



SCHAF Newsletter for September 2015

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, September 12, 2015. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.

Greetings to members and friends of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. It's been a busy summer and fall is shaping up to be just as busy. Want to catch up on what's been happening. Then, read on.

Foundation Happenings-

We start our newsletter on a somber note. Sylvia Rossman, widow of the late Col. Dan Rossman, passed away in August. Sylvia and Dan were great friends of the foundation and their visits to Columbia were always a high point. Dan was the left seat student pilot of GF-2 the day she ditched in Lake Greenwood in 1944. Both were delightful people to know and be around. Below is a picture of Sylvia and Dan with Cantzon Foster.



The board of directors of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation held its monthly meeting at Hamilton-Owens Airport on Thursday, August 20, 2015. Present were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Cantzon Foster, David McIntosh, Xen Motsinger and Niall McLaughlin. There was a report on the cleanup of hangar Y-1 after the heavy storms that hit Columbia in the couple of days before the August open house. No damage to GF-2 or any artifacts or display items. The management of Hamilton-Owens Airport is looking into drainage issues behind Y-1. The restoration of GF-2 is going well and work should start in the near future toward developing a schedule for the coming months for the project. Also, it was decided that the next SCHAF hangar dance will take place on Saturday, October 24th. The weather will be cooler, it's a by week for the U.S.C. Gamecock and it will be a fitting time to honor and recognize the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The theme will be a Hawaiian luau. This will be a big undertaking and we'll need a lot of volunteers to get involved in helping organize, set up and run the event. Meetings are already underway to form committees for various aspects of the hangar dance and everyone is urged to get involved. We'll keep you posted in future newsletters and announcements.

There was also discussion displaying the artwork of the late Reuben Gambrell, who served in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific during World War II. Reuben was a noted artist and art instructor and a collection of his paintings, drawings and sketches from the Pacific was donated to SCHAF earlier this year by the estate of the

late Jacquelyn Maxwell Gambrell. It is hoped that in the coming months a number of venues for display can be set up.

On Saturday, August 22nd EAA chapter 242 held its 50th anniversary celebration and fly-in a Hamilton-Owens Airport and it was a great day. Lots of planes including an F4U Corsair, a T-28 Trojan and a P-51 Mustang. Lots of folks dropped by Y-1 to admire GF-2 and her journey towards her former glory. By the way, SCHAF member Xen Motsinger was a co-founder of EAA 242. One of the visitors to Y-1 was Rick Larsen, national executive director the EAA. Space precludes including too many pictures this month but we'll include some next month. It was a great day.



Ken Berry and Rick Larsen

Would like to welcome a new member to the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation, Fiona McLaughlin. Fiona is the sister of SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin, who has done so much over the years to advance the goals of the foundation. Would also like to welcome another new member, James Clarence Duncan, Jr. Welcome aboard James and Fiona.

A successful open house on Saturday, August 8th. Had visits from a group at McGregor Presbyterian Church in Columbia as well as a group from Epworth Children's Home. Everyone seemed to enjoy hearing about the restoration of GF-2 as well as efforts at preserving South Carolina's aviation heritage. Ron Skipper was there and brought a replica .30 caliber machine he made for about \$30 in parts and 60 hours of time. It looks great and everyone was really impressed. While the open house was taking place also work at cleaning up hangar Y-1 and the effects of the heavy rains that hit the midlands the Thursday evening before. The hangar flooded though no items, artifacts, exhibits were damaged. No damage either to GF-2. Water from the drainage system backed up into the hangar. Ken Berry and Katherine Cuddy were busy mopping up water and getting things back to ship-shape. On hand was Alton Blanks, a veteran, who did a great job talking with some of the visitors about the sacrifices of those who lost their lives while training at Columbia Army Air Base, including his friend Lt. Thomas Neal. Also met some really nice people who dropped by individually to find out more about SCHAF.



Above Ken and Katherine cleaning up, Ron's replica machine gun and Alton Blanks talking to a group.

SCHAF member Ted Podewil and his friend Ed Sylvester brought by a display of various parachutes and spent the morning talking with folks about the intricacies involved with mounting airborne operations. Also had a little

lady who had a great time when she climbed into the cockpit of GF-2. Also in the hangar next door there was a Cessna Bird Dog, or O-1 or L-19, an Army observation airplane.



Ted talking about airborne operations, a little lady in the cockpit and the Bird Dog next door.

