

# The Aero Historian



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June 2013



**Johannes to Frank "They'll never think to look for us in here..!"**

*Photo by Chris Songalia during the recent tour of the CAF hangar*

## **506<sup>th</sup> FG / 462nd FS Colors** *by Mark Rossmann*

The "Sun Setters", were the VLR Mustang pilots of the 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 506<sup>th</sup> Fighter groups, VII Fighter Command based on Iwo Jima

The 462<sup>nd</sup> was activated on 21st October 1944, by a General Order from the VII Fighter Command Headquarters. Sources for the 63 Officers were to come from the III Fighter Command and the 249 enlisted

men recruited from the III Air Force. On 10 February 1945 orders were received to send the air detachment to Lakeland AFB. During this time the Squadron received official confirmation of its insignia from Army Air Forces Headquarters; On light Turquoise blue disc, border yellow, a prancing, black thoroughbred horse with a white face and shanks, reared on a light turquoise blue cloud formation, edged dark blue in front of jagged red lightning flash striking from sinister chief toward dexter

base.

The 506<sup>th</sup> FG was delivered by ship to Guam on March 17<sup>th</sup> 1945, with a total of seventy-nine (79) P-51's, where they began the "unpickle" process; put brakes on, and change spark plugs which had been damaged by cinders coming out of the smoke stack of the carrier. In the end twenty-six (26) assigned aircraft were ready to fly for the 562<sup>nd</sup>.

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## TCAH Officers

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**Vice-President**, Frank Cuden

**Secretary**, John Dunphy

**Treasurer**, Tom Norrbohm

**Historian**, Tom Norrbohm

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## Newsletter Info

*Article Submission Deadline: 22nd of each month*

*Editor*

**Bob Arko**

**6417 Rice Court**

**Lino Lakes, MN 55014**

**651-481-8887**

**boba@arkokraft.com**

*Distribution Editor*

**Rick Schmierer**

**1852 E. 39 Street**

**Minneapolis, MN 55407**

**612-721-8787**

**rmschmierer@comcast.net**

**Send articles to:**

**Bob Arko**

**6417 Rice court**

**Lino Lakes, MN 55014**

**boba@arkokraft.com**

**Send Change of Address Notice to:**

**Dave Hueffmeier**

## TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday June 8, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:00 pm. Vendor baiting will begin about 12:00, so come early.



## From the Prez

*by Johannes Allert*

Welcome to summer where two major events occur – air shows and model contests. A quick glance at any calendar reveals several events happening across the five state area throughout the summer. For aviation enthusiasts, the big event of the summer is undoubtedly the EEA Convention in Oshkosh, WI while for modelers it is the IPMS Nationals in Colorado. Whatever your interests are, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable time at these gatherings.

Speaking of events, we have a few reminders pertaining to the upcoming NordicCon event in September. Firstly, the committee requests donations for the raffle. Any decent kit, tool, decal sheet will help go a long way to helping the club. Secondly, volunteers are needed to lend a hand in the various categories to include: set up/take down, judging, make-n-take, admissions, and security. Please contact Dave Nelson, John Ross, or Bob Maderich if interested.

There are other ways members can be involved in other aspects of the club. Bob Arko, our club newsletter editor, is always looking for articles and photographs pertaining to the hobby. Occasionally, we need assistance with re-arranging the room before and after every meeting and the vendors always appreciate it whenever a member helps with bringing in goods for sale.

Before we forget, we'd like to say a big thanks to Gary Chambers for taking time to show off the newly renovated CAF Hangar down the street

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Secretary's Notes

*by John Dunphy*

Meeting called to order by Johan at 1:15pm.

Guests: Randy Koivisto introduced his grandson Josh.

Old Business: Nordic Con update from Bob Maderich. They are looking for a volunteer to be the official photographer for Nordic Con, as well as a monetary overseer. Contact Bob if interested; If you have old club medallions that you were awarded in past Nordic Con's or club Contest's and no longer have a need for them, donate them back to the club to be reused. Contact Tom Norrbohm;

New Business: Club is a Chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society (AAHS), and you can access their website to download article and such and you can also join on their website at: <http://www.aaahs-online.org> ; Club will sponsor a Category Award for the IPMS Nationals this year in Loveland, CO; Rochester Model club is looking into hosting an IPMS Regional for next year as there are no takers so far, and need more manpower to pull it off; Long time club member Bruce McClain was awarded Artist of the Year by the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame.



