

The Aero Historian



Volume 45 Number 1

Website: <http://www.aerohistorians.org>

January 2011



1/72 Special Hobby Commonwealth Wirraway
by Frank Cuden

Book Review **By Noel Allard**

Hat in the Ring, The Birth of American Air Power in the Great War

By Bert Frandsen. Smithsonian
Books. 2003.

I'm glad I discovered this book that so clearly describes the beginnings of America's involvement in the air war in

WWI. After finishing a very heavy volume on the political environment that preceded the Great War, Hat in the Ring was a refreshing study of the organization and structuring of the First Pursuit Group and its earliest squadrons, the 94th Hat in Ring Squadron, the 95th Kicking Mule Squadron, the 27th Squadron, and the 147th Squadron. Every reader is familiar with America's Ace of

Aces, Medal of Honor winner Eddie Rickenbacker, a member of the 94th, whose 26 confirmed victories led the US airmen involved in the air war. Also known is the audacious Frank Luke's 14 balloon credits, the Raoul Lufbery story and perhaps those of Quentin Roosevelt, James Norman Hall and Hamilton Coolidge, and others who came from the Lafayette

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President, Larry Donovan

Vice-President, Merrill Anderson

Secretary, Mark Jacques

Treasurer, Dave Hueffmeier

Historian, Tom Norrbohm

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Article Submission Deadline: 22nd of each month

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TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday January 8, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:30 pm. Vendor baiting will begin about 12:30, so come early.

Remember February 2011 meeting will be on February 19th-same time and place, just different date.

From the Prez

by Larry Donovan

Happy Holidays and welcome to the January newsletter. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. Also I hope everyone found that Santa was generous this year with new kits under the tree, resin and etch accessories in your stockings. And that no one received the dreaded lump of coal.

Well, it had to happen. We were unable to meet in December due to the forces of dear old Mother Nature. Yep, yours truly had to be the first President to cancel a meeting due to weather...where is that rugged Minnesota determination and grit. Well that day it was under 20 inches of snow! Despite what many have heard regarding my Focus, it was very recalcitrant to negotiate that mess.

I want to take a retrospective look at our Club's accomplishments in 2010. Foremost I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their input and advice in the last year...sure made a "freshman" President's job a very fulfilling one. We have added to our membership rolls, with a more diverse membership, especially in Junior members. Whoever said the hobby was dying certainly has not examined it closely. We now have a Sergeant-at-Arms position to help with smoothly running meetings and head up security for Nordic Con. Speaking of which we all owe our thanks and gratitude to John Ross for his tireless effort to make Nordic Con 2010 a wonderful success. Participation on the meeting show tables was great success---the range of models, yes even

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Secretary's Notes

by Mark Jacques

The regular scheduled meeting was canceled for the first time in memory due to the dangerous weather conditions forecasted and experienced. This cancellation was announced through the TCAH Yahoo Groups messaging system. In the words of our esteemed President, "Call me Mr. Grinch... With the current weather reports, and especially the high winds and blowing snow, traffic will be extremely difficult. And according to reports, the storm will be heavier on this side of the Cities. After consulting with other officers, and receiving input from others we are definitely cancelling the December meeting. Since most of us will be busy with last-minute holiday running around on the 18th, we will simply not have a December meeting this year. The Annual Club Contest will be the January meeting...hey, look at it this way: another month to finish those builds!" Indeed, a prescient decision!

Guests/Visitors: Not applicable.

Vendor update: Nothing to report this month due to the meeting cancellation, the wonderful winter weather, etc. Check www.RollModels.com for the latest offerings from Roll Models, www.drawdecals.com for the latest offerings from Greg Drawbaugh, www.wingsntreads.com for the latest from Winston, and www.schifferbooks.com for Schiffer Publishing's offerings available through Axel.

No "On the Table" this month due to the meeting cancellation. The upcoming schedule of club events is tentative due to the

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Airline Chatter

by Terry Love

Hawaiian Airlines ordered 6 more Airbus A-330-200s. Hawaiian already has 3 Airbus A-330s plus two more already ordered. This will make 11 in their fleet.

Airbus had decided to upgrade their A-320 series with newer fuel-saving engines starting in 2016.

Delta Airlines announced that they are going to hire about 1000 flight attendants. SO far, more than 100,000 people have applied for the openings.

COPA Airlines of Panama ordered 22 Boeing 737-800s worth \$1.7 Billion. COPA already has 37 Boeing 737-800s in their fleet. COPA flies to 446 destinations in 24 different countries.

Southwest Airlines has decided to purchase the Boeing 737-800 series of airliners the next time that they are going to order aircraft for their fleet of 737s. Southwest Airline's version will hold 175 passengers and will allow flights to Hawaii.

