



SCHAF Newsletter for November 2015

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, November 14, 2015. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.

We start this month's newsletter on a bit of a somber note. Since we last visited momentous events have taken place in the Palmetto State. The first weekend of October South Carolina was hit hard by historic rains which could almost be referred to as being of biblical proportions. This affected SCHAF activities in a number of ways and we'll get to that in a moment but first we should take note of the fact that the Midlands and Low Country of the Palmetto State were among the areas especially hard hit. In the midlands a number of dams broke resulting in the loss of life and property. The sight of helicopters flying over neighborhoods became a familiar one as the search for those in need of rescue and aid as well damage surveys took place. In one afternoon I saw Blackhawks, Hueys and Jet Rangers above. Kudos go out to the hard working and tireless men and women of the South Carolina National Guard for their efforts and devotion to duty.



SCHAF member Nelson McLeod was one of those who helped get out the word about transporting meals to the aircrew from McEntire who have spent so much time in recent weeks in the air. A number of SCHAF members stepped up and helped. Thanks to Nelson and thanks to the other SCHAF members who came forward during trying times.

Also, heard from or talked with a number of SCHAF members. Most everyone came out well though some folks did suffer some damage and it seems everyone has a story or two about what turned out to be a trying time. Glad everyone made it through okay and no injuries that I'm aware of.

Foundation Happenings-

As for SCHAF activities most everything was shelved because of the rains and flooding. It was decided that the USO style hangar dance that had been scheduled for October 24th should be postponed until spring, possibly March or April. There are so many out there who have lost much and are busy with trying to recover from the recent events that it would not have been proper to hold the dance under the circumstances. Also given that many roads and streets are still out it would have been difficult for many to make it to the dance. This will give us time to plan for an even bigger and better dance. Thanks go out to all of the volunteers who, until the storms, had been doing an excellent job of organizing the event. We'll be getting back to work on the hangar dance in the coming weeks.

There was no open house for October, again a result of the flooding. Part of Jim Hamilton Blvd. in front of the terminal caved in and was barricaded. The cave-in has since been repaired. The good news is there was little flooding in the SCHAF hangar and GF-2 weathered things well. Volunteers have continued their work on the restoration of SCHAF's B-25C.

The monthly meeting of the SCHAF board was postponed for a week, again because of road closures and the fact that everyone was involved in other, more pressing matters. The meeting took place on Thursday, October 22nd and Hamilton-Owens Airport. Present were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Cantzon Foster, Xen Motsinger and myself. Members present were Mary McIntosh and Richard Hill. Ken Berry reported on the flooding and that hangar Y-1 experienced few problems. There was discussion on the hangar dance which is now planned for the spring. A date will be determined in the near future. Also, a report that Richland County Council passed third reading of an ordinance selling the Curtiss-Wright Hangar at Hamilton-Owens Airport and that the building will be leased to a micro-brewery operation.

Want to mention some folks we heard from since the last newsletter. Great to hear from John Tokaz, Bruce Rippeteau, John Hess and Bob Lineberger. Glad you still like the newsletter. Also want to mention to SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin was part of the Canadian Flypast marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Niall got to fly in a P-40 as well as Vera, the Avro Lancaster of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. And, here's a link to a BBC story about the flypast in the UK: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34250794>.

The Earl Yerrick Static Display to support Camp Kemo took place on Saturday, October 24th at Hamilton-Owens Airport. Good turnout and a lot of interesting planes were on hand. *The Movie Memphis Belle* B-17 Flying Fortress paid a return visit to the midlands and there were a number of other interesting aircraft including Barry Avant's F4U Corsair, a BAC (Hunting) Jet Provost, a couple of T-6s and a twin Beechcraft. There was also a Chinook helicopter from the South Carolina Army National Guard. This bird has seen a couple of tours in Afghanistan and was the helicopter you may have seen on the news airlifting sandbags for repairs to the Columbia Canal during the recent flooding. Of course GF-2 was on display. A number of SCHAF members were on hand and helped spread to the SCHAF story to visitors.



Chinook



Barry Avants's Corsair



Movie Memphis Belle nose art

SCHAF member Valerie Anderson was there as Amelia Earhardt. Ken Berry, Katherine Cuddy and Ron Skipper spent the day telling folks about the restoration of GF-2. Ron Shelton was on hand to talk about SCHAF's role in preserving the Palmetto State's aviation history. Other SCHAF members present included Scott Linaberry who helped work the registration table, Larry Yon and Tyson Boheler, who was busy taking video shoots of the events.



Valerie Anderson and Larry Yon



Beechcraft and T-6 Texans



Jet Provost



Here's what could be termed a mea culpa moment. In last month's newsletter I referred the .30 caliber replica machine gun acquired by the foundation as having been donated by Niall McLaughlin. The gun was actually purchased through the grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission. Niall arranged for the payment and delivery. This is a good moment though to again thank the folks at the Richland County Conservation Commission for their support and assistance. They are great folks and among those who are working hard to make Richland County a better place to live. My other mea culpa concerns the fact that after mailing out the October newsletter, I caught a few mistakes on my part. For example I made reference to the C-103 Hercules. It should have read C-130. I must remember, engage brain before putting fingers to the keyboard.

Historical Notes-

An interesting piece from the UK about the dog who fought against the Luftwaffe:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2482520/So-loyal-brave-dog-flew-Luftwaffe-awarded-animal-version-Victoria-Cross.html> .

