

SCHAF Newsletter for December 2016-

**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, December 10, 2016. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.**

### Foundation Happenings-

Greetings from the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and that you have an even better Christmas. As always, it seems, things have been busy, so let's dive in and see what's been going on recently with SCHAF.

A very successful open house on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We had a number of young people come over after taking part in the Young Eagles program of EAA 242 but the real treat was a visit from some of the residents of the Atria Forest Lake assisted living facility in Columbia. A really nice group of folks who were very interested in hearing about GF-2 and the work of SCHAF in preserving and making more people aware of the Palmetto State's rich aviation heritage. Thanks to Debbie Bailey with Atria for bringing them. She says they really enjoyed it and that it made for a special morning for them. Ken Berry and Katherine Cuddy spoke with them about the restoration of GF-2 and Ted Podewil talked about airborne operations during the Second World War. Again, it was great to meet some of the residents from Atria Forest Lake.



*Ken Berry, Katherine Cuddy and Ted Podewil speaking to residents of Atria Forest Lake*

SCHAF members who were present at the open house were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Mary McIntosh, Katherine Cuddy, Ted Podewil, Marvin Williams and myself.



*Visitors to the November Open House*

Would also like to add that it was great to meet with the young people who came over from Young Eagles. That's an important part of SCHAF's mission, getting future generations interested in aviation.

No board meeting of the SCHAF board for November. A quorum was not present.

Wanted to mention that Ron Skipper and the legendary SCHAF truck were part of the Veteran's Day Parade in Lexington. The word is that it was a hit and crowd loved it.

In last month's newsletter I made mention of some model airplanes that have been donated to SCHAF. Thought I would share some pictures. The first is a Fairey Swordfish, a Royal Navy torpedo bomber from World War II affectionately known as the "Stringbag." The second is a Junkers JU-87 Stuka dive bomber from World War II. There are a number of other models in the collection donated to SCHAF, all of them very nice looking. The models were built by the late Glenn Stackhouse and donated by his family. More pictures next month.



Speaking of the Swordfish, here's a link from Vintage Wings of Canada about the Stringbag:  
<http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/294/The-Legendary-Swordfish--A-Dedication.aspx> .

It is with great sadness that we pass along the news of the passing of SCHAF member Roger Booco. Roger served his country in three conflicts; World War II, the Korean War and in Viet Nam. After retiring from the United States Air Force he flew for the University of South Carolina. Anyone who met him came away impressed by his warmth and enthusiasm for flying and for people. He was a great guy. Roger, you will be missed. Here's his obit in The State: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thestate/obituary.aspx?n=roger-booco&pid=182528669&fhid=5564> .



*Roger and Nancy Booco at 2014 Hangar Dance*

## Historical Notes-



This month marks the anniversary of one of the most important events in American history, the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the forces of Imperial Japan on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Here are some links dealing with the attack on Pearl Harbor: <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/pearl.htm> . Also, this link: <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/pearl-harbor> . Here's something from the Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/december-07> . Also, the front page of the New York Times from Monday, December 8, 1941: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/1207.html> . Finally Pearl Harbor 75 years later: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/travel/sc-pearl-harbor-75th-anniversary-travel-1129-20161117-story.html> .

It's been many years since the Battle of Britain and the skies over southeastern England were filled with planes piloted by young men trying to kill each other. Some pictures from that brave and desperate time: <http://www.businessinsider.com/battle-of-britain-nazi-germany-world-war-ii-anniversary-2016-10/#four-boulton-paul-defiants-from-raf-no-264-squadron-which-were-based-in-kirton-in-lindsey-lincolnshire-seen-in-august-1940-5> .

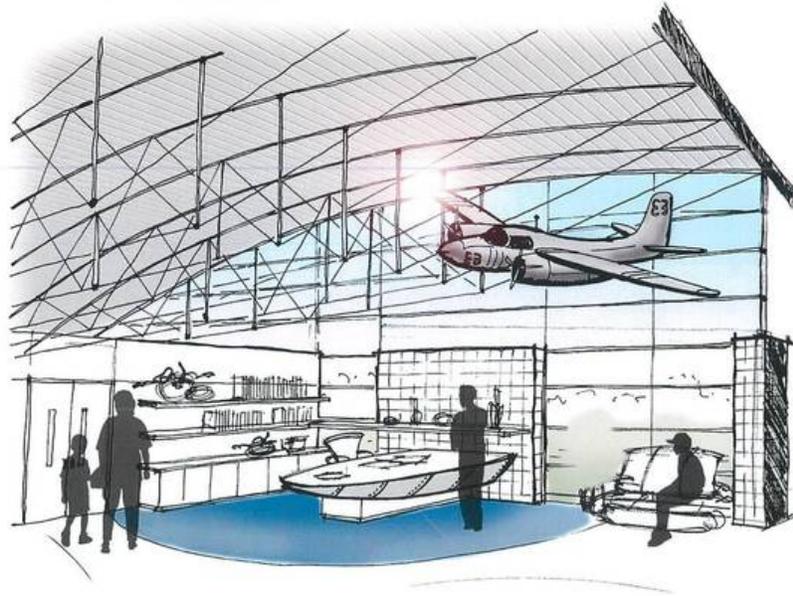
I mentioned the Fairey Swordfish or "Stringbag" above. Here's an article about how the Swordfish took on the German battleship Bismarck: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/how-the-stringbag-an-outdated-biplane-took-out-the-bismarck-copy.html> .

