

Update # 52 - "City of Savannah"

B-17 Restoration

May 6, 2010

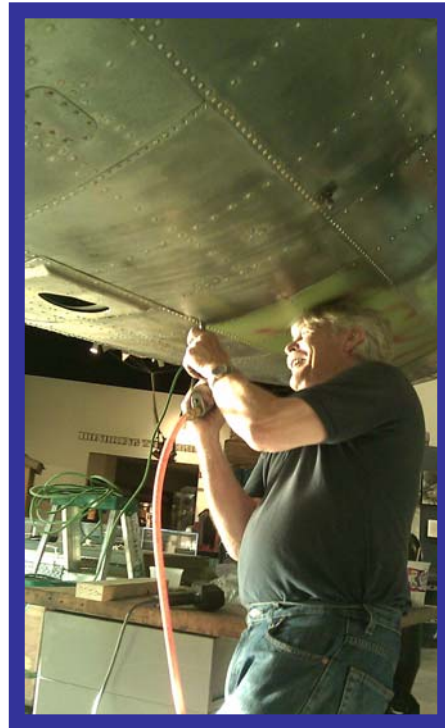
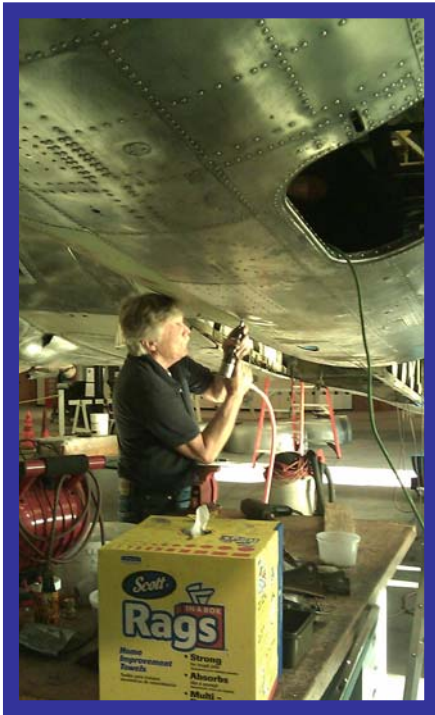
LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION... Our "City of Savannah" B-17 put her best dress on and smiled for the cameras this past Saturday during the media event to commemorate Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips' first shift as Saturday Crew volunteer and the completion of Project Phase I. The day went very well with work on the engine cowlings and nacelle covers being completed by volunteers from the Saturday Crew and Wednesday Crew members Danny Harden and Jeff Hoopes. WTOC News and Savannah Morning News reporters interviewed General Phillips about his involvement with the project as well as Project Manager Jerry McLaughlin and volunteers Alberto "Rocky" Rodriguez and Dave Urbanski. General Phillips will be spending every other Saturday working on the project and has stated that, "on Saturdays here I'm not The General, I'm just Jeff." Well Jeff has become a welcome member of the team and a good and productive time was had by all. We would also like to thank Bill Cathcart, Mighty Eighth Chairman of the Board, for coming out to spend some time with the crew, the General, and his WTOC colleagues.

STAY TUNED... Our next media event will be the Armed Forces Day Celebration and CARS B-17 Radio Team demonstration on Saturday, May 15th. The Saturday Crew, including General Phillips, will be working on the interior fuselage preparation for anti-corrosion treatment and painting. What a great day to experience working 1945 B-17 Radios and Warbird Restoration all in one place, only at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.

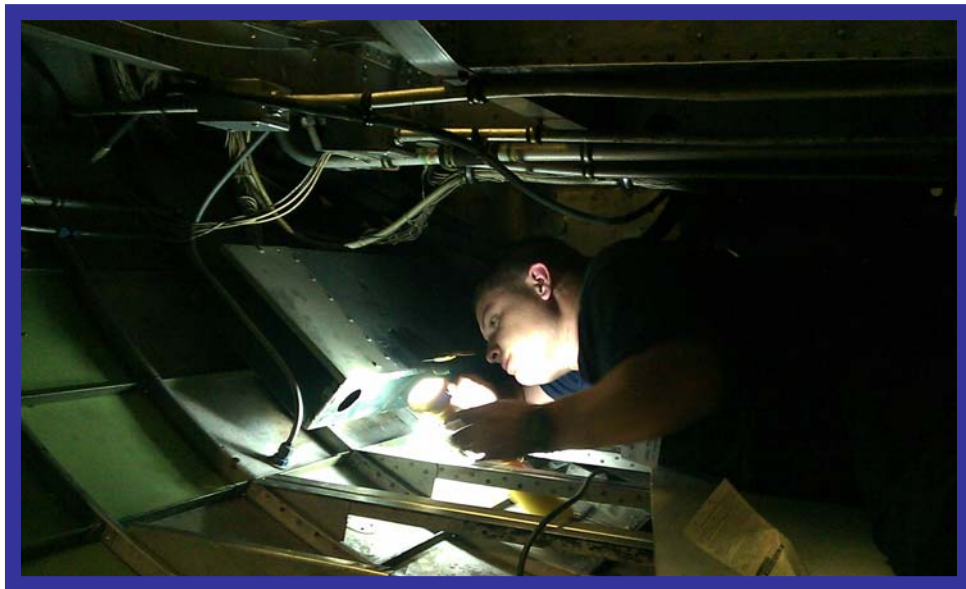
"NOW HEAR THIS...PHASE I IS COMPLETE...PROCEED TO PHASE II..." We have successfully completed Phase I of the project: removal of preservative coatings and materials applied to the aircraft by the National Air and Space Museum in 1984, as well as, 30 years of operational debris residue that had accumulated on/in the aircraft. We were tasked with the arresting of any surface corrosion found on the aluminum skin and airframe, and the removal of all crew stations, cockpit instrumentation, and bomb bay equipment. We have also meticulously cataloged all parts and equipment that have been removed from the aircraft as well as all B-17 artifacts found in the Mighty Eighth Museum archives. Now, firmly in Phase II, we have begun comparing our list of B-17G parts and equipment, which we already possess, with a B-17G Master Parts List which we received from, our good friend and long time B-17 restorer, Bruce Orriss. With the comparison of these lists we are making a shopping and wish list of all the equipment to be procured over the next two years. This is a major step in beginning to re-equip the aircraft with her operational equipment as would have been found on the original "City" when she left for England in 1944. All crews have now moved inside the fuselage to begin the anti-corrosion preparation of the interior for painting. Once the fuselage is painted this summer we will be ready to begin re-installing flooring, mounts and equipment for the 10 crew stations and cockpit. These are just a few of the exciting sub-projects that we will be tackling in Phase II of the "City of Savannah" B-17G Restoration Project. Stay tuned for more progress as the weeks go by, we're just getting our momentum going now.

Once again, we would like to thank LMI our biggest Corporate Sponsors. This time it was Dave Pinegar and his team at LMI that donated and rolled the metal that was used to replace damage during the trip from Virginia. A special thanks, also, to Jack Nilsen for his hard work in installing the new metal.

More to Come...



Jack Nilsen hard at work riveting the new skin panels under the nose



Volunteer John Finch checking new aluminum sheeting under the cockpit floor