



SCHAF Newsletter for July 2014

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, July 12, 2014. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.

Our newsletter this month begins on a somber and sad note. Col. Dan Rossman, a member of SCHAF and the left seat student pilot of GF-2 on June 6, 1944 when she was forced to ditch in Lake Greenwood passed away on June 23, 2014. Dan was always very supportive and interested in the work of SCHAF and seeing that GF-2 would one day be restored to her former glory. He last visited us during the open house in December and regaled and entertained the audience with his remembrances of World War II and the day he ended up taking a swim in Lake Greenwood. A true gentleman, a bit of a character and someone I think all of us were privileged to have known. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his widow Sylvia and to his family. Check out the multimedia page on the SCHAF website and you can hear audio of Rossman's comments during the December open house:

<http://www.schistoricaviation.org/multimedia.htm> . If you visit the links page on the SCHAF website scroll down and you'll find a link to an article about Colonel Rossman and GF-2. Here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/links.htm> . Below are some pictures of Col. Rossman. The first picture below is from May when Dan and some of his family were in the Palmetto State for a wedding and he made an unofficial visit to the SCHAF hangar.



Col. Dan Rossman



Dan Rossman in World War II

During World War II Dan flew 59 bombing missions in the southwest Pacific and the Philippines. He was honored with numerous decorations for bravery and remained with United States Air Force Reserves. He was truly a fine man and an example of what makes America great. Here's a link to his obit.

<http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Daniel-Rossman&lc=7127&pid=171464471&mid=6020088>

Dan, you will be sorely missed.

Foundation Happenings-

Much of the emphasis in June centered around D-Day, June 6th, 1944 and the Normandy Invasion and rightfully so because of the individuals who took part in those historic events are now leaving us so it is fitting to remember their sacrifices and contributions. The USO style dance celebrating the 70th anniversary of D-Day, June 6th, 1944 was an outstanding success. June was the month that SCHAF made some giant steps as an organization.

Some 300 people showing up Saturday evening, June 7th, 2014 to honor and recognize the accomplishments and achievements of those who stormed the beaches of Normandy in 1944. Great people, great food and great music by the Dick Goodwin Orchestra; all in all a good time was had by all who came. We were also honored to have a number of veterans of World War II and the Korean War as well as Viet-Nam as our guests. We were also blessed by good, cool weather. Plans are to make the anniversary celebration of D-Day an annual SCHAF event. Thanks go out to all of the SCHAF members who pitched in to make our inaugural event a big success. A special tip of the hat goes to Ken Berry who played a central role in pulling everything together. Without Ken's efforts it couldn't have happened. Also a special thanks to Ken's mom Virginia for all of her help in organizing and putting together a great together. It couldn't have been done without you. Also special thanks go out to EAA Chapter 242 for helping out and providing tables, chairs and equipment used in preparing the meal. Again, without your help we couldn't have done it. Here are some pictures from a great evening.



GF-2 illuminated by searchlight



Singers with Dick Goodwin Orchestra

We also had a couple of World War II jeeps, Ron Skipper's SCHAF truck and a mock air raid drill with re-enactors as air-raid wardens. A special thanks goes out to Tyler Ryan of WACH-TV in Columbia for serving as the emcee of the event. Tyler also helped promote the dance on WACH 57. Thanks Tyler.



A great crowd and a great time



Gotta dance

Ken Berry arranged for a World War II searchlight brought by John Elkin of Lexington. John specializes in a promotions business using searchlights and he agreed to bring one over for a reduced price. Thank you. SCHAF appreciates it.



SCHAF president Cantzon Foster arranged for a Vultee BT-13A Valiant based in Orangeburg to be there for the evening. The BT-13A is owned by Kurt Von Graff. His BT-13A is based in Orangeburg. The Valiant was a World War II era basic trainer known among pilots as the “Vibrator.” Raffle tickets were sold for a Sunday afternoon flight in the BT-13. I’m told that the lucky winner was all smiles after the flight. Kurt thank for bringing a true classic to the event.



One of the folks who joined us for the evening was Claire Delune host the Blues Moon program on WUSC-FM in Columbia. Clair provided publicity before the event and spent the evening interviewing folks at the dance. If you like blues, big band and swing you should tune her in. WUSC-FM is at 90.5 on the FM band and her program airs Tuesday evenings between 6pm and 8pm. Claire it was great to see you there.

Among the special guests was Congressman Joe Wilson who has been a long time supporter of SCHAF. Congressman Wilson has long been active in making sure that South Carolina’s aviation heritage is preserved and remains in the Palmetto State.



Congressman Joe Wilson

A final thought regarding the commemoration of D-Day and those who took part in the liberation of Europe, one of the veterans who visited Normandy for the 70th anniversary told a reporter “history dies if no one knows about it.” That’s why it’s important to hold events like the hangar dance and that’s why the work of SCHAF is so important. We want to make sure that history never dies.

Interesting article from the Daily Telegraph of London written before the 70th anniversary celebration about Spitfires taking to the skies over Normandy again after all of these years; includes video. Here's the link: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/10856917/D-Day-anniversary-Spitfires-take-to-the-Normandy-skies-again.html> .

