



SCHAF Newsletter for February, 2021

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

While the other areas of the restoration are being completed with the smaller details, the big project for this year is fabricating the bomb bay doors, bomb racks and other areas of the bomb bay area. During the first restoration, the original bomb bay doors were traded for other major B-25 parts.

In order to access the area to rebuild the back wall of the bomb bay area, we removed another section of sheet metal from the bottom of the plane. These pieces of sheet metal were riveted on the plane during the first restoration. As we were removing the pop rivets using a punch, a thud was heard as if a heavy piece of metal hit the floor. Upon investigation, we found the remnants of a Keen Kutter pocketknife. This knife has been in the channel of the fuselage since at least 1944! It must have fallen out of someone's pocket during a flight. We also found this piece of leather with a grommet. This was probably from something like a seat cushion. GF2 is still turning up treasures!



Each bomb bay door has three hinges containing two main parts. One part of the hinge attaches to the fuselage while the other part attaches to the door. Fortunately, Carl Scholl at Aero Trader in California has loaned us the part that attaches to the fuselage. We will use these as templates to make new pieces. We have pictures of the other hinge piece but do not have an original one to use as a template for fabrication. That was until we found this hunk of metal in the radio operator's area. Ron knew right away that this is the missing hinge piece that attaches to the bomb bay door. We were able to confirm by matching part numbers to the manual. Now we have these pieces to use to make five more for the doors! While to most this may look like a hunk of metal but to the restoration crew it was like finding gold in the plane! To think that during the first restoration someone removed this from the door, reached up to set it on a shelf in the plane and it was still sitting there 38 years later for the restoration crew to find.



GREENWOOD MUSEUM

Back in December, I made a trip to the Greenwood Museum in Greenwood, SC. I had been in contact with them regarding some GF2 items mentioned in the Index-Journal. They were gracious enough to bring these articles into the showroom so I could see them up close. The first item is a detail model of the raising of GF2. This was presented to the museum by Frank Durham Jr, a master modeler.



Pictures do not do justice to the detail in this model. There are workmen climbing on the plane. The damage to the plane in the model exactly matches pictures from that day. I have been told that the brown water in the model even matches the color of the water in Lake Greenwood. The next items were these two pictured below. This is the headset Dan Rossman, the student pilot on GF2, had around his neck when he got to shore. The small wooden item is the load balancer used on GF2 that was in Dan's pocket. It was like a step back in time to be able to see these original GF2 items. A huge thank you to the Greenwood Museum for letting us see these items!



AIRSHOWS and MUSEUMS

The thing I miss most during this pandemic is seeing old friends, airshows and beautiful planes. It is hard to believe that it has been close to two years since we have seen our friends at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. Having to relive the visits through pictures is just not the same. During the last visit, we were able to fly in three WWII planes including my bucket list of a B-25! There is absolutely nothing like hearing the engines of a B-25 and looking out the cockpit window. I will never forget that day! We will never be able to fully thank Dave, Leon and Bill for their kindness during our visit.

All smiles after a flight on the B-25, Hot Gen



North American Harvard



The CWHM should be on everyone's bucket list! It is not that far above Buffalo, NY. Their museum's collection of planes and artifacts as well as their education program for schools are what I, personally, aspire to for SCHAF. Put a visit on your bucket list.

TBM Avenger soon to be returned to flight status



Dave Rohrer with his head out the top of the Lancaster as it is returning to the hangar



MODEL DONATION

SCHAF received a donation of a model collection including airplanes, vehicles and figures in various scales and manufacturers. We will have these for sale at our open house. If you are a modeler or know anyone who builds models, come have a look.



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

DONATE NOW