Vought Retiree Club *News*

Vol. 28 **July – September 2023** **No. 3**

President's Message

Larry Skinner

Hello fellow retirees! Hope you're enjoying the lower temperatures following a brutal summer, and also the reduced inflation numbers following the last CPI report. Unfortunately, my grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, etc., haven't gotten the message. Everything costs 25% more than it did just a year ago, so I'm not sure they're measuring it the same way they used to. Could they be cooking the books? *(Editor's note: the rate of inflation has gone down in the last CPI report, but the higher prices from the recent past years' inflation will be there from now on.)* Remember the famous quote from Ronald Reagan – "I'm from the Government and I'm here to help you." Uh -- not sure I trust any of 'em. And who decided that we now need to tip everyone who has a job doing anything whatsoever? Not me! (Note: Still the greatest country in the history of the world, IMHO).

So, I lied. Said I wouldn't bring up the demolition of JSF again, but I can't help myself. When I drove by it this week I tried to see if there was any evidence that the Building 7 basement ever existed, but there was none that I could see. September 20 marked one year since the passing of our dear friend Susan Smith (longtime Benefits Manager at Vought and then Northrop Grumman) and I could almost hear her worrying about whether the roaches that thrived down in the basement were able to survive the demo. Remember the roaches? Aw c'mon, they were just water roaches! Still creepy. BTW, who'd have thought the old plant would be gone, yet Avion Village would still be going strong -- with a waiting list no less! Go figure.

Cathie Barrington was in New York City on September 15th to represent the Vought Heritage Foundation and the Retiree Club at the Aircraft Carrier Intrepid Museum for the unveiling of a new exhibit entitled ***Final Flight: The Story of a WWII Corsair***. The exhibit will feature fragments of a World War II American Corsair aircraft that had flown from the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Intrepid* and was shot down off the coast of Japan in 1945. I'm sure Cathie will share her experience with you in either this newsletter or the next one (provided Hurricane Lee didn't cause the ceremony to be cancelled!).

After twenty-plus years of working the gates at the State Fair of Texas on "Feed the Need Day", the North Texas Food Bank has just made it too hard for us old folks to volunteer anymore -- so, sad to say, we have opted out. If you've worked that charitable event in the past, it was a lot of fun and for a good cause, but it is no more for us. We wish them nothing but the best.

Hope you have a very happy Fall, and we'll talk to you later.

Larry

In Memoriam

by Ann Christmas

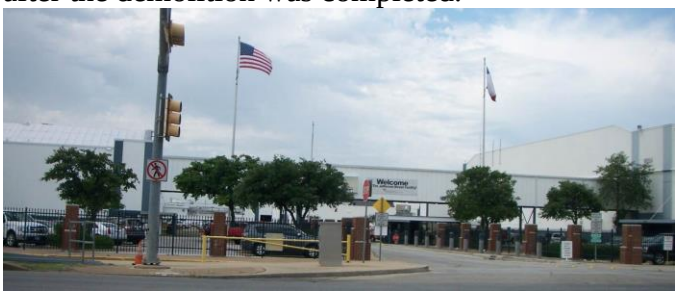
The Retiree Club has been notified since our last newsletter of the following deceased ***members***. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the families of those listed. Each will be missed.

Nola Maxwell – 11-19-2021
Robin Ray Permenter – 9-7-2022
Jewell Edwin Maxwell – 7-24-2023
Gerald Francis (Jerry) Thomas – 7-29-2023
Harold Ray Brooks – August 2023
Graydon Bushart, Jr. – 9-2-2023
Claudia Ann Foreman – 9-5-2023

JSF Demolition – Flagpole Entrance

Below are two photos of the old Flagpole entrance to the Jefferson Street Facility (JSF) of Chance Vought Aircraft and LTV Aerospace.

The first is before demolition, and the second is after the demolition was completed.



Flagpole entrance at Vought's Jefferson Street Facility -- June 5, 2013

Flagpole entrance to the plant today – nothing left.

Remember the Pedestrian Bridge over the Railroad Tracks and Jefferson Street ?

The following photos are from the ***LTV Profile*** dated April 1, 1971.