## Treasurer's Report

*by Tom Norrbohm*

All quiet on the northern front. Expenses were for the newsletter/postage for May and one trophy package sponsorship for the IPMS Nationals in Colorado. Balance as of May 12, 2013 is \$4,333.58.



## Airline Chatter

by Terry Love

Boeing has made corrections to the battery problems that grounded the new 787 Dreamliner in January. They have returned to service with the airlines.

Jet Blue earned \$14 million in the first quarter of 2013.

Southwest Airlines earned \$59 million in the first quarter of 2013.

U S Air earned \$44 million in the first quarter of 2013.

Delta Airlines earned \$7 million in the first quarter of 2013.

United Airlines lost \$417 million in the first quarter of 2013.

Hawaiian Airlines lost \$17.1 million in the first quarter of 2013.

Airbus announced that the Chinese government ordered 60 new airliners. Airbus A-330s ordered were 18 which are to be built in Europe. Also ordered were 42 Airbus A-320s which will be built in China. Deal is worth \$7.7 Billion. Airbus is building the A-330 at the rate of 11 per month.

United Airlines ordered 30 Embraer E-175s with an option for 40 more. Deal is worth \$2.9 Billion. All will be used by United Express. An E-175 has 76 passenger seats. Continental Airlines, which is now part of United Airlines, operated the largest fleet in the world of Embraer airliners. They had 275 of them. The E-175s will replace existing airliners in the United Express fleet.

Pinnacle Airlines came out of bankruptcy on May 1. They will

move the Headquarters to Minneapolis. Delta Airlines invested \$52million in Pinnacle. They are now a subsidiary of Delta Airlines.

Alaska Airlines will start service from Portland,Oregon to Dallas and Portland to Atlanta.

Boeing announced that they are going ahead with a stretched version of the Boeing 777. It will have a range of over 9500 nautical miles.

Southwest Airlines will begin service to Memphis in November with flights to Chicago, Baltimore, Houston, Orlando, and Tampa. Look out Delta Airlines!! This is one of your major hubs.

Boeing says that as of May 1, they have built 114 Boeing 787 Dreamliners. Boeing is building them at a rate of 10 per month. Boeing has orders for more than 800 787s from 58 customers.

Southwest Airlines has on order from Boeing, 317 Boeing 737s. Southwest Airlines is, by far, the largest user of the Boeing 737.

Turkish Airlines announced an order for 70 Boeing 737-800s valued at \$6.9 Billion.

Boeing has a backlog of more than 3,100 Boeing 737-800s on order. Cost is almost \$100 million EACH !!

Kuwaiti Airlines ordered 15 Airbus A-320s and 10 Airbus A-350s. Deal is worth about \$4 Billion.

Airbus said that the first Chinese-assembled Airbus A320 with the winglets, was delivered to China Eastern Airlines. China Eastern Airlines has over 230

Airbus aircraft. The new winglets are called "Sharklets." The Chinese factory for Airbus has delivered 126 A-320s since June of 2009. They will deliver 46 more this year. All production from the Chinese factory goes to Chinese Airlines.



(Continued from page 2)

from us. Additionally, we'd like to say thanks to 'Spook' Johns for tipping us off to the Sun Country Charter flight to Pensacola NAS this past month. In both instances, both events were informative and fun. See you Saturday...!



## From the VP

by Frank Cuden

I'd like to remind everyone about the Club mailing out the Newsletter. In an effort to cut costs, a sheet was circulated a couple of meetings ago, asking members to indicate if they still wanted to receive a paper copy in the snail-mail or if they simply wished to receive the Newsletter on-line through the TCAH website. If you haven't given your preference yet, please do so. We're not saying that we want to eliminate mailing out the Newsletter - on the contrary, we're just trying to cut costs so if you feel OK with getting it online via our website, then we can eliminate a 12-month mailing.

I found this in another IPMS Club Newsletter, "The Leading Edge", a publication from IPMS Memphis, and thought I'd share it with you:

## Scale Modelers Creed

I believe a modeler is worthy of the time it takes to create whatever is chosen to model.



