



SCHAF Newsletter for June 2014-

Greetings to all members and friends of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation; June is a big month with big things planned to commemorate the historic events of years past. Below you'll read more about how SCHAF and other organizations will be marking the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Normandy Invasion and liberation of Europe from the yoke of Nazi suppression and tyranny.

Foundation Happenings-

The board of directors of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation met at the SCHAF Hangar at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia on Thursday, May 15th and the entirety of the meeting involved planning and discussion for what might be the biggest event yet undertaken by SCHAF, the celebration of the 70th anniversary of D-Day or Operation Overlord, the invasion of Europe on June 6th, 1944. SCHAF members present were Cantzon Foster, president of SCHAF and Gary Byrd, Ron Shelton, Scott Linaberry Tom Roberts, Xen Motsinger, Anna Amick, Ken Berry and myself.

This is going to a really great event; a true USO style dance featuring the Dick Goodwin Orchestra,. The cost is \$25 per person and \$45 per couple and as special guests a number of World War II veterans will be on hand. Ken Berry has done a yeoman's job at getting this set up. It will take place in the SCHAF Hangar next to the terminal at Hamilton/Owens Airport. There will be a BBQ dinner starting at 6pm and a dance with the band starting at 7:15pm. Parking will be in the terminal parking lot; for those who need special assistance parking will be available behind the SCHAF Hangar. You pay at the door but if you plan on coming let us know so we can get an accurate count. RSVP to info.schaf@gmail.com or call 803-513-8187. Like I said Ken has done an outstanding job at putting this all together. He deserves a round of applause.

A good SCHAF open house on Saturday, May 10th at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia. Crowds weren't as big but we had about 25 folks who came over after taking part in EAA 242's Young Eagles program and getting their first plane ride and an introduction into the exciting world of flight. SCHAF members on hand to meet with the young people were Ken Berry, Ron Skipper, Scott Linaberry and myself. Also on hand was Jim Toner who has done yeoman's duty recently helping SCHAF with the preparation of grants applications. Some pictures below.



Ron Skipper with Young Eagles



Ken Berry introducing GF-2 to some folks

Hamilton/Owens Airport had an interesting visitor that same Saturday. A local stock brokerage firm brought over a Boeing/Stearman PT-17 trainer from World War II to fly some its clients as a sort of treat. The plane is owned by Rick Mantei and based in Camden at Woodward Field. Now here's the interesting thing about this particular PT-17, it was based in Camden during World War II at the Southern Aviation School, part of

which is now Woodward Field and the other part the campus of Camden Military Academy, so this particular bird has remained at its original home. Remember Woodward Field is where Robert Morgan of Memphis Belle fame received his primary training. Rick has done a fantastic job of restoration, a really nice looking plane.



Boeing/Stearman Pt-17



Scott Linaberry takes a look at PT-17

I mentioned in last month's newsletter that SCHAF member Barry Avent brought his C-47 and T-6/SNJ down to the Earl Yerrick Fly-In in April. The pilot of the T-6 was Jim Zazas, who was a great guy to meet. Thought everyone would like to see a picture of the T-6. Nice looking bird.



The same day as SCHAF's 70th anniversary celebration of D-Day the South Carolina Military Museum will be holding the Palmetto Military Festival and the grand opening of the museum's second building featuring new exhibits and displays. Hours are 9am to 5pm which means folks can spend the day viewing the new displays then spend the evening at the SCHAF D-Day Celebration. The South Carolina Military Museum is located at 1225 Bluff Road in Columbia. That's near Williams-Brice Stadium. Sounds like it will be a great day.

The SC Military Museum's
PALMETTO MILITARY FESTIVAL
JUNE 7, 2014 - 9AM-5PM

FEATURING

**Grand Opening of the
SC Military Museum's
2nd building with all new
exhibits and displays!**

VINTAGE MILITARY WEAPONS,
EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES,
ARTILLERY PIECES,
DEMONSTRATIONS
& MUCH MORE!

FREE ADMISSION!
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SEE UP CLOSE ARMORED
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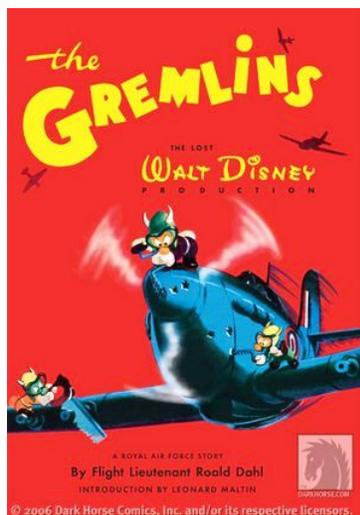
**YOUR HISTORY
YOUR MUSEUM**