APRIL 1, 1971 PROFILE

Bridge Spans Time Gracefully

photos by Paul Bower and Mike Whitehead

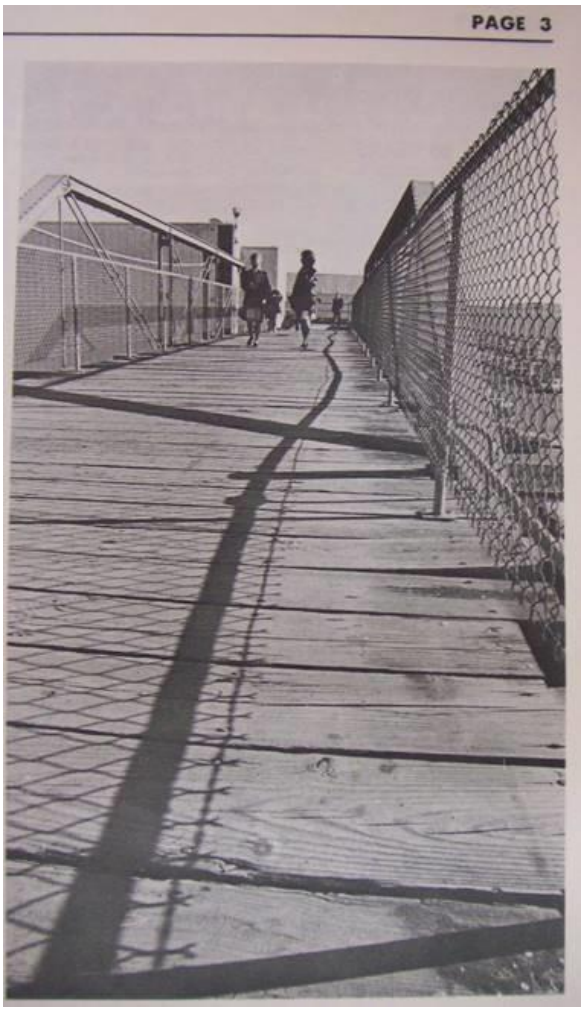
To some it's just a bridge. To others it's the way to work or the final hurdle for the day.

To all, it's safety from the speeding traffic and lumbering freight trains below.

For as long as most people at Vought Aeronautics in Grand Prairie can remember there has been a bridge over Jefferson Avenue and the railroad tracks to commercial parking lots.

Year after year the wooden bridge stands, giving service to many Vought employees twice a day. It was built by Dallas County after tragic accidents occurred on the street and tracks. Official records are vague on the exact date, but it was so long ago that the original commemoration plaque has had to be replaced.

Under a daily pedestrian flow ranging from only a trickle to thousands, its worn wood and shiny steel steps are mute testimony of years of graceful aging.



Renew your membership for 2023, and continue to get your Vought Retiree Club News!

Call the Club at (817) 478-1885
or Email: retireeclub@vought.org
membershiprc@vought.org

2023 Dues !

by Gaye Kortegast

It's time to send in your 2023 membership dues!
(If you're not sure whether or not you've renewed, you may check the mailing label on this newsletter for status of your membership.)
If you would like to **renew for 2023, please send your dues as soon as you can !**
The cost is still only $5.00 per person per year.
You may renew for as many years as you desire.
Or, Lifetime memberships are only $50 per person.

We hope to hear from you soon.
Thank you !

Volunteer Events

by Johnnie Johnson

All club members who want to volunteer at Mission Arlington -- be there (210 W. South St.) at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.

As stated in the President's Letter on page 1, there will be no volunteer event for the State Fair of Texas this year.

Volunteer events give us all an opportunity to make a positive impact in our communities by helping those who are in need.
Retirees, family, and friends are invited to participate in these events. Give me a call and let me know if you would like to join us.
For more information, call Johnnie Johnson at 817-845-7576, or the Retiree Club at 817-478-1885.

Thanks for your help!

Johnnie Johnson

Chance Vought Survivors

Dick Guthrie (richardguth56@msn.com) is the contact for the Chance Vought Survivors.

Annual Vought Retiree Club Meeting and BBQ – June 14, 2023

Photos from the 27th Annual Vought Retiree Club Meeting and BBQ (held on June 14, 2023, at the Ruthe Jackson Center in Grand Prairie) did not include as many photos of people signing in and at their tables as in previous newsletters.

If anyone has photos that they would like to be included in the next newsletter, please email them to your Editor, Bob Bardo, at bobbardo2@cs.com.

(2024 BBQ will be on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.)

T-shirt – O3U-3 Corsair I

The blue T-shirts featuring the O3U-3 Corsair I are available for a donation of $15.
Shipping charges (if mailed, instead of being picked

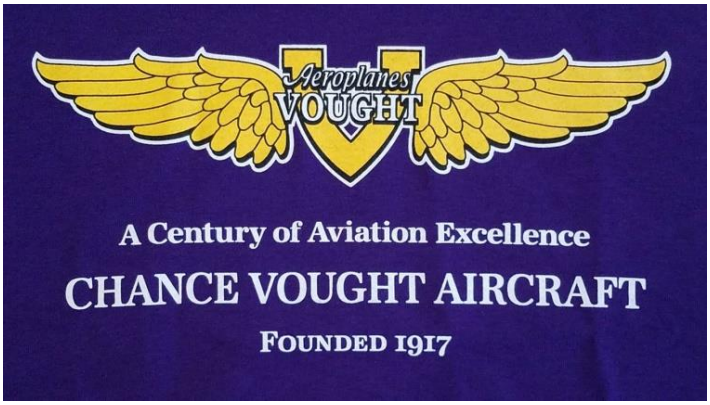
up at the Vought Retiree Club office) are $9 for one shirt, $12 for two shirts, actual cost for more shirts. Pick one up at, or order one from, the Retiree Club office (retireeclub@vought.org or 817-478-1885).

If you want to come to pick up T-shirts at the Vought Retiree Club office, please call first to make an appointment and wear a mask when you come in.

The blue ***O3U-3 Corsair I*** T-shirt –

The ***100th Anniversary of Chance Vought*** T-shirt is currently sold out, and has been reordered without the graphic on the back of the shirt. Prices will be $12 for M, L, and XL, and $15 for 2XL & 3XL.

