



## SCHAF Newsletter for April 2015

**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, April 18, 2015. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.**

Greetings to all members and friends of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. Things were busy in March and by all appearances April is going to be another busy month. So let's not waste any more time and instead jump in and see what all took place in a month where a lot was going on.

### Foundation Happenings-

A great open house, possibly the best ever on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> as almost 200 people showed up and got to view a number of displays and meet with some impressive people who were our visitors. It was the day that stars fell on SCHAF. Our guests of honor included Major General Irene Trowell-Harris (ret.), the first female African-American general in the Air National Guard; nice lady and a very impressive person who came from a humble background and reached the pinnacle of success. We were also honored by have Brig. General Darlene Goff, with the South Carolina Army National Guard and Brig. General Thad Meyers with the South Carolina Air National Guard. With generals Goff and Meyers was Barbara Livingston, wife of South Carolina Adjutant General Bob Livingston. Also present were some young ladies who are part of the National Guard's Challenge program, a program that gives a second chance to at-risk youth. Gen. Trowell-Harris provided some very inspirational comments to the young people in the Challenge program. Another special guest that day was Bill Rouw with the Canadian Warplanes Heritage Museum who was down for the weekend to provide guidance for SCHAF's efforts to restore GF-2 to her former glory. Much of the program that day dealt with woman in aviation since March was Women's History Month.

We were also visited by Emily deQuincey-Newman, Regent of the Columbia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In recent months the Columbia chapter of the DAR has been very supportive of SCHAF. A special thanks goes out to Marvin Williams and the members of the Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airman who provided lunch for everyone. Also thanks go out to Ted Podewil who brought a great display of parachutes and spend the day discussing airborne operations with folks. Gary Byrd also had a table of aviation artifacts and spent the morning discussing aviation history with visitors. Special thanks also to SCHAF member Rachel Haynie who arranged the visit by General Trowell-Harris and to SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin who set up the visit by Bill Rouw. Another special guest that day was Jim Hamilton, former manager of Hamilton-Owen Airport. Jim brought by a logbook that contains the signature of Amelia Earhart when she visited Owens Field in the 1930's. Valerie Anderson was there dressed as Amelia Earhart. We also had a young lady dressed as "Rosie the Riveter." I would also like to thank Phillip Jones who was there taking pictures and provided the picture below of the students in the Challenge Program and the picture of Generals Trowell-Harris, Goff, Mrs. Livingston and Gen. Meyers.



*Bill Rouw discusses restoration*



*Ted Podewil*



*Generals Trowell-Harris and Goff*

Also want to make mention of some folks who donated items to SCHAF. Robert Philp, a member donated a trailing antenna piece used on World War II aircraft. A big thanks to SCHAF member John Tokaz, who donated a rare parachute to SCHAF. John also spent much of the day at the parachute table along with Ted Podewil talking with folks about parachutes. By the way, John's father Adolph "Tik" Tokaz was at Columbia Army Air Base. In September of 1943 LTC Tokaz would become commander of the 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and would see action in Africa and Sicily. It was in Sicily where a number of defecting Italian pilots would surrender to him. John's sister Terri still lives in Columbia. And thanks to Becky Saville who donated a numbers of mementoes that belonged to her husband, the late Wayne Saville. Also a donation from Leon Cleaver of six pieces of radio equipment used in B-25s. Thanks to Gary Byrd who arranged the donation. Will have some pictures next month.

It was a great day, got to meet a lot of really nice people who seemed interested in SCHAF and preserving South Carolina's aviation history.



*Trowell-Harris and students*



*Ken and Gen. Trowell-Harris*



*Bill Rouw and Gary Byrd*



*Students with Challenge Program*



*Generals Goff, Trowell-Harris, Mrs. Livingston and Gen. Meyers*

The South Carolina Breakfast Club met Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at hangar Y-1 at Hamilton-Owens Airport. The breakfast club is an aviation organization that has been meeting at various airports in the Palmetto State and around the southeast since 1938. Rainy weather meant that most people had to drive rather than fly in but the word is that every had a great time and enjoyed seeing the foundation's B-25 and learning about the work going in to preserving South Carolina's aviation heritage. Ken says everyone came away impressed with the work SCHAF is carrying out. Thanks to Valerie Anderson for supplying the pictures.



