

Update # 43 – “*City of Savannah*”

B-17 Restoration
February 5, 2010

Work continues on the “*City of Savannah*” interior as the steam cleaning is being brought to completion and we prepare to begin treatment of those areas identified as having corrosion. The corrosion treatment is the last step before the interior painting will begin.

Thanks to a recent article about the “*City*” in the Savannah Morning News we have picked up several new volunteers. Jim Grismer is bringing the new folks on board as quickly as he can get them to fill out an application and get them an ID badge.

We sent out another road crew this week when museum CEO Henry Skipper, along with Jerry McLaughlin, and “the Bills” – Burkel and Leining, traveled to visit with Don Brooks at his restoration facility in Douglas, Georgia. Don has been very supportive of our project, and we hope to see him even more involved in the future. Don had volunteered to send some of his team to Savannah to move the “*City*” to its final location and lift it on to specially designed support brackets. We were able to let Don off the hook on that task as one of our “can do” volunteers, Jim Argo, was able to arrange for the proper equipment for the lifting of the aircraft to be made available by our good friends from Gulfstream Corporation.

Another volunteer – extraordinaire, David Pinegar, has stepped up to meet a project need. In order to help the individual crews stay organized, and keep their equipment together, David was able to obtain several work benches from a local corporation and have them donated to the project. Two of the tables will be placed under the aircraft, providing daytime storage for the crews, and two will be placed in the shop – one of which will be used by the Wednesday night crew for special tools required for their metal work. Ben Ridgill has donated a vice to be used with that bench. The second bench will be dedicated to our newest team, the radio room techies from the Coastal Amateur Radio Society (CARS). Additionally, the teams have assembled two large lockable wooden cases for the sheet metal crew and the radio crew to secure their specific tools and equipment.

Speaking of the techies, the Crew Chief on new radio team will be CARS president Guy McDonald. Guy is bringing the full CARS membership to the museum for their monthly meeting in March in order to familiarize their members with the “*City of Savannah*” project, and the aircraft itself.

It appears that the slow period we experienced around the first of year is far behind us, and that the project is once again on the fast track.

More to come.....