The ***100th Anniversary of Chance Vought*** T-shirt --



Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month

The **Executive Committee** of the Vought Retiree Club meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. We meet in alternating months either in the offices of the Vought Heritage Foundation Restoration facility or in the office suite generously provided by **Texas Trust Credit Union** in the Texas Trust Business Park at 5840 W. I-20 in southwest Arlington.

Next meeting: ***Wednesday, November 8, 2023,*** *at the Vought Restoration facility in Grand Prairie.*

Restoration News

The **Vought Heritage Foundation** Restoration volunteer crew works in a facility rented from the Grand Prairie Independent School District. They currently meet every Tuesday and Thursday -- from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Anyone who wants to help restore the company's old aircraft, come join the Restoration Volunteers ! every Tuesday and Thursday --

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Donuts, snacks, coffee, and soft drinks provided. Join the Fun !

Contact voughtheritage@vought.org, with your questions.

The Vought Restoration facility is located at 4224 S. Carrier Parkway, Grand Prairie, Texas 75052, south of I-20 behind the State Farm Insurance office (Charles England and Kirk England). As you go south on Carrier from I-20, turn right immediately before the State Farm office. It is suggested that you call 214-702-6406, or email voughtheritage@vought.org, beforehand for exact directions, or to make sure we haven't taken a holiday.

You can support the efforts of our Retiree Volunteers ! Even if you can't work on the aircraft, you can help by donating to support their restoration work!

(*Donations are tax-deductible.*)

Vought Heritage Foundation, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) non-profit Corporation
P.O. Box 532794
Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2794
Voughtheritage@vought.org

Restoration Updates from Rusty Branum

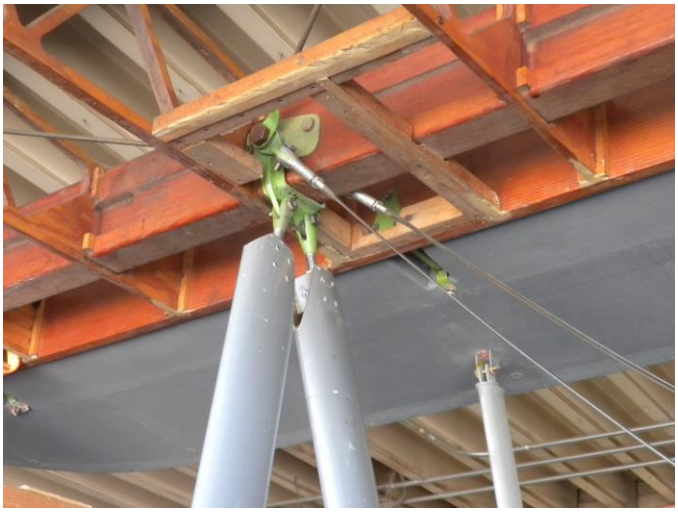
Activities of the Restoration Group are shown here for the period December 11, 2022 through September 19, 2023.

December 11, 2022

January 10, 2023

Busy day today, we got the top cowling painted, and a major milestone, the top right-side wing and struts installed. We struggled getting the wing hoisted into position in the low overhead assembly area, took a bit of muscle power and some tapered tooling pins to get everything lined up and pinned. A great job today by the crew, and notice Bob Szabados on the work stand measuring wing dihedral. With some luck we will try to get the left wing installed later this week or next.

January 19, 2023
Another busy and productive week at the bomber plant -- the O3U3 got all new oil return lines and new clamps on the 1340 radial, looking as good as new. The airplane was fitted both ailerons, a strut was installed on the right side, and we got started fitting flying wires. We adjusted the top wing dihedral and lengthened attachment struts.



Don Branton turns 90 !

Birthdays -- Pat Patterson, Don Branton, and Earl Hastings

January 30, 2023

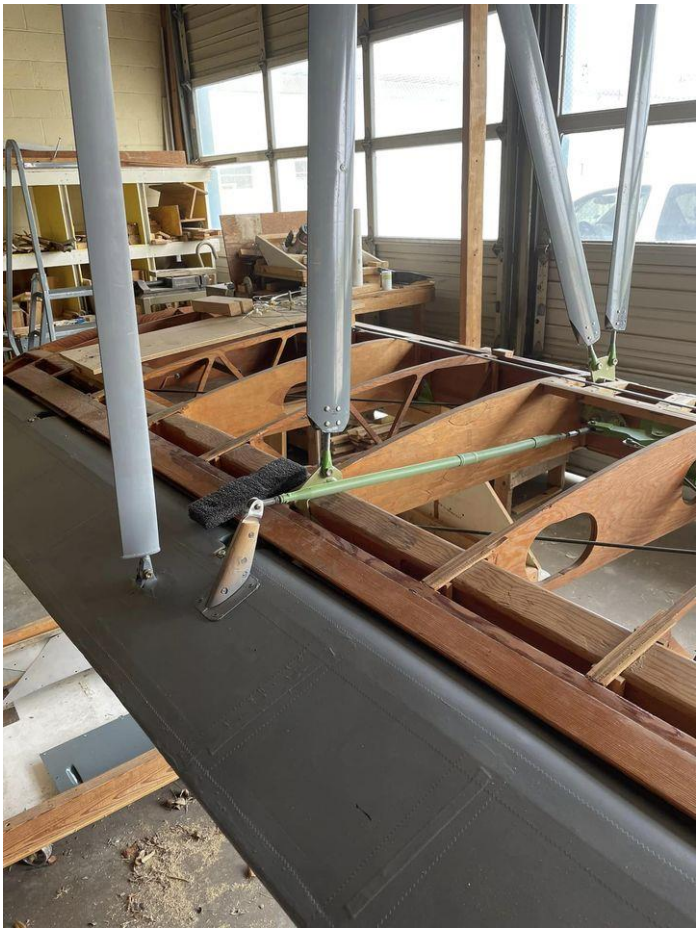
Due to weather getting worse this afternoon and tomorrow, there will be no work tomorrow, stay tuned to local forecast, Thursday is still a possibility for work to resume.

