



SCHAFA Newsletter September 2018

Reminder: The next SCHAFA Open House will take place Saturday, Sept 8, 2018. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings-

We are sad to announce that Rachel Haynie, one of the founding members of SCHAFA, passed away in July. Rachel was instrumental in writing newspaper articles featuring SCHAFA and GF2. If you have never read her book "Cornfield to Airfield – A History of Columbia Army Air Base", then you must add it to your collection! She will be greatly missed by SCHAFA.

We are also sad to announce that Dana Neville, a regular visitor to our Saturday Open House, passed away in July. You might remember him being featured in a previous newsletter. We are losing our WWII/Korean War/Vietnam War veterans too quickly. Don't put off talking to a veteran to hear their stories. You will never be disappointed!

We had a great open house in August with many new visitors stopping by the hangar. We were thrilled to have a former USAF mechanic, Charles Turner and his son-in-law, Frank Bridges visit the hangar. We were able to pull the Yale out onto the tarmac. Her beauty was shining in the sun and attracted several visitors.





Happenings Around Town:

There is a three-part program on early aviation at the Confederate Relic Room on September 29th. Joe Long will speak on ballooning in World War I. Fritz Hamer will speak on fighter pilots from South Carolina in World War I. There will be special guest Jason Ryan, who will talk about his new book *Race to Hawaii*

Be sure to keep two dates open in October. On Oct 9-10, there will be a SC Aerospace Conference and Expo at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. There will be more detail as we get closer to the date. The annual Aerofest for Camp Kemo will be held on Saturday, Oct 20 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Along with our Yale and B-25, there will be other vintage aircraft, modern aircraft, bouncing houses for kids, etc. It will be a great day to come to Owens Field!

Contribution from SCHAf member Fred Knudsen:

The “Tracy Aces.”

In the 1930's, US airlines drew many of their first officers (copilots) from the military services. With the advent of WWII in 1939, and the resulting expansion of the US armed forces, the airlines realized that this source would be probably be curtailed for some time. United Airlines' response was to implement an accelerated airline pilot training course at the Boeing School of Aeronautics, which it had operated since 1934 in Oakland, CA. Instead of the normal 15 months needed to complete the course, it was shortened to 12 months.

Drawn from graduates of the Civilian Pilot Training Program at colleges and universities around the country, some 160 students were trained by the program in 1940 and 1941. A number were awarded full scholarships to attend. The school was based at the Oakland Municipal Airport, and initially all training was conducted there. However, due to the rapid growth of military traffic at Oakland, the intermediate phase of training was moved to the municipal airport at Tracy, CA, in October 1940, and thereafter the students were known as "Tracy Aces."

The intermediate phase included 250 hours of single-engine time in the Stinson *Reliant*, and upon completion students received their Commercial Pilot and Instrument ratings. Returning to Oakland, they completed the final phase of their instruction on multi-engine aircraft, mainly the Boeing 247, and were then assigned as first officers on regular flights with United Airlines. Many of them went on to long and successful careers with United and other airlines.

The last of the "Tracy Aces," Charles A. McKinnon, died in Trussville, AL, in 2017, at the age of 101. He flew for United until 1953, and then continued as a corporate pilot for IBM until 1977. My father graduated in late 1941 and flew for United until 1944. He then joined Northwest Airlines and retired in 1976, having accumulated 23,000+ incident-free hours in a variety of aircraft types. When asked if he'd ever had any accidents, his standard reply was that he made it a point not to take those trips. He died in 2003, at age 85.

More about the Tracy Aces:

http://www.goldenstatenewspapers.com/tracy_press/our_town/mckinnon-last-tracy-ace-dies-at/article_3efd6f60-5227-11e7-98b2-db04793329c1.html

Historical Notes-

Jim Hamilton shared this: <https://www.wltx.com/article/news/local/amelia-earhart-flew-to-columbWia-during-promotional-tour/101-577510064>

Native American women aviation pioneers:

<https://airandspace.si.edu/stories/editorial/native-american-women-aviation-pioneers>

Daylight precision bombing is a dangerous thing:

<http://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/wwii/daylight-precision-bombing-dangerous-doctrine-of-the-eighth-air-force/>

Plans for a full scale Avro Lancaster monument in England

<http://aerodynamicmedia.com/group-seeks-to-erect-full-scale-avro-lancaster-monument-in-lincolnshire/>

Flying experimental stealth fighters: <http://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/16410/test-pilot-recounts-flying-both-have-blue-and-tacit-blue-experimental-stealth-jets> .

Goodbye to the 747: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-12-18/farewell-to-the-747-the-plane-that-shrank-the-world> .

Why the B-52 will fly for a hundred years: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/finance-companies/why-the-b-52-bomber-will-fly-for-100-years/ar-BBJ9OqH>

Remembering when the Boeing 707 and the Douglas DC-8 ruled the skies: <https://www.avgeekery.com/j-e-t-s-jets-jets-jets-the-707-and-dc-8-were-the-pride-of-the-fleet/> .

The story of a pathfinder In RAF Bomber Command: <http://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/bomber-command-pathfinder/> .

A training film from World War II. How to fly the P-40: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOlg7JxHQBk> .

The jet that turned the tide during the Tet Offensive: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/this--fighter-jet-helped-turn-tide-during-vietnams-decisive-tet-offensive-180967901/>

Mary Ellis one of the last female pilots from World War II passes away: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/a-legend-mary-ellis-one-of-the-last-women-pilots-from-world-war-ii-dies-at-101/ar-BBL5H6N>

Good Reads-

[Deadly Sky: The American Combat Airman in World War II](#) by John C. McManus a good book about American airmen in World War II. writing style is a bit choppy but still worth reading,

Odds and Ends-

Last month's trivia question wanted to know what plane Sky King flew in the popular 1950's TV series. The answer is a Cessna 310B. Congratulations to Fred Knudsen for getting the right answer. Early episodes used a Cessna Bobcat or T-50.

Here's our trivia question for this month: The secret identity of the comic book hero *Iron Man* is industrialist Tony Stark, What real life industrialist is Stark based on? Answer next month,

It's a boat! It's a plane! It's the AirFish 8: <https://www.businessinsider.com/sea-craft-looks-like-a-plane-docks-boat-airfish-8-widgetworks-2018-3?r=UK&IR=T>

And more about this amazing aircraft: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tarandipkaur/2017/08/10/airfish-8-this-unique-marine-craft-will-change-the-way-people-travel/#2430028639dd>

It's based on something called an Ekranoplan: <https://www.wired.com/2011/06/ekranoplan/>

Who knew: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/finance-career-education/its-harder-to-become-a-delta-flight-attendant-than-to-get-into-harvard/ar-BBL3mHQ>

Things you don't know about presidential air travel: <https://www.avgeekery.com/bet-dont-know-things-presidential-air-travel/>

Your air traffic controller may not be at the airport:
<https://www.popularmechanics.com/flight/airlines/a15942247/remote-aircraft-control-tower/> .

We need more pilots: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/markets/opinion-the-us-has-a-shortage-of-pilots-and-its-going-to-get-worse/ar-AAA1poS>

An interesting recruiting video from 1980 for the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Australian Navy:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94ki39pQZIM> .

USAF A-10'S on exercises the Baltics: <https://www.nationalreview.com/photos/a10-thunderbolts-saber-strike-18/#slide-1>

RAF serviceman gets tour of London from back of Chinook:
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/raf-serviceman-takes-best-views-12629239>.

In Closing-

If you have something you would like to share, please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion in future newsletters. **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.](#)**

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