



SCHAf Newsletter for January 2025

Reminder: The next SCHAf Open House will take place Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

The December open house is always a popular one for both young and old. This year Mrs Claus was able to fly in as well. The children enjoyed visiting Santa and making wooden airplane ornaments.



Restoration Progress

In January 2024, we looked back at 2023 to see all that we accomplished in a year's time. It was inspiring to all of you as well as to those of us doing the restoration. Visitors who have not been to the hangar in a long time always comment as to the progress being made on GF2. When you look at the plane every week, it is hard to see just how far we have come. We thought we would do another recap of the year-long progress.

The biggest completion in 2024 was the bomb bay doors. After a year of hard work, what started out as flat pieces of aluminum is now operating bomb bay doors. As you may notice in the pictures, these are a little over 1/3 size doors. This is so visitors can stand inside the bomb bay to watch how the controls open and close the doors. If you follow SCHAf on Facebook or Instagram, have you seen the video of the bomb bay doors opening and closing?? So exciting! If you have not seen it or even if you have, come to the next open house to see it in person! The restoration crew did an amazing job with these doors.



Cutting the holes in the inner skin



Working on stringers



Completed door prior to disassembling

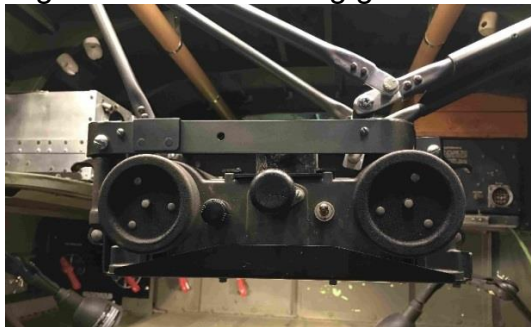


Port door painted and installed



Both doors painted and installed

The astrograph and astrocompass are now installed in the navigator's area. Little details such as the load adjuster, signal flare bags and strap for the astrograph have also been installed. The navigator's area is looking good!



The bombardier's tunnel was cleaned and painted. The hand rails were installed as well. The before and after pictures really show the progress made in this area



Cleaning tunnel



After painting



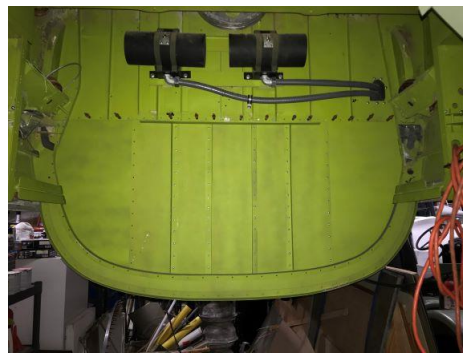
Hand Rails Installed

Future Restoration Projects for 2025

It was exciting removing another lower panel located directly behind the lower turret. Repair work has begun on the area around the lower turret. The bottom of the plane in this area needs to be rebuilt from scratch. The back wall of the bomb bay that was completed a couple of years ago is back in place and ready for riveting.



Wall on radio operator's floor prior to repair



Back wall of bomb bay ready to be riveted

Work has begun on the forward hatch. The top part of the door has been temporarily placed in GF2 to ensure the door will open and close. The step that opens downward when the hatch is opened is operated by pulleys and cables. These are currently being researched and fabricated.



OPEN HOUSES IN 2024

Each month SCHAF has a theme for the open house. For the February Open House we are always excited to have the Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Association on hand to talk to visitors. This year Panic Motorsports even brought a Mazda racecar painted to look like the Tuskegee Red Tails. If you look closely at the front of the car, you can see miniature 50 caliber machine gun barrels.



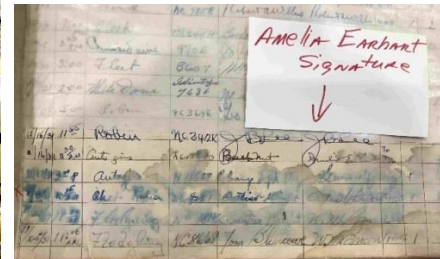
The March Open House was women's history month with displays of a Korean War nurse, female correspondents, Rosie the Riveter, Amelia Earhart and more. We were thrilled to display the flight log from the Jim Hamilton/Owen's Field Airport. Even though the book has water damage, you can still make out Amelia Earhart's signature.