Boeing says that their customers are not clamoring for a re-engined 737, but they prefer to wait for an all new replacement aircraft. Therefore, they will NOT re-engine their best selling Boeing 737 series of airliners. The 737 fuselage is based on the old 707 fuselage designed in the early 1950s.

Boeing could be the leader in airliner sales for 2010. At the end of November, Boeing had 489 net orders compared to 388 for Airbus. Both companies are far ahead of their totals for 2009, when Airbus had 271 orders, and

Boeing had just 142 orders.

The Gulf State of Qatar was recently awarded the site of the World Soccer Cup. This is the first time the event will be held in the Arab world. Qatar will build a new \$11 Billion airport to handle the air traffic for the one-week event in 2022.

Air France took delivery its 200th Boeing jet airliner since 1959. It was a new Boeing 777-300ER. Air France now has 61 Boeing 777s.

Aeroflot, the Russian airline, bought 16 Boeing 777s for delivery over the next 6 years. Capitalism at its best!!

Southwest Airlines says that they plan to order 70 new Boeing 737-800s in the next three years. 20 are already confirmed with deliveries to begin in March of 2012.

Airbus delivered 19 Airbus A-380s in the year of 2010.

Boeing has lost interest in the USAF tanker contest between Boeing (based on the Boeing 767) and Airbus (based on the Airbus A-330). Announcement will be made by the USAF in 2011 about the 100 plane air-to-air refueling tanker deal worth billions of dollars.

Boeing says that demand for their 777 model is so great that Boeing is increasing the 777 production rate by 66%.

Japan Air Lines, as part of their bankruptcy plans, are going to park all of their remaining Boeing 747-400s. Other phase outs include all 19 Airbus A-300B4s, and all 19 MD-90s. All 19 MD-90s are going to Delta Airlines.



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targets and autos, was fantastic. Finally I hope everyone had a fun and enjoyed our fellowship and friendships.

In the coming year, we need to build on the foundation of years past, and keep innovating to provide a great experience for all of us. The club relies on all of us to participate in various ways, whether it is helping on April's Award and Lunch, participating on the show table, taking on a seminar; there is always room for one more pair of hands. We will need a new Nordic Con chairperson as John Ross will have work commitments that prevent him from being in this important position. That said, the new chairperson will have a wealth of talent to draw upon from previous Nordic Con chairpersons in the club. We also will need to watch the treasury in light of the city of South Saint Paul elimination of the Fleming Airport manager position, due to budgetary concerns of the city. We have been extremely lucky to have our current facility so inexpensively, but in the light of fiscal reality we may have to "ante up" a higher rent. We, as a club, can still have fun, but we need to husband our resources "just in case". On a much higher note, the IPMS nationals will be almost in our backyards in Omaha, Nebraska...I know the carpools and hotel/motel reservations are forming now. For your President this will be his first Nationals. Remember, he spent 15 years in the "Big O" and knows some wonderful (and filling) places to dine. Bohemian Cafe anyone? And **please**, oh weather gods, let us have no more weather "complications"!!!

Due to December's icy blast,
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Upcoming Model Events

by Mark Jacques

12 February 2011 - 2011 "Hope It Don't Snow Show" – IPMS 5-33 Zumbro Valley Scale Modelers @ Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 1517 16th St. SW, Rochester, MN, contact George Romano at 507-281-4175 or romano@infonet.isl.net or visit the club website at www.royalresin.net/ZumbroValleyScaleModelers.html


5 March 2011 – The Cabin Fever Classic – Red River Scale Modelers @ West Acres Regional Shopping Center, 3902 13th Avenue, Fargo, ND, contact Tom Kavanaugh at (701) 241-9568 or Kavanaugh@cableone.net or visit the club website at <http://ipmsrrsm.webs.com>

26 March 2011 – 7th Annual Model Show and Contest – IPMS/South Central Modelers @ Five Lakes Center, 308 South State Street, Fairmont, MN. 9:00am to 4:00pm, Registration 'till Noon; Entry Fee: \$1.00 per model. Categories: Aircraft, Automotive, Dioramas, Figures, Military Vehicles, Ships, Space, Sci-Fi, Miscellaneous, and Juniors. Website: http://public.fotki.com/73superduty/south_central_model/ contacts: Dave Morrow @ 507-345-4370 / dalurch@charter.net or Gregory Pausewang @ 507-526-3531 / 57chevy1957@bevcomm.net

7 May 2011 – Mad-City Modelers Show – Mad-City Modelers @ Doubledays Banquette House, 4586 Baxter Road, Cottage Grove, WI, contact Kerry Fiske @ 608-438-1842 or fiske1@centurylink.com