SCHAF members present during the open house were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Ron Skipper, Richard Hill, David Moxely, Niall McLaughlin, Katherine Cuddy, Ted Podewil, Cantzon Foster, Anna Amick and myself.

Speaking of cleaning up after the rains, a number of other folks including Niall McLaughlin helped in the clean-up in the following days. Thanks to everyone who pitched in.

Earlier this month SCHAF was on WLTX-TV's 7pm. Friday, August 7th, News 19 aired a story about the restoration of GF-2. Ken Berry did a great job talking about the importance of the project and explaining the importance of preserving history. If you missed it, here's a link to the story:

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2015/08/07/bomber-restoration/31311639/> .

SCHAF member Kimberly Blankenstein works for Boeing in Charleston and is a really big time aviation enthusiast. She is especially interested in the story of an Eighth Air Force pilot during the Second World War named Joe Noyes. Over the years she has been researching "Little Joe's" story and is working on a book about him. Here's her website [A Pilot Named Joe](#) . Here's an article she wrote about her interest in aviation and Joe Noyes: <http://www.boeing.com/boeing100/stories/2015/july/mighty-force-07-15.page> .

Historical Notes-

In July LTC Eldridge Williams passed away at the age of 97. He was one of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen who did so much to fight for freedom and advance our country. Here's a link to an article that features Williams as he looks back on a life well lived: <http://www.argunners.com/lt-col-eldridge-williams-one-of-the-last-tuskegee-airmen-passed-away/> . Here's a link to his obit in the Miami Herald:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/obituaries/article26699983.html> . Also, a link to an article from the New York Times back in the 90's about the Tuskegee Airmen monument in Walterboro, South Carolina: <http://www.nytimes.com/1997/05/27/us/south-carolina-honors-tuskegee-airmen-with-a-monument.html> .

In August the last surviving pilot of the historic raid on the German dams in 1943 passed away. Les Munro, took part in that historic mission but had to turn back before the attack because of damage to his Avro Lancaster. Here's the obit from the Daily Telegraph of London:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/11782700/Squadron-Leader-Les-Munro-Dambuster-pilot-obituary.html> . Ted Podewil sent in this article from BBC News:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-33769486> . Thanks Ted. There are only three surviving crewmembers left from the Dambusters raid.

It was a daring and dangerous mission with the goal of knocking out the Nazi's supply of oil and bringing the German war machine to a grinding halt; it was Operation Tidal Wave, the daring raid on the oil fields of Ploesti in Romania. It would go down in history tragedy and heroism. One of the iconic images of World War II is the photo of *Sandman*, a B-24 Liberator soaring over the smokestacks of one of the refineries. Did you know that Operation Tidal Wave was the brainchild of a South Carolinian? That's right; the plan for the risky low-level attack was conceived by Jacob Smart, who was born in Ridgeland, South Carolina. Smart would retire from the United States Air Force a four-star general. He passed away in 2006. Here's a link to his obit in the New

York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/16/obituaries/16smart.html?_r=1& . Also, a link to a YouTube video about Gen. Smart's induction into the South Carolina Hall of Fame: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phH2V-qK95M> .



Sandman over Ploesti



General Jacob E. Smart

We shouldn't forget that August represented the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific and the dropping of the atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. August 1945 marked the end of a truly horrible conflagration that had gripped the world in the years before. Here's a link to an article sent in by SCHAf member David Moxley about a veteran who remembers the last raid over Japan:

http://www.roanoke.com/news/columns_and_blogs/columns/dan_casey/casey-roanoke-veteran-recounts-wwii-s-last-raid-over-japan/article_9abfae35-ae88-5d04-9101-cb8a5d7cd50e.html .

Good Reads-

This month I've included a book that I have yet to read (in the past I've always read the books recommended) but this month I'm passing along a title on the strength of the recommendation sent to me. Chris Eversmann, manager of Hamilton-Owens Airport, dropped me a note saying he had read [*The Millionaires Unit*](#) and loved it. It's the story of a group of moneyed and privileged flyboys who left the easy life behind and went to fly and fight for freedom in the First World War and in the process put America on the road to becoming an air power. Looks great and you can be assured I'll be picking up a copy soon. Thanks Chris for passing along. Here's another link: <http://www.amazon.com/Millionaires-Unit-Aristocratic-Invented->

[American/dp/1586484443/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1439599005&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Millionaire%27s+Unit](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/aug/13/wright-brothers-they-began-new-era/) .

