



SCHAFA Newsletter for January 2024

Reminder: The next SCHAFA Open House will take place Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

SCHAFA wishes everyone a very Happy New Year. Here's to an amazing 2024 to all of you. Thank you to everyone who supported SCHAFA this past year. Whether helping with an open house, helping host events, helping with restoration work, or helping monetarily, you are greatly appreciated. For this issue of the newsletter, we wanted to recap the many accomplishments achieved in 2023. We are hoping for even more progress in 2024. We will be sending a separate email to those of you who did not renew your membership in 2023. We hope you will renew so you can keep up with all the hard work done in 2024.

Open House

The second Saturday of each month, SCHAFA hosts an open house from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Each month, there is a theme for the event along with guests who help with the displays. Even though some Saturdays are wet and/or cold, we still welcome visitors who brave the weather. We love when WWII veterans or families of WWII veterans visit.

In February, SCHAFA welcomed the T Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen's Association. In March, the Military Timeline Impressions set up an amazing display of WASP items. In April, SCHAFA along with other groups commemorated the 81st Anniversary of the Doolittle Raid. The May open house was a special theme celebrating commercial aviation. Dane Coffman who worked for Delta Airlines for 47 years set up an amazing display for the event. For the July Open House, the Swamp Fox Modelers Club braved the typical SC July heat to set up beautiful models for the visitors.



Displays by the T Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen's Association

Visitors

Whenever the doors to Hangar Y-1 are open, we often have visitors stop by to see the planes. The view of such beautiful planes just draws people in the door. SCHAF is also periodically contacted by people who had a relative who flew in B-25s during WWII. These visitors love to see and touch a plane that their father/uncle/brother flew in during the war. In 2023, SCHAF was visited on multiple days by Cub Scout troops. Their troop leaders said these boys had never been so attentive for so long. Days like these make all the hard work by our volunteers worth every minute.



Hosting Events

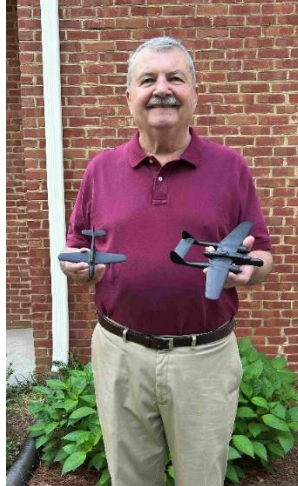
SCHAF is trying to spread the word that the hangar is an amazing venue for hosting events. During 2023, we hosted a retirement from the SC National Guard party and a 60th birthday party. One rainy Sunday, SCHAF hosted the SC Breakfast Club fly-in. SCHAF was honored to host the Jimmy Doolittle Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America once again for their award ceremony. Help spread the word about our facility. What better place to host a party than a B-25 as the backdrop!



Donations

One of the goals of SCHAF is to preserve all SC aviation history not just WWII. During 2023, SCHAF was fortunate to receive donations of amazing items important in telling both the history of GF2 as well as aviation history in SC. SCHAF received a donation of books and original newspapers from the WWII years. Dan Rossman's daughters, Lynn Gunzenhauser and Hope Bloom donated some more of their father's items. Along with an original B-25 pilot's manual, there are great pictures of GF2 when she was raised out of Lake Greenwood, newspaper clippings and other historical documentation.

SCHAF received a donation from Charles Taylor of some maps and pictures of the Columbia Army Air Base taken just after the war. Charles used to work at the air base. SCHAF received several models of airplanes including a P-51 remote control model belonging to Ken Berry that is now "flying" over the hangar! SCHAF also received WWII airplane recognition models donated by Keith Brightbill. Bill Vartorella donated an extensive collection of items including these challenge coins that belonged to his late brother, Doug. An F56 camera that was used on several WWII bombers including the B-25 was donated by Mike West. Last but certainly not least, Bruce Cotner, loaned original B-25 parts recovered from a B-25 that crashed in Lake Murray.



Spreading the word about SCHAF

Throughout the year, SCHAF volunteers attend events around the area to help promote our organization. If you ever hear of an aviation/historical event in SC that would be beneficial for SCHAF to attend, please let us know. Events such as these we attended in 2023 help spread the word about our foundation.

On April 23rd, SCHAF set up a display table at the Doolittle Raider's 81st Anniversary Celebration at the Skyline Club near Columbia Metro.



On May 6th, SCHAF was honored to be invited to set up a display at the McEntire Family Appreciation Day for the SC Air Guard families. The people, the planes, the vehicles, the atmosphere was electric.



40th Anniversary of GF2 being raised from Lake Greenwood

The August Open House was a very special one. The day before the open house, SCHAF hosted a dinner for the Navy divers who raised GF2 out of Lake Greenwood. Also in attendance was Matt Self who was instrumental in acquiring the funding to raise GF2. All the divers except for Chuck had not seen GF2 since she was brought up. SCHAF would like to once again thank all of the hard workers who made this event our best ever open house.