One of the women who helped win the war. A Wikipedia entry on Nancy Harkness Love, who played a major role in the WASP (Women's Air Service Pilots) during World War II: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy\\_Harkness\\_Love](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nancy_Harkness_Love) . And the recent obit for another woman who helped win the war. She flew for the ATA (Air Transport Auxiliary in the UK). Among the planes she flew were Spitfires, Mosquitos and Mustangs. From the Daily Telegraph on London: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2016/11/01/molly-rose-spitfire-pilot-obituary/> . One more piece about a woman who helped win the war. Earlier this year the Capital Wing of the CAF (Commemorative Air Force) honored Elaine Harmon: <http://www.warbirdsnews.com/warbirds-news/caf-capital-wing-performs-flyover-honor-wasp-elaine-harmon.html> .

I'm a fan of lists, you know top ten and top twenty lists, that sort of thing. Here's an interesting one on the most important innovations in aviation: <https://www.wired.com/2008/10/the-worlds-grea> .

An item from earlier this year. It was announced that Springdale Elementary School, which is in Lexington School District 2 plans to feature a salute to the Doolittle Raiders, who were organized at Columbia Army Air Base (now Columbia Metro). The exterior will have the appearance of aircraft hangars and there will be historical markers and displays in the school honoring the heroic crews who launched from the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet in 1942 and struck back at the Japanese Empire after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. The changes are part of renovations that will be taking place at Springdale Elementary.

## Conceptual



### Good Reads-

[Unsung Eagles: True Stories of America's Citizen Airmen in the Skies of World War II](#) by Jay A. Stout. We're familiar with the famous heroes of the air during World War II but here's a book about the unknown everyday men who took to the skies, defeated the enemy and protected our freedom. A really good book where the reader becomes familiar with the ordinary men who took to the skies and played their part in winning World War II. You get a feel for their backgrounds and everyday lives and the risks they took and the conditions they labored under while serving their country. Another example of a book that leaves you in awe of an earlier generation that saved the world. An enjoyable book to sit down and spend an evening with.

### Odds and Ends-

Last month our trivia question concerned a famous aviatrix who owned a famous (some would say infamous) establishment called the Happy Bottom Riding Club where aviators and test pilots would come to slake their thirst (if you know what I mean). The answer was [Pancho Barnes](#). Her real name was Florence Lowe Barnes but she was better known as Pancho. Congratulations to Anna Amick who had the right answer. Also congratulations to Franklin Hall and as well as Terri Tokaz, both of whom also correctly guessed Pancho Barnes. Pancho Barnes is one of the more fascinating individuals to be found in aviation. Heck, she's one of more interesting people you could find anywhere. She was born Florence Lowe and aviation was in her blood. Her grandfather was [Thaddeus S.C. Lowe](#), a balloonist or aeronaut who could be counted among America's aviation pioneers. He was head of the Union Army's Balloon Corps. In her late teens she married Reverend Rankin Barnes (who probably didn't realize what a high spirited wife he was acquiring). In the 1930s Florence, or Pancho as she became known was one of America's better known aviatrixes. She flew in a number aviation related movies in the 1930s including Howard Hughes' [Hell's Angels](#). In the mid-thirties she started a dude ranch called the [Happy Bottom Riding Club](#), which was near Muroc Army Air Base (now Edwards Air Force Base). The Happy Bottom would become a gathering place and watering hole for some of the most colorful

and famous people to take to the skies including Chuck Yeager, Jimmy Doolittle and others. The early part of the movie [The Right Stuff](#) features a number of scenes that take place in the Happy Bottom Riding Club.

Now for this month's trivia question. In the mid-sixties a well-known airline shook up the industry by painting their planes in various pastel colors and dressing their stewardesses in mini-skirts and designer outfits. It created quite a buzz. Their advertising proclaimed "the End of the Plain Plane." This was the "swinging sixties" you know. Which airline am I looking for? Answer next month.