February 21, 2023

We had a special celebration today at work, Don Branton joined the ranks of 90-year old volunteers... way to go, Don !
We also celebrated January thru March birthdays, again Don Branton, Pat Patterson, Earl Hastings, and Rick Hill.
A good time was had by all. Happy Birthday!

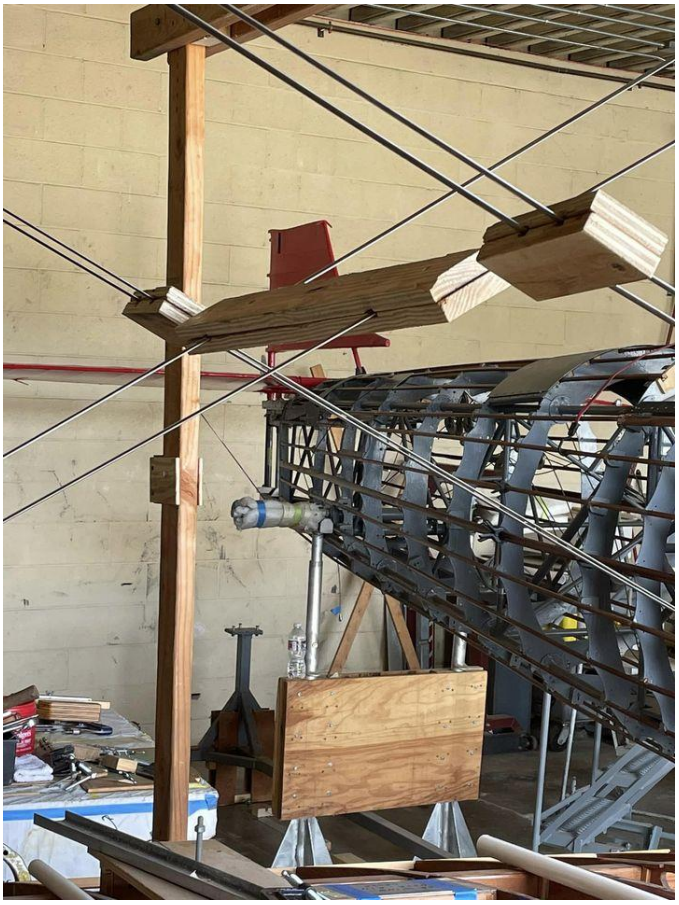
Birthday – Rick Hill, with Cathie Barrington

Working on the O3U3 -- today marked the first time having all four wings installed, some heavy lifting and jiggling it finally sits atop the stands, we got it all pinned up, outboard struts installed and adjusted wing dihedral.



March 7, 2023
We had a pretty good day today -- got 4 of 6 flying wires on the right-side wings built and installed, 2 more we hope to finish later this week. Once we have all the wires installed, we will remove the wing stands and see the airplane holding its wings in place for the first time.

March 14, 2023
We started the day with a goal of getting all the ailerons rigged for flight on the O3U3. With wing locks installed on all 4 ailerons, we built a fixture to hold the stick in the neutral position. Connecting struts are installed and bell cranks centered. Control cables are installed on the stick and routed through the wing structure and attached with the bell crank. Finally control rods routed from the bell crank to the ailerons. Cables tensioned and all hardware checked. All in all, a lot of moving parts, but it all came together without much issue. We also have all 6 flying wires complete on the right-side wings, and some started on the left side. We will be installing a “javelin” on the wires, and we got started with a mock-up.



March 16, 2023

So another monumental day today for the O3U3, we got all six flying wires installed on the left side of the airplane and removed the wing support goal post from under each wing. We have a bit of wing sag, not unexpected, as we have no way to measure wire pre- tension, lost about .5 of dihedral, we can add tension and bring her back to specification. We also made some good progress building the flying wire Javelin, more to do on this next week. Sorry I didn't get any pictures today -- we were closing up shop a bit hurriedly so we could get gone before the afternoon storms.

