

January 06, 2009

This last month, the maintenance team has really surprised me. Despite the distractions of the holidays and being forced to work in virtual darkness on Tuesday nights, our progress has been stellar.

Much effort has been focused on bringing engine number four back to life in short order. The mighty (try to pick one up!) Bendix PD12-H2 pressure carburetor and intake plenum are installed. The test prop has been hung. The throttle, mixture, and propeller cables have been tensioned. Most of the engine hoses have been routed and connected. Even a brand new external oil tank and cooler have been constructed. At this point, we're getting pretty close...

Outside of number four, good things have also been happening. The last of the elevator control cables has been installed and now both yokes stand in the cockpit. The bomb bay actuators have been reinstalled in the bomb bay and we've even finally completed reconditioning the right wing flap actuators. Efforts to calibrate the cockpit instruments and prepare engine number three have also made good headway.

2009 is clearly the year for Texas Raiders to return to the air. Today we are in a good position to make that happen, but ultimately that will be a decision left to all of us. To achieve that goal we must work at a grueling pace. Each week that we leave a task uncompleted will delay our victory by one more week. We have until the end of July – 7 months. It will be rough, but it will be worth it.

Col David Carr, Maintenance Officer