The next weekend SCHAF held its monthly open house and while the crowds weren't as large we did get to meet some nice folks who dropped by and were interested in hearing the story of GF-2 and the work of the foundation. Also had a visit from SCHAF member Nelson McLeod, who is also a member of the South Carolina Military History Club along with fellow club members Doug Patterson and Doug Kinder. Plans are to have the membership of the South Carolina Military Club visit during one of our open houses. It was great to see ya'll.



S.C. Military History Club members



Ken Berry shows off GF-2

The monthly board meeting of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation took place Thursday, June 19, 2014 at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Discussion about the very successful D-Day hangar dance; the feeling is that not only did it come together but that we learned a lot about putting on a big event and will use those lessons in the future to put on even better events. There's a good chance that the hangar dance could become an annual event though the feeling is in future years we might try to schedule for a cooler time of the year.

There was also discussion about some restructuring of the way things are done at SCHAF as we grow as an organization. SCHAF president Cantzon Foster will be forming a committee to look into how SCHAF can be organized to operate more efficiently in the coming years. This will probably involve the formation of a number of committees in different areas. As we grow we need to organize in such a way that involves more members and also spreads the workload. If you know of an area you like to become involved with let me or one of the board members know. Good things are happening and we need to be ready to take advantage of the opportunities that will present themselves. Will keep everyone posted.

A quick note, SCHAF member Barry Avent will be taking part in the 5th annual Salute From the Shore as he flies his C-47 "Bones" along the coast of the Palmetto State from Cherry Grove to Hilton Head Island. If you're on the coast on the afternoon of July 4th keep an eye for Barry and others as they fly their planes in honor of America's military.

Some dates to remember and a call for volunteers. SCHAF plans to be at the Tripletree Aerodrome fly-in that takes place in September. We could use some volunteers to help man a table and the SCHAF story. We are also taking part in the South Carolina Aviation Expo that takes place in Greenville, September 26th and 27th. If anyone would like to help out let me or a board member know. Any help would greatly appreciated.

Historical Notes-



Much of the month's activities and much of this month's newsletter have concentrated on June 6, 1944 and Operation Overlord and rightfully so but a few years earlier in June of 1942 another historic clash of arms took place which would be just as important in determining the course of World War II: The Battle of Midway, or what some have called the "Miracle at Midway" when the United States Navy in the course of a morning turned the tide of the war in the Pacific. On the morning of June 4th, 1942 the Imperial Japanese Navy had known nothing but victory yet scant moments later their carrier force had been decimated and America was on the long, bloody road toward victory over Japanese Empire. Here's a good article on "The Miracle Men of Midway from the HistoryNet site: <http://www.historynet.com/miracle-men-of-midway.htm> .

Good Reads-

Our good read for this month, while not totally on an aviation subject, has an aviation aspect to it. It's also important because of the recently concluded 70th anniversary observances of D-Day. Given that SCHAFA honored veterans earlier in June I think it's fitting to have a book dealing with the Normandy Invasion. [Pegasus Bridge](#) by the late Stephan Ambrose is the story of the glider-borne assault in the early morning hours of June 6th, 1944 on the bridges over the Caen Canal in France by a company of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the "Ox and Bucks" that were part of the British Airborne forces. Of course the glider assault is the aviation part of the story but the important part is it tells of men who in those desperate hours risked all to save all. Well written, interesting, just a good book to sit down with for an evening and enjoy. Read it and be in awe of those who came before us. I've used the phrase before but will use it again, a story from a time when giants walked the earth.

Odds and Ends-

Last month's trivia question concerned airplanes bearing green crosses which started appearing the skies over the Pacific and Southeast Asia in August of 1945. After the surrender of Japan local Japanese commanders were instructed to meet with Allied forces. They were also instructed to paint over the red "meatball" emblem on their planes and paint green crosses on them to show that the aircraft were now non-combatants.

Heard from a number of people who got the answer including Bob Seigler, D.C. Locke and Niall McLaughlin and Brig. Gen. Grady Patterson III; Niall and Gen. Patterson sent along this link to an article on the subject at the Vintage Wings of Canada website, which is where I got the trivia question. It's a great article and the entire Vintage Wings of Canada is worth an extended visit. Here's the link: <http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/451/language/en-US/Green-Cross-to-Bear.aspx>



Our trivia question for this month; can you name the first woman to fly English Channel and why her flight never received the media coverage other famous flights have. Here's a hint, she was an American and she was the first woman in the U.S. to be awarded a pilot's license.

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. If you've missed a past newsletter we have them archived on the SCAHF website, here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/downloads.htm> . We also audio interviews with vets and other interesting on the multimedia page, here's that link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/multimedia.htm> . Also, get involved with the foundation. Remember the next SCHAF Open House takes place on Saturday, July 12th from 10am-1pm at Hamilton/Owens Airport. If you know of a group, a church group, another club you might be part of, anything like that, suggest that they spend an enjoyable Saturday morning learning about South Carolina's aviation heritage. **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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