



## **SCHAF Newsletter for August, 2021**

**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.**

### **Foundation Happenings**

#### **GF2 Updates**

Even though the hangar is brutally hot right now, work on GF2 is progressing well. The early B-25C models had a small window at the bottom of the nose area. We have not found a definitive explanation for why this window was in the early models. We believe this was used for examining the nose wheel to make sure it was down and locked for landing. The window under the gun mount socket seen in the picture on the right was the one used for the bombsight. The nose pieces on the front are temporarily in place until SCHAF is able to locate and purchase a Norden bombsight. Once everything is completed in the bombardier's area, the glass will be installed along with the last pieces of skin around the glass.



Access window



Nose pieces installed

The area around the front hatch is currently being repaired. We believe the area under the floor was damaged when the straps were put in place to raise GF2 out of the lake. The three bottom ribs and floor are being rebuilt. The floor in this area was cut during the original restoration. Luckily, SCHAF still has all of the original pieces even though they are cut. The restoration team was able to use the original pieces as a template for making the new floor. The picture on the left shows the front rib/wall repair. The picture on the right shows the old cut floor along with the new fabricated floor. This floor will go on top of the square hole on the left. This picture actually shows the bottom of the floor.



## Tug Repairs

SCHAF is fortunate to have two post WWII tugs for towing airplanes. One of the tugs is being repaired to running condition. Hopefully, visitors will soon be able to see (and probably hear) this tug pattering around the hangar.



## EAA and SC Breakfast Club

SCHAF was thrilled to offer the hangar to the monthly SC Breakfast Club Fly-In. Since 1938, pilots and aviation enthusiasts have met every other Sunday for breakfast at an airport in SC. The breakfast in July was hosted by EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) Chapter 242 which is based out of the Jim Hamilton/Owen's Field Airport. There were over 50 planes in attendance at the event. It was great to see a couple of warbirds on display including the SCHAF Yale. Ron's WWII truck is always a big hit at SCHAF events.



## Barnwell County Airport

Did you know that there were several satellite airports around SC supporting the Columbia Army Air Base? This information is from the Barnwell Regional Airport website:

During World War II, the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) established numerous airfields in South Carolina for antisubmarine defense and for training pilots and aircrews of USAAF fighters and bombers.

Most of these airfields were under the command of Third Air Force or the Army Air Forces Training Command (AAFTC). However, the other USAAF support commands: Air Technical Service Command (ATSC), Air Transport Command (ATC) commanded a significant number of airfields in support roles. Construction of the Barnwell Airfield, for use as a B-25 Mitchell Bomber training base got underway in September of 1942 and was completed in March of 1943 at a cost of \$1,000,000.00. Two construction companies worked around the clock, seven days a week to complete the job. The original runways were 5000 feet long and 150 feet wide. Barnwell, Greenwood, Walterboro, North Army Air Base and Congaree Air Base were built as satellite bases to the Columbia Air Base because the Columbia Air Base simply did not have enough room for the expected large number of planes and pilots in the training pipeline.

## Masters of the Air

I am quite sure most of you have seen the two TV WWII series: Band of Brothers and The Pacific. Filming has begun on a new WWII series: Masters of the Air which will be based on the Eighth Air Force. Stay tuned for any updates on the progress of the series. In the meantime, be sure to read the book, Masters of the Air by Donald L Miller.

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

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