

Update #34 – “City of Savannah”

B-17 Restoration
October 30, 2009

Sorry for the delay with this Update, but we had some computer problems at the museum which stopped things for a while.

The big news last week was the return of our Friday Crew Chief, Ron Gunnels, from his trip to California, where he represented the Museum and our project at a consortium of B-17 owner’s and restorers. This event, which is attended by those folks around the country who are engaged in restoring and/or flying B-17’s, is the highlight of the year for the B-17 community. We need to thank two people for making Ron’s participation possible; Dr. Harry Friedman, for extending the invitation and Museum CEO Henry Skipper, who was able to find funding that put Ron on the airplane to California.

Ron was able to meet and talk to most of the participants at the meeting and introduced our project to the group by providing an update on where we are after eight months of work (still cleaning!!) and where we hope to be in the near future after our upcoming December events with Don Brook’s “*Liberty Bell*” organization and our visit to Gary Norville’s American Aero Services facility including the Collings Foundation’s B-17 “909”.

At last week’s supervisors meeting several important announcements were made; first of all, we are instituting an HONORED VISITORS exhibit in front of the “*City of Savannah*”. The concept for this exhibit resulted from museum staffer Brenda Elmgren striking up a conversation with museum visitor, and ex-B-17 crewman, Bill Wagner. Bill served during WWII with the 457th Bomb. Brenda took Bill’s picture looking out of the waist window of the “*City*”, the crew position he worked from during his combat tour. Bill’s picture, along with bio information from his military career and what he is doing today will be posted under the nose of our B-17 in the very near future. The policy from this time forward is that when other B-17 veterans make themselves known to the volunteer staff working on the aircraft the museum front office should be notified immediately and arrangements will be made to photograph the veteran and place their picture and bio information in the HONORED VISITORS exhibit. The second announcement at the meeting was that the museum is embarking on a long-term Volunteer Appreciation program to reward our volunteers for the many hours that are going into the project every week.



More to come...