

Update #25 – “City of Savannah”

B-17 Restoration
August 21, 2009

We had a very busy Saturday at the Museum last week with the visit of Gary Norville, President of American Aero Services from New Smyrna Beach, Florida.



Left to right: Jack Nilsen, Bill Burkel, Gary Norville, Mort Glick, Bill Liening, and JEB Harper

Gary met with several of the senior volunteer staff and discussed the restoration project in general and the subject of corrosion specifically.

After the meeting the group went through the “City”. Gary had suggestions for work in each compartment and inspected the outside of the airplane to include walking the top of the left wing, where the Saturday crew was working with buffers.

Special attention was taken with some internal and external damage that was done to the fuselage beneath the cockpit during the “City’s” move from Virginia to Savannah. Gary and Crew Chief Bill Liening agreed on the method of repair, which will begin in several weeks.

Gary also suggested that the bomb-bay doors be removed from the aircraft for special cleaning because of residue that had accumulated from the “City’s” time as a fire bomber during the 1970’s.

Everyone at the Museum is grateful for Gary’s interest in our restoration project and hope that we will see more of him in the future.

Henry Skipper, Museum President and Jerry McLaughlin, B-17 Restoration Project Coordinator are traveling this week to Cincinnati, Ohio to attend the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion and update them on the progress and future of our project.

While there, they will travel to the National Museum of the USAF at Wright-Patterson AFB to visit their several B-17 restoration projects, including the “Memphis Belle”. They will also meet with Gen Charles Metcalf and the museum’s Restoration Manager Roger Deere.

More to follow...



Saturday Crew Members: Alberto Rodriguez and Jeremy Wicker