

UPDATE 37 27 OCT 19

GENERAL UPDATE 37/2019-
The NHF Project- Progress Report-WEEK ENDING 27 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!

THIS WEEK WE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL "FRIENDS OF THE GRUMMAN TRACKER" reunion on Wed/ Thur 23/24 oct, and a lot of this week's report will focus on that aspect

Also- this is my last NHF update report for a while, as I am traveling overseas from next week and John Sperring will take over editing and producing the NHF report until my return in mid -December earliest- so THANKS John!

Here is a summary of each current NHF project-

A VERY SUCCESSFUL "FRIENDS OF TRACKER" RE-UNION 23/24 OCT 19 AT HARS

I am delighted to report that we had a most successful reunion with approx.. 75 attending - so sincere congratulations to Bruce Saville and the organisers

I had the pleasure of hosting the HARS' component of the event on the Thursday, and I am delighted to report that Tracker 844 ran faultlessly for the reunion, and it was GREAT to see so many people watching the lengthy performance sequence of:- of engine startup, preparation system checking and engine run-ups, wing unfolds, final clearance checks, taxi out and then three full circuits including touch and go and a very smooth landing, taxi back wing fold and switch-off!

To watch the regional ABC report on the reunion see:-

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-25/navy-pilots-reunite-more-than-50-years-after-flight-school/11639412>

Some well deserved "thank you's":-

Full tribute to the 844 pilots Owen Nicolls and Steve Mc Mahon, and the ground crew Terry Hetherington, Keith Boundy and Garry Holloway- VERY WELL DONE!

I need to pay a special tribute to our senior HARS engineer Bill Smith who led the HARS engineering team to fully restore the Tracker to flying status at Air Affairs -our sincere thanks Bill for your constant effort and output focused work- a great achievement mate!

I also want to pay tribute to Glenn Harley- who is the 'Backroom' genius who organizes CASA registrations and transfers and made sure that e.g. Air Affairs maintenance hangar was accredited as a CASA approved HARS remote site, to enable the Tracker maintenance to occur- thanks Glenn!

*Tracker 851

Tracker 851 this has been in HARS Hangar 1 being restored to taxi-able for a number of years, and it was available for inspection during the reunion and our thanks to Brian the crew chief and Debbie for opening up the airframe and being available to assist all day!

Wessex 832/ Sea Venom/ Sea Fury and Auster were also on display and were available to the Tracker reunion members and their guests, and a great day was had eating/ reminiscing / eating/ inspecting airframes/ eating/ talking and sharing!

As you can tell from the photos attached, the HARS café team led by Joan De La Hunty put on some great catering support!

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Matthew Jones from Mountain Lion productions was our AV sponsor attending the reunion, and as well as videoing the Tracker 844 action, he interviewed attendees and we will be producing a DVD of the full Tracker 844 restoration, flight up from Nowra, culminating with the actual Tracker reunion day, and we already have approx. 70 pre orders for this DVD at \$25 each, but please be aware that it will take at least two months to produce and be available and you will be able to order one when we announce its availability. It will be a significant AV record of this great event!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR THOSE EX TRACKER CREWS ATTENDING THE RE-UNION

A significant amount of ex Tracker equipment and memorabilia was donated or loaned to HARS from those attending the reunion including Tracker aircraft logs, airframe equipment items and Photos, and to each of you who donated this way THANKS SO MUCH.

Note:- we are still 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

*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.

*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.

*Our future home adjacent to the FAA Museum

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 the Tracker reunion and I now hand over the responsibility of the weekly NHF report to John Sperring who this week has selected all photos except the Tracker reunion related for you to enjoy

Thanks John and happy editing

Michael Hough

HARS Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

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ATT

PHOTOS:-

A number of Tracker reunion photos and MP4 sequences attached- all are copyrighted with permission to use in non-profit usage - given by M Hough and all remaining photos are courtesy of John Sperring or the FAA Museum archives. Enjoy!