



## SCHAF Newsletter for December 2024

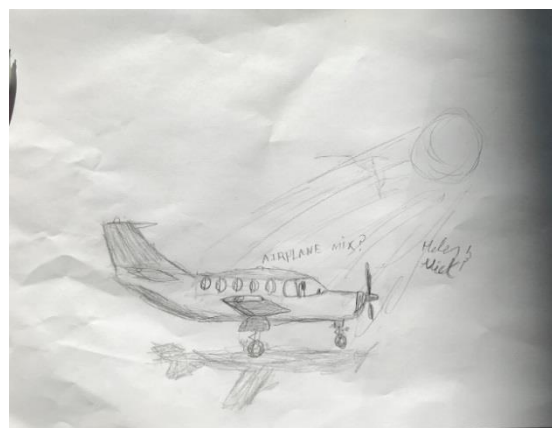
**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.**

### Foundation Happenings

The end of the year is fast approaching. If you have not already renewed this year, be sure to send in your renewal this month so you can keep up with all the activities at the hangar. You can either mail a check to SCHAF or renew on-line using PayPal. Lots of exciting items are on the agenda for 2025 including completing the flight simulator. .

SCHAF will have a very special open house in December with Santa flying in to greet the children. Please help spread the word about our open house. We want to see lots of children greeting Santa. .

For the November open house SCHAF had an amazing crowd of young visitors. We believe it was the largest group of youth so far for an open house. One group of excited children was from the Columbia Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., a membership organization of mothers with children ages 2-19. Another young visitor drew the picture below and wanted to give it to SCHAF. We love seeing young children getting excited about aviation. There may be some future pilots in the making! While it seemed a bit chaotic at times, the excitement in the voices of the children was captivating. Every single SCHAF volunteer left that day with a full heart.



## Restoration Progress

Due to illness, SCHAF was unable to participate in the Veteran's Day parade. Ron is still making some final touches to the large scale B-25 model. It will be on display in the hangar very soon.

Now that the bomb bay doors are complete, work has begun on the forward hatch. Fortunately, SCHAF has an original B-25 hatch for GF2. Currently, the hatch looks like a jumble of cables, aluminum and parts but will soon be a working door. Hours of research of the manuals and gathering of parts is done before work begins. As we have said many times, there is about 90% of research done for every 10% of work.



The donated sewing machine is set up and currently being used to make insulation to go along the walls of the navigator's area and tunnel to the bombardier's area. Small touches like this really make GF2 stand out as a stunning B-25.



SCHAF is sporting new mats at both entrances to the hangar to welcome all visitors. Be sure to come to the hangar to see all of the little touches being put around the hangar. And when you come to visit, look into volunteering with the foundation. You do not need to work on the B-25 restoration in order to be a valuable asset. SCHAF needs volunteers to help with advertising, decorating the hangar, planning the open houses and fundraising just to name a few. .



### **Special Visitor to SCHAF**

SCHAF was honored to show off GF2 to Major General (Ret) Thomas Rew, a 102 year old WWII veteran who served 34 years in the US Air Force. During his career in the Air Force, he flew many planes including the B-26, B-47 and B-52. We could not believe how well Tom gets around even climbing the steps to look in GF2. He was accompanied by two of his sons and his grandson. We were mesmerized listening to Tom's stories especially the one where flying as a copilot he had to parachute out of a B-26 that went into a flat spin while towing a target. Miraculously, just the day before this accident, an airplane mechanic showed Tom how to manually open the bomb bay doors in order to escape the B-26.



## Sights Around the Airport

While at the hangar, we see all sorts of things going on at the airport. We have seen planes transporting rescued animals. We have seen helicopters transporting everything from water to battle fires to transporting medical personnel. During the open house, we saw a car pull up to a plane, medical personnel board the plane, then the driver of the van waited for the plane to take off before leaving. Ever curious about what is going on, a few of us walked over to talk to the driver of the van. The organization, We Are Sharing Hope SC, was flying lungs for a transplant to Charleston. Since lungs need to be transplanted quickly, the vital organs along with the medical transplant team were flown to the coast. In the van were kidneys where one was being driven to Augusta while the other was driven to Atlanta. Even though it is so hard to lose a loved one, it is such an amazing gift to be an organ donor. Three lives were saved that day.

From their website:

As South Carolina's federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO), We Are Sharing Hope SC facilitates life-saving organ and life enhancing tissue donations across the state. Our staff stand mission ready to support families through their loss and offer hope through the gift of organ and tissue donation.



## 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).

South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation 803 731 3254  
3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205  
[www.schistoricaviation.org](http://www.schistoricaviation.org)

