

UPDATE # 82 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"

B-17 Restoration January 10, 2011

Things began humming on the "*City of Savannah*" project this week as the volunteers returned in force to start 2011.

Wednesday began with Richard Moscatiello, Bill Burkel and several of the Wednesday (Day) crew accessioning and photographing the B-17 equipment that was purchased when Jim Grismer, Bill and Richard traveled to Tampa before Christmas. The rest of the Wednesday (Day) crew installed the new flooring in both the upper and lower cockpit area. They also cut covering material to insure that the upcoming cockpit re-installation activity won't scratch the new floors. The Wednesday (Night Riders) continued their work in the radio room.

There was a big turnout for the Saturday crew this week. Richard took some of the crew to the LMI factory where David Pinegar had organized an LMI volunteer effort to work on the "*City's*" fabric control surfaces. The Saturday crew also got a new member when a second father/son team was welcomed to the project with the arrival of Joel Hedgepeth's son, Ben. (The other father/son team is the Patrick's, Gil and Justin.)



(L to R) Mort Glick, Ben and Joel Hedgepeth working on ammo boxes

Several projects are underway with the Saturday team: Rocky Rodriguez has begun wiring the aircraft so that the radios, lighting, bomb bay doors and turrets will have power when they are installed, and the Patrick's are building stairs for entering the aircraft through the waist door.



Saturday Crew Chief, Rocky Rodriguez

Everyone is looking forward to the second annual dinner honoring the “*City of Savannah*” volunteers. The big event will be held on Saturday, January 15th, the second anniversary of the day that airframe 44-83814 arrived at the Museum. We are honored that Tommy Garcia will be traveling from Houston to be with us that night. (He will be working with the volunteers from Wednesday to Saturday – another Garcia Week!) Tommy will be joined by another good friend of the project, Dr. Harry Friedman, the nationally acknowledged leader of the informal organization of all the flying and static B-17 restoration projects here in the United States. Paul Grassey will be the speaker at the dinner. Paul is a senior docent at the Museum and served in the Mighty Eighth in 1945 as a teenaged B-24 pilot.



Saturday Crew:

**Rear, (L-R) standing Mort Glick, kneeling, Richard Moscatiello, standing Ben/Joel Hedgpeth
Front row: Jeff Hoopes, (Crew Chief) Rocky Rodriguez, Bob Hearn, Gil Patrick**

This will be a very busy week for the project, so, as you can tell, there is

More to come . . .