*South Carolina Breakfast Club*

The board of directors of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation held their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Hamilton-Owens Airport. Board members present were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Cantzon Foster, Dave McIntosh, Scott Linaberry and Xen Motsinger. Also present was Niall McLaughlin. Cantzon Foster reported that SCHAF has a balance in its account of \$5922.34. There was discussion of completing work on GF-2 under the current grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission. Scott provided a briefing regarding the Curtiss-Wright Hangar. He has attended a meeting of the Richland County Airport Commission to make them aware of SCHAF's interest in taking role in the restoration of the building. Linaberry said he will be preparing an economic impact study for the county. Right now the discussions are just at a starting point to see if the county is interested in SCHAF becoming involved. We'll keep everyone posted on things regarding the C-W Hangar. There was also discussion about the Hawks and Hogs event on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Hamilton-Owens Airport as well as the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hamilton-Owens Airport which takes April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The open house will take place the third weekend of April to coincide with Hawks and Hogs. We will need volunteers for both of those events. Speaking of volunteers a big thanks to the folks who have been assisting Richard Hill with the restoration of GF-2. We really do need more people to get involved. If you're good with tools or even if you're not but willing to learn, come on, get involved, the more the merrier. On that subject a change in one of the work nights for restoration. Work has been going on Monday and Wednesday evenings but it has been decided to change the Wednesday work night to Thursday, since many folks attend church Wednesday evenings. Hours will still be 5pm to 9pm. Again, get involved and help restore a World War II bomber.

Would like to mention that John Rainey of Camden passed away in March. Rainey was well-known in the Palmetto State as a philanthropist. He supported a number of aviation projects including earlier efforts at the restoration of GF-2.

Returning to the subject of volunteers we need volunteers to help man the SCHAF table at the Sparkleberry Country Fair which takes place at the Sandhills Experiment Station in Richland Northeast on April 25<sup>th</sup>. It's a fun event, you get to meet a lot of nice people and spread the word about SCHAF. If you would like to help e-mail me or any of the board members. Thanks.

If you check out the multimedia page of the SCHAF website you'll find a couple of new items. First a conversation with Bill Rouw of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum during his visit to Columbia. Also the remarks of Major General Irene Trowell-Harris speaking to the young ladies in the Challenge program during SCHAF's March open house. Here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/multimedia.htm> .

Would like to take a moment to welcome a couple of new members of SCHAF, Cecil and Mary DuRant of Atlanta, Georgia. Cecil is a retired Delta Airlines pilot. Welcome aboard.

Sad news to pass along. Roland Morgan, who was a longtime friend of SCHAF passed away recently. Roland served in the United States Air Force and later worked as a line mechanic for Delta Air Lines and UPS Air. Roland attended a number of SCHAF events and was always a great guy to be around.

Also, Col. Dan Rossman, a member of SCHAF and the left seat student pilot of GF-2 when she was forced to ditch in Lake Greenwood on June 6, 1944 was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on February 27<sup>th</sup> of this year. Col. Rossman passed away last year and is still missed.



## Historical Notes-

April marks the anniversary of a daring and heroic early step on the road to victory in World War II when the Doolittle Raiders launched off the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet and winged their way toward Japan. On April 18, 1942 the pilots of sixteen B-25s led by LTC. Jimmy Doolittle heard the loudspeaker systems call out "Army pilots man your planes" and took off headed in the direction of Tokyo and provided America's answer to the attack on Pearl Harbor and, in the process, would change the course of the war in the Pacific. Here's a good article about the raid: <http://www.americainwwii.com/articles/the-impossible-raid/> .

Ad below is from the fifties. From another era in air travel.

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Given that March was Women's History Month I thought this link about the [Betsy Ross Air Corps](#), a pre-World War II organization of female pilots would be interesting.

Another item about a woman who made contributions to aviation: the recent obit for [Baroness Platt of Writtle](#), one of the first aeronautical engineers in the UK. From the Daily Telegraph of London.

