



SCHAF Newsletter for April 2026

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Jim Hamilton/LB Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

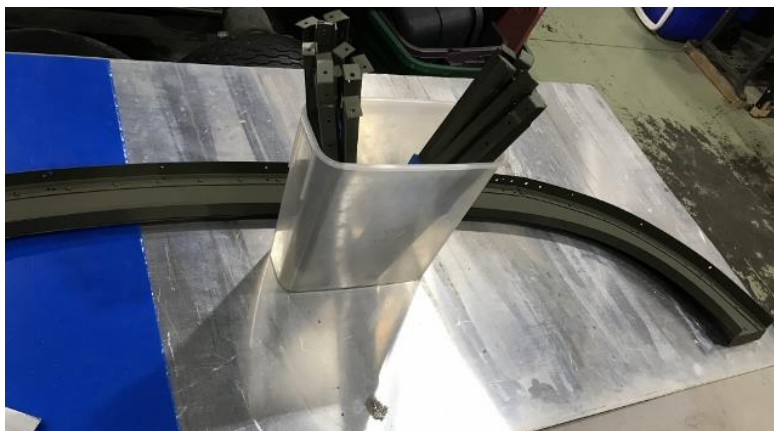
March was women's history month. There were displays honoring female correspondents and WASPs (Women Air Force Service Pilots). It was a beautiful day with lots of visitors.



Our next open house will celebrate the Doolittle Raiders who flew their mission on April 18, 1942. Be sure to stop by to see us.

Restoration Progress

The stringers and lower rib are primed and painted. After the interior of the floor in the radio operator's area is painted, assembly will begin! Below is the bucket of painted stringers and the rib.



The slide mechanisms for the cockpit window are installed. The picture on the left below shows the clam shell handles and slide bar. The picture on the right shows how the steel rod attaches to the front near the console. The bracket at the front is original to GF2. It was cleaned, painted and reattached.



SCHAF Happenings

March was busy with events at the hangar and around Columbia. SCHAF was invited to the Aerospace Festival at W.A. Perry Middle School. The kids at the school are always interested in aviation and aerospace. There were drones flying around the gym. Rockets were flying outside the gym. This year there were a lot of legos on display; even a lego space center. Fun was had by all!



The AIAA (American Institute for Aeronautics and Aerospace), held a Southeastern Conference in Columbia with USC students serving as the hosts. Engineering college students from Auburn, Georgia Tech, NC State and other universities came to the two day event. Pilots from around the area brought their planes to the Jim Hamilton/Owen's Field Airport for the event. SCHAF opened our hangar as well. Over 200 students passed thru our doors that Friday. It was impressive to get a glimpse at the people who will be the future in aviation. We enjoyed talking to the students so much that we forgot to take pictures.

The Americas Boat Club – Lake Murray Power Squadron held their district conference in town. They came by the hangar for a visit. Even boat enthusiasts love to see the work being done on GF2.



Future Happenings

At 1:30 pm on Thursday April 9, SCHAF is extremely honored to host a very special event for WWII veteran, Bruce Cook who will be receiving the medal, French Legion d'honneur, from the French embassy. Below is the write-up from the program. We hope you can make it out to this special event and support Mr Cook.

Today, we celebrate and honor with our presence, WWII Veteran Phillip Bruce Cook. Who, with a determined spirit and devotion to duty, honor, and country, has met the exacting criterion of the French Légion d'honneur established since the liberation of France over 80 years ago.

During his service in WWII, Staff Sergeant Phillip Bruce Cook flew 35 combat missions as a crewman aboard a B-17 "Flying Fortress". His primary assignment was to man the aircraft's ball turret gun position which protected the underside of the 4 engine bomber....Assigned to the 379th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, the group's mission was to bombard enemy rail yards, airfields, factories, communication centers, rocket sites, synthetic fuel factories, and enemy troop concentrations within France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Holland.

A Celebration of Duty, Honor, and Country,
as WWII Veteran,
Phillip Bruce Cook,
is Knighted by
Consul General Anne-Laure Desjonquères,
Republic of France, with the
Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur.

Ordre national de la
Légion d'honneur



French Legion d'honneur Ceremony and Presentation
Staff Sergeant Phillip Bruce Cook
South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation - 9 April 2026

Future Happenings Part 2

Mark your calendars - Our May open house is moving to the third Saturday, May 16th. The original Navy divers who raised GF2 out of Lake Greenwood are returning for a reunion. Some of them have not seen GF2 since that fateful day in 1983. They will give a special presentation on how our plane was found and then raised out of the lake. It will be an event you do NOT want to miss!



Membership Renewal Reminder

There are many projects planned for 2026. If you have not renewed your membership please send in your renewal so you can keep up with the exciting work to come this year.

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.

South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation 803 731 3254
3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205
www.schistoricaviation.org



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