



SCHAF Newsletter for May 2014-

Greetings to all members and friends of SCHAF; it has been a busy month with a lot going on and more in the offing. Let's dive in and find out what's been happening and what's on deck.

Foundation Happenings-

The 2014 edition of the Earl Yerrick Memorial Fly-In took place on Saturday, April 12th at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia and man was it a great day. Met lots of nice people, saw some great airplanes and shared the story of SCHAF with a lot of interested folks. SCHAF member Barry Avent brought "Bones," his C-47 and his T-6/SNJ trainer and a Pilatus trainer down to Columbia. Everyone had a great time meeting and talking with Jim Zazas, pilot of the T-6/SNJ, a great guy who also flies for USAir and had wonderful stories about the T-6 and flying as a commercial pilot.



Barry Avent and Cantazon Foster



Jim Zazas and Xen Motsinger

Other planes at the fly-in included a British Aircraft Corporation (Hunting) Jet Provost, a train used by the RAF and other air forces during the sixties and seventies as well as a beautiful Piper Cub, a plane in which a generation of pilots first learned of the thrill of taking to the skies.



GF-2, a Piper Cub and Bones



BAC (Hunting) Jet Provost

SCHAF members present at the Earl Yerrick Fly-In included SCHAF president Cantzon Foster, Ken Berry, Scott Linaberry, Anna Amick, Xen Motsinger and myself. Ron Shelton worked with EAA Chapter 242 helping with the Young Eagles Program. A great day with a great time had by all.



Interior views of "Bones"

This past weekend was a busy one for SCHAF. The Sparkleberry Country Fair took place in Richland Northeast and again this year the foundation was there sharing the SCHAF story. SCHAF members present were Ron Shelton, David Moxley and Niall McLaughlin. Word is that a lot of people expressed interest in what the foundation is trying to achieve.



Ron Shelton and David Moxley

That same day SCHAF member Ron Skipper was at the Beaufort County Air Fest at the Hilton Head Island Airport with the SCHAF truck taking the SCHAF story to folks in the lowcountry.



Ron Skipper and his SCHAF truck

A heartfelt thanks to all of the SCHAF members who take of their time and show up to help with various events and introduce people to the many good things our organization is trying to accomplish.

I have mentioned in past news letters 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 were 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 .



A correction here; in a previous newsletter I mentioned that SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin will be traveling to the UK as part of the British tour of the Avro Lancaster of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. It will be an historic tour reuniting the two remaining airworthy "lancs" in the world, the Canadian plane and the Lancaster of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight of the RAF. I probably left the impression that Niall would be part of the aircrew. My apologies, Niall will be part of the support crew and traveling separately to the UK.

Some recent additions to the SCHAF multimedia page; first a conversation with Maynard Cusworth, a World War II veteran who talks about his experiences with the B-25 Mitchell bomber; also, a conversation with Jim Zazas, pilot of Barry Avent's T-6 which was at the Earl Yerrick Fly-In in April. Here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/multimedia.htm> .

Historical Notes-

Here's another notable figure in American aviation history with a South Carolina connection. Robert S. Johnson would end the Second World War as one of the USAAF's leading fighter pilots with 27 confirmed kills. Johnson was born in 1920 in Lawton, Oklahoma. In 1941 Johnson would become an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps. In 1942 he was assigned to the 56th Fighter Group and in 1943 the group would be sent to the UK. By wars end Johnson would rack up 27 kills and would fly a total of 89 combat missions. What's the South Carolina connection? In the 1960's Johnson would become an insurance executive in Lake Wylie, South Carolina. He would pass away during a trip back to Oklahoma but he is buried in the community of Lake Wylie, South Carolina.



Robert Johnson

An important anniversary during the month of April; it was on April 18th, 1942 that sixteen intrepid crews under the leadership of Jimmy Doolittle took off the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet and flew into history. Most of the “raiders” are now gone but their contribution to a victorious outcome of the war in the Pacific and to freedom remains undiminished. Take a moment and raise a toast to those from a time gone past who risked their all for future generations. Good article at the HistoryNet website about the Doolittle Raid: <http://www.historynet.com/jimmy-doolittle-and-the-tokyo-raiders-strike-japan-during-world-war-ii.htm> . Also some good archival video footage concerning the Doolittle Raid: http://realclearhistory.com/video/2014/04/18/daring_doolittle_raid_shocks_japan.html .

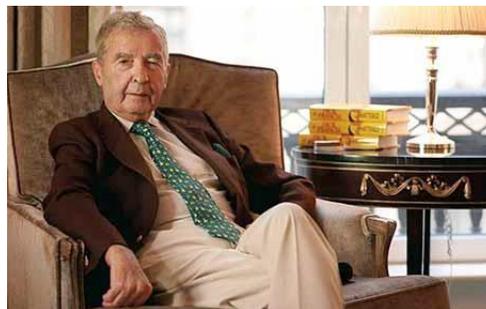
Good Reads-

[The Night Stalkers](#) by Michael J. Durant and Steven Hartov is the exciting story of the U.S. Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. When you talk about the “hotshots” in the rotary wing world you’re talking about the pilots of the 160th SOAR at Fort Campbell. The story of how the best of the best came about and how they have taken part in some of the most secret and exciting operations of the past 20 years can be found here. We talk about the heroes of an earlier era, guess what, heroes are still being born and made each and every day and some of them are flying for the 160th SOAR. Read and find out where some of today’s “hotshots” live.

Odds and Ends-

Excellent video piece from the South Carolina Aviation Association on Women in South Carolina Aviation, here’s the link: <http://vimeo.com/91301441> .

Our trivia question for last month again went off in a literary direction. Who was the famous mystery writer who flew fighters and bombers for the RAF during World War II? Why none other than Dick Francis, who before penning such best sellers as *The Racing Game* also enjoyed a career as a famous championship jockey. By the way, in the mid-nineties I had the pleasure of meeting and spending a few moments with Dick Francis when he came to Camden for the running of the Marion DuPont Scott Colonial Cup steeplechase at the Springdale Race Course. I was able to interview him for the radio station I work for. His eyes lit up when he commented on his time as an RAF pilot; a true gentleman, someone from a kinder and gentler era.



Here’s our trivia question for this month. When the subject of the worst fighter of World War II comes up on internet forums and discussions among aviation enthusiasts one fighter seems to always top the list. Two books have been published entitled *The World’s Worst Aircraft* (separate books with the same title) and this plane is the only one to make it into both books. One author calling it a “turkey.” The aviators of the USMC called it the “flying coffin” yet pilots of an air force on the other side of the world would rack up astounding victories against an invading enemy flying the very same aircraft. What fighter are we talking about? Answer next month.

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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