

December 08, 2008

**D**espite the move turmoil, the Texas Raiders maintenance team has had an excellent month. The pictures from our move across Hobby airport a couple of weeks ago really tell the story. In short, we did it in style. Our newly repaired (and installed) plexiglass nose lead the way, four fully cowled R-1820s graced our wings, and the now semi-permanently installed under-wing panels hid a signed off and airworthy fuel system.

These accomplishments, along with many other less visible ones, are really starting to earn us some much deserved positive attention around the Houston area and the warbird community in general. The entire team should really be proud of our efforts.

Now that we have a good home in which to work, we are pressing ahead with our restoration plan. Our next major milestone will be to test run the first engine. This project requires that numerous systems--fuel, oil, electrical, instrumentation, intake, and exhaust--be brought up to a functional level. We have made a few significant strides in this direction already, but much work remains. Of course, the more volunteers we have, the more quickly we will get to push the start button, so I hope that I'll see you at the hangar soon. What a noisy, smoky, and fun day that will be.

Onward. ....David Carr, Texas Raiders Maintenance Officer