

# The Hangar Town News

The official newsletter of Valiant Effort LLC and the restoration of Vultee BT-13A 41-21218

**April 2024**



## **Spring Time updates on our Annie**

**Greetings All!**

**It's been a long winter, and we're all looking forward to some sunshine and warmer weather. Things down at Hangar Town slowed a bit, but we're now getting back into the swing of things to get Annie ready for her 1st engine run and hopefully we'll have her ready for flight by early summer. Sure getting closer!!! Here's this month's update, and some other fun stuff.**

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There's been a lot of work being done on all the small stuff like installing the carb heater controls, prop governor, fuel lines etc on the accessory section of the engine. The intercom is being updated, along with the jacks for the headsets in the rear cockpit, and installing some of the original equipment to give visitors a good view of what she looked like during WW II. The landing gear, brakes and all assorted components have been replaced or overhauled, along with inspections of the fuel tanks and lines. All of this is in preparation for inspection by our IA, which happened this last weekend.





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This last weekend was a huge milestone in the return to flight for Annie. I want to give a big shout out to our IA and mentor, Mike Flagella of Mike's Aero Classics for coming out to Hangar Town and doing a 5 hour inspection on all the work done so far. He's regarded as one of the top notch mechanics here at LVK, and we're honored to have him help us get our BT back where she belongs....in the air! We have some things that need to be changed, but overall, we got a "thumbs up" from Mike to proceed to getting the engine running and ready for taxi tests, so the next couple of months will be busy. With a little luck, there just might be the rumble of a Pratt & Whitney rattling the hangars around here really soon!



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OK, now that the update is done....how 'bout some fun stuff!

Ya know, when you buy a rebuilt engine (Covington, the BEST), ya gotta send back a core. I called them, and the wonderful people that they are, set up the shipping and all the details, and since I live in Northern California, decided to ship it from Chico Ca. Now, we have to get it back in the crate, loaded into a trailer (without a forklift), tie it down and drive it up north. With the help of Bob Goodwyn and our loyal hangar buddy, Charlie Bellenie, we got it up in the trailer with pry bars & ramps.....”Get ‘er done!!!”. That was on the top of my “Fun-O-Meter” for the day!



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Alright, here's a bit of fun from us @ Valiant Effort...I call it, "How Low Can You Go".

Enjoy, and remember, **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ANNIE**...!!









Here's a photo of Annie taken by Tom Tessier at the March AFB Open House back in November of 1991. This was before the markings for Merced Army Airfield were applied...she looks naked!

**I want to give a special “THANK YOU” to our hangar neighbors @ Livermore Airport (LVK), and to the supporters that have been at our side for all this time. We’re a small, but devoted group that wants to bring back to life a piece of American history for future generations to admire, and remember the sacrifices those men and women made to our country.**





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## Who we are.....

**Here are the members of the Valiant Effort Foundation that are restoring “Annie” to flight status, hopefully in 2024. We are based at Livermore Airport (LVK) in the San Francisco Bay Area, and we want to thank all that have supported us in this immense project!**

**Administration: Martin Michaud, Taurus Fey, Keith Zimbauer, Alex Esuerra**

**Flight Team: Martin Michaud, Taurus Fey, Bob Goodwyn, Alex Esguerra, Edgar Xiong**

**Ground Crew: Greg Ely, Charlie Bellinie, Taurus Fey, Keith Zimbauer, Bob Goodwyn**

**Support Team: Jerod Flohr - pilot, Tom Nightingale - pilot, Tim Neuharth - pilot, Nick Veronico - writer & book author, Jeff Whitney - mechanic, Mike Flagella - AP,IA, and all of our hangar neighbors @ LVK**

### **Special thanks to our other supporters**

**Fagen Fighter Restorations**

**Association of Professional Warbird Operators**

**Covington Aircraft Engines**

**Vintage Aviation News**

**Johnson Propellers**

**Mikes Aero Classics**

**Oakland Aviation Museum**

**You can also find us @ Valiant Effort on Google or Facebook, and contact us at:**

**shinyplanes @mail.com, [elyavhs@gmail.com](mailto:elyavhs@gmail.com) or**

**Our new website, “valianteffortllc.com”**

**We are also proud to announce that the Valiant Effort Foundation is now a 503c3 non-profit organization designed to educate everyone on**

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**the sacrifices made by both men and women that went into harm's way during WW II. The Greatest Generation!**



**Support your local Annie!!**