April 4, 2023

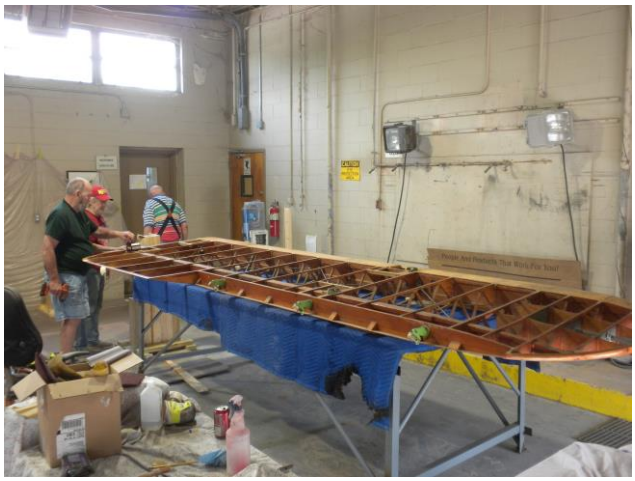
The O3U3 radial engine got some shiny new thing today -- ain’t she pretty !

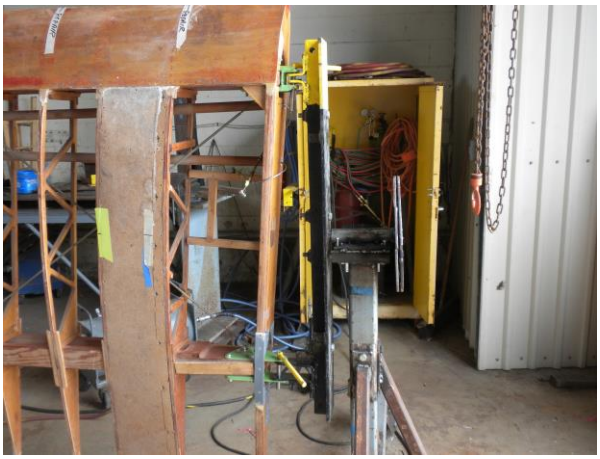
April 20, 2023

Lots of photos today. We finished up some wooden wing turnover fixtures, getting ready to begin fabric covering operations. We were practicing some paint application on our simulated wing section, finished up the aft cockpit windscreen and adjustment fittings, machined some main float tension wire attach fittings, continued work on the flying wire javelins, and finally modified some float fittings. Today was also our last day for training with the students from GPISD -- we had a great year, and we finished it off with a pizza party.

May 5, 2023

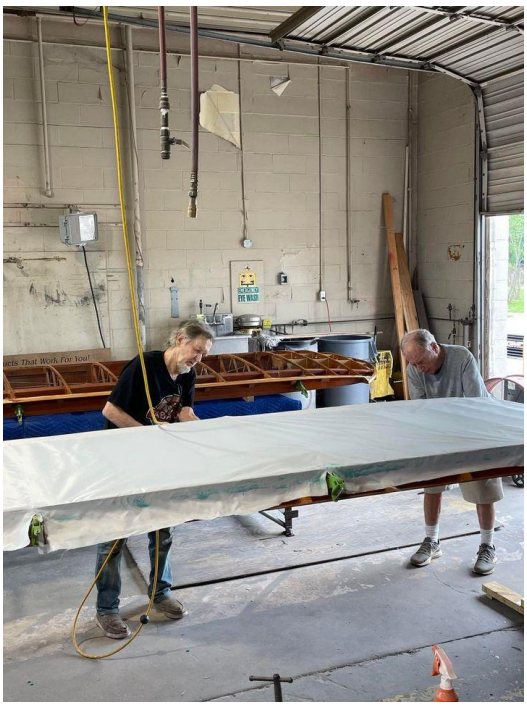
The airplane is coming apart this week -- both left side wings, flying wires, and struts removed, wings moved to cover and paint -- while we continue to build turn over fixtures.

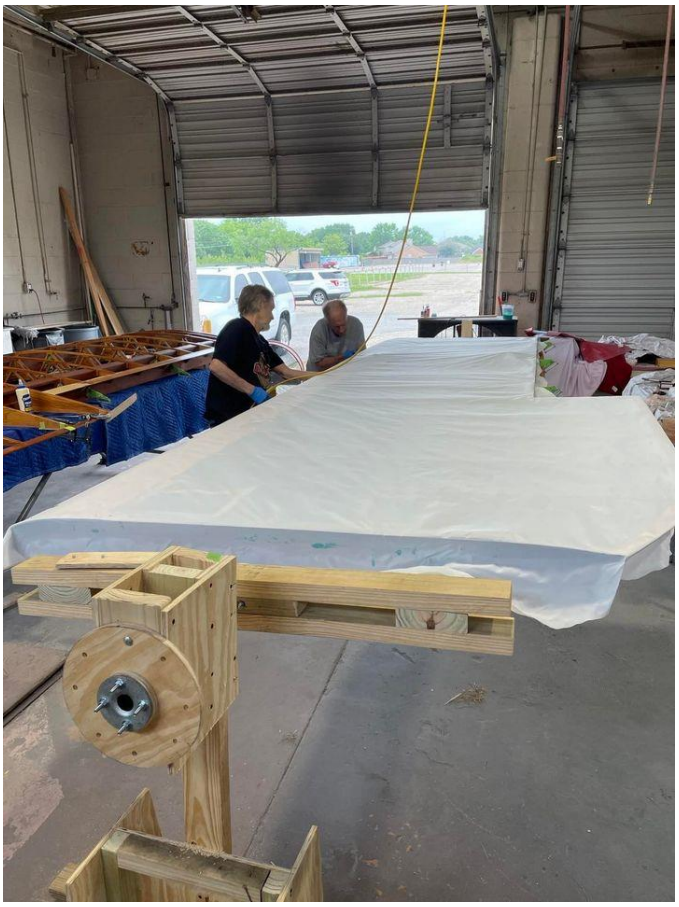




May 9, 2023

Wing covering has begun. Richard Sheaner and Stu Reichert got started this morning with the first wing; another wing is positioned on the table for final sanding. Check out our low buck wooden turn over holding fixture. The other two wings are off the airplane and waiting their turn.





