

UPDATE 36 20 OCT 19

GENERAL UPDATE 36/2019-
The NHF Project- Progress Report-WEEK ENDING 20 Oct 19

Michael Hough AM
HARS Navy Heritage Flight (NHF) Project Leader

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

Here is a summary of each current NHF project-

PREPARING FOR THE "FRIENDS OF TRACKER" RE-UNION 23/24 OCT 19 AT HARS

Tracker 844 at HARS Albion Park Rail

I am pleased to report that 844 continues to be ground run and prepared for the friends of the Tracker reunion, and 844 is planned to fly again at the mid-week Tracker re-union on **Thursday of this coming week**, (see following).

NEWSFLASH:- 844 Made Navy News this week. We are delighted to report that this week's Navy News carried the story of 844 back in the air -see:-

http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fnews.navy.gov.au%2Fen%2FOct2019%2FFleet%2F5495%2FThe-Tracker-has-landed.htm&h=AT2VXPVgp72iVNpFY8fMmhNAD3XfNj93IVvbgL4SUV_29ihLQoxEdWc5vQm8rG4VrMLp_K3u86_mHhbQyJAc5YupeyFalZ5pZFXcDGFJ1oDHorb1h9vaUMVfegTtMKQ&s=1

*Tracker 845 at Air Affairs

- 845 is in open storage at our major sponsor AIR AFFAIRS, and unfortunately due to RMS and Police approvals lead times, we will NOT be able to implement our short-term intent 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.

*Tracker 851

- Tracker 851 this has been in HARS Hangar 1 being restored to taxi-able for a number of years,, and we are pleased to advise that it will be available for inspection during the reunion as well (see following). Of particular interest, see attached the photo of 851's record of active service flying in two Navy's!

CLAIM THE DATE:- **Tracker Re-union 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/>

This will be a great event with the major focus on Tracker 844 flying on the Thursday morning, and we at HARS are putting much energy into preparing to host this terrific event including preparing the replica ex-Navy Auster for a taxi-ing display

We understand that approx. 70 have registered and there is room for many more- so come on you ex Tracker crews and friends, please register and support this event by coming!

We will also have Mountain Lion productions as an AV sponsor attending the reunion, so we hope that you will agree to have your story and your image videotaped as part of our AV record of this great event!

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A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE RE-UNION

Please consider bringing with you and loaning or donating to us (HARS NHF) any Tracker memorabilia e.g. Log Books Manuals and Photos, plus any Tracker equipment or Tools you may have acquired.

We are ESPECIALLY after a Tracker propeller mounting tool if you can assist but any/ all other Tracker tools and related eqpt. are VERY welcome and useful

*Dakota C47

We are planning to move the C47 to HARS Albion Park soon with the generous sponsorship of Chris Sievers at Air Affairs. Another historic photo attached of a FAA C47

*Wessex

- Wessex 832 is on display at HARS Albion Park in HARS Hangar 3 and just last week our enthusiastic HARS volunteers remounted the blades and the photos attached show the significant improvement in credibility of presentation. We are delighted to also show a photo of a newly joined HARS member Vic who is a senior FAA pilot who flew the aircraft in service! Welcome to the NHF Vic!
- 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

Attached is a current photo taken this week of the Sea Venom restoration, and the team is still focusing on re-assembling the cockpit AND we now have a small team of volunteers focusing on the engine unit.

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. I attach a historic photo of one of our Hueys in Navy service

*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 Lockheed Super Constellation- "Connie".

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

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We are continuing the 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 each ex FAA airframe remaining at HARS Main base, plus some historic photos -courtesy of the FAA Museum archives

Enjoy!

Michael Hough

Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

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ATT

PHOTOS:-

A number of NHF airframes photos and in particular Tracker 844 photos and MP4 sequences attached- all are copyrighted with permission to use in non-profit usage - given by M Hough or Gary Holloway, and the C47 and Huey airframes in service photos are from the FAA Museum archives. Enjoy!