

UPDATE # 111 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"

B-17 Restoration

December 1, 2011

Those of you who have been reading these updates over the past three years have probably noticed that they are not going out as regularly as they have in the past. The reason for less updates is not because we have slowed down in our work – but because the work being conducted as we transitioned from *preparation* to *restoration* last January is much more technical and not easily presented as photographic or even narrative descriptions.



During Garcia Week IV, following the Co-Op meeting last month, Tommy Garcia sat down with the management team and worked on a twelve month plan for calendar year 2012. The plan was then transferred by Richard Moscatiello from rough notes to project management software. It is currently being reviewed by the crew chiefs for comment. Implementation of the plan will begin next month as the Gulfstream metal team begins to completely re-fabricate the nose of the aircraft to its original configuration in order to mount the nose turret. If all goes as planned it can be expected that twelve months from now the nose and tail turrets will be completely mounted and the upper and lower cockpits will be at an exhibit ready level. The airplane should have all of its lights, interior and exterior, functioning, and a fully functioning electrical system will be available to operate the lights, flaps, bomb bay doors, nose turret and the radio room.



The radio room – thanks to the fantastic people from the Coastal Area Radio Society, a/k/a, our radio team – is already the pride and joy of the project. The CARS team has been successfully broadcasting from inside of the airplane to stations around the world on multiple occasions during 2011. We see no reason that they will not be doing even more broadcasting during 2012.

Finally, we plan to have the waist area complete with all the equipment that was to be found in those gunner positions mounted in the *City of Savannah* in the next twelve months. In order to accomplish these goals there is much going on behind the scenes as well as on the aircraft. Several significant purchases and trades are in negotiation through the museum front office. Also, and Jim Grismer and his merry band of scroungers are prepared to make another trip down to Jay Wisler's war bird parts factory in Tampa, Florida. Garcia Week V is scheduled for next April – and based on Weeks I-IV that should be very interesting.

There is much more to come . . .