May 18, 2023
Today, another wing headed over to the covering department, another being stored in the high bay, Wat and Oscar making sure she is secure. On the schedule for next week, we hope to set the fuselage fixture back on the ground and turn the airplane inside the hanger, this will allow us to start engine fitting and finish some heat shield fitment.

May 23, 2023

The airplane got turned 90 degrees in the hangar this morning, getting ready to hang the engine. This close to the door, it's trying to escape.

May 25, 2023

May 30, 2023

Engine work this morning -- finally mounted.

June 1, 2023

Engine heat shields being fitted.

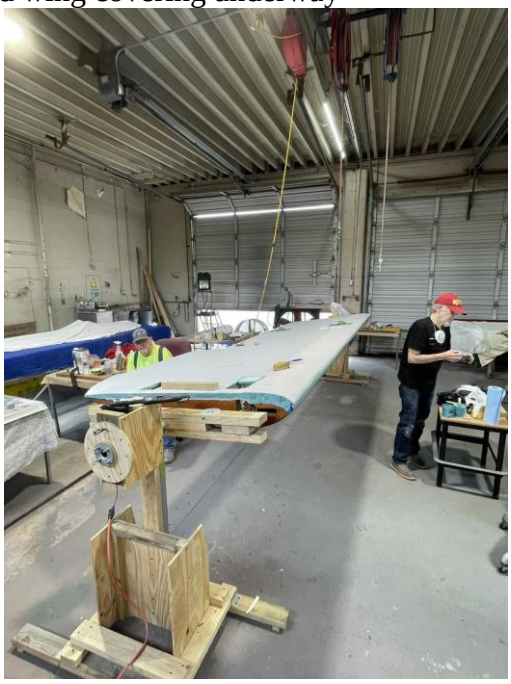
June 2, 2023

We celebrated birthdays yesterday, Happy Birthday to Dillon Smith, and Oscar Murphy, we were missing John Huffman and Jim Ross, we sang and enjoyed cake...yummy !

June Birthday – Dillon Smith

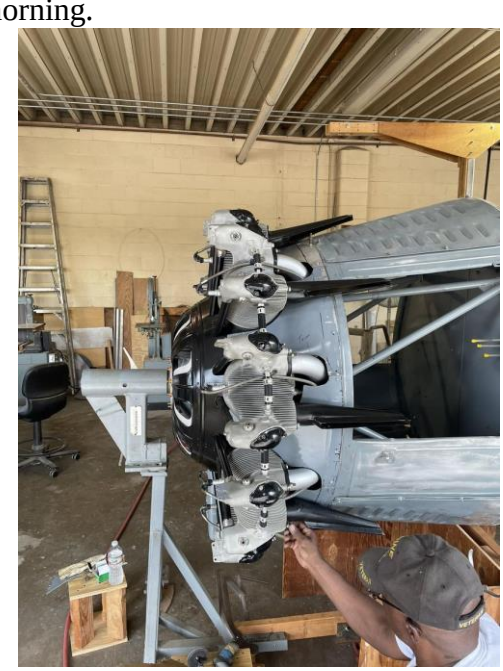
June Birthday – Oscar Murphy

June 8, 2023
Second wing covering underway --



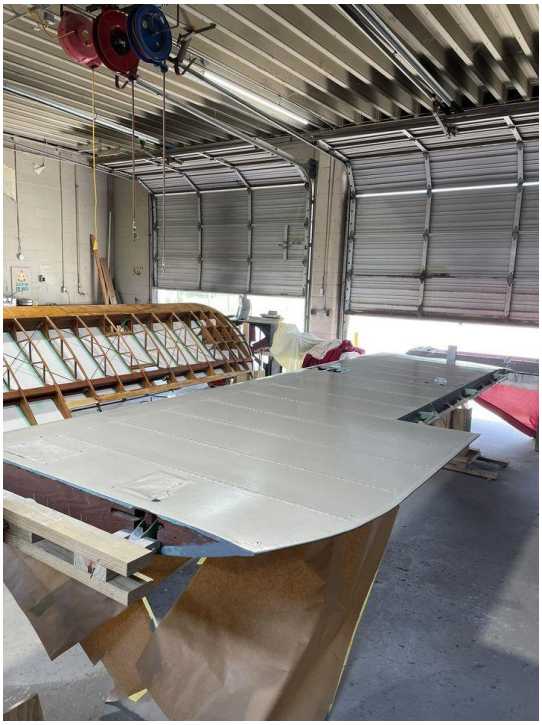
June 13, 2023
First coat of silver paint applied today, two more to go – she's gonna be a pretty girl !

