



**SOUTH CAROLINA
HISTORIC AVIATION FOUNDATION**
"Saving the past for the Future"



SCHAF Newsletter for September 2013

Greetings to all SCHAF members-

It has turned out to be a busy summer for the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation and by the look of things it will be a busy and productive fall. Let's get on what's been happening.

Foundation Happenings-

The board of SCHAF met Thursday, August 15th in the corporate hangar next to the terminal at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia. Present were Gary Byrd, Ken Berry, Larry Yon, Ron Shelton and Xen Motsinger. There was discussion on membership renewals and developing a system where renewal notices can be sent out as membership expires. Also discussion regarding a members drop-in. This most likely will be in conjunction with the visit of the Ford Tri-Motor in October; more about that below. It will be a chance for folks to drop by and see the progress the foundation is making in accomplishing a number of goals. During the meeting Scott Linaberry was appointed to chair a fund raising committee that is being formed. It was also mentioned that a Vintage Fly-In is taking place at Woodward Field in Camden on October 4th and 5th. Volunteers are needed to man a SCHAF display. The next meeting of the SCHAF board will take place on September 19th.

SCHAF's monthly open house at Hamilton/Owens Airport took place Saturday, August 10th and turn out was good. Among the folks joining us were members of the Sandlapper Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America who brought along some beautiful old cars that were parked in front of GF-2. Thanks to Paul Hook for arranging the appearance of these classic cars.



Our next open house will take place on Saturday, September 14th and will have a number of members of the Spann Watson chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen joining us including a gentleman who flew with the "Red Tails" during the Second World War. They'll be there to talk to folks about the role of the Tuskegee Airmen in fighting for freedom and to answer questions and meet with the public. Hope to see a lot of folks at September's open house. Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 242 will also be providing free airplane rides for young people as part of their Young Eagles program.

Something special will be taking place in October at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Thursday, October 24th through Sunday, October 27th. EAA Chapter 242 is bringing a Ford Tri-Motor to

Columbia for display and rides. A number of vintage Ford automobiles will also be on display. Mark your calendars.

A reminder to everyone that September 5th through the 7th SCHAFA will be at the Triple Tree Aerodrome in Woodruff, S.C. for the annual Triple Tree Fly-In. Triple Tree is a beautiful facility known as the "Augusta National of Aviation." Here's a link to their site:

<http://www.tripletreeaerodrome.com> .

On September 27th and 28th SCHAFA will be at the Southeast Aviation Expo at the Greenville Downtown Airport. Here's the link for the event: <http://www.scaaonline.com/southeast-aviation-expo> . Anyone who would like to come help share the story of SCHAFA please get in touch with one of the board members or me; would be glad to have any participation possible in either event.



The annual meeting of the Paul Rinaldo Redfern Aviation Society took place on Saturday, August 24th, at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia. Presenting the program was SCHAFA member Ron Shelton who talked about last year's symposium on Redfern, who built South Carolina's first commercial aviation facility where Dreher High School now stands. Redfern vanished in 1927 after taking off from Brunswick, Georgia in an attempt to fly to Brazil. Among those present were SCHAFA member Tom Savage, who is also president of the PRRAS, Jim Hamilton, Xen Motsinger and Warner Montgomery, owner and publisher of the Columbia Star. Montgomery is writing a book on Paul Redfern which is expected to come out in the near future. At the end of the meeting everyone present raised a toast in memory of Paul Redfern, a South Carolinian who was one of the early pioneers of aviation. Link to an article about Paul Redfern: <http://earlyaviators.com/eredfern.htm> . .Another link about Redfern: http://www.eaa242.org/PaulRedfern/redfern_001.asp



Paul Rinaldo Redfern

Historical Notes-

Visitors to downtown Greenville may have noticed in Cleveland Park an F-86 Sabre jet as part of a memorial. If you've wondered about it here's the story. It's a memorial to Major Rudolf Anderson, USAF. A South Carolinian who gave his life in the service of his country. "Rudy" Anderson was born in Greenville in 1927 and would attend Clemson where he was an Air Force

