



SCHAFA Newsletter for May 2026

Reminder: The next SCHAFA Open House will take place Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

Please note the May Open House will be the third Saturday in May on the 16th. The original dive crew will be here to give a presentation on bringing up GF2 from Lake Greenwood. Dan Rossman's daughters, Hope and Lynn, will also be here to tell stories about their Dad. As many of you know, Dan was the student pilot in GF2 the day she crashed in Lake Greenwood. It will be a special open house that you do NOT want to miss.

The April Open House was about the Doolittle Raiders. Bruce has an amazing collection of artifacts from the Columbia Army Air Base and the history of the Doolittle Raiders.



Restoration Progress

The restoration team is making great progress on the area under the radio operator's floor. The team is also working on mounting the 500 pound bomb replica in the bomb bay area. Ron has almost completed work on an airplane to be used for showing kids the dynamics of an airplane in flight. It is looking great! Come to the open house in May to see all of the latest progress. We gave the Yale a bath before the big events!



SCHAF Happenings

April was another busy month for SCHAF. We were proud to host the award ceremony for Bruce Cook who received the French Legion d'honneur medal from the French embassy for his service as a WWII ball turret gunner. Close to 200 people attended the event with several local dignitaries speaking and presenting commendations to Mr Cook for his service.



Bruce and Anne-Laure Desjonquieres



Bruce with MTI personnel



Bruce's Original Flight Jacket



Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur

The Commemorative Air Force Wing in Georgia loaned us their original ball turret to display during the event. Volunteers from SCHAF drove to Georgia to bring the turret here for the event then delivered it back to Georgia. We are grateful to CAF for loaning the turret and the volunteers for picking it up. Mr Cook stood beside it for a long time talking to people about his service as a gunner. It was wonderful to see his excitement in seeing a ball turret again.



One Thursday night, we had a visit from the local French organization, The Alliance Francaise-Columbia Chapter. It is always good to meet new people.



The Richland One BLAST Aerospace Magnet Program held their aerospace signing day at our hangar. The high school youth sign a paper stating they will work towards serving in the aviation and aerospace field. It is inspiring to see the next generation of aviation enthusiasts.



Future Happenings

We can use your help. SCHAF is starting to lay the groundwork to build an aviation museum dedicated to SC aviation history. We want to be a museum for all SC aviation not just military aviation. We would like a catchy slogan to tell people about our future plans. We can use the phrase on signs, bumper stickers, etc. Something to tell people we need their help to build a museum. It could be a phrase or maybe something with a catchy word like the BLAST program “Building Lasting Aerospace and Stem Trajectories”. If you or any of your friends have any ideas for a slogan or catch phrase email us your suggestions.



Donation

Terri Tokaz donated the reunion banner for her father’s unit in WWII. It is signed by several veterans. We will find a great place to display this in the hangar.



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