



SCHAF Newsletter for May 2015

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, May 9, 2015. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.

Greetings to all members and friends of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. Remember, last month I said things had been busy. Well, they still are with April continuing the almost blistering pace set in March. A lot of activities, real progress in the restoration of the foundation's B-25 and plans for even more to take place over the coming months. Let's see what's been going on.

Foundation Happenings-

A very successful SCHAF open house on Saturday, April 18th. This it was moved from the second Saturday to the third to coincide with Hawks and Hawgs, a fund raiser for Camp Kemo, which provides recreational opportunities for kids being treated for cancer. The "hawks" part was to have been an aerial scavenger hunt but overcast weather prevented that from taking place. However the "hawgs" part, a scavenger hunt by motorcyclists went off without a hitch. Big thanks go out to Peggy Roberson and the folks at Eagle Aviation who put together Hawks and Hogs and worked hard to make it such a successful day. Below some pictures of planes and bikes as well as a great parachute game Ken Berry rigged up for the kids, who had a great time with it. Also want to mention I noticed one young lady, a camper with Camp Kemo, who was absolutely enthralled with GF-2, the foundation's B-25. The foundation is proud to have played a part in helping out Camp Kemo.



Saturday marked a very important anniversary. It was April 18th of 1942 that sixteen crews aboard the U.S.S. Hornet answered the call "Army pilots man your planes" and flew into history. In May of last year the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to honor the raiders a Congressional Gold Medal for outstanding heroism. On April the U.S. Mint presented medals to the U.S. Air Force Museum in a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.



There were three South Carolinians who took part in the Doolittle raid: Nolan Herndon, Horace Crouch and William Farrow. Farrow was captured by the Japanese and executed. There is also another South Carolina connection. Doolittle selected his crews and started training them at Columbia Army Air Base, now Columbia Metropolitan Airport. A few weeks after selection they would move to Eglin Field in Florida where they would continue training for their historic mission.

SCHAF was honored to have the son of one of the raiders as a guest that day. Martin Crouch is the son of Horace "Sally" Crouch who was the navigator/bombardier for plane number 10. His plane was the only one to suffer any damage during the raid when it was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Crouch and the rest of the crew would make it to China where they would bail out and reach safety.



We were also honored to have Murray Price as our guest. Murray flew forty combat missions in World War II in the Pacific and informed everyone with pride that he never lost a member of his crew; he brought them all home. Sadly earlier in the week Murray lost his wife of many years. Murray, our thoughts and prayers go out to you. Thank you for visiting with us. Above pictures of both Murray Price and Martin Crouch.



It was also a pleasure to welcome Lynn Gunzenhauser, her husband Mark and their son Stephen and his wife. Lynn is the daughter of Col. Dan Rossman, who was the left seat student pilot of GF-2 on June 6, 1944, the day she was forced to ditch in Lake Greenwood. Dan was a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of SCHAF and it was also great to see him whenever he came to town. Sadly Dan passed away last year. He is still missed.



SCHAF member Ted Podewil was also at the open house with a great display of parachutes and airborne equipment. He also explained to folks about airborne operations and the important role of paratroopers or "paras" on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Definitely one of the more popular attractions at the April open house. Also above Scott Linaberry and Richard Hill during the open house discussing progress on the restoration of GF-2.

Speaking of the restoration of GF-2, things are moving along very nicely. More people are getting involved. Here's a picture of SCHAF's very own "Rosie the Riveter" Katherine Cuddy.



The board of directors of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation held its monthly meeting at Hamilton-Owens Airport on Thursday, April 16, 2015. Board members present were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Cantzon Foster, Dave McIntosh, Scott Linaberry and Xen Motsinger. SCHAF members present were Mary McIntosh and Niall McLaughlin. Scott Linaberry updated the board on the Curtiss-Wright Hanger and the possibility that SCHAF could assume a lead role in the restoration of that historic building. A proposal has been delivered to the Richland County Airport Commission regarding SCHAF's interest and we'll keep everyone posted on future developments. There was also discussion of securing a mock .50 caliber machine for the nose of GF-2. Niall McLaughlin will be looking into various sources and reporting back to the board at a later date. Also discussion of SCHAF hosting more events as a way of getting the word out about the work we're doing.