Speaking of airlines; have you ever wondered how the meals served aboard many airlines are prepared? Follow this link and find out: <http://www.businessinsider.com/airplane-food-facility-tour-reveals-shocking-secret-about-waste-2016-9/#welcome-to-uniteds-chelsea-food-services-facility-where-a-team-of-1000-produces-33000-meals-per-day-1> .

It was a different era, when flying on an airliner was something people would dress up for and flying somewhere exotic was a special treat. Here's a link to travel posters for BOAC (British Overseas Airways Corporation) from the 1960s: <http://www.businessinsider.com/12-beautiful-airline-posters-from-the-mad-men-era-from-the-british-airways-heritage-centre-2015-4?op=1/#is-ad-showcased-one-of-the-early-passenger-flights-to-rome-1> .

While we're on the subject of airliners a good article about the days when Pan American World Airways or Pan Am dominated international air travel: <https://blog.longreads.com/2015/02/10/glamorous-crossing-how-pan-am-airways-dominated-international-travel-in-the-1930s/> .

It's a Christmas tradition in Canada as people gather around radio to hear the late Al Maitland of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation read Frederick Forsyth's novella *The Shepherd*. It's also become a holiday tradition here at the SCHAFF newsletter. It's a story about second chances and new beginnings, just what Christmas is about. Enjoy: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2\\_bLEqmBi0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2_bLEqmBi0) .

In last month's newsletter I made mention of the passing of Bob Hoover, noted pilot. SCHAFF member Franklin Hall knew Bob and sent in this remembrance:

*I meant to thank you for the tribute to Bob Hoover. He was an exceptional pilot and an exceptional person. While I worked for Rockwell International I belonged to the Rockwell Flying Club, and Bob did, too, though he rarely attended club meetings. In 1977 the club decided to put on a fly-in airshow at Porterville, and I was tasked with the airshow part of it. I rounded up four aerobatic pilots who would fly gratis for us, but felt that was not enough. I called Bob and asked if he would help us. He quickly agreed. Not knowing for sure what kind of an airplane Bob would like to perform in without opportunity to try it out, first, and develop a routine, I rounded up a Christin Eagle, Citabria, PT-17, P-51, and a T-33. On the day of the event I asked Bob which one he would like to fly for us. He replied, "Frank, how about all five?" So I quickly adjusted the schedule, alternating Bob with the other four pilots. Bob put on a show for us that I don't think any of us will ever forget. He did things in those aircraft that we thought were impossible. I don't think many of his maneuvers even had a name. That is what I mean when I say Bob was an exceptional pilot and an exceptional person.*

Ahhh, you just can't beat Mother Nature. Ask the RAF's Red Arrows, the world famous aerobatic team. A few years back they found that even their spectacular aerial show couldn't compete with nature's wonders: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1208202/Plane-beautiful-The-day-Red-Arrows-upstaged-Mother-Nature.html> .

A sad note, Ron Alexander, a gentleman who was well known in the general aviation world was killed in a crash on November 17<sup>th</sup> while flying his Curtiss Jenny near the Peach State Aerodrome in Georgia. Alexander was very involved in programs for young people who are interested in aviation. Here's a story from the Barnesville Herald-Gazette:

<http://www.barnesville.com/archives/9716-Report-Ron-Alexander,-FAA-official-dead-in-plane-crash.html> . Here's an article from the EAA website: <http://www.eaa.org/en/ea/ea-news-and-aviation-news/news/11-18-2016-aaa-mourns-death-of-vaa-director-ron-alexander> .

## In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. A closing note. Heard recently from a SCHAF member who asked the question "are donations, contributions and membership dues tax deductible? Well, the answer is yes they are. SCHAF is a 501(c)3 organization and with tax time starting to be on everyone's mind remember your support of SCHAF not only supports a worthwhile organization but can help on your tax return. So remember you can support SCHAF and get a tax break at the same time.

We hope you will have a happy and joyous Christmas surrounded by your loved ones. As we all close out the year here is looking forward to an even better and more prosperous new year. As this year draws to a close and a new one approaches think about either becoming involved or more involved with the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. We've accomplished a lot this last year but with more people on board we can accomplish so much more. You'll have fun and you'll also be contributing to something very important and valuable, the education of future generations about the importance of aviation and the Palmetto State's aviation heritage. Again, Merry Christmas and Joyous Noel from everyone at the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation.

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.](#)** We've already received a number of renewals from our first membership mailing a month or so ago and another mailing will be going out in the near future. We can't continue the work of SCHAF without the enthusiastic support folks like you. Your support of SCHAF is greatly appreciated

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**Merry Christmas to everyone from the folks at SCHAF**



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