



## **SCHAFA Newsletter for October, 2020**

**Reminder: The next SCHAFA Open House will take place Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.**

### **Foundation Happenings**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of SCHAFA member and restoration volunteer, Joe McDonagh. During the Korean War, he served as a radio operator on a B-29. Joe was SCHAFA's official photographer. We are thankful for the great pictures we have documenting our restoration progress. Besides always having a smile, laugh and lending hand at the hangar, he kept the restoration crew supplied with tootsie roll lollipops. Joe will be greatly missed by all of us.



## Restoration Progress:

Last month we discussed the process for riveting the aluminum skin on the nose of GF2. This picture shows some of the tools used to rivet. Moving clockwise from the top left, the first tool is the rivet cutter. In the head of this tool are holes to fit the diameter size of a rivet. The rivet is placed in the hole then the red handles are squeezed together to cut the rivet. There are spacers on the end of the cutter to help determine the correct length. The bag is filled with rivets. The two small items to the left of the bag are different length rivets showing a long one that can be cut to size. The three bars of metal are different types of bucking bars. The three items around the rivet gun are the rivet gun punches used to attach the rivets. These punches are attached to the rivet gun using the large spring shown beneath the gun. When the trigger is pressed on the gun, the punches basically “punch” the rivet to compress it using the spring to recoil.



The restoration crew has done an extensive amount of research as well as trial and error to learn the best ways to restore GF2. After trying several different methods to no avail, the team decided on a different approach to riveting the skin. The team is extremely grateful to restoration volunteer, John Register, who bought and donated the rivet gun shown in the above picture. With this new, improved rivet gun and a different type of “softer” aluminum rivets, the restoration of the skin on the nose of the plane has greatly sped up in the past two weeks. As Ron says, these softer rivets spread like butter on the skin.

These pictures show both the inside and outside view of the rivets. The first picture shows the outside of the skin where the rivets are flush to the skin. All the rivets on the B-25 from the nose to halfway under the wing are flush rivets. This was done to make the plane more aerodynamic. Once the air reaches halfway back the fuselage, the aerodynamics are basically lost so there was no need to use flush rivets towards the rear of the plane.



This picture shows the rivets from the inside of the plane. Each rivet is supposed to form into a “mushroom” type head to hold the skin in place. It takes a practiced touch to not flatten the rivets too much or get them out of shape. There are ribs inside the plane for the aluminum and rivets to attach to form the “skin”.



## High School Volunteers

SCHAF is extremely excited to have two new high school volunteers helping with the restoration. This brings the foundation up to four high school restoration volunteers from Spring Valley, Heathwood, Spring Hill and Irmo High School. It is interesting that the youth have different reasons for volunteering. Some are interested in becoming future pilots while others are more interested in aviation mechanics. One of SCHAF's goals is to help youth learn about both aviation and the sciences. These four volunteers are already making a big contribution to the restoration of GF2.

## Happy Birthday to GF2

It was on October 13, 1942 that GF2 (41-13285) came off the assembly line. The paperwork shows her cost was \$116,346! She was delivered to Columbia two months later in December. We wish a very happy birthday to the old girl! Still looking good at 78 years old! Come to the next open house to wish her a big happy birthday.

## Show Off Your Aviation Memorabilia

Last month, we asked if any of you would like to share some pictures of your aviation memorabilia. We haven't gotten any response regarding the request. Now, we are sure many of you have aviation models, pictures and other memorabilia decorating your office desk, shelf or room in your house. Why not share your collecting ideas? If you would like, send SCHAF ([info.schaf@gmail.com](mailto:info.schaf@gmail.com)) a picture of your aviation related displays from your office or home. We would love to include your picture in a future issue.

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](mailto:info.schaf@gmail.com).

South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation 803 731 3254  
3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205  
[www.schistoricaviation.org](http://www.schistoricaviation.org)

