

Update #27 – “City of Savannah”

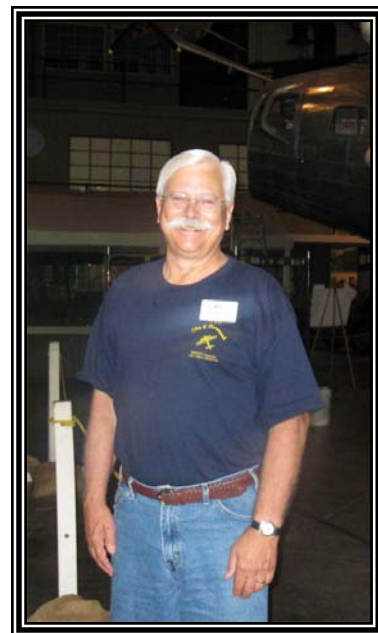
B-17 Restoration
September 11, 2009

We're very sorry about missing the update last week. If anyone has any doubts that Sheila Saxon is the engine that drives our project that question was answered when Sheila was out sick last week and we missed sending out our update for the first time in 26 weeks. She's back - still under the weather, but we're glad to see her, and as you can see with this update, she's on the job.

The big news this week was the arrival in Savannah of our historian, Doug Reed. Doug lives in Maryland, with his wife Mary Jo and they were recruited to research the history of both the current and WWII versions of the “City of Savannah” when they visited the museum last summer. They have done an amazing job of researching the history of both airplanes, as well as the crew of the original “City”. Doug is currently finishing up an article on the two planes which he has appropriately entitled “A Tale of Two Cities – of Savannah”.

During the past several days there was a great deal of planning going on at the museum for future events involving the project. At the end of this month we will have the honor of a visit from three members of the national B-17 Co-Op. The Co-Op is an informal organization of individuals from throughout the country who are

associated with restoring and/or flying B-17's. The next big event will be in November when our entire restoration crew has been invited by Gary Norville to visit his America Aero Services facility in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, where Gary will be conducting the annual maintenance on the famous flying B-17 “909”. November will also see a visit by General Charles Metcalf of the National Museum of the United States Air Force, in Dayton, Ohio, and his Chief of Restoration, Roger Deere. Finally, after a meeting this week with Don Brooks, owner of another flying B-17, the “Liberty Bell”, we will be organizing a maximum effort to support Don's maintenance crew who will be coming to Savannah in early December to move the “City” to its final location on the gallery floor and place the main landing gear on steel stanchions. We certainly have arrived on the B-17 social circuit.



Doug Reed, B-17 Volunteer Historian



No, she is not on fire; they are steam cleaning the cockpit!

This week's work on the airplane involved steam cleaning of the cockpit areas by the Wednesday Crews, more work by the Friday Crew on the corrosion inspection, and work on the wings by the Saturday (polishing) Crew – which, by the way, is recruiting for more help. If you would like to join them on Saturdays please contact Sheila at 748-8888x107.

More to come...