1225 BLUFF ROAD, COLUMBIA
SCMILITARYMUSEUM.COM

Historical Notes-

I seem to be on some sort of literary thing recently. In an earlier newsletter Roald Dahl was the answer to a trivia question. Last month the author Dick Francis was the answer to another trivia question. Well, these days when we refer to something going wrong with a piece of machinery we sometimes blame it on the “gremlins.” Where did the term come from? How did it enter everyday usage? Thank Roald Dahl, RAF pilot, later famous children’s author. The term seems to come from an old English word meaning “to vex.” During World War II pilots of the Royal Air Force would sometimes blame problems with aircraft on “gremlins.” Dahl, who had flown with the RAF before becoming attached to British Intelligence wrote a children’s story for Walt Disney Production called *The Gremlins*. Walt Disney himself even thought of doing an animated movie of the book but the film never came to fruition. Disney in just the past few years has issued a reprint of the original book. Here’s a link to the reprint:

http://www.amazon.com/Gremlins-Roald-Dahl/dp/1593074964/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1401148160&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Gremlins



Good Reads-

This month’s good read will also include a good movie; in fact it includes a great read and a great movie. Tom Wolfe is one of the outstanding writers of our time, one of the early practitioners of what became known as “the new journalism,” and later on he became a best-selling novelist. His book about test-pilots and the astronauts [The Right Stuff](#) is one of the most enjoyable books you’ll ever pick up; the subject is fascinating, his writing unequalled and the behind-the-scenes tidbits priceless. If you’ve never read anything by Tom Wolfe this is the book to start with. *The Right Stuff* would be made into a [movie](#) in the early 80’s and while it didn’t perform as well at the box office as hoped it is a well-done piece of cinema that features great performances by a number of well-known actors and actresses including Sam Shepherd as Chuck Yeager and the late Levon Helm (who was a member of the rock group The Band) as Jackie Ridley, the air force officer and aeronautical engineer who worked with Yeager during a number of historic flights. Great dialogue between the two of them- “Hey Ridley, you got any Beamans?” “Yeah, I think I do.” “Well, lend me a stick; I’ll pay you back later.” From a time not so long ago when Hollywood still knew how to make great movies.

While we’re on the subject of movies, would everyone be interested if I start to make mention of good movies dealing with aviation. Maybe you know of a really good film about airplanes and the people who fly them. If so, send in your suggestion for a good film (TV shows welcome, too) or good view. You know the e-mail, just contact me or a board member, you’ll find the addresses down at the bottom.

Odds and Ends-

Heard from Nelson McLeod, who enjoyed reading about World War II ace Robert Johnson. Nelson added an interesting note, at McEntire Air National Guard Base there was a pilot named Bob Johnson, who eventually became a General. According to Nelson General Johnson is now in his early 90's and still makes it to some of the McEntire luncheons for retirees.

Last month's trivia question involved a fighter plane that some have called the "worst fighter plane of World War II" yet was used to great effect by the Finnish Air Force. The answer is the infamous Brewster Buffalo, which was slaughtered by the Japanese during the Battle of Midway, turned in a mediocre performance with the British and Dutch in Southeast Asia in 1942 and would go down in history as the Rodney Dangerfield of airplanes; in other words, no respect. Yet in the hands of Finnish pilots during two wars resisting the Soviets the Brewster Buffalo would tear chunks out of the aerial formations of the Red Air Force.



Brewster Buffalo



Brewsters in British Service



Finnish Buffalo

Oh, by the way, if the swastika in the picture of the Finnish Buffalo surprises you, it doesn't mean the Finns were Nazis (though the Finns would receive support from Germany during what was called The Continuation War with the USSR). The Finns had used that as a military symbol before the Nazi Party adopted it as a symbol. The swastika is actually an ancient Buddhist symbol that the Germans later made infamous.

Our congratulations to SCHAF member John Tokaz who had the right answer. John also mentions that that one time he was at an aviation memorabilia show where he met a gentleman who was a Marine Aviator during the Second World War and that he had flown Buffaloes and "loved his plane." John also sent along this link to an article in the New York Times about the recent discovery of the wreckage of a Buffalo in the waters near Midway: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/02/us/02fighter.html?_r=0 . Thanks John.

Here's a really comprehensive page on Daniel Ford's website [Warbird's Forum](http://www.warbirdforum.com/buff.htm) about the Brewster Buffalo: <http://www.warbirdforum.com/buff.htm> .

Now here's our trivia question for this month. In August of 1945 airplanes started appearing the skies over the Pacific and Southeast Asia with different markings. Instead of a white star identifying them as American, or roundels of the British Commonwealth or the infamous "rising sun" of Japan, these planes took to the air bearing green crosses. What did this signify? Whose planes were these? Anyone know?

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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