

UPDATE # 76 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"

B-17 Restoration
November 1, 2010

This week at the Mighty Eighth most of our attention has been focused on what is going to happen in the near future. Museum CEO Henry Skipper, Project Manager Jerry McLaughlin and Crew Chief Bill Liening will be in Ft. Worth Texas this weekend meeting with members of other B-17 projects to discuss common issues. The "City of Savannah" team will be meeting their contemporaries for the first time and hope to establish some relationships that can be mutually beneficial to all concerned.

On the work front, our Michelangelo, Tony Hall, finished the painting of the interior of the "City" by spending the day in the aircraft's bomb bay. Tony has done a wonderful job, with a different partner every week. We are also glad that Tony has decided to join our merry band as a full time volunteer so that he will be working with us even when there is no painting on the schedule. As the painting chores are being completed we have to take one more opportunity to thank our Special Projects Supervisor, Jim Argo, for all the work he did to put the painting project together with the support of senior Gulfstream Corporation management.



Milt Stompler as he begins his successful "hatch trick"



Milt, Paul and Danny smiling for their admirers

We are inviting ALL HANDS ON DECK for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum's inaugural Flying Fortress 5K Run/Walk to benefit the restoration of our "*City of Savannah*" on **Saturday, November 6th**. Every cent of the money that comes from this event will be used to buy parts for the restoration of the aircraft. Right now we are short of volunteers to support the run/walk. We will need help with traffic safety, directing the runners on the course, water stations and finish line activity. All volunteers are scheduled to report to the Start/Finish line at the Museum's front doors at 7:00am and you can plan on being finished by 10:30am. There is also an opportunity for packet pick-up on Friday, November 5th located at Fleet Feet Sports on Waters Avenue in Savannah. Please contact Jane Harper @ 748-8888 or jharper@mightyeighth.org. Your participation is appreciated.

There is also a humorous and amazing physical feat to report in this week's Update. Since the arrival of the "*City*", twenty-two months ago, there has been a running joke that none of our volunteers were young enough, or spry enough, to pull themselves into the nose hatch of the airplane as Gregory Peck was so famous for accomplishing in the movie Twelve O'Clock High, an act that was apparently a common occurrence for young, in-shape, WWII flight crew. All of this talk that our volunteers could not match this athletic feat was put to rest by volunteer Paul Abare, who informed his colleagues that there is, in fact, a "trick" to this famous act. Paul demonstrated the method to his astonished colleagues by quickly doing a "Gregory Peck" leap through the hatch. After another demonstration two of our more intrepid volunteers, Milt Stombler and Danny Harden, who, it is honest to say, are several years older than both Paul and Gregory Peck at the time the movie was produced, were able to fling themselves through the hatch using Paul's method. Another major historical moment as recorded in "*City of Savannah*" project history.

More to come . . .