The past few months have been extremely busy ones here at SCHAF with a series of successful open houses and other events. Things are shaping to be busy in the coming month or so, in May the Air Force ROTC unit at the University of South Carolina will hold their commissioning ceremony at the SCHAF Hangar at Hamilton-Owens. Last year the U.S.C. AFROTC unit held their annual combat dinner at the hangar and it was great to be able meet such of great group of young people. SCHAF is honored to host the commissioning ceremony and play a role in the start of the military careers of these young ladies and gentlemen.

In late March another Doolittle Raider passed away. Lt. Col. Robert L. Hite passed away at his home at the age of 95. Hite was the co-pilot of plane #16, "Bat Out of Hell." The pilot was William Farrow of Darlington, S.C. As mentioned above Farrow was executed by the Japanese. Hite would be a POW until August of 1945 enduring despicable and shameful conditions including many months in solitary confinement. He would again serve in the Korean War. There are only two Doolittle Raiders with us now.

Would also like to mention the passing of another friend of SCHAF. Lt. Col. Donald Lang passed away in late March. In World War II he would fly P-40s and P-47s and he would also serve his country in the Korean War. He retired from the USAF in 1970. He would serve on the Woodward Field Airport Commission in Kershaw County, was active in the E.A.A. and worked with their Young Eagles program. He also served with commissions and organizations in Kershaw County.

I had made mention in last month's newsletter about a donation from Leon Cleaver. The donation involved some radio equipment from the World War II era. Space prevented including a picture last month but here's one. Also thanks to Gary Byrd who helped secure the donation.



On Sunday, March 29th, 2015 the military re-enactors Group Military Timeline Impressions held a ceremony in Lugoff, South Carolina commemorating the first mass airborne drop by the United States Army on March 29th, 1943 by the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of 82nd Airborne Division. One of the folks who did a great job of helping organize and emcee the event was Ted Podewil, who is also a member of SCHAF. At least a couple of hundred people showed up including Congressman Joe Wilson and Julian Burns, chairman of Kershaw County Council and a retired Major General in the U.S. Army. A number of SCHAF members were on hand, more than can be named. It was a great afternoon. There were a lot of veterans on hand including American Legions members from around the midlands. The folks at Military Timeline Impressions are a great bunch and have been very helpful to SCHAF. Here's the link to their website, it's worth visiting: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scmti/>.



SCHAF was at the Sparkleberry Country Fair on Saturday, April 25th. Always a great event and we got to meet a lot of great folks. A rainy day but David Moxley and myself had a good time. Pictures and more info next month.

Would like to welcome a couple of new members to the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation: Mike and Kim DuRant. Mike is a pilot with USAir and Kim is a flight attendant with USAir. Glad to have you on board.

Historical Notes-

In one of the earlier SCHAF newsletters I included an AP article from 1942, datelined Rangoon, Burma, which made mention of an RAF pilot, Jack Gibson of Columbia, S.C. Since then I've been digging for information about him. Hit the jackpot recently. Turns out he was John Fleming Gibson, whose nickname in the RAF was "Carolina." He joined the RCAF before America entered the war and would end up in Burma. He would later transfer to the USAAF. Here's link with more about John Fleming "Carolina" Gibson: <http://www.chinditslongcloth1943.com/flight-lieutenant-john-fleming-carolina-gibson.html> .

Good video about the official photographer of the USAF Thunderbirds: Talk about having a great job. <https://vimeo.com/100279964> .

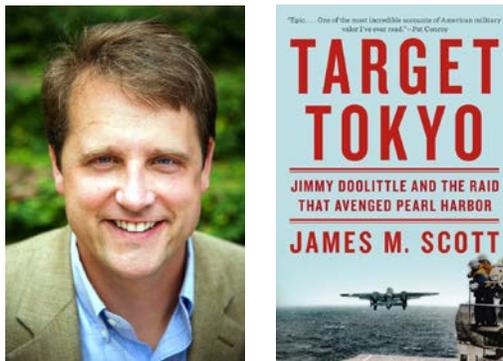
If you're like me, you love a good mystery and here's an aviation one. It's from World War II. It's about Pippo. Here's the link to find out more: <http://www.airspacemag.com/daily-planet/pippo-a-world-war-ii-mystery-148096491/?no-ist> .