During the World War II some of the bitterest and most barbaric fighting took place on the eastern front where the Nazi and Soviet war machines found themselves locked in a brutal, no holds barred; no quarter given battle as the two totalitarian systems fought for survival. One of the units that would so terrify the Germans was a group of female aviators, or aviatrixes as they were then called, that the Germans dubbed the "Night Witches." They would cut their engines right before their bombing run and glide in over the target so as not to be heard. To the German soldiers it sounded like witches running their brooms overhead. They flew obsolete old bi-planes but by the end of the war would be the most decorated unit of the Soviet Air Forces. Here's the

[Wikipedia entry](#) . Here's an [obituary](#) from the Daily Mail of London on the death of one of the Night Witches in 2013. Another article from a site called [Seize the Sky](#).



### Good Reads-

[The World's Greatest Aircraft by Christopher Chant](#). Another example of the treasures that can be found in the bargain section of most bookstores. A nice littler reference book to have around. Good photos and color drawings of some historic aircraft from the beginning to flight to the present day. Look hard and you can find a paperback edition at an even better price than the hardcover one.

### Odds and Ends-

On May 27<sup>th</sup> the Snowbirds of the Royal Canadian Air Force will be at the Anderson Air Show at the Anderson Regional Airport in Anderson, S.C. Along with the Thunderbirds, the Blue Angels and the RAF Red Arrows, the Snowbirds are considered one of the world's premier aerobatic teams. They will perform two shows that day. Here's a link to the website for the Snowbirds: <http://www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/snowbirds/index.page> . Here's a link to info about the Anderson Air Show: <http://proairshow.com/Snowbirds.htm> .

**Please spread the word, forward this information to others. Honor Flight of South Carolina is searching for WWII Veterans** - Time is precious. Please help find as many WWII veterans as possible to part of the **May 13, 2015 flight**. Time is not on our side. We have lost so many of our WWII Heroes and many of those that are still with us are becoming very frail. This may be the only flight this year so please help us locate WWII veterans that have not had the opportunity of seeing "THEIR" WWII Memorial. Go to [Honor Flights SC](#) and print an application, complete and mail. For more information please call 803-582-8826. **Applications are due by April 15, 2015**. Below is a picture of Edward "Buzz" Purcell, who already plans to be part of the honor flight in May. Purcell is a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.



Last month's trivia involved the legendary B-17 Flying Fortress. We wanted to know the last operational combat use of this famous plane. Well, the Flying Fortress would last see combat action in Mideast in the service of the Israeli Air Force. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War three B-17s were acquired by Israel and the three planes would take part in some 200 missions. They would again see limited service in the 1956 Arab-Israeli War before being retired from service; their age was beginning to show. Here's a link to a piece on the last "forts" to fly in anger: <http://aviationtrivia.blogspot.com/2011/04/last-operational-b-17-flying-fortresses.html> .

We had one person get the right answer and like the person who got last month's answer this individual asked to remain anonymous. A tip of the hat to SCHAF member Murray Price who replied by pointing out the B-17s yeoman service as an aerial tanker that delivered water and fire retardant to fight forest fires. While that may not be a combat situation it is an example of the Flying Fortress fighting another kind of war, the war to protect and preserve nature. Even out of combat the "fort" for many years would continue its proud record of service to our country. Thanks Murray for reminding us.

Our trivia question for this month: what was the last piston engine aircraft to shoot down a jet fighter? Here's a hint, it was during the Viet Nam war. Put on your thinking caps. Answer next month.

In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. Again, a big thanks to all of the SCHAF members who showed up for the March open house and made it such a big success. Too many of you to mention but again thank you. Also, again, remember to check out the [multimedia page](#) on the SCHAF website, you'll find good things there and if you've missed a past newsletter you can go to [the downloads page](#) of the SCHAF website and get back up to speed. If you have something you would like to share please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion in future newsletters. This newsletter depends very much on your suggestions and comments. Also, get involved with the foundation. As you can already tell things are hopping and the more people involved the merrier. **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

Dave McIntosh ( [dmcintosh1@sc.rr.com](mailto:dmcintosh1@sc.rr.com) )

South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation 803 731 3254

[www.schistoricaviation.org](http://www.schistoricaviation.org)

3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205