Bob Fedak, John Cooper, Matt Self, Chuck Messick, Neil Ware

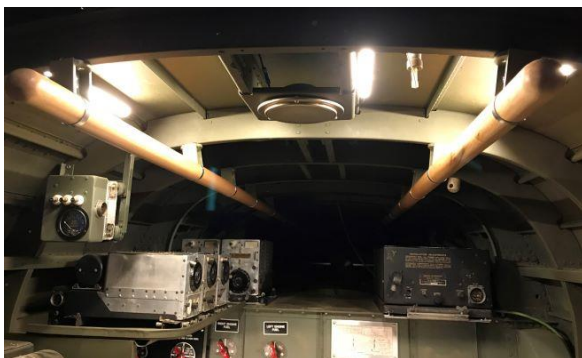


Visitors listening to Chuck's presentation about GF2

Restoration Progress

During the year, it seems like the restoration work progresses slowly. However, after looking back to where we were in January to where we are now, the accomplishments for 2023 are outstanding.

The tight crawl space over the bomb bay area has seen a lot of progress. The handrails were completed, and instruments were installed; only fine details remain to be completed.





John spent almost 100 hours of time on both the research and fabrication of the Norden bomb sight. This is now installed in the bombardier's area. The small details in the bombardier's area are nearing completion. The .30 cal gun with the fabricated ammo can and spent shell casing bag built by Ron are installed. The seatbelt for the riding seat was installed. If you look closely, there are even spent shells on the floor.



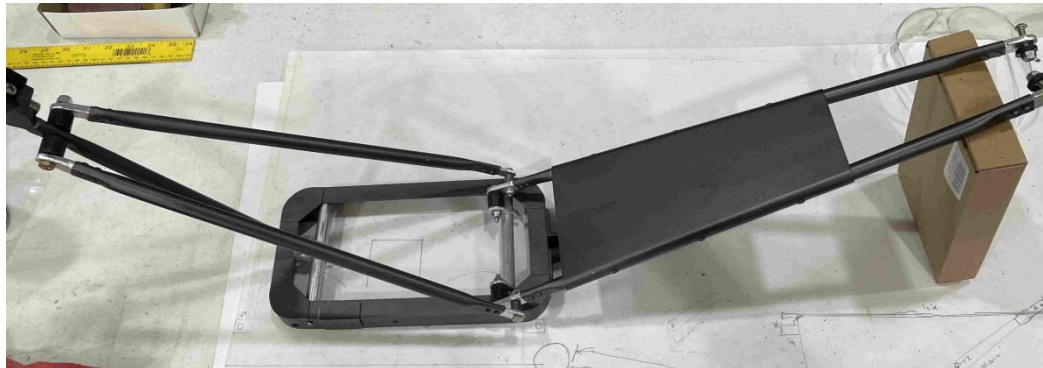
The floor in the Navigator's area, as well as the outside skin underneath the plane was repaired. The deicer and hydraulic instruments along the back wall were installed. Still a few more details such as hoses and pipes to complete this project.



One huge accomplishment was the installation of the bomb racks and replica 100-pound bombs. The look and feel in the bomb bay section completely changed after these were placed. Ron spent many hours making these look just right



John completed the astrograph mounting bracket and is currently working on the astrocompass mount for the navigator's area.



Goals for 2024

SCHAF has some big goals for 2024. The foundation is working hard on establishing a STEM program to get youth interested in aviation, engineering, science, and history. There are so many opportunities in the aviation field besides being a pilot.

The bucket list of items for the restoration team sometimes seems to be a never-ending list. At the top of the list is completing the bomb bay doors. The workers are inching closer and closer to the riveting stage. There are small detail items in all areas of the plane that need to be completed. The various projects started in 2023, will be completed in 2024.

Another exciting goal this year is the acquisition of an actual aircraft cockpit in which SCHAF will install a realistic flight simulator suitable for all ages to experience the thrill of flight.

In 2023, work was started on getting the second tug up and running. Lanny replaced several parts as well as corrected circuits which were previously wired incorrectly. One big item needed is 6 new tires for the tug. Sometimes we move from one project to another while we wait on parts.

One more area started in 2023 was installing the cables running thru the bomb bay area. Lanny and Ron have been working hard repairing the various pulleys that operated the ailerons, flaps, and rudders. We are hoping to one day have the controls in the cockpit move the ailerons, etc.

Santa flew in for a visit.

We would certainly be remiss if we forgot to mention Santa! For the December open house, Santa flew in to visit the children. He is always a big hit! If you did not make it to the hangar this year, it needs to be on your bucket list for next year.



Wrap Up

If you have something you would like to share in a future newsletter or if you have any questions, please send an email directly to SCHAF at info.schaf@gmail.com.

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