An interesting article about the pilot of *SapceShipOne*, the unlikeliest astronaut: <http://www.aopa.org/News-and-Video/All-News/2013/June/1/The-Unlikeliest-Astronaut> .

An interesting video from a 1940 Japanese movie called "Burning Sky." It has some good footage of Nakajima Ki-27 and Ki-10 fighters. Interesting. Haven't been able to find anything else about this movie. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3jH4TQXopY> .

Good Reads-

Our good read for this month is a book that just came called [Target Tokyo](#) by James M. Scott, who lives in Charleston and used to be a reporter for the Post and Courier. The book has received great reviews, some calling it the definitive book on the Doolittle Raid. Pat Conroy, among others, has praised it. **By the way Scott will be presenting a program at the main branch of the Richland County Public Library on Tuesday May 5th at 6:30pm. It will be in the Walker Local History Room, which has limited seating, so show up early. He will be signing books after his presentation.** The book covers not only the raid itself but the impact it would have on China in the aftermath. This one looks to be a must have book.



Odds and Ends-

On May 27th 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.rcf-arc.forces.gc.ca/en/snowbirds/index.page> . Here's a link to info about the Anderson Air Show: <http://proairshow.com/Snowbirds.htm> .

An upcoming event; on Saturday, May 9th the 2015 Wings and Wheels Air Festival takes place at the Fairfield County Airport in Winnsboro. After you drop by the SCHAF open house that same day you can drop by Winnsboro for another aviation related event.

Another upcoming event worth attending will be the 2015 Palmetto Patriots' Ball on May 16th at Embassy Suites in Columbia. There will be a silent auction and the dinner and dance begins at 6:30 that evening. The recipients of the 2015 Palmetto Patriots Award will be recognized by the Midlands Blue Star Mothers. Tickets are \$60. For more information visit www.palmettopatriotsball.org .

Recently, thanks to generous and gracious donations from Virginia Berry and also Murray Price the foundation was able to purchase tables and chairs which can be used for the various events the foundation holds. They look really nice and will help us project a more professional appearance during SCHAF events. Thanks Virginia and Murray, the tables and chairs look great.



Remember Gilligan's Island, a cheesy but enjoyable comedy from the sixties about madcap castaways on a desert island. One of the characters "the professor" was portrayed by the actor Russell Johnson, who passed away in 2014. Here's something I'll bet you didn't know, Johnson was the navigator on a B-25 during the Second War World. Here's the story: <http://heroesmemorial.org/content/what-you-probably-dont-know-about-gilligans-island-actor-russell-johnson> .

Last month's trivia question was "what was the last piston engine plane to shot down a jet fighter? The answer, the Douglas AD or A-1 Skyraider, also known as the "Spad," (not to be confused with the famous series of French fighters from World War I). Here's a link to the story: <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-last-piston-engine-plane-to-shoot-down-a-fighter-jet-2015-1> . Congratulations to Joel Padgett, Frank Young and John Moncure, all of who had the right answer.

Here's this month's trivia question; can you name the first person to ever perform an outside loop in an airplane? Here's a hint: he was also instrumental in the development of 100 octane aviation gasoline. Another hint; he was a general in the USAAF during World War II. Send in your answers. We'll tell you who it was 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](mailto:dmcintosh1@sc.rr.com) 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.](#)** Again, a lot has been happening and a lot more is in the offing in the coming months. There is a real need for more people to become involved in the work of the foundation. We need folks to get involved in the restoration of GF-2. Volunteers are needed to help with the open houses and other events. Already other events are in the planning stages including another USO style dance possibly in the fall. Your support of SCHAF is greatly appreciated

Till next time
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