



SCHAF Newsletter for January, 2021

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, January 9, 2021 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

What a year 2020 was for everyone! Who would have thought in January, 2020 that we would be where we are now at the beginning of 2021. Even though this has been a different year, there have been some major accomplishments on the restoration of GF2.

In January, the floor of the bombardier was complete. Since that time, the skin has been put on the exterior of the plane. The instruments, seats, fabricated air vent, insulation and all sorts of items have been placed back in the nose of the plane. Just a few more small items including the bomb sight to put inside the nose then the plexiglass will be put back into the front of the plane.

Picture from January 2020



Picture from December 2020



In February, the bomb bay area was opened for the first time in over 35 years. After cleaning out a LOT of red dirt, the restoration started in this area. The walls were cleaned, scrubbed and painted. Several hundred rusted bolts were removed. Compartment doors were fabricated along with hinges for opening them. Two new ribs were shimmed over the old, dilapidated ribs. Gears and a couple of original fuel instruments have been cleaned and placed back in the area. The bomb rack rails have been purchased and are currently in the process of being prepared for installation. Over 100 bolts will hold these rails in place.

Bomb bay area after opening



Fuel instruments cleaned and returned



In March while cleaning the floor of the navigator's area, this transit coin was found under a gear. This coin along with an original transit schedule (donated by Ken Berry) is displayed in the hangar. After all these years, GF2 is still showing us treasures!



The restoration of the navigator's area was started over two years ago. While we don't have a picture from January of 2020, we can show you a picture from the start of the restoration. This area needs to be seen in person to appreciate how much detail and hard work has been put into the navigator's area. Once completed, we will be the only B-25C/D that we know of with the navigator's area restored to original flying configuration. We were able to locate and purchase original instruments to install in this area of the plane. The entire shelf area, wood table, map case, etc were hand made. Make plans to come see this in person in 2021!



In August, SCHAF was able to purchase a Type A-8 training turret. Since then, we have purchased a manual and started making plans for the restoration of the turret. There are great plans for the future of this training turret!



SCHAF IN 2021

SCHAF has big plans for 2021. The biggest undertaking for 2021 is the fabrication of bomb bay doors. The doors will be built completely from scratch using drawings, measurements and lots of hard work. Along with the doors, the walls at either end of the doors need to be rebuilt. The area at the front was crushed during the crash while the area at the rear was cut away years ago.

There are always little reminders of why SCHAF was started over ten years ago. The biggest reminder was something that happened at our open house in December. A young boy was walking all around the hangar closely inspecting the B-25, the Yale and our display area. He was asking very intelligent questions for a young lad of around 10 years of age. He talked about wanting to be a pilot. He talked about airplane movies he has watched. He talked about his favorite planes. All while his Dad kept asking "Are you ready to go yet?" We offered him a free airplane magazine from our donated stack. Seeing the smile on this young lad's face leaving the hangar with a couple of magazines in hand is exactly why SCHAF was founded.

SCHAF Members Lost in 2020

This year we lost two integral volunteers for SCHAF. Besides writing the SCHAF newsletters, Dave McIntosh also helped with publicity, He talked about SCHAF to everyone he met. As SCHAF's official photographer, Joe McDonagh, helped document the restoration progress of GF2. He was always at the hangar working for a little while then pausing to take pictures. Both of these men are greatly missed.

Joe McDonagh



Dave McIntosh



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

SCHAF would like to thank everyone for your support in 2020. If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider renewing for another year. One hundred percent of your contribution is used towards the restoration of our foundation's historic B-25C Mitchell bomber as well as helping promote South Carolina's aviation heritage through our monthly open house and newsletter.

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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