



SCHAF Newsletter for July, 2020

Our open house is back!

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

Restoration Progress:

We have been working hard in the bomb bay area. It is slow moving getting the rusted bolts, broken parts, etc removed but it is coming along nicely. Two of the forward ribs were heavily damaged so we decided to make new pieces to cover the old ribs. We first made a template using heavy paper. Once we had the correct curvature against the outside of the plane, we used the template to cut the new rib out of aluminum. We riveted the new pieces to the old piece so now we have a solid rib for reattaching the gas valves and other equipment.

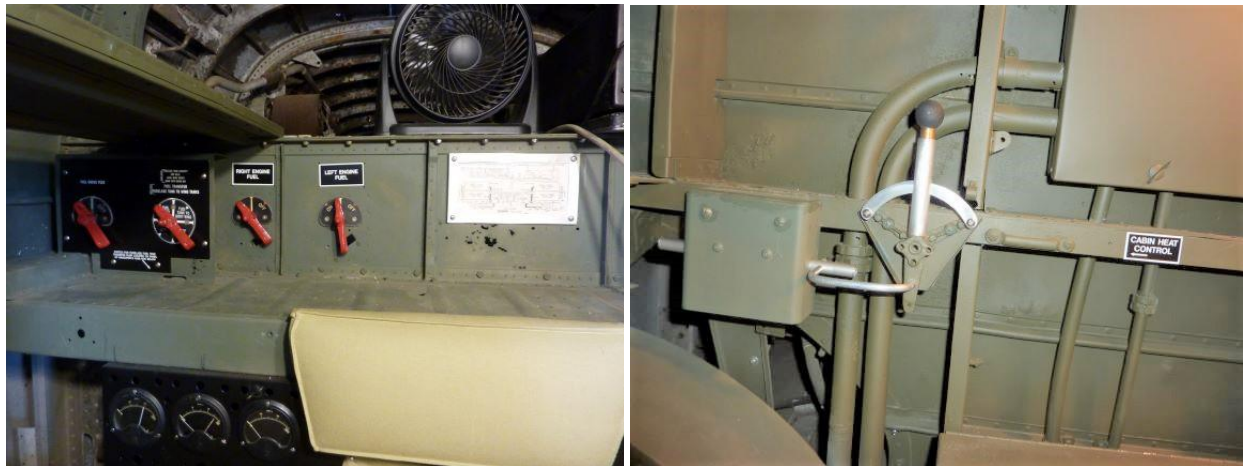
Old rib on left side of plane



New rib on right side of plane



Work in the navigator area is still progressing along nicely. There are so many little touches that make a big difference. In the picture on the left are the fuel transfer shut off controls. These are attached to the transfer valves in the bomb bay area that we showed you in last month's newsletter. The small picture to the right of the controls is the "Fuel System Transfer Diagram." We located a copy of the diagram in a manual then printed it to place in the plane. In the picture on the right is the cabin heat control. This was rebuilt using parts of the original control that were still in the plane.



Recent donations to SCHAF:

We are extremely thankful for this recent tool chest donation by SCHAF member, John Demars. This is a wonderful tool chest that we are quickly filling with our tools. It is so nice to be able to quickly locate the right tool for the job.



We also had a recent donation of some very nice flags for each military branch of service as well as the POW-MIA flag. We have these proudly displayed along the wall in the hangar. If you have not recently visited the hangar, come in and have a look around at the new displays. We are trying to make the hangar a great area for hosting events.



History of GF2

The last of the articles from Index-Journal is from the Sept 10, 1989 issue. We saved the best for last! This article is titled "Pilot disputes bathing beauties in B-25 crash." Former SCHAF member, Dan Rossman, who was the student pilot the day of the crash is featured in this article. Dan used to come visit GF2. I have always wished I could have spoken to Dan but unfortunately, he passed away a year before I joined SCHAF.

The following is quoted from the Index-Journal article:

Daniel Rossman says he and four other crewmen aboard a B-25 bomber that crashed into Lake Greenwood 45 years ago weren't buzzing a bevy of bathing beauties. According to Rossman, the plane left the Greenville Army Air Base June 6, 1944, or D-Day – the day the Allied forces invaded Normandy, France. An instructor who was aboard was showing Rossman, a student pilot, how to handle the plane with one engine out. The instructor "decided we had enough of that", and restarted the engine, Rossman recalled in a recent telephone interview from his Atlanta home. "We took a slight tour of the countryside and wound up coming down the lake at a fairly low level." The instructor was flying the plane over the lake. Rossman said he did not realize how low they were until he noticed someone standing in a rowboat, fishing. "It struck me we were eye-to-eye" he said. Just then, "Bang it happened." The propellers hit the water and curled back.

The instructor was court-martialed. The military said Rossman, a second lieutenant, should have been able to stop the instructor from crashing the plane and found him guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer. He also was fined and a permanent notation made in his record. The official report of the crash makes no mention of the sunbathers. Women "had nothing to do with it," Rossman said. Rossman said he thinks he would have been more severely punished if he had already served in Europe, as the instructor had. But as a student pilot, he was still a valuable commodity. He went on to serve about a year in Europe as a B-25 pilot.

Rossman read accounts of efforts by a Navy salvage team to pull the bomber from Lake Greenwood and contacted the coordinators guiding the recovery. They invited him to South Carolina to see the plane. He made two trips. He said he was given a hero's welcome on both visits. "They've convinced me I'm a hero, instead of a kind of minor war criminal, which is the Air Force's view of the thing," Rossman said.



Picture of Dan Rossman from one of his visits to SCHAF

Items for Sale:

Don't forget that we have several items for sale during our open house. We will have aviation pictures, military cases and books for sale at very reasonable prices. We also have a free magazine section. If you have any magazines you want to donate, bring them with you. Last month, we were excited to see one member brought in some magazines to share with others.

Odds and Ends:

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