

# Update #37 – “City of Savannah”

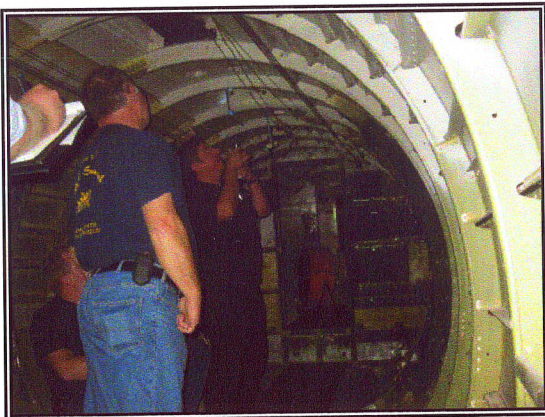
B-17 Restoration  
November 20, 2009

As a way of saying thank you to our Volunteers we had a pot-luck dinner on Wednesday night. Everyone brought a covered dish which filled three tables with delicious food. Dining tables were set out under the wing of the B-17 which made for a great ambiance and a great time was enjoyed by all. Children and adults alike enjoyed donning a pilot's dress cap and having their pictures taken. Those who were able to attend got to meet the volunteers from other days and shifts from their own and the spouses got to meet each other. This gave them the opportunity to see just what their other half has been doing at the Museum.



Work is progressing with the crews stripping paint, grinding, and polishing. The outer band of the left wing has been tented and they have enlisted the use of a large industrial fan, donated by volunteer Dave Talleur, to exhaust the dust and debris from these efforts. This temporary exhaust system will help to keep the dust off of other exhibits in the Combat Gallery. Work still continues on the leading edge and the #4 cowling. The skin panel on the right side of the nose has been removed and the teams have started drilling rivets for the next panel to be removed.

We have a special visitor this weekend, Tommy Garcia, from a national B-17 organization, comprised of folks who restore, fly and maintain B-17's. Tommy arrived in Savannah late Thursday night and was at the Museum ready to go to work first thing Friday morning. He was greeted by Jim Grismer, Ron Gunnells, and J.E.B. Harper. They began their tour on the second floor where Tommy was introduced to Henry Skipper, President and CEO and Sheila Saxon.



volunteers were on hand with questions for Tommy. They crawled all under the plane and up in the Bombay area, then crawled through the interior of plane asking questions and listening to Tommy's suggestions. After lunch they reconvened in the Board Room to talk more with Tommy and pick his brain. Marshall Brooks joined the group after lunch and took them to visit the B-17 room and archives area. We'll use Tommy's expertise to help identify some of the artifacts that are B-17 related. While I was over there I happened to catch Tommy showing the guys how to assemble the Norden Bombsite and give an explanation of how it worked. What an interesting and complex piece of equipment to have been built in the 1940's!

The group met in the Hunter Board Room and reviewed information Tommy brought with him that will be very beneficial to the restoration project. They next proceeded down to the “City of Savannah” where several other



**The Volunteer crews will take next week off due to the Thanksgiving holiday, as many of you will be out of town.**

Please don't forget that Don Brooks and his crew will be here the following week on December 2 to relocate the plane. They can use all the help we can muster up for them, so if you are available anytime during that day, please come by and lend your assistance.

More to come...