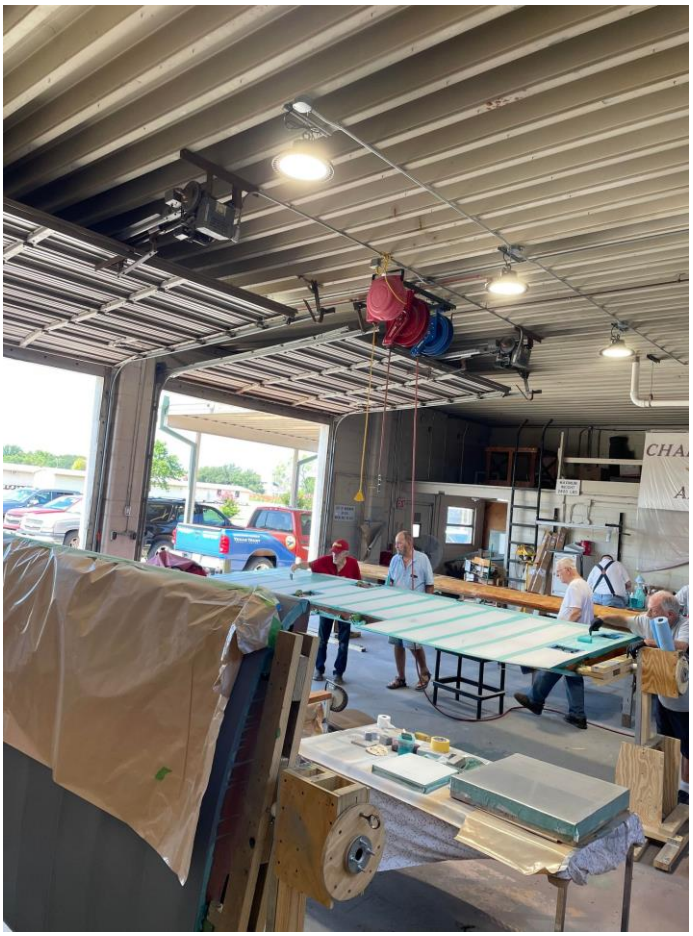
June 15, 2023
We got all of the exhaust manifolds on the engine this morning.



June 20, 2023
Removed the radial engine, back on the storage stand.

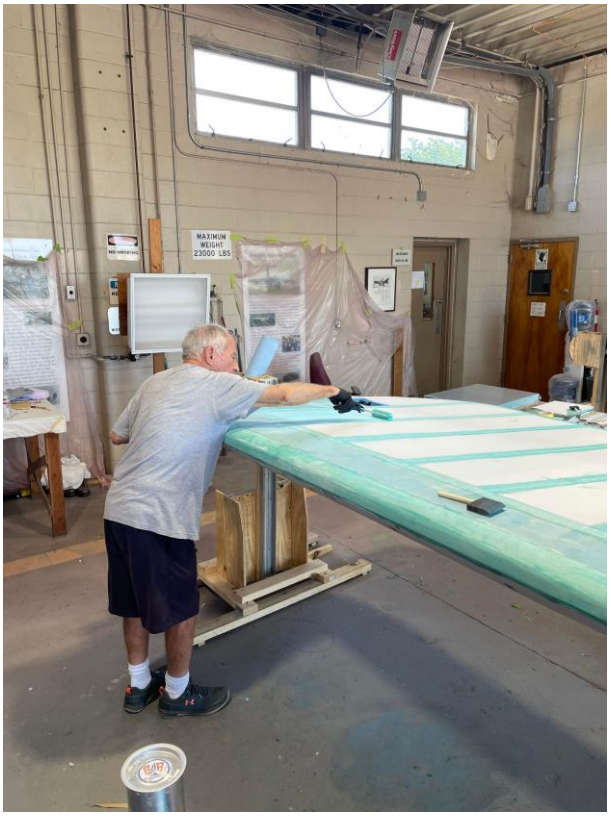
Second wing begins fabric covering, first wing silver topcoat finished; the other side will be yellow.





June 30, 2023

All hands were on deck yesterday. It was hot, but we got a lot done with the wing covering and painting. We moved some tables out and brought in a third set of wing holding/roll over fixtures and brought another wing out of storage. Pretty much everyone was involved getting three wings set up in the small space. Good job by all.



July 6, 2023
Getting the main float set up on the display stand – the first use of our overhead trolley and hoist arrangement.

July 11, 2023
The O3U3 airplane gets rolled into the high bay assembly area.

July 13, 2023

Look closely, this is the first, last, and only time this airplane will be flying. We got the float and all 4 struts installed today -- it was a struggle with one strut, and we may have to re-engineer a new fitting.

We spent most of the day leveling the airplane and float again. We are working in a less than desirable location, the floor slops from the four corners to a central drain, when the doors are open the nose of the float has about 1 inch of clearance and the wind blowing makes for a tough time using our levels and plumb bob. We ended up using 4 overhead hoist on the plane and three hydraulic jacks under the float platform. A laser provided us a stable reference while we adjusted the float independent of the plane, then the plane independent of the float. Once we had both adjusted, we connected the struts to both, three out of four without issue. One strut fitting on the float will have to be remade, we believe the issue is the float fitting being mislocated. All in all we ended up 1/16 difference after all the adjustments, not too bad for a wooden airplane, I think Chance Vought would be happy. Next up we need to rebuild the float fitting, and then start on the 8 float wires.