21 May 2011 – Boots and Treads II – Minnesota Military Figure Society/AMPS @ Flem-

ing Field Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 17345 Henry Street, South Saint Paul, MN. Registration begins @ 9:00am; Admission opens @ 10:00 am. <http://mmfs.wetpaint.com>

3 – 6 August 2011 – IPMS/USA National Convention: "Omaha by the Sea" – IPMS/USA @ La Vista Convention Center, Omaha, NE contact: www.ipmsusa2011.org or email omahabythesea@cox.net 

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historic events of this month:

- January 2010 – the 2010 Annual "Robert Maderich II Invitational" Club Contest rescheduled from December,
- February 2011 - "Mustang Round-up" – Dave Hueffmeier, The meeting date has been changed to February 19th to avoid conflicting with "Hope it Don't Snow" show in Rochester. 2010 Annual Club Awards nominations.
- March 2011 – no show table - Club Auction part Deux, nominations for the 2010 Club Awards,
- April 2011 – no show table topic selected, the 2011 annual Club Awards presentation and feast,
- May 2011 - "Hawks" - Dave Hueffmeier.

Old business: No old business was raised. On December 2, 2010 our illustrious Treasurer, Mr. Hueffmeier, visited Fleming Field and spoke with Glenn Burke. He confirmed that TCAH has the meeting room reserved for the dates we selected in C.Y. 2011. Regardless of what happens with regard to Mr. Burke's continued employment there, the Aero Historians have the use of the

meeting room. (He did say that we may expect an increase in our rent in the future, depending on the outcome of this matter, but had no idea what that might be.)

As many of our members are also members of other clubs in the metro area, several TCAH members (and officers) were present at the MMFS (aka the Figure Club) meeting Friday night before the storm hit. Because we need to let IPMS know who the Club's officers are by the end of the year, we could not post-pone the annual elections into January. We were able to assemble a quorum (Article 5B of the By-Laws states: "Quorum requirements: A minimum of five (5) members including one (1) Officer at any called meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.") of TCAH members. After some discussion of the weather forecast and the club constitution and bylaws a special meeting was called to order at about 9 PM for the purpose of the elections of club officers for 2011. The ballot was read, no additions to the ballot were made. That being said, it was motioned and seconded, and passed, that the ballot be accepted in whole by voice vote. Since there were no contests for any of the offices, the following were elected:

President: Larry Donovan
Vice President: Merrill Anderson
Treasurer: Dave Hueffmeier
Secretary: Mark Jacques
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jeff Kurth

We (The Club) can vote in January to ratify this decision...if we had not had this deadline we would have waited. Larry should have more on this in his column.

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Escadrille.

Many important officers names are also less familiar than General Billy Mitchell and General Pershing. General Hunter Liggett, General Benjamin Foulois and Major Bert Atkinson. The major players, both pilots and their superiors are illuminated in the text.

Also less known is the fact that the US involvement, coming late in the war, in 1917, was really the birth of American airpower. The First Pursuit Group was the first of only three frontline multi-squadron pursuit groups in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). The First was the only pursuit group that fought in all of the AEF campaigns, fighting side-by-side with the British Royal Air Force and the French Air Service. It blazed the path for American combat aviation. America, complacent and non-interventionist, would awaken to the fact that a robust combat ready air force was a necessity. When Congress declared war on the Allies side in April, 1917, there were only a handful of trained aviators in the Aviation section of the Army Signal Corps. And they were equipped with a meager number of obsolete and unarmed aircraft. A US air arm did not exist.

The 1st Pursuit would adopt the Canadian Royal Flying Corps as its model of force structure, would be trained in Canada and France. It took part in the battles of Chateau Thierry, the Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne. Its pilots would fly the French Nieuport 28s and SPAD 13s, and throughout the course of the conflict, would argue about which was the superior combat aircraft. America could provide no

suitable pursuit aircraft. The politics and strategies of the day were those which would create a strong US air power by 1918.

So then, how was the first group formed. Where did it learn its tactics and who would become its leaders. All complex questions, dealt with clearly in this thoughtful book which outlines the game plan, the unit structure, the timing, the equipment, the kill confirmation process, the front line positions, and profiles the personages. Yet it includes enough aerial combat to make the most avid reader enjoy the history and feel like he is flying alongside the combatants. I think it is a reference which will be an important volume for the history bookshelf.



TBMs at Fleming Field *by Noel Allard*

In 1957, three surplus TBM-3s were modified to TBM-3Ss by Ben Wiplinger at Fleming Field. They were converted to water bombers. N7030C served as a tanker in Idaho in the 1960s, was owned by Dave Tallichet in the 90s and is currently owned by Gerald Yagen and was last seen at Oshkosh in 2000. N7032C also served as a tanker in Idaho, went to Israel, then Greece as a sprayer and finally New Brunswick, Canada to the Forest Protection Service. It is now on display at the Wildwood Museum in New York. Photos were taken by Bob Lemm and are now in my collection

Photos of these TBMs appear on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.