We shall never see a plane like it again, the Concorde. Forty-two years ago it flew across the ocean for the first time. Remember the Concorde: <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-concorde-flew-across-the-ocean-for-the-first-42-years-ago-today-heres-what-it-was-like-2015-9> .

Thanks to Chris Eversmann, manager of Hamilton-Owens Airport who liked the Guinness ad I included in the October newsletter. He sent another Guinness ad from the Second World War.



Good Reads-

Our good read for this month should be to anyone who has ever dreamed of being a fighter pilot, oh, someone like me, for example. [Lords of the Sky](#) by Dan Hampton is a history of fighter pilots and air combat from the very beginning to the present day; from the time when knights of the air risked their lives in flimsy fabric biplanes to now when young men and women look into head up displays as they prepare to launch air to air missiles at targets beyond visual range. Written in an easy, conversational style. Spend a pleasant evening with this one.

Here's a book that while it doesn't have anything to do with aviation should be of interest to folks in South Carolina as well as anyone who likes good music. Clair DeLune is the author of *South Carolina Blues*. Clair has been a good friend of SCHAFA and helped publicize our work on her program BluesMoonRadio on WUSC-FM at the University of South Carolina. Her book is *South Carolina Blues*. It's a great book and if you're like me and spent time frequenting places your parents warned you about you will recognize many of the names. Want to order a copy, here's a link: <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467114721>. Oh, and by the way, the publisher is based in Charleston, remember support South Carolina companies.

Odds and Ends-

Last month's trivia question concerned airplanes that were known as "Judas Goats." In World War II B-17s and B-24s that were worn out, stripped of weaponry and not fit for combat operations were painted in garish, high-contrast color schemes particular to a specific bomb group. The planes from that group would form up (or formate as they say in the UK) on the Judas goat, which would then return to base after the group was assembled.



Ron and Linda Skipper were first with the correct answer but shortly afterwards Niall McLaughlin also replied with the right answer. Here's a link to an article on Judas goats on Vintage Wings of Canada website: <http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/477/Polka-Dot-Warriors.aspx> .

Now, here's our trivia question for December. What is the name of the A-20 pilot in who supervised and instructed A-20 pilots at Florence Army Airfield in 1944 to 1945?

Here are some hints. He flew 51 missions in combat in North Africa with the 86th Bomb Squadron, 47th bomb Group receiving the DFC and Air Medal with five clusters. He would later become an Air Force test pilot and have an Air Force Base named after him when his test aircraft broke up in mid-air and was killed in 1948.

An article about a firm in the UK that manufactures replica propellers for the classic DeHavilland Tiger Moth: <http://themanshed.cc/replica-tiger-moth-propeller-by-hercules/> .

Here's an article about six women who made significant contributions to aviation: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/64191/6-more-magnificent-women-their-flying-machines> .

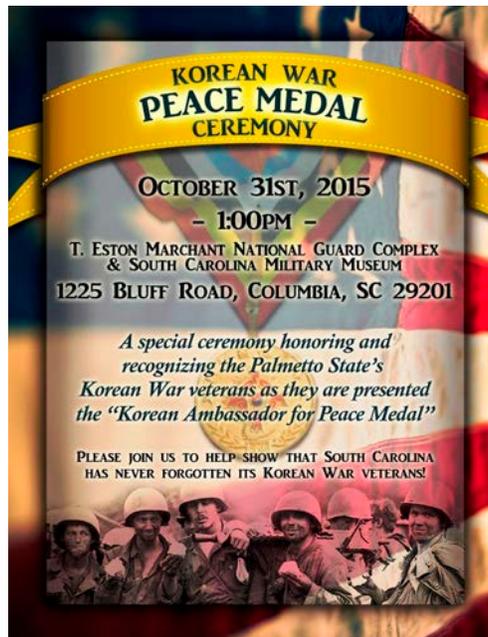
In the 1920s and 30s cigarette packs would come with little collector's cards and aviation was a popular subject. What was airline travel like in the 1920s, well light one up and a look: <http://www.formerdays.com/2014/11/flying-1920s-style.html> .

Made mention above about SCHAF member Valerie Anderson's excellent portrayal of Amelia Earhardt during the Yerrick Static Display. Here's a link to a posting about Earhardt's visit to Anderson, South Carolina in 1931: <http://www.appalachianhistory.net/2008/11/amelia-earhart-drops-in.html> . Another posting about her visit to Southern Pines, North Carolina that same year: <http://www.digitalnc.org/blog/amelia-earhart-southern-pines/> .

In mid-October an Honor Flight for World War II and Korean War vets left Columbia for Washington then returned that evening. Great crowd, airport was packed, lots of fanfare, military band, really a nice greeting for the guys. Some pictures below. Thanks to Ken Berry for the pix.



Saturday October 31st the South Carolina Military Museum will be hosting the Korean War Peace Medal Ceremony at 1pm. The public is invited to attend. Thanks to Nelson McLeod for making me aware of this event. Show up and support the Palmetto State's Military Museum.



In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. Again, glad that everyone made it through the floods. If you have a story to share let me know and I'll pass along in future newsletters. Remember the hangar dance has been postponed until spring but work will resume in the near future. This gives us time for a bigger and better event. We need more volunteers. Now would be a great time to step up and get involved. 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. Have a great Thanksgiving.

Till next time

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Happy Thanksgiving to everyone from the folks at SCHAF



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