

Update #17 – “City of Savannah”

B-17 Restoration
June 19, 2009

The main event this week at the Mighty Eighth was the visit by Tom Reilly to discuss the present condition of our airplane and his ideas for the future – and our Strategic Plan.

Tom spent two hours with CEO Henry Skipper, Project Coordinator, Jerry McLaughlin, and the Wednesday evening crew, in between four hours of driving from Douglas to Savannah and back home again. We very much appreciate his efforts on our behalf. Special thanks are also in order for Acting Supervisor Ben Ridgill and all of the evening crew, who gave Tom a warm welcome and then listened to the unbelievable amount of knowledge that he was able to impart regarding all of the questions that were thrown at him. In retrospect, the only mistake that was made during Tom’s visit was that we did not video tape all of his comments.

Tom also brought us some special molds that will be used by LMI Corporation to form a gun blister for the nose of the “City” and the fairing for the navigator’s dome.

Next Wednesday, as mentioned previously, is going to be a major occasion here at the museum. Keith Ferris, the famous aviation artist, and member of the Mighty Eighth Board of Directors, has organized this event for the American Society of Aviation Artists, which is being sponsored by Gulfstream Corporation, the Pooler Chamber of Commerce, the Savannah College of Art and Design and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. The event will feature another well known member of the artist community, Gil Cohen, who will conduct two classes for more than 50 aspiring artists. The artists in training will be sketching the “City of Savannah” and the Wednesday volunteers as they work on the aircraft. Any of you from those two crews who would like to think about a future modeling career should be sure to make it to the museum this Wednesday.

More to follow...