Lisa portraying a flight nurse



Isabel as Rosie the Riveter



Amelia Earhart's signature

April 2024 was the 82nd anniversary of the Doolittle Raiders. Bruce gave a talk about the Doolittle Raiders. Stanley did a display as an aviation mechanic. Dane had a display honoring his uncle who was killed in a B-25 crash



Bruce giving a talk



Stanley "fixing" the engine



Dane's presentation

In 2024, SCHAF received a donation of parachutes so the June Open House was filled with parachutes hanging from the ceiling, displayed on tables, sitting in the plane, and even small, toy parachute men were handed out to the young visitors,



For the November open house SCHAF had an amazing crowd of young visitors. We believe it was the largest group of youth so far for an open house. We love seeing young children getting excited about aviation. One even drew us a picture.



Recent Acquisitions

SCHAF was able to acquire this old trailer which is currently being cleaned and repaired. The plan is to put SCHAF banners around the sides and use it at future events to help promote SCHAF.



SCHAF also acquired this fuselage of a Beechcraft Sport from the upstate. This will be converted into a display to be used with a flight simulator. This is going to be amazing!



Loaded on trailer to transport to hangar



Lanny starting to clean fuselage

Donations

SCHAF was fortunate to receive several donations in 2024. These donations help with both the restoration work on GF2 and with teaching the history of aviation in SC. Tools such as this drill press and scissors lift (under the tarp) are valuable tools for restoration work. The donated cars are on sale to raise money for restoration work.



Ed Sylvester's family donated two parachute packs, parachute canopies, a beautiful gas powered model biplane on permanent loan and a heavy duty sewing machine (shown above). The sewing machine is already being used to make insulation to go along the walls of the navigator's area and tunnel to the bombardier's area



At the April Open House, a never-before-seen canvas picture of GF2 was donated by Dwight Bundrick who was one of the National Guardsmen who drove GF2 from Greenwood to Columbia. At another open house, Dwight brought SCHAf an original video showing GF2 being loaded on the trailer then driven thru the streets of Greenwood on her way here.



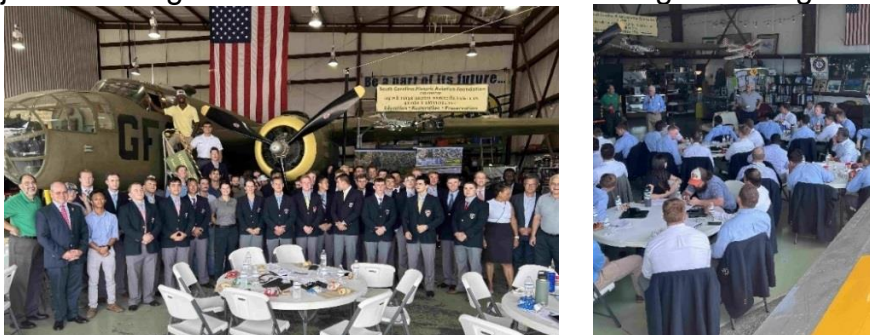
Dwight Bundrick with photograph

The SC Military Museum donated a large-scale P-38 model and a belt of .30 cal ammunition to SCHAf. The P-38 is currently “flying in the hangar” while the .30 cal ammo will be placed in the nose of GF2.



Visitors to SCHAf

In 2024, SCHAf hosted some returning visitors and some new visitors. The engineering department from the Citadel visited the airport to gather information for their Capstone Project involving the first electric vertical takeoff flight training facility.



SCHAF hosted the SC Aviation Association's 2nd annual Aviation Career Signing Day. At the event, 22 midlands students committed to careers in aviation. SCHAF hosted a drop in for FBO (Fixed Base Operators) from around the country. Eagle Aviation was the site of the annual event this year.



Midland's youth after signing commitments



FBO Visitors

SCHAF also hosted a pre-game party the day before a USC football game. The group had such a good time last year they rented the hangar again this year. SCHAF and EAA242 hosted the SC Breakfast Club in our hangar. The SC Breakfast Club meets every other Sunday at various airports around SC. There was even a wedding in the hangar! What better backdrop to a wedding photo than a B-25 Mitchell bomber!



Hungry visitors for breakfast



Ken and Isabel

Alton Blanks

In 2024, we lost Alton Blanks, a WWII Navy veteran, who was a SCHAF landmark at our monthly open houses sitting in the white chair talking to visitors both young and old. He will be greatly missed.



College Bound

In 2024, we said farewell to Katie who headed off to Purdue. We now have a new young volunteer, Tate, who is excited to be helping work on GF2. While we are always sad to see our young volunteers grow up and move on, we are always glad to see more youth step up and volunteer.



Out and About Around Town

SCHAF is always excited to set up a display around town to promote aviation in SC. This year we were invited to set up a table at Aerofest held at WA Perry Middle School. Seeing the excitement and interest in young children can't help but put you in a good mood for the rest of the day. This is what SCHAF is all about.



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.

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