



SCHAFA Newsletter for June, 2020

Our open house is back!

Reminder: The next SCHAFA Open House will take place on Saturday, Jun 13, 2020 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

There is nothing we love more at SCHAFA than showing off our hangar. We have truly missed seeing everyone. We are excited about being back to hosting our open house. Since June 6th is both the anniversary of D-Day in Normandy and the anniversary of the crash of our own GF2, we have several events planned for the June open house. You will not want to miss it.

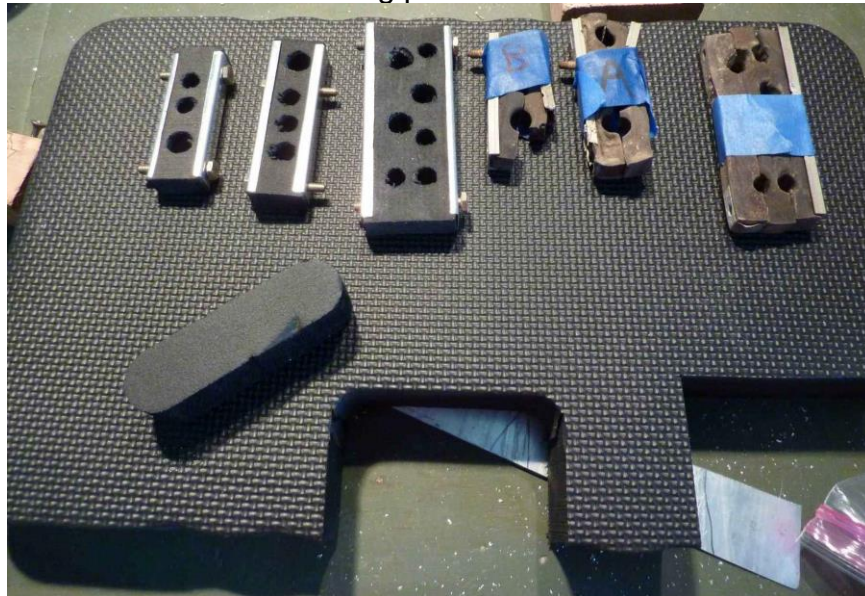
Foundation Happenings

Restoration Progress:

Ron completed building the floor in the bombardier's area. The floor is now back out of the plane so the skin can be made for the nose section. Pictured here is the right side of the plane with the new skin held in place with cleco fasteners. While this may look like a simple piece of metal to rivet in place, these are compound curves. Just bending the metal without shaping it causes the aluminum to buckle. Ron first watched "youtube" videos on shaping metal. He had to fold, bend, pound, shape, and test fit each piece over and over again until it is formed into the correct shape. One of these pieces can take several hours to complete. You need to come see this in person to appreciate it.



During the restoration progress, we use all sorts of regular household items to remake parts. Since GF2 will never fly again, we are not limited on the material used to make parts. In the bomb bay section, there are ALL sorts of hoses and conduit to carry fluids such as hydraulic fluid and gas. It amazes me that the gas hoses, valves etc were right around the bombs. All thru the plane, there were rubber mounts to hold the conduit in place. We found a thick foam kneeling mat at Harbor Freight for just a couple of dollars. We then cut the foam with a band saw to make the rubber inserts. We then drilled holes in the foam, made the metal case to hold the foam and behold new forms for holding our conduit! This one kneeling pad will probably be enough foam to remake every conduit mount in the plane. The picture below shows the original pieces on the right, new pieces on the left and foam kneeling pad underneath.



This picture shows three of the gas transfer valves we removed from the bomb bay section. These will be cleaned and reinserted into the plane. There are a couple of original hoses still in the plane that will be reattached. We will then find new hoses to fill in the rest of the area.



Items for Sale:

In addition to the aviation pictures we will have for sale at our next open house, we will have some other items for sale. We are starting a new for sale military and aviation book section. If you have any old books you want to donate for the sale, please bring them to the hangar. We also have some used military chests that will be for sale. Some of these retail for over \$350 apiece and will be available for a very good price. We have more than these pictured so be sure to come check them out!



We are starting a new free aviation magazine area. You can take one or leave one for others. Instead of throwing your magazine in the recycler, why not drop them off for others to enjoy? Everyone loves a good aviation magazine.

History of GF2

Since June 6th is the anniversary of the GF2 crash, I wanted to share an article from the Sept 14, 1987 issue of the Index-Journal. While a corporal in the Army Air Force, John J Benna was sitting in the rear section of GF2 when she crashed. The following is quoted from the article:

“I was sitting against the bulkhead behind the bomb bay when I looked out the window and saw trees higher than we were. I knew we were entirely too low and then I felt a ‘bop’ on the water and saw the left engine fly past the window. The skin on the bottom of the plane burst open and water came in like a giant fountain,” Benna said. “I think that water saved my life when I was thrown forward. My first impulse was to try to go out thru the machine gun turret on top but I had been trained better. I knew there was an escape hatch on the lower right side so I dove under the water and opened it. The water pressure was pushing me back but I crawled out anyway and got on the wing. I heard one of the pilots say ‘Hey, there’s a guy in the rear we need to check on.’ A couple of scratches is all we got and two of us started swimming to the bank,” Benna continued. “I’m a good swimmer but my boots and pants were so full of water that the

other guy had to pull me the last 25 yards or so. We were sitting on the bank and resting when we saw the plane turn up on its nose and go down. A boat from the other bank came out and picked up the other three guys and then us. An ambulance came and carried us back to the air base. I was all right until that night when I tried to shave and then I got the 'shakes'," said Benna.

He said two days later someone found his wallet floating in the lake and sent it to him. He said one of the pilots told him they had flown under a bridge just before the crash "but to keep it quiet." He said he didn't know the other crew members and he was only on the plane to log flying time.

Odds and Ends:

As we mentioned last month, SCHAF is currently looking for corporate sponsors to donate to SCHAF on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Depending on the amount of the sponsorship, we will have the corporation's name displayed in various ways around the hangar. If you know of anyone interested in being a corporate sponsor to SCHAF, please pass along our contact information.

Here are some interesting links sent in by SCHAF member, Dave McIntosh. Thank you so much Dave for these great videos!

World's first air hijacking during WWII: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvuQQaQLDPQ>

Aircraft carriers always train your crew: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkchsNDmkNc>

Guide to Essex class aircraft carriers part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sw-YvFaltSY>

Guide to Essex class aircraft carriers part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhCTuIVE0jE>

Guide to Essex class aircraft carriers part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtcbWmshdbc>

Classic warplane the Avro Shackleton: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIENLa01XHA>

Cool pictures the USAF Thunderbirds: <https://www.nationalreview.com/photos/air-force-thunderbirds-2019-air-show-season/#slide-1>

Boeing's big moment: <https://airscapemag.com/2017/06/03/boeings-big-moment/>

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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