Another entry under the “Good Reads” heading; David McCullough is one of America's best known historians and a man who has the knack for making history interesting and approachable to the general public. His latest book is [The Wright Brothers](#). The reviews have been great. Here's a review on how the Wright Brothers reinvented the American dream. Follow this link: <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/418906/how-wright-brothers-reinvented-american-dream-lee-habeeb-mike-leven> . Here's a link to a review [The Wright Brothers](#) in The New York Review of Books : <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/aug/13/wright-brothers-they-began-new-era/> .

Odds and Ends-

Last month's trivia question had to do with the Eastern Airlines campaign in the early 1970's, “The Wings of Man.” It featured a famous voice and unmistakable voice in the narration. We wanted to know who the voice was. Congratulations to John Tokaz, who had the right answer. The answer, none other than Orson Welles, known for bringing the world *Citizen Kane*, which many people consider possibly the best movie ever made (though my vote would go to another movie with him-*The Third Man*). He was also the man who frightened a nation with his *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast in the 1930's and of course who can forget “we will sell no wine before it's time.” In the early 70's it was Orson Welles who spoke the words “that's what makes us the wings of man.” By the way, the music in the commercial was written by Burt Bacharach. A true high point in radio and TV advertising. A time when class, not bling, counted. Take a listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tylrlK5C5o> .

Speaking of Eastern Airlines, that famous name is returning to the skies. A group of investors and airline industry veterans recently formed the Eastern Airlines Group, headquartered in Miami flying Boeing 737s in the familiar “hockey stick” color scheme. Some links about the new Eastern Air Lines: http://www.roanoke.com/news/columns_and_blogs/columns/dan_casey/casey-roanoke-veteran-recounts-wwii-s-last-raid-over-japan/article_9abfae35-ae88-5d04-9101-cb8a5d7cd50e.html . Here's a story about their flights to Havana: <http://airwaysnews.com/blog/2015/07/21/trip-report-flying-the-new-eastern-air-lines-to-cuba/> . Finally a link to their website: <http://easternairlines.aero> . They seem to be doing it right, they're using the classic “hockey stick” color scheme. They've named their first plane in honor of Captain Rickenbacker and they've made Miami home. People who respect tradition and the past. Just one more link about Eastern and their various ad campaigns: <http://brandedskies.com/2014/06/from-bums-on-seats-to-the-wings-of-man/> .

Now here's this month's trivia question. What is the name of the All American football player who trained as a pilot on the B-25 at Greenville Army Air Base, SC from late 1942 to 1943? Here's a hint. He was a Heisman Trophy winner. We'll let you know who it was next month.



A photo of Winston Churchill during a visit to Fort Jackson during the Second World War II. Thought everyone would be interested. Another bit of South Carolina history. Another in our series of advertisements from the Second World War II highlighting how various American companies supported the war effort, this one for Western Electric. Remember them? They used to make your telephone back when it was just a telephone.

Every branch of the Armed Services uses the telephone. No. 13 of a series, Naval Aviation



Navy dive bombers—about to strike! In each rear cockpit rides a radio gunner—trusted protector of his pilot and plane. His skill with radio and detection devices permits his pilot to concentrate on flying the plane and blasting the objective. His marksmanship makes enemy planes scarcer, brings V-Day nearer.

Hats Off to Naval Aircrewmembers!

They're the highly trained Radiomen, Machinists' Mates or Ordnancemen who man nose or tail guns in dive bombers, torpedo bombers and multi-engine planes. By their constant record of skill, bravery and unflinching teamwork, they've won their place among the Navy's finest! *Red them up—by helping over 'War Bonds!*

75th ANNIVERSARY
Western Electric
 IN PLACE...SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE BELL SYSTEM.
 IN WAR...ARSENAL OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

Would also like to mention that on Wednesday, September 2nd, Richland Northeast High School in Columbia will hold a program marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The program starts at 11:15 that morning and will last for about 45 minutes. The public is invited to attend and it would be nice if as many veterans as possible show up to meet with students at RNE. The teacher putting together the program is Perry McLeod. Thanks Perry for putting on this program.

In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. If you have something you would like to share please [e-mail](mailto:dmaintosh1@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.](#) Your support of SCHAF is greatly appreciated. Oh yes, and remember, hangar dance in October, time to get involved and make this year's event even better than last year's. See you again, next month.

Till next time

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