ROTC cadet. He would take part in the Korean War and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses as a “recon” pilot. After that he would qualify in the Lockheed U-2 and would become the top pilot in the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Flights by U-2 aircraft would discover the presence of Soviet ballistic missiles in Cuba and trigger the Cuban Missile Crisis. On October 27th of 1962 Anderson took off from McCoy Air Force Base in Orlando, Florida for a mission that would take him over Cuba. He was shot down by a Soviet SAM or surface to air missile. He was posthumously awarded the first Air Force Cross. The memorial to him in Greenville has an F-86 since that was the type of aircraft he flew in the Korean War. Rudolf Anderson, another South Carolina native who contributed to America’s rich aviation heritage.



Major Rudolf Anderson



Memorial in Cleveland Park in Greenville, S.C.

Feedback-

Earlier this year SCHAf member Niall McLaughlin was at an air show in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada where they had a fly-by featuring one of only two airworthy Avro Lancaster bombers in the world as well as the only airworthy De Havilland Mosquito along with some Supermarine Spitfires and Hawker Hurricanes. Niall was kind enough to send some pictures to share with members. Thanks Niall. These are really impressive! I'll share a couple of more in upcoming newsletters. By the way, I've made mention in past newsletter of projects to restore two more Mosquitoes to flying condition. Niall tells me there is yet a fourth project underway in Windsor, Ontario to put another “mossie” in the air.



De Havilland Mosquito and B-25



Lancaster, Mosquito, Spitfires and Hurricanes

A great link from the Daily Mail in the UK sent by SCHAf member Gary Byrd. It's about the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre and “Just Jane,” an Avro Lancaster being restored to airworthy condition. Features some great pictures. Thanks Gary.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2119392/A-modern-day-mission-Lancaster-bomber-crew-prepares-action-70-years-remarkable-set-airfield-pictures.html#ixzz2YZY0Yp6U> . Gary also sends along the news that HBO is planning a ten part TV series on the Eighth Air Force.

It's based on the book *Masters of the Air* by Don Miller, which was the good read in last month's SCHAF newsletter. Tom Hanks and Stephen Spielberg are involved. Here's the link: <http://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/new-hbo-series-on-mighty-eighth-air-force-cost-500-million-dollars.html> .

Scott Linaberry, who is leading the project to renovate the Curtis-Wright Hangar at Hamilton/Owens Airport says things are about to launch. Here's a link to the website for the project: <http://columbia-hangar.com/> . Pass it around to as many people as possible. This is something folks need to get involved with for the betterment of the community and to also preserve an important part of the Palmetto State's aviation history. The State newspaper also featured an article in the Sunday edition of August 18th, 2013 about the project. Here's the link but it's behind a paywall : <http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/18/2924520/group-raising-funds-to-fix-historic.html> . WIS-TV also aired a story. Here's the link: <http://www.wistv.com/story/23198734/piece-of-columbia-aviation-history-could-soon-be-restored>.

Heard recently from SCHAF member Bob Philp who passes along the following story and some pictures, really interesting, thought everyone would enjoy.

In 1944 when I was ten years old a B-25 from the Greenville Army Airbase crashed with the loss of the crew in the remote mountains of northeast Georgia (Rabun County) near my home. One of my classmates says that he heard it circling before the crash but I don't remember that. My guess is that they ran out of fuel as I don't recall any sign of fire at the crash site. A number of us walked through the mountains to the site and we brought out some items. The only thing that remains of these is a laminated wooden ball about the size of a grapefruit with a hole in the center.

After many years I came across the ball at my family home and became curious as to what it actually was. My friend, Jack Bowen who was a B-24 navigator/bombardier, also took an interest in finding out so he took it and asked a number of people none of whom knew. Finally at the last Doolittle reunion here he found a young man who knew exactly what it was. It turned out to be the holder for a trailing antenna.

Not all B-25's had one of these. The pictures show the placement of these on the aircraft.



