but other displays including the Norden and Sperry bombsites as well as hearing about South Carolinians who have contributed to the development of aviation in America. It was great to have all the young people visit and learn more about aviation history. Remember one of the important missions of SCHAF is to educate future generations on the sacrifices made by those who have come before us and also to foster an interest in aviation.



C.A. Johnson High AFJROTC cadets



Girls from First Presbyterian Church



Spring Valley High AFJROTC cadets



Students from Epworth Children's Home

We were also honored to have a couple of World War II veterans with us, Frank Hall and Maynard Cusworth, who both shared stories of their experiences during the war. SCHAF members present were Ken Berry, David Moxley, Ron Skipper, Scott Linaberry, Niall McLaughlin, Ron Shelton and myself. Also want to make mention that as at every open house EAA 242 flew young people as part of the Young Eagles program and one of the pilots introducing them to the joys and excitement of flight was SCHAF president Cantzon Foster.

Earlier this month SCHAF members Ron Shelton and Xen Motsinger were in Greenville to meet with the Greenville chapter of the EAA to talk about SCHAF. They also went to Mount Pleasant and presented a program about SCHAF to the East Cooper Pilot's Association. Let's hope we start to gather more members from the upstate and the low country.

Also want to make mention of a gentleman Ron Shelton recently made the acquaintance of in the process of collecting recollections of D-Day. Ron had the pleasure of meeting Bob Maxwell, a retired Commander in the U.S. Navy. Bob flew an Grumman F6F Hellcat during World War II and had seven confirmed kills. He took part in the invasion of Iwo Jima. He would retire from the Navy Reserve in 1958 as a Commander. He moved to South Carolina in 1950. From what Ron told me he is quite a man.

A quick note, SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin will be traveling to the UK in August as part of the flight the Avro Lancaster of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum across the Atlantic to tour Britain with the Lancaster of the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Niall will be meeting other members of the aircrew in Britain and will be helping with the historic tour of the two remaining airworthy 'Lancs.'" As always Niall I know you'll bring back some great pictures.

Without giving away too much I will mention that in the coming months promise to be busy ones and we will be calling on members to help out with some projects that are currently in the formative stage. As things firm up I'll include more info in future newsletters.

I will pass along that volunteers are needed to work the SCHAF table at the Sparkleberry Country Fair which takes place on Saturday, April 26th. SCHAF will also be in the lowcountry that weekend at events in Hilton Head Island in April and also earlier in the month at Lady's Island, or as folks in Beaufort call it, "Frogmore International Airport." As we get involved in more and more events we need people to help out and share the story of SCHAF.

I had mentioned in last month's newsletter that the Gills Creek Watershed Association recently recognized SCHAF President Cantzon Foster for his help in aerial photography to identify problem areas in water quality. Just thought everyone would like to see what went out in the latest newsletter of the GCWA. Again, another example of how SCHAF not only is trying to preserve the aviation heritage and history of South Carolina but also make contributions to the community in the midlands and the rest of the Palmetto State.



Thank you to the Cary Lake HOA, Cantzon Foster II, and Elliott Powell for our ongoing aerial photos. These photos provide an excellent view of the watershed and allows us see problem areas.

The periodic aerial photos are taken of areas of interest and show things like sediment accumulation and large construction sites.

The SCHAF board met on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at hangar Y-1 at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia. There was discussion of the schedule of events that SCHAF will be involved in the coming months as well as discussion of the project regarding D-Day remembrances (more below).

Would like to welcome the Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airman as members of SCHAF. Welcome. Glad to have you aboard.

I mentioned above that Barry Avent will again be bringing "Bones," his C-47 as well as his SNJ trainer to the Earl Yerrick Memorial Fly-In on April 12th. Barry is now working on the restoration of a Corsair navy fighter and he was kind enough to share some pictures of the project. Pictures are below. First shows the Corsair with a base coat of paint and

the second shows it with some other historic planes. Word I get is that work continues. We'll keep everyone posted.



