



SCHAF Newsletter for February 2025

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

For the first time that I can remember, SCHAF had to postpone the January open house due to weather. South Carolina received a rare occurrence of snow. If you live in SC then you know when it snows everything shuts down and the milk and bread flies off the shelves. It is what we do. Haha! The open house was pushed back a week. With it being an off week, the crowd was small but very interested in the work being done on GF2. Logan and Stanley pictured below are always a welcome sight at the open house. People always say Logan at 19 looks exactly like a WWII pilot. Stanley always does wonderfully unique impressions. We never quite know what he will wear but they always make us smile.



February is Black History Month. SCHAF is excited to welcome the Spann Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Association to talk to visitors. There will also be some displays from Military Timeline Impressions. You do not want to miss this open house.

Restoration Progress

Work is gearing up in the radio operator's area. David and Tate are working on a lower rib for the bottom of the plane in this area. The bottom of the plane from the bomb bay area to the rear of GF2 no longer exists. The team is hand making each lower rib for the tail of the plane. Since the tail tapers as it progresses towards the rear of the plane, each rib is unique. In the radio operator's area, there was a small area between the back wall of the bomb bay section and the forward part of the lower turret. This rib will

be placed in between these two walls as a support for the area where the radio operator would stand. Pictured below, Tate is learning how to shrink (curve in) and stretch (curve out) a piece of angle aluminum. There is one angled piece at the bottom of the rib and one at the top. The outside skin will be attached to the bottom of the rib and the floor will be attached to the top of the rib.



While David and Tate are working on the rib, Lanny is working on the support for the top of the lower turret and shelf in the radio operator's area. The picture on the left below is looking up at the support for the lower turret. Along the back of the turret was a piece of thick angle aluminum that extended from one wall to the other. The original piece was cut in order to remove the lower turret. Lanny removed the broken pieces and is soldering the original piece back together to make an accurate template for the new angle piece. This is an essential piece because it is the support for the lower turret as well as the shelves along both sides of the plane. On the starboard side, the shelf was the riding seat for the radio operator. He would sit on the shelf with his feet on the floor in the lower area. On the port side, the shelf was the support for the radio operator's desk and equipment. The picture on the right below shows the shelf along the port side of the plane. The angle piece will run under this shelf and act as a support.



Come to the open house to see these areas and get a better understanding of how this area was originally set up.

Sam Bowers turned the wood to make our 100 pound bomb replicas which are currently hanging in the bomb bay area of GF2. He also turned the wood to make our float lights which are in the navigator's area. He recently volunteered to make a 500 pound bomb replica. The green piece in the center is a thick piece of PVC pipe. Sam turned the wood to make the nose and tail of the bomb. This is so large that he had to use special lathes at Mann Tools. SCHAF will now make the tail fins, hooks, etc. This is going to look amazing hanging in the bomb bay section. It is huge!



I know we have been saying this for a while now but Ron is nearing the end of the restoration work on the B-25 model. The wings are on the plane and the insignia is painted. The only remaining piece is completing the engines. This will look great when we display it on the new trailer in parades.



Donations

If you are from SC then chances are you have either seen or heard of Rudy Mancke who was a naturalist, educator and TV host. Rudy was a voracious reader of all sorts of history books. The family donated several books to the foundation to be placed in our library. There are many historical aviation books in the collection. The historical library in the hangar is growing quite a bit.

SCHAF was the recipient of this large scale remote control Spitfire. Soon this model will be hanging in the hangar as if it is banking for a dog fight. The collection of large scale models at the foundation is growing nicely. These make the hangar look amazing when visitors walk in the door. Come see for yourself!



Renewals

A big thank you to all of you who renewed your membership in 2024. And another big thank you to those of you who have already renewed your membership for 2025. The foundation would not be possible without the dedication of each one of you.

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.

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