Earlier this year I had the pleasure of attending a couple of meetings of American Legion Post 6 in Columbia where I met Ted Podewil. Ted is also involved with the military history group Military Timeline Impressions. He was kind enough to send me a picture of a B-24 crew in World War II. One of the crewmen is his sister's father in law and also Ted's former boss at the University of Michigan. He was a radio operator on a B-24. Thanks Ted for the picture.



Also heard from Nelson McLeod. Glad you like the newsletter. Nelson is also a member of the McEntire Retirees Group at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. We need to get together with the McEntire group. I'm sure they have a lot stories that need to be preserved.

Ron Shelton sent along a link to an interesting story about efforts to save the Willow Run factory in Michigan. It's the plant that built some 9,000 B-24 Liberators and made "Rosie the Riveter" famous. Here's the link: <http://news.yahoo.com/trying-save-part-rosie-riveters-factory-075805738.html> .

Good Reads-

[Skunk Works](#) by Ben R. Rich and Leo Janos. The story of Lockheed's legendary "skunk works" which gave the world the U-2, the SR-71 Blackbird and the F-117A "stealth fighter." Rich became head of the Skunk Works after the retirement of the legendary Kelly Johnson, who designed the Lockheed Hudson, the P-38 Lightning and the F-104 Starfighter as well as the U-2 and the SR-71 Blackbird. For anyone interested in the story behind the story in the development of revolutionary aircraft and the personalities involved, this is a good one for your bookshelf.

Odds and Ends-

An interesting video I ran across on YouTube called "[How to Fly the B-25 Mitchell Bomber.](#)" Thought everyone would enjoy.

Here's an interesting site I ran across recently dealing with little known and abandoned airfields around the country. In fact that's what it's called, *Little Known and Abandoned Airfields*. It's divided by states. A good site for aviation historians who want to do a bit of digging; here's the link for South Carolina: http://www.airfields-freeman.com/SC/Airfields_SC.htm .

Last month our trivia question involved an actor who would later go on to stardom in two landmark TV series of the 60's. His first film role was an uncredited one in the classic 50's movie *The Dambusters* about 617 Squadron's attack on the German dams in the Ruhr during World War II. In the movie he was simply listed in the script as "guard at the door," and had only a couple of lines. The answer is Patrick McGoohan, who would later go on to star in the TV series *Danger Man* (*Secret Agent* in this country) and *The Prisoner*, which some critics have called the most intelligent TV series ever made. He would also star in *Ice Station Zebra* which legend has it was the favorite movie of Howard Hughes in his later years. Here's a South Carolina connection; McGoohan was a guest star in an episode of the TV series *Columbo* called "By the Dawn's Early Light" which was filmed at The Citadel in Charleston. Another interesting tidbit, McGoohan was offered the role of James Bond but turned it down. The role would go to Sean Connery. The rest is history.

Yet another tidbit: the actor Richard Todd, who portrayed Wing Commander Guy Gibson in *The Dambusters*, actually took part in D-Day, the Normandy Invasion which was the beginning of the liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny. Todd was a paratrooper in the British 6th Airborne and jumped into France in the early morning hours of June 6th, 1944. Captain Todd was one of the “paras” who relieved the glider troops who captured what is now called Pegasus Bridge. Todd would also star in the classic movie *The Longest Day* as Major John Howard, commander of the glider infantry unit which captured Pegasus Bridge in the opening hours of D-Day. In the 1980's he would narrate a British TV series called *Wings Over the World*, a series dealing with the history of aviation. By the way, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the “dams raid” by 617 Squadron.



Patrick McGoohan



Richard Todd

Our trivia question for this month. During World War II a fighter group of the United States Army Air Force became known as “the Wolfpack.” Who were they? Can you name their colorful leader?

In Closing-

That's all for now. As always if you have news of upcoming events, items of interest, ideas, thoughts or suggestions, or just want to say 'hello,' please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion in future newsletters. If you're traveling somewhere like an air show or you just take some interesting aviation related pictures, share them with us and we'll share with the rest of the SCHAF membership. Also get involved with the foundation. We have a lot going on and more is planned. Just get in touch with one of the board members or another member and ask how you can help. Your involvement can help make SCHAF an even better organization. **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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