



# AVENGERS ON THE MOVE

THERE IS A LOT OF ACTIVITY GOING ON IN THE GRUMMAN TBM AVENGER COMMUNITY

The Avenger recently acquired by Tim Savage. The Atlantic Sea Search camouflage really makes the aircraft stand out. (M. O'Leary)



“I know you are going to say that an Avenger seems a bit out of place among the Sanders Aeronautics fleet of Hawker Sea Furies,” states Dennis Sanders. “However, the Avenger represents one of the best buys in today’s Warbird market. It is historic, it’s big, it has folding wings, and, in the COD version, it can carry a lot of people and parts.” Sanders Aeronautics has recently acquired the

Grumman COD Avenger that had been part of the Lone Star collection in Galveston, Texas. With the impending move to Ellington Field, near Houston, Lone Star decided to dispose of a few of the assets and the Avenger was among them. The aircraft had been at Lone Star when the disastrous tidal surge from Hurricane *Ike* ripped into the field, heavily damaging some of the museum’s aircraft. “Fortunately, the

Avenger sits so high that damage was minimal,” said Dennis. “The Avenger will be a great aircraft to take to airshows, plus it can be sort of a ‘flying pick-up truck’ when we take the racers to Reno. It is economical, practical, and the parts availability for both engine and airframe is tremendous.”

From from California to Indiana,

pod. We found photos of -3Ds with the turret removed like mine in the Atlantic Sea Search camouflage going off CVEs in the Atlantic. There is actually a video of one going over the side of the USS *Guadalcanal* configured just like mine. Mine isn’t really a COD [Carrier Onboard Delivery], it is a -3E with a -3S fuselage because when Corky Meyer was restoring the aircraft, his fuselage burned up so he sought out another fuselage and it was a Canadian -3S that was sitting in Connecticut. I am hoping to find the plans for the wing mounted radar pod like the -3D so we can duplicate it [EDITOR’S NOTE:

If any reader can help Tim with an actual pod, please contact the Editor at [moleary@challengeweb.com](mailto:moleary@challengeweb.com)].”

As we mentioned in the last issue, the Evergreen Aviation Museum was forced to sell a number of assets. One was Grumman TBM-3E BuNo 91726/N5260V. The plane was in flyable shape but the new owner is putting considerable work into the aircraft. As with most Avengers, after being sold surplus, the aircraft was converted to a fire-bomber and operated with Aero Union and a few other operators. It will be great to see this Avenger back on the airshow circuit.

During March, the Erickson Aviation Museum in Madras, Oregon, took delivery of its new Avenger restoration. The aircraft was done by Pacific Fighters in Idaho and is a magnificent example of the restorer’s art. It is planned that the Avenger will be a regular flyer. AC



Tim plans to reconfigure his Avenger as a TBM-3D. (M. O'Leary)



Back in the day, the US Navy really liked the aircraft they classified in the “Utility” role to stand out. This is the Lone Star Avenger that has been acquired by Sanders Aeronautics. (M. O'Leary)

Tim Savage has announced that he has purchased an Avenger to add to his growing fleet. “I got my Avenger rating about a dozen years ago so I am looking forward to doing a lot of flying with the plane and my son Job. I am going to finish N4171A (BuNo 91521) as a TBM-3D, which had the earlier radar dome slipped over the leading edge versus the later APS-4 equipped aircraft with the underwing



Restoration work underway on TBM-3E BuNo 91726/N5260V.

The Erickson Aircraft Collection in Madras, Oregon, is now one aircraft richer with the arrival of the Avenger restored by Pacific Fighters.

