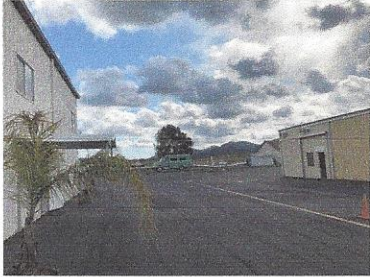


Hangar Happenings for March, April and May 2020



Museum cloudscape



H-21 blade rack



HH-52 cleaned and painted



R44 arriving assembly required



Golf cart being worked on

Rotorheads

COVID 19 has affected the museum too. Luckily no one we know has come down with it, but stay-at-home conditions have meant that the museum is basically closed. However, a few of our members have been coming to work on both aircraft and non-aircraft projects, even including a few tours in May. A lack of people has not detracted from some very nice weather conditions making for a pleasant work environment for the few who could come up.

On the Bell HH-1 November, head parts were laid out to organize them for later installation of the head and blades. The Huey also had the attitude indicator replaced in its instrument console. The Vertol H-21 Shawnee saw its blade rack finished and it really looks great. The Sikorsky HH-52 Seaguard fuselage was cleaned and its orange stripe repainted. Right now it's parked outside and requires extra care and it's really looking good. The De Lackner DL-125 Cloud-Buster had the rear landing gear installed. This makes it movable and we will be relocating it in the future. One of the most dramatic projects happened on the little Helipod. The Helipod rotor ducting was completed. It's actually installed now which I will cover in the June July issue. Finally, the long-awaited Robinson R44 arrived. It's in crates so some assembly is required which hopefully will be taking place later this year.

In other projects the golf cart was worked on to get it running properly again. We have many trailers and one of our biggest and best is the Blue Max which was painted all over and the wooden deck refinished. It looks great now and can't wait to haul another load. We have a new air compressor, yet to be hooked up. Our MD-3 power cart is run by a 6-cylinder



HH-1N head parts organized



Huey instrument console



DL-125 landing gear



Helipod rotor ducting



Blue Max trailer refinished

Continental O-470 aircraft engine which we hope to sell. We finished removing parts from the H-46 rear

pylon maintenance training device which has found

a new home and will be leaving soon. Much of the other project work took place in the model room. The room has a new air filtration system that will also maintain a constant room temperature that can be controlled remotely. Dioramas of helicopter events are being built.

The Mercury Three and Apollo 11 astronaut recoveries are exhibited. These two events show the helicopter recoveries of the first manned space mission and first lunar landing mission. Of note is helicopter number 66 which was the primary recovery aircraft in the Apollo 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 missions, possibly making it the most photographed SH-3D Sea King in history. Another diorama is being made for the H-37/HR2S Mojave disgorging a jeep. Other new models on display include a Russian autogiro, the Flettner and Kellett syncopters, the Bell HSL and Boeing 360 tandems, the Sikorsky S-67, a V-22 with squadron emblem and the Eurocopter X3 compound. Also new in the model room are six framed helicopter stamp displays.

A lot has been going on infrastructure-wise too. Foremost is probably the construction of a 1/72 scale hangar museum board. The board along with 1/72 scale models will be used to plan future display movements and reorganization. The north side front ramp has been cleaned up as well as the upstairs storage area. The Helipod parts and documentation has been relocated from under the H-21 to upstairs storage. The docents lounge has been reorganized and the gift shop prepped for repainting. Along with the projects and infrastructure work we even conducted a couple of tours in late May.

History-wise, we've talked about the Sikorsky R-4/HNS-1 helo many time in past

HH editions; most recently in the Jan/Feb issue for the first helo medical support mission. As a Naval Aviator, I couldn't pass this next one up. On May 6-7, 1943 the Vought-



H-46 maint trainer



Air temp & filter



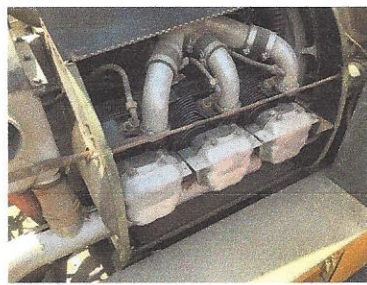
Sikorsky HR2S/H-37 Mojave



1/72 scale planning board



Docent lounge reorganized



Continental O-470 engine



Air compressor



Astronaut recovery dioramas



SH-3D no. 66 on Apollo 8



Front ramp cleaned up



Upper storage cleaned up



Future chopper pilot on tour



XR-4 ship landing trials

Sikorsky XR-4 made the first helicopter shipboard landings on a temporary wooden flight deck on the tanker, SS Bunker Hill. It's best described in the words of the pilot Col. Frank Gregory, USA, "The space on the deck looked even smaller ... it didn't look like the helicopter would fit. The cabin superstructure towered up like a two story building, and the people on it had that 'it can't be done' look on their faces ... yet the big white bullseye stuck out like a target ... the XR-4 came true to the white marker as though being pulled by a powerful magnet, and a minute later the floats touched the deck." Two video links are included below. The first is an Army XR-4 clip from testing in 1942. The second is from the ship tests in 1943. I especially like the first one because you can see the engine and transmission

location and organization.

While we (unfortunately) don't have an R-4/HNS-1, we do have a float equipped helicopter. We will be assembling our float equipped Robinson R44 Clipper II later this year. Plan a trip when things get better to check out our unique collection. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy with our very best to get through the pandemic.

Chip out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1WzJl PhvU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2a0auexcvo>



Tour at the Montcopter



Sikorsky HNS-1



Robinson R44 Clipper II