July 20, 2023
When you're building flying wires, you can never have too many nuvise clamps.

July 25, 2023
We got 4 of the 8 float wires assembled and installed on the airplane today.

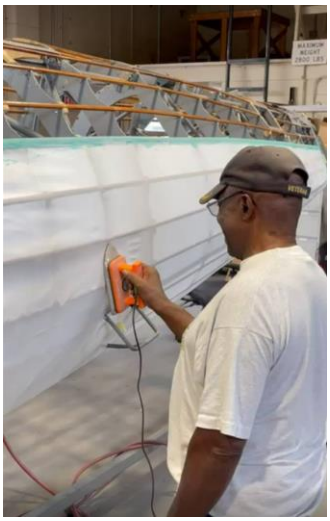
July 27, 2023
Last 4 float wires were completed this morning, all the overhead hoist relaxed, airplane is supporting its own weight –

August 8, 2023
O3U3 being moved out of the hangar --

September 12, 2023
O3U3 airplane update -- all four wings are now covered; only have the center section left to cover. The fuselage has moved into the fabric covering area, top wings and center section were pinned together to finish some fairing work.
Painting is next big task.

CHANCE VOUGHT
AIRCRAFT

September 14, 2023
O3U3 fuselage covering is underway – Wat Watkins at work –



September 19, 2023
We had cake and celebrated July, August, and September birthdays today.
Happy Birthday to Jerry Fischer and Bruce White (missing were Charles Foreman and Roger Stites), Cathie Barrington, Rusty Branum and Howard Webb, and Dick Guthrie, Stu Reichert, Joyce Ross, Richard Sheaner, and Don Wooldridge.

July birthdays -- Bruce White and Jerry Fischer (missing were Charles Foreman and Roger Stites)

August birthdays -- Rusty Branum, Cathie Barrington, and Howard Webb

September birthdays -- Joyce Ross, Richard Sheaner, Don Wooldridge, Dick Guthrie, and Stu Reichert

Fabric ironing by Mickey Branum and Paula Hastings –

FRED & CAROL'S TRAVELTIME

Presents

BRANSON CHRISTMAS SHOWS TOUR

DECEMBER 5 – 8, 2023

$899 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Final Payment October 21, 2023. All Payments by Personal Check Only

$50 Early Booking Bonus when $200 per person Deposit is received at our agency from June 1 – to Friday Aug 11, 2020 – a 75 day window of opportunity.

No Luggage Handling – smaller type suitcase recommended.

$200 Deposit is fully refundable up to 45 days prior to travel date or Oct. 21, 2023 No refunds after this date except by covered insurance claim. Final Payment Oct. 21, 2023. Optional Group Travel Protection is available, $57per person. If desired, send separate insurance check with your deposit check. Make checks payable to: Fred & Carol's Traveltime. Round trip Charter Bus from First Methodist Church Midlothian, TX, 800 S.9th St. 7:00 a.m. departure; FREE PARKING; 3nights lodging Branson Towers double occupancy, 6 shows, 3 breakfasts, 2 buffet lunches, 1 dinner show, 1 pizza buffet dinner, pretty much all-inclusive. Guaranteed departure with 30 adults; maximum 46. Driver Gratuity included.

Send you Checks today to: Fred & Carol's Traveltime, 811 Sherwood Ct., Midlothian, TX 76065 / 972 723-2814 / carol.smi@att.net / frederickmsmith77@gmail.com / www.traveltimetx.travel

Events Calendar 2023

Vought Retiree Club

APRIL

JUNE

14 – 2023 Annual Meeting / BBQ
Ruthe Jackson Center
3113 South Carrier Pkwy.
Grand Prairie, TX
(Wednesday)

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

5-8 – Branson Christmas Shows Tour

All Dates subject to change, Events without date are TO BE DETERMINED
*Information about specific times and costs will follow in flyers in future Newsletters

December 15, 2022 -- Vought Heritage Foundation Restoration Volunteers

Vought Retiree Club
5840 W I-20, Suite #280
Arlington, TX 76017-1098

First Class
US Postage Paid
Arlington, TX
Permit No. 295

Officers:

President – Larry Skinner
1st Vice President – Karen Sauls
2nd Vice President – Gaye Kortegast
Treasurer – Madie Vernon
Secretary – Vynita Hutson
Sergeant-at-Arms – Wat Watkins

Directors:

Activities – Pat Patterson
Annual Meeting – Karen Sauls
Support Assistant – Sue Nutt
Mailing – Bob Snegon
Newsletter and Publicity – Bob Bardo
Newsletter Editor Emeritus – Connie Singleton
Veterans' Advocate – Gene Cates
Volunteer Programs – Johnnie Johnson
Technical Support and Website* – Roger Stites
V.P. - Membership Assistant – Ann Christmas
President, Vought Heritage Foundation – Cathie Barrington

Call the Club at (817) 478-1885

Email: retireeclub@vought.org
membershiprc@vought.org

***Vought Heritage Website:** www.vought.org

For questions on retiree benefits:
Triumph/Vought Retirees, call the "Benefits Center" toll free 844-368-1917
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control Retirees call 866-562-2363, M-F, 8 am-8 pm ET

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