

GENERAL UPDATE 32/2019-
The NHF Project- Progress Report-WEEK ENDING 22 SEP 19

Michael Hough AM
HARS Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

The CONTINUED great news is that Tracker 844 has settled quickly to its new 'home' at HARS Albion Park, and to remind you of last week's great event I have also sent out in parallel with this report our HARS media release which went out a few days ago Tracker 844 successfully underwent its first weekly engine run at HARS Albion Park on Sat morning 21 Sep and all systems functioned well.

I attach some photos taken at HARS in the last few days showing 844 being both washed and undergoing engine runs.

We have been fortunate to have such a dedicated team of HARS volunteers to undertake this very special task of restoring and flying 844 after over twenty + years of non flying, and on behalf of all historic aviation enthusiasts I would like to sincerely thank and congratulate the Tracker team on a job very well done!

A consequence of success:-

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE ANNUAL INSURANCE COSTS- ESPECIALLY NOW TRACKER 844 IS FLYING- PLEASE?

As you might expect our insurance costs went up as soon as we declared Tracker 844 was flying and its annual flight insurance is now due, and it is approx. \$1100 p.a. for that 1 airframe, so can you help by sponsoring some or all of it please?

Our total insurance bill for covering 9 (nine) NHF airframes for liability and Hangar keepers insurance this coming year is \$5300 (which includes the Tracker amount above)

Please contact me if you can contribute towards these costs- and thanks for your help!

CLAIM THE DATE:-Tracker Reunion 23-24 October 2019. Venue: HARS at Albion Park, over two days. This event is being organised by Bruce Saville, who runs the "Friends of the RAN Grumman Tracker" Facebook page. You can register interest in attending the re-union by going to:- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/703844286295816/events/>

We will continue to record the Tracker 844 story, and our *plan* is for Tracker 844 to fly during the Tracker reunion over 23/ 24 Oct 19- so we urge you to support this significant October event and we look forward to our A-V sponsor MountainLion Productions providing an A-V record of the re-union and the flying- so if you choose to attend the Tracker event expect to be part of the A-V record of this great activity please! (We also plan to capture as many Tracker crew stories as we can across the two days by doing interviews- so please co-operate if asked-thanks!)

It is my pleasure to now update you on the progress we are making on the range of other NHF airframes, thanks to a lot of very enthusiastic people

Here is a very brief summary of each current NHF project-

***Tracker 845**

- 845 is in open storage at our major sponsor AIR AFFAIRS, and our short-term intent now is (courtesy of our major sponsor Air Affairs) move it to HARS Albion Park for the Tracker reunion in October so that we plan to have three Tracker airframes for that event- 844 / 845 and 851. Our longer-term intention is to

repaint it externally at HARS Albion Park, and then use it as the first display aircraft on the block of land next to the FAA Museum when this is granted by EIG

***Dakota C47**

We are planning to move the C47 to HARS Albion Park soon with the generous sponsorship of Chris Sievers at Air Affairs, and our current aim is to try to get it up for the Tracker reunion dates in October- so here's hoping that "Plan A" works.

***Wessex**

- Wessex 832 is on display at HARS Albion Park in HARS Hangar 3 and this week the HARS paint team led by Ken Jackson have continued to repaint some of the finer external details on Wessex 832
- Wessex 813 is at HARS Parkes - no update received this week

Our longer term plan is to restore the ASW configuration inside the airframe Wessex 832, and we are still short of qualified/ knowledgeable Wessex support team members so if anyone out there can assist us, we would really welcome your enquiry about joining HARS and if accepted, coming to assist with a particular project such as the Wessex.

***Sea Venom**

Following are very recent progress shots taken this Friday/ Saturday of the Sea Venom reassembly, and the team is still focusing on re-assembling the cockpit- again illustrating how much has been achieved in re-assembling the Sea Venom over a very short time period:-

Once again- a big "Thank You Very Much!" to everyone who is helping with this challenging project.

***Hueys**

Iroquois UH-1B Numbers 893 and 898 are at Air Affairs at AATP in secure storage and there has been no change in their status this week.

***Sea Fury**

- Sea Fury WG 630 airframe is still on display in HARS Hangar 1 and we have rearranged its location and the attached photos show the Sea Fury on display in HARS Hangar 1 next to the Wirraway rebuild project

An interesting story on this airframe restoration can be found at:- Sea Fury Restoration:- <https://www.warbirdsonline.com.au/2019/09/16/hawker-sea-fury-wg630-restoration/>

We continue to promote our major Sea Fury appeal- help us with your donation(s) to fund and develop the engineering analysis which is the start the rebuild of this magnificent Sea Fury historic airframe back to flying status!

***Our future home adjacent to the FAA Museum**

UPDATE 32 22 SEP 19

We have begun a dialogue with EIG to negotiate the allocation to HARS of the block of land adjacent to the FAA museum reconfirmed for the building of a future hangar and admin complex for the HARS Navy Heritage Flight.

We Request Your Support:-

Don't forget that donations to HARS of over \$2 are tax deductible so please act now and **if you can assist in any way-please email me at:- harsnhf@hars.org.au. or contact me through our HARS NHF Facebook page**

In the meantime, enjoy the accompanying photos of:- Tracker 844 during Week 1 at HARS Main base, some photos of the remaining airframes at HARS and as a special bonus some shots of the ex-RAN FAA Auster replica being restored at HARS taxiing along the apron outside HARS Offices last Saturday

Enjoy!

Michael Hough

Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

22 Sep 19

ATT

PHOTOS:-

A number of Tracker 844 routine maintenance photos and other NHF airframes attached- all are copyrighted with permission to use in non-profit usage - given by M Hough, and the Huey and C47 photos are from the FAA Museum archives