

UPDATE # 102 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"
B-17 Restoration
July 29, 2011

The last two weeks have continued the hectic schedule the project has been dealing with during this summer of 2011. The big news last week was the trip that Jeff Hoopes and our Road Warrior, Bill Burkel, took to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to pick up a ball turret shell from our good friends at the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). As a bonus they also returned with a top turret bubble.



Bill Burkel and Jeff Hoopes with our new ball turret shell.

When the Wednesday (Day) crew arrived at the Museum this week they didn't waste any time. They began, immediately, playing with their new toy. The turret shell was temporarily attached to the "City" and plans are underway to equip the shell with armament and other internal equipment.



L to R: Warren Oglesby, Danny Harden, Gil Patrick, Jeff Hoopes with their new toy.

While the new turret shell was the big story during the day, there was more excitement as the activity turned over to the Wednesday (Night) crew and the arrival of a delegation from the Gulfstream Corporation. This story started several weeks ago when Dale Colter, the Director of Gulfstream's Lab Test facilities, read a newspaper article about the arrival of our tail turret. Dale visited the Museum to see the turret and began to consider that his operation at Gulfstream might be able to assist with the "*City of Savannah*" restoration. Dale spoke to senior Gulfstream management and got their approval to proceed. He then contacted our Museum CEO, Henry Skipper. Henry and our Project Manager, Jerry McLaughlin, were invited to tour the test and model facilities at Gulfstream. Discussions between Henry, Jerry and the Gulfstream engineers resulted in a team of Gulfstream aircraft professionals arriving at the Museum to have a firsthand look at what restoration work is currently underway. Based upon the enthusiasm the meeting developed for both the Gulfstream team and the "*City of Savannah*" volunteers you will be hearing a great deal about what Dale's engineers and craftsmen will be doing to assist us.

A smaller, but very important, accomplishment over the last two weeks was the renovation of our parts storage area. Gil Patrick did more design and carpentry work to make the storage shelves more appropriate to our needs. Bill Burkel, with help from his fellow traveler, Jeff Hoopes, did the reorganization.

One final note – it looks like we will be able to report on another major addition to our parts inventory in next week's update.

Stand by, there is much more to come . . .