

SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORIC AVIATION FOUNDATION

3100 Devine Street • Columbia, South Carolina 29205 • www.SCHistoricAviation.org



SCHAF NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2018

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will be on Saturday, May 12th, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Hangar Y-1 at Owens Field Airport.

Foundation Happenings:

We are very sad to report that long time member, Richard Gimmi, passed away at age 97 on April 19th. During WWII he flew 70 combat missions as a B-25 pilot with the 5th Bomb Wing based out of Corsica. It is interesting to note that his B-25 combat training took place at the Greenville Army Air Base at the same time our GF2 was flying out of the base. We have no way of confirming, if he flew our plane during training but he was there at the same time.

We are happy to report that Dave McIntosh is doing better and should be moving back to his home in the next few weeks. We miss him and hope to see him back in the hangar very soon.

The board of directors at the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation met on April 15, 2018. Board members present were Ken Berry, Ron Skipper and Katherine Cuddy. SCHAF members present were Niall McLaughlin, Bill Rouw and John Chamberlain.

At our April open house, we had several visitors as well as our regulars. We love to see our regulars sit in the hangar to discuss their old flying/military days. We were also thrilled to have Bill Rouw from the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. Of course, we did not let him just relax and visit with us. We put him to work!

REPAIRS TO GF2

While Bill Rouw was here, we worked on getting the nose wheel repaired so we can finally remove the triangular support. Removing the support has been on Ron's wish list but was pushed to the very front of the list when we discovered the two main support pins holding in the nose wheel were literally close to falling out. We had to jack up the nose of the plane to get the pressure off the front wheel. Once the wheel could move freely, we were able to manipulate the pins back into place and get them secured. Next Ron spent several days working to remove the corroded supports so new ones could be installed. After hearing lots of banging, heat from blow torches, and surprisingly no cussing, Ron emerged holding the corroded parts. He is currently working on installing the new parts. After close to 20 years of wearing this support so the old girl could stand up, she will soon be standing on her own 3 legs! Come see her in all of her beauty.



PILOTS N PAWS



During the open house we saw a dog walking towards an airplane. As an avid animal lover, of course I ran out to find out if the dog loved to fly. We discovered that the dog, Teddy, was a rescue being flown to her “fur-ever” home in Virginia. This is from their Facebook page: “Pilots N Paws is a 501C3 charitable organization who through the help of general aviation volunteer pilots transport rescue animals by air. The mission of Pilots N Paws is to provide a user-friendly website communication venue between those the rescue, shelter, and foster animals and pilots and plane owners willing to assists with the transportation of these animals. Founded in February of 2008....Pilots N Paws continues to make a difference in the lives of innocent animals.”

Any organization dealing with flying and rescuing animals is at the top of my list!

You can check out the organization at www.pilotsnpaws.org

VETERAN STORIES

Joe McDonagh served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict from 1952 – 1956. His brother was a B-17 instructor pilot during WWII so Joe always had an interest in aviation. After basic training at Lackland AFB, he attended airborne radio operating school then electric countermeasure operating school at Keesler AFB. Then transferred to Randolph Field for B-29 Crew Training. Orders were received to be transferred to FEAF (Korea) however his orders were rescinded as a result of the Armistice. He was then transferred to Smokey Hill AFB, Salina KA on B-29's. While at SH AFB B-29's were being phased out and being shipped to DM AFB. Joe was then transferred to March AFB to the 22nd ARS (Air Refueling Sqd) crew on KC-97's flying in support of B-47's and their Missions. While there, he flew missions in support of B-52's participating in long range engine testing. Before being honorably discharged, Joe achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant. While Joe is proud of his days serving in the Air Force, it is easy to see that he is most proud of his 5 children, 8 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Over the years, Joe had attended Doolittle Raider functions so he knew about our B-25. While visiting the GF2 during an open house weekend, Joe inquired about volunteering with the restoration of our B-25. We are so happy that he was one of the rare visitors who said he was interested in helping and did return to help! He is definitely a valuable asset to the restoration of GF2.



Joe is the tall one in the middle.

In Closing:

Our library is quickly growing. If you have a bookshelf that you no longer need, please consider donating to SCHAF. We are still looking for volunteers. Please consider volunteering your woodworking, welding, artistic, or any other type of skills. SCHAF would not be what it is today without some great dedicated volunteers.

We are looking into having a couple of Saturday workdays during the summer. We will be doing a little spring cleaning of the hangar. We are looking into having a seating area for people to sit and “chat” during our Open House. Please consider helping us organize and display some amazing artifacts. No skills needed except for a willingness to get a little dirty.

We all wish Dave a speedy return to his dedicated work for SCHAF. Until his return, if you used to send emails to Dave regarding SCHAF business, please send the email directly to SCHAF at INFO.SCHAF@GMAIL.COM.

If you have not renewed your SCHAF membership, please do so at your earliest convenience by sending your check to SCHAF at 3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205.

Another reminder that our May open house will be on Saturday, May 12th, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Hangar Y-1. Come see the progress on the restoration of GF-2.