I made brief mention in the last newsletter that SCHAF members Rachel Haynie and Ron Shelton are putting together a booklet of D-Day remembrances marking the 70th anniversary of D-Day, June 6th, 1944. If there is a vet out there who would like to share a memory of where they that day or if you remember a story a relative told you, please share with us. Here's the link at the SCHAF website with information and how to make a submission: http://www.schistoricaviation.org/d-day_plus_70.htm . This is an important project in preserving the memories of earlier generations. If you were around in 1944 and remember something or if you remember a story someone told you about those times, please share them with us. It really is important that these memories be recorded for future generations. By the way I know I've mentioned this before, Rachel is the author of [Cornfield to Airfield: A History of Columbia Army Airbase](#) but I think it's important that we support the efforts of SCHAF members who are working hard to document South Carolina's aviation history. It's also important to support South Carolina authors. And at that I will relinquish my soapbox.

Good Reads-

[Wild Blue. 741 Squadron-On a Wing and a Prayer Over Occupied Europe by Stephen E. Ambrose.](#) Stephen Ambrose best know for his book *Band of Brothers* and other titles dealing with D-Day and the liberation of occupied Europe has written a riveting book dealing with a squadron of B-24 Liberator bombers during World War II. The book focuses on one particular plane *The Dakota Queen* captained by Lt. George McGovern, a young man from South Dakota. Better known as the Democratic Party candidate for president in 1972, during the Second World War McGovern was a pilot who flew dangerous missions in the skies of Europe and looked after the welfare of his crew, most of them only boys. He would survive some hair-raising flights over enemy territory and come home to a long and distinguished career in public service. If, when you hear the name George McGovern, you think only of the politician, read this book and find out about George McGovern the pilot and one of hundreds of thousands of young Americans from varied backgrounds who answered when their country called. This book portrays a different George McGovern than the one you think you know.

Odds and Ends-

Last month I included some pictures of dirigibles just because I think airships are really interesting. Here's a link to the BBC website about the project to build the world's largest airship at Cardington in Bedfordshire in the UK: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26372277> . By the way in the seventies I remember riding by the huge hangars at Cardington on my way to Bedford. Even in the distance they were massive.

Our trivia question last month involved a B-24 Liberator which in 1943 carried what was at the time the longest bombing mission yet undertaken. The answer is the "Shady Lady" of the 380th Bombardment Group which was known as the "Flying Circus" and also the "King of the Heavies" and based in the Northern Territory of Australia. On Friday,

August 13th, 1943 bombers of the 380th set out from Darwin, Australia on a mission to bomb oil refineries in Borneo in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). The Shady Lady was one of eleven bombers taking part in the raid. Their mission would last 16 hours and 35 minutes and end when she crash landed on a remote salt pan in northern Western Australia. That salt pan is now an Australian Heritage Site. In 2012 a British film company produced a documentary about the Shady Lady. Here's a link to a 2011 article from an Australian newspaper about the Shady Lady:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/policy/shady-ladys-worlds-collide-again-on-a-kimberley-saltpan/story-fn9hm1pm-1226118436888> . Here's a link to the trailer for the movie about the Shady Lady: <http://vimeo.com/43781271> .



Shady Lady crash site



Shady Lady and her crew

Congratulations to SCHAF member John Tokaz who replied within just a few minutes of receiving the newsletter with the correct answer. John was also kind enough to send a link about the Shady Lady. Here it is: http://www.schistoricaviation.org/get_involved.htm Thanks John for the link and also being first with the right answer. Niall McLaoughlin also sent in the right answer and also provided this link about the Shady Lady: <http://www.airforcemag.com/MagazineArchive/Pages/1988/June%201988/0688valor.aspx> .

A few months back the trivia question involved a children's author who flew Hawker Hurricanes and Gloster Gladiators for the RAF. The answer of course was Roald Dahl. Our trivia question for this month again involves another famous author, this one known for his mysteries. During World War II he flew Hurricanes and Spitfires for the RAF. He later transferred into bombers. Who was he?

In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. We're headed into the busy season and now is a great time to step up, volunteer and do your part for SCHAF. Just raise your hand and say "what can I do?" We'll find something. If you've got an idea of your own, please let us know. We'll probably say "go for it." If you have something you would like to share in a future newsletter please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion. 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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