

Update # 42 – “*City of Savannah*”

B-17 Restoration
February 1, 2010

Work continues inside and out on the “*City of Savannah*” as Jim Grismer puts together the January to June six month work plan that was drafted during the recent Crew Chiefs meeting. This plan will establish a list of accomplishments that the various crews hope to complete by the eighteen month anniversary of the project on June 15, 2010.

Wednesday (Day Shift) Crew Chief Bill Burkel reports that a paint stripper has finally been located that will remove the many coats of paint beneath the wings of the “*City*”. He and his crew worked on the left wing all day on Wednesday and were followed up by Bill Lienen and his evening crew, who cranked up the steam cleaner and spent their shift working in the bomb bay. The Friday crew also worked on the wings and JEB Harper’s Saturday team was able to complete steam cleaning the waist area in preparation for the final corrosion inspection. Hats off to all four crews for a full round of accomplishment this week!

Sunday found ten of our volunteers and several family members out at Savannah/Hilton Head Airport with the hopes of getting some on-board time with the famous flying B-17 the “*Liberty Belle*” that was in town for its annual visit - which includes providing fund raising rides to the public. Our group wasn’t able to get time inside the



“*Belle*” because Saturday’s rain had backed up the flight schedule, but they did get permission to come out on the ramp and have a picture taken around the tail of the aircraft as it was changing passengers. Both of the port side engines were turning over at idle speed while the group was getting together and several hats took off across the tarmac before the picture was finally taken.

It should be noted that JEB Harper became so excited listening to several of his colleagues discuss their rides as passengers during previous B-17 visits that he was unable to control himself and purchased a very expensive seat on an afternoon flight. JEB reports that he has extensive video and still pictures to share with the team. He also echoed what everyone who has taken one of the rides states, “It may sound expensive, but it’s worth twice the price!”





This week museum CEO Henry Skipper will be traveling to Douglas, Georgia, with members of the restoration team to visit with the “*Liberty Belle*” owner Don Brooks. The subject of the meeting is to discuss plans to bring Don’s team of experts to Savannah to move the “*City*” to its final position within the Combat Gallery and place it on supporting stanchions.

More to come.....