## Upcoming Model Events

by Mark Jacques

**4 May 2013 – Modelfest 2013- Theme: "Roman Holiday the Mediterranean Theater 1940-1945"** – IPMS West Central Missouri @ Ameristar Casino 3200 North Ameristar Dr. Kansas City MO, contact Kelly Quirk at 816-863-6659 or KelDQ@aol.com or visit the club website at [www.ipmswcmo.org](http://www.ipmswcmo.org)

**11 May 2013** - Twin Cities Aero Historians begins accepting NordicCon 2013 Raffle Donations contact Mark Jacques 9 5 2 - 2 0 0 - 5 3 2 9 o r mwjacques1@yahoo.com

**8 to 9 June 2013 – Heartland Model Car Nationals** – KC Slammers at Overland Park Convention Center 6000 College Boulevard, Overland Park KS, contact Vern Lyon at 913-782-0996 or vernlyon04@gmail.com or visit the club website at [www.kcslammers.com](http://www.kcslammers.com)

**13 July 2013 - NIMCON2** – IPMS Lakes Region Modelers @ McHenry Country College, 8900 U.S. Hwy 14, Crystal Lake IL, contact Phil Pignataro at 847-658-9920 or PJP68@comcast.net or visit the club website at [www.lrsmonline.com](http://www.lrsmonline.com)

**4 August 2013 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual NNL Summer Nationals** – IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers @ Algonquin Township Building, 3702 US HWY 14, Crystal Lake, MN, contact Chuck Herrmann at 8 4 7 - 5 1 6 - 0 2 1 1 o r gtrchab@yahoo.com

**14 to 17 August 2013 – 2013 IPMS/USA Nationals – "The Thin Air Nationals"** – JQ Hammons Conference and Convention Center & Embassy Suites Hotel, Loveland Colorado

( [www.embassysuitesloveland.com](http://www.embassysuitesloveland.com) or 970-593-6200) Watch the IPMS/USA website and the Journal for more information or contact [info@ipmsusa2013.com](mailto:info@ipmsusa2013.com)

**14 September 2013 – Gateway to the West Contest and Swap Meet** – IPMS Gateway @ Viking Conference Center, Holiday Inn, 10709 Watson Road, Sunset Hills, MO, contact Doug Barton at 636-332-9960 or peddocdoug@gmail.com or visit the club website at [www.ipms-gateway.com](http://www.ipms-gateway.com)

**21 September 2013 – NordicCon** – Theme: "Need For Speed" – Twin Cities Aero Historians @ Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America Base Camp, 201 Bloomington Road, Fort Snelling, MN 55111, [www.explorebasecamp.org](http://www.explorebasecamp.org) ph: 651-254-9135. Contact: Bob Maderich II, ph: 612-423-2985, [robertmaderich69@hotmail.com](mailto:robertmaderich69@hotmail.com) 9:00am to 4:00pm.

**3 to 6 October 2013 – iHobby Expo** – IPMS USA @ Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL, contact [www.ihobbyexpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexpo.com)

**19 October 2013 – Glue Crew 2013** – 5-36 The Glue Crew @ Howard Johnson Inn & Convention Center, 2101 North Mountain Road, Wausau, WI, contact Joseph Drew at 715-842-0173 or [jdrew09@charter.net](mailto:jdrew09@charter.net) or visit the club website at [www.thegluecrew.com](http://www.thegluecrew.com)

**1 February 2014 – 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Hope It Don't Snow Show** - IPMS 5-33 Zumbro Valley Scale Modelers @ Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 1517 16<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Rochester, MN. For more information, contact Kris Krco at 507-254-4646 or [zvsm@gmail.com](mailto:zvsm@gmail.com) or visit the club website at

[www.royalresin.net/ZumbroValleyScaleModelers.html](http://www.royalresin.net/ZumbroValleyScaleModelers.html)

**6 to 9 August 2014 – 2014 IPMS/USA Nationals** – Hampton, VA. Watch the IPMS/USA website and the Journal for more information.



## Airshows Near Home

**1 to 2 June 2013—Discover Aviation Days**, Janes Field, Blaine, MN

**21 to 23 June 2013—The Big Bombers**, Janes Field, Blaine

**13 to 14 July 2013—Air Expo**, Flying Cloud Field, Eden Prairie, MN



*(Continued from page 3)*

I believe the most important attribute of a scale modeler is to make things with care and to the best ability possible.

I believe scale modeling is the result of the modeler's personality, desire to succeed, to constantly learn, to strive for perfection and to stick with it.

I believe modeling craftsmanship is inherent in all and must be honored by others.

I believe a modeler's work is worthy of its own space and once that modeler enters that chosen space, he or she has the right to work without interruption.

