



SCHAf Newsletter for February 2024

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

Foundation Happenings

For the February Open House, SCHAf is happy to welcome the T Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen's Association. The Military Timeline Impressions will also be on hand with some displays. Be sure to come to the open house to see the visitors, displays and the restoration progress on GF2.

Open House

Since the January Open House was cold and windy, the hangar door remained closed during the event. We had coffee and hot chocolate to keep the visitors warm inside. It was great to see a large group of young children visiting the hangar.



B-25C Research

Sometimes researching the work being done in one area opens the window to research even more areas. When looking above the aileron control system, we noticed the gear shaft pictured on the left below. After researching, we discovered this is part of the wing flap emergency lowering system. The coolest part is that the door covering the housing for the crank shaft still opens! From the NAA Maintenance Manual: "The wing flap

mechanical emergency lowering system is used when failure in the hydraulic system prevents lowering the wing flaps in the normal manner....The emergency system is operated from the radio operator's compartment....The gear shaft with which the crank shaft engages, is located on the shelf immediately above the stowed position of the crank. The crank is inserted in the housing, and, when this is done, the spring-loaded dog is pushed back, and the slots in the crank shaft engage with a pin in the gear shaft."



Gear shaft located on roof above aileron controls.



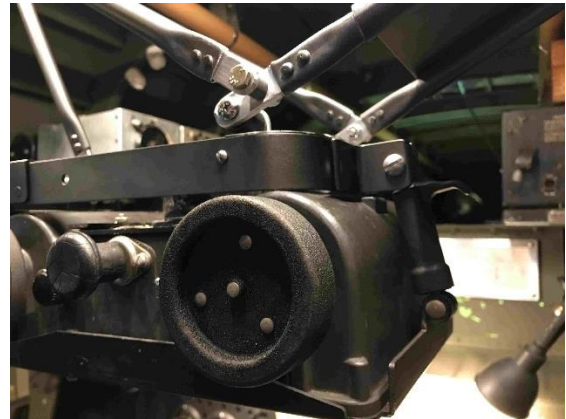
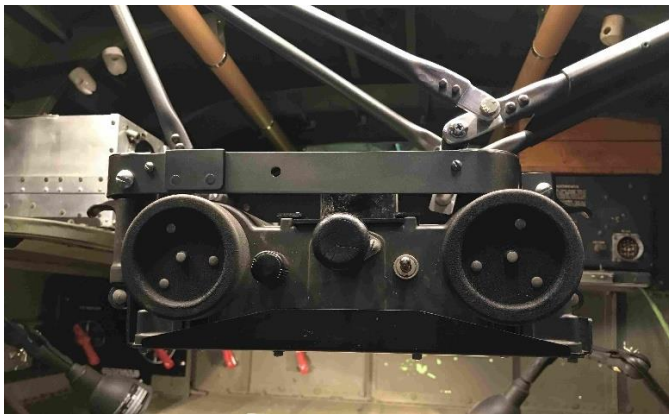
Housing for crank shaft

Restoration Progress

Lanny has continued his work on the cable installation in the bomb bay section. He has been painstakingly working on cleaning the various parts. The picture on the left shows the aileron control system located in the upper section of the back wall. The picture in the middle is after the area has been cleaned. The picture on the right shows some of the cable pulleys he is cleaning and getting operational again.



The astrograph is now installed in the navigator's area. When not in use, the mounting bracket folds against the left side of the plane then held in place with a strap. When in use, the astrograph and mount extend across the roof of the navigator's area and bolts onto the railing. The astrograph itself mounts on the bottom of the bracket. If you look close in the picture on the right, you can see the hooks that attach the machine to the bracket. From the NAA Maintenance Manual: "The astrograph is used to project the equal altitude curves of the selected stars on standard plotting charts, and the astrocompass is used to provide the navigator accurately and rapidly with the heading of the airplane and the true bearing from distant objects."



The restoration team completed the installation of several small items around the navigator's area. The little details add more and more authenticity to the interior of GF2. The picture on the left below shows the load adjuster installed on the wall of the Navigator's area. From the NAA Maintenance Manual(B25C,D): "The load adjuster is used for checking the load and balance of the airplane to ensure that the amount and location of the load will not produce an unsafe weight and balance condition." The picture on the right is the strap that holds the astrograph in place when not in use. Next time you visit, be sure to look close at the details.



In the past, we have shown pictures of the restoration team working in very tight spaces. The bombardier's tunnel is being cleaned for painting. The picture below was taken while lying flat on my back and cleaning the roof in the tunnel.



Donations

SCHAF recently received a donation of a very large piece of PVC pipe to be used to replicate a 500-pound bomb. The restoration team is very adept at fabricating parts from everyday items.



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.

South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation 803 731 3254
3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205
www.schistoricaviation.org



JOIN TODAY

DONATE NOW