

The glider hanger at ASI will be closed from May 16th thru June 2nd for painting of the roof. All gliders should be removed from the hangar prior to May 16th. Since we cannot ensure that there will be no “blow through” of the power wash, the Elasto-Patch nor the resin based paint (NOT easy to remove latex), or stuff dropped, neither ASI or the paint contractor will assume responsivity for damage done to anything left in the hangar.

Additionally, any other items you may have stored in the hangar that could be damaged by the elements listed above should be removed.

We appreciate your patience during this period. And we look forward to the result of a water tight, no sun shining thru to dapple the floor, roof!

ASI Glider Hanger Painting Q&A

Q. Why are we painting a galvanized metal building? Don't they last forever in this environment without paint?

A. Once a galvanized building is painted, the painted surface must continue to be maintained.

The hangar was already painted when we took possession and moved it to ASI.

And while a well maintained galvanized building in a rural environment can last for decades, the best protection is galvanization with a carefully applied and maintained painted surface. That combination can increase the life of the building by a factor of 1.5 to 2.3 times the sum of the lifetimes of either coating alone.

Q. Why not just let the paint peel and revert to the galvanized surface?

A. Galvanized metal is steel coated with zinc. With time, the zinc surface goes thru a series of “good” corrossions resulting in a surface layer of zinc carbonate. As the paint peels, those protective layers are pulled off unevenly as well as some (all?) of the underlying zinc, ultimately exposing bare steel.

Q. Why are we painting this year?

A. Planning for this started over 2 years ago. The recent winter rains significantly increased the peeling and degraded the paint protection, especially on the roof.

Q. Why not wait until post flying season?

A. All coating products have temperature constraints and minimum curing times. The elastomer resin coating we will use on the roof cannot be applied if the temperature is below 60

degrees F, nor when high temperatures make it unbearable for those working on the roof, nor when the winds are too strong. Multiple, sequential days of dependable weather are required for the application of patching material, applying 2 coats of the elastomer resin and for the product to cure. These constraints are much more reliably met in the spring.

Q. Why use an elastomer resin on the roof rather than basic (cheaper) latex paint?

A. The primary reason is that those dots of sunlight shining down on the hanger floor are evidence that we already have small holes in the roof. Since you “can’t paint a hole”, the holes need to be patched and the elasticity of the elastomer provides a more resilient/flexible covering. Additional benefits include the insulating qualities of the material, resilience to foot traffic and fire retardant characteristics.

Q. Why don’t we just paint it with volunteer labor as we have done with other projects?

A. ASI volunteers have accomplished great things in the past and will do more great things in the future. But this task requires specialized skills, tools, training and contiguous days of work that would challenge any volunteer approach.

By using a professional contractor and putting on two layers of the resin gives ASI a 10-year warranty on the materials.

Some examples of the complexity in just the mechanical aspects of preparing and painting, let alone the chemistry and timing of application:

“When cleaning ...prior to painting, care must be taken not to remove too much of the galvanized coating.....If brushing is used, apply the solution with a soft bristle brush, preferably of nylon, definitely not copper or steel bristle brushes. If.. spraying, the temperature range that works best is between 40 and 185 F... Blasting can quickly remove the protective zinc...” etc.

Historical note: When the hanger first came onto the field, a group of 4 did paint over the corrugated surface and the Ag Fair signage by hand. Reports are they were one tuckered out group. When it came time to repaint years later, they opted to hire it out.

Q. For more information:

A. The source quoted in this Q&A on the chemistry and procedures: “Painting Over Hot Dip Galvanized Steel” by Thomas J. Langill, Ph.D., Technical Director of the American Galvanizers Association. <https://www.galvanizeit.org/images/uploads/articles/paintsteel.pdf>

A. With regard to the project at ASI: Marye Anne Read (maread4@gmail.com) or Cindy Donovan (donovan_c@sbcglobal.net)