

Update # 51 - "City of Savannah"

B-17 Restoration

April 26, 2010

Everyone get ready to set your recorders... We have been working very hard to promote the cause of our B-17 Restoration Project. This Saturday we are honored to have Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips start his first shift as our newest restoration volunteer. The General will be on hand to work with the Saturday crew in completing the final polishing and planning steps to move the aircraft to its final resting place in the Combat Gallery. Mighty Eighth Board Chairman and WTOC Vice President and General Manager Bill Cathcart will be here with a film crew to document the occasion. We are very fortunate to have two advocates of such stature to publicize the work that we are doing here on the "City of Savannah".

It's official.... The Coastal Amateur Radio Society's B-17 Team will be conducting its first public radio demonstration at the Museum in conjunction with the Armed Forces Day Celebration on Saturday the 15th of May. We have finalized plans to set up the B-17's 1945 BC-348 Radio Receiver under the left wing of the aircraft for guests to experience live broadcasts throughout the day. The HAM operators will have a 120 ft. antenna set up in the Memorial Garden to send and receive transmissions and will have headsets and speakers for guests to talk to other HAM stations we contact. Our "City of Savannah" B-17 now has the official HAM radio call-sign of "W2W". Stay tuned to Guy McDonald's CARS Blog for more info on the radio progress: <http://k4gtm.blogspot.com/>

As of today we are very proud to announce that the tail section, fuselage, upper and lower wings and engines are completely cleaned and polished to a brilliance that surely none would have thought possible sixteen months ago. We will do a final "touch-up" of the horizontal stabilizers this week and all crews will be moving inside the fuselage to commence the anti-corrosion work in preparation for paint application. It has been a very long and labor intensive road to get us to this point. I think anyone who sees the before and after pictures will find themselves astounded by the proficiency with which your "City of Savannah" Restoration Team has worked throughout the past year. We have even received high accolades from the likes of Dik Daso of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum who extolled that it would have taken their Museum ten years to achieve the same results we have completed in a little over one.

Congratulations to all involved with the project for your perseverance and support

More to Come...



January, 2009



April, 2010