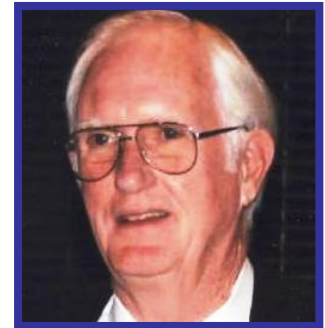


Update # 50 - "City of Savannah"

B-17 Restoration

April 19, 2010

Here are just a few of the exciting events and new opportunities that we have been working on this week. On Wednesday the Museum was honored by a visit from Lieutenant General E.G. "Buck" Shuler, USAF (Ret). As you may know, General Shuler was the Museum's first Chairman and CEO, as well as, Past Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The General escorted a group of retired Air National Guardsman from the Columbia South Carolina area, including two former high school classmates, for a day of programs at the Museum. In the morning the group toured the Museum offices, library and archives. After lunch in the Pub, General Shuler's group toured the Museum and participated in The Mission Experience. Working their way around to the "City of Savannah" B-17, General Shuler introduced the group to Project Assistant Manager J.E.B. Harper, who gave a short briefing on the current status of "The City's" restoration. J.E.B. explained the different phases of the restoration plan, what work has been completed and what new sub-projects will begin in the coming months.



Saturday, April 10th, Project Manager Jerry McLaughlin met with our newest restoration team volunteer: Brigadier General Jeffrey E. Phillips, U.S. Army, Deputy Commanding General-Rear, 3rd Infantry Division. General Phillips spent over two hours inspecting every detail of the bombers' restoration progress and is very enthusiastic about his continued involvement in the project. In addition to working with the regular Saturday Crew, the General has indicated that he would like to use his position in the Savannah area to help the project. We will be very fortunate to utilize his wealth of expertise in any capacity.

Guy McDonald, President of the Coastal Amateur Radio Society brings us news that the radio operators have brought the B-17's radio receiver back to life. This Wednesday, Guy-K4GTM (notice the HAM operators call-signs) and CARS member Carrol-WX4Y took the BC-348 Receiver outside the Museum to attach a 200 ft. antenna, and were successful in picking up Radio Havana and several other shortwave broadcasts. To read the full technical details of the radio restoration and testing see Guy McDonald's CARS Blog at

<http://k4gtm.blogspot.com/2010/04/april-14-2010-b-17-radio-work.html>



We are very excited to announce that the CARS Team is planning a special radio event at the Museum in conjunction with Armed Forces Day activities on Saturday May 15th. They plan to set up an amateur radio station near the B-17, to communicate with other amateur radio operators around the world, and bring awareness to the "City of Savannah" Restoration Project. We are planning to send postcards with the help of Museum Staffer, Brenda Elmgren, that the HAM's call "QSL cards", to anyone who makes radio contact with them during the event.



This is an age old tradition among HAM's to verify the radio contact. As a special treat, the radio club plans to have one of the radios from the B-17 that they have been working on up and running to give folks a chance to listen to what a 65 year old receiver sounds like. Stay tuned for more details regarding the times of operation on the 15th.

Museum Executive Assistant, Jane Harper, proudly announces that The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Inaugural Run, "The Flying Fortress 5K", will be on Saturday November 6th at 8:00 am. This event is to benefit the restoration of the Museum's B-17, the "*City of Savannah*". The 5K (3.1 mile) course will make its way through the campus of JCB, Inc., starting and finishing at the Museum. Registration details to follow. For more information or to inquire about becoming a sponsor, please contact Jane at admin2@mightyeighth.org or (912) 748-8888, ext. 107.

We would like to extend a hearty "job well done" to Dave Urbanski and the Saturday Crew for their outstanding work in preparation for Brigadier General Phillip's visit on Saturday. Jerry and the General were very impressed by Dave's knowledge of the ongoing Phase I cleaning operations. His hard work to get the temporary fuselage interior lighting up and running and make the restoration shop and aircraft ready for inspection was outstanding. Dave Urbanski's efforts serve as an example of the true spirit and "can-do" attitude that permeates the "*City of Savannah*" Team.

Also, a "Job well done" to all four Crews for the steadfast progress on restoring and polishing the underside of the wings and forward fuselage. With the grueling under-wing restoration coming to an end, you all have done a great job on the most physically taxing portion of the project. When listening to Museum guests comment on the look of the aircraft's aluminum skin, the word "mirror-like" is most often used to describe the fruits of your efforts. Just a few more shifts and it will be time to begin the corrosion treatment and painting inside the fuselage.

Over the past sixteen months the "*City of Savannah*" Restoration Team has worked tirelessly to complete "Phase I" of the project: the removal of preservative coatings and materials applied to the aircraft by the National Air And Space Museum in 1984, the arresting of any surface and/or invasive corrosion found on the aluminum skin and airframe, the removal of all crew stations, cockpit, etc. from the interior of the fuselage, and the preparation of the interior fuselage for a new coating of olive drab paint and metal preservative. As of this week we will begin the final polishing of the right wing which is the last stage in completion of the outer airframe/skin restoration. This has been a painstaking and demanding endeavor for all in the project but the results have been well worth the effort. When compared with the photos of the aircrafts' arrival in January 2009 one can hardly fathom that they are seeing the same B-17.

More to come...