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Because of the wonderful weather we survived in November and again in December, the TCAH Club Auction "Part Deux" will be held in March 2011.

The current \$10 dues fee for regular members and \$5 for Junior and Senior members is being continued as the motion was made last month.

New business: Hopefully everyone was able to take advantage of the inclement weather to avoid much of the "honey do" list, relax and partake of our hobby!

Next month is the much anticipated 2010 Annual "Robert Maderich II Invitational" Club Contest open to club members for any kit completed in 2010. Prize levels are: \$15 – 1st Place in each category, \$10 – 2nd Place in each category and \$5 – 3rd Place in each category. The categories are: 1 - Aircraft WWI and biplanes (all scales), 2 - Aircraft 1/72 Prop, 3 - Aircraft 1/48 Prop, 4 - Aircraft 1/32, 5 - Aircraft Jet (all scales), 6 - Armor (all scales), 7 - Ships (all scales), 8 - Automotive (all scales), 9 - Sci-fi, 10 – Juniors. Bernie is asking for help with this, please email him if you can help out.

No other new business was brought up.

For those wishing to receive a hard copy of the Treasurer's report, please contact Dave Hueffmeier. Copies of the club roster are available from Mark Jacques on request.





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we have to revise the club schedule a bit. The following will provide the schedule as of this writing:

January 2011: Annual Club Contest. Bernie has a great set of judges and categories, and do not forget the gift certificates for winners.

February 2011: This meeting will be held on February 19th, rather than the 12th. This will provide members to “head south” to the Zumbro Valley IPMS “Hope it Don’t Snow” show on the 12th. Hopefully the show’s name will be prophetic. February’s meeting will also include Bob Friskney’s

seminar, which has been changed to more dates than Vikings’ home games. February will also be the nominations for the Club Awards.

March 2011: Auction Part Two. For those who missed the annual November auction, this will provide another opportunity to spend hard-earned cash on those most wanted treasures. Start going through your collections now to determine what you will bring. Voting for the Club Awards will be done in the meeting.

April 2011: Annual Club Awards and Lunch. “Sez” it all!

May 2011: Get those “targets” finished as the Minnesota Military Figure Society will hold its’ AMPS and Figure Contest.

And of course start planning now for the road trip to Omaha for the IPMS Nationals!

Again I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and we will see you on January 8th. I am already burning the incense to appease the snow gods!

Enjoy your modeling!



Directions to the Club Meeting Location

Where: South St. Paul Municipal Airport, a.k.a. Fleming Field, located on the southern extremity of South St. Paul, south of 1-494, west of Concord Street and East of Highway 52.

If coming from the western Twin Cities going east on 494:

- Exit at the 7th and 5th Avenue exit (Exit No.65)
- Turn right (South) on 7th Ave and go approximately .6 miles to a 4-way Stop sign. This is South Street W. To your left there will be a McDonald's; to your right front there will be a Walgreen's.
- Turn left (East) at the 4-way Stop onto
- South Street W and go approximately .6 miles. Along the way you will encounter three more Stop signs—the third Stop sign (Henry Avenue) will be a "T" intersection. At the "T" intersection on your left will be homes and on your right softball fields.
- Turn right (south) onto Henry Ave. and go approximately .2

• miles toward the Fleming Field airport terminal building.
If coming from east Twin Cities on westbound 494:

- Exit at the 7th and 5th Avenue exit (Exit No.65)
- Turn left (South) on 7th Ave and go approximately .6 miles to a 4-way Stop sign. This is South Street W. To your left front there will be a small strip mall; to your right there will be an Amoco station.
- Turn left (East) at the 4-way Stop onto
- South Street W and go approximately .4 miles. Along the way you will encounter two more Stop signs—the third Stop sign (Henry Avenue) will be a "T" intersection. At the "T" intersection on your left will be homes and on your right softball fields.
- Turn right (south) onto Henry Ave. and go approximately .2 miles toward the Fleming Field airport terminal building
 The terminal is on the right with

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Return address requested

The Aero Historian is published montly by the Twin City Aero Historians, Inc., a joint chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society and International Plastic Modelers Society/USA, for members and readers as part of their annual dues or fees.

The group is open to aviation enthusiasts from teenagers on up who are interested in aviation modeling, photography, collecting, art and writing. For more information contact Larry Donovan at 651-501-4755.

The Twin Cities Aero Historians (TCAH) meet the second Saturday of every month at 1:30pm.

See above for the new meeting locations and directions.

Mail Newsletter material and address changes to the treasurer.

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