I believe that what truly matters in the making of a model is not what the finished product looks like or what it is worth. Instead, I believe the worth of the time invested in a new model is in the process itself and what is learned.

Much food for thought there and something we all should consider in our chosen pursuit.



(Continued from page 1)

The unit flew to Tinian with 7 weeks of CAP and practice missions, while North Field on Iwo was prepared for their arrival. The Tinian interlude lasted 40 days; the first Combat Air Patrol was flown on the twenty-nine of March. During this time there were two accidents, neither resulted in fatalities.

On May 11, the 462nd FG landed on Iwo. First combat missions didn't occur until May 18<sup>th</sup>, flying defensive CAP, first casualty occurred as Lt. Roland Carter crashed and was killed at North Field.

After preliminary missions the 462<sup>nd</sup> conducted its first long range mission to Honshu on 28 May 1945. This first effort against homeland islands was a low level strike at the airfields near Kasumigaura. The unit destroying many parked Japanese aircraft, however Capt. Kensley M. Miller was lost to flak over Imba Airdrome. Miller was a veteran of a previous tour of combat in the Mediterranean flying P-40's with the 76th Fighter Group.

Black Friday, June 1, occurred when a large weather front was entered by all 3 Fighter groups, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 506<sup>th</sup>, which 59 Mustangs were from the 506<sup>th</sup>. As a result 27 planes and 24 pilots were lost, on that day's mission no plane was lost to fighters or ground fire. Headquarters lost Lt. Col. Harvey Scandrett and Capt. Edmund Crenshaw who was flying a 462<sup>nd</sup> Mustang. The 462<sup>nd</sup> lost three of its own: Capt. Lawrence Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt's. Gale Loomis and Archie Ridley.

The last mission of the war was flown 14 August during the time the Japanese Government was considering the Allied counter-offer of surrender terms. Combat flying ended unceremoniously on 15 August 1945 at 0900, when the radio carried the voice of President Truman announcing Japan's capitulation.

In the end the 462nd claimed 10 enemy aircraft shot down by 10 different pilots. The 462nd lost 7 pilots killed or MIA; Capt. K.M. Miller - 28 May, 1st Lt. R.E. Carter - May, 1st Lt. Loomis, 1st Lt. Ridley, Capt. Lawrence Smith - 1 June, 1st Lt. Roseborough - 9 July, 2nd Lt. Marklin - 13 July.

462nd was commanded by: Maj. Thomas D. DeJarnette, 10/44 to EOW.

462nd FS P-51's were assigned numbers 600 to 649 and were painted with 4 inch yellow stripes on the rear fuselage vertical fins and stabilizer but not on the rudder or elevators. Replacement plane's, began about mid-June, having their tails as solid colors, this in an effort to simplify the painting process and to have better identification of each fighter squadron. Most aircraft carried the squadron badge portside, just below the cockpit. Here are two examples of the aircraft markings, stripes and solid.

"Dinny B" #615, piloted by 1Lt. Willie Willis. I have no further information on this pilot or aircraft. This is a Hasegawa 1/48 P-51D, decals are from AeroMaster sheet 48-795.

I had originally built this model in the 1997 with "Red" stripes on the tail. That is how AeroMaster originally interpreted

the colors on sheet 48-285 and corrected it with this updated sheet, I stripped of the old stripes and used the new ones. Osprey Aircraft of the Aces #13, Japanese Army Air Force Aces, also made a color error on the front of the cover. Showing a solid "Red" tailed Mustang, which actually should have been solid Green as the aircraft was from the 457<sup>th</sup>.

"Hon Mistake" #619, was piloted by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt's Bercaw and Ebersole from airfield 3. Apparently the name of the plane was the result of shooting up a Japanese soldier using an outhouse, an "Honest Mistake". The nose art is one of the most elaborate in the whole 506<sup>th</sup> FG. Ebersole flew 10 VLR missions and destroyed 1 twin engine bomber on the ground at an airfield northeast of Tokyo on 23 June. No information on Bercaw. This is a Tamiya 1/48 P-51D, decals are from AeroMaster sheet 48-796.

The twin UHF antennas were actually made out of wood. I fashioned mine out of flat end toothpicks.

These are among the last USAAF Mustang units to be activated for combat. If you would like to know more about the VII Fighter command, the Banzai attack and the storm of June 1, you will enjoy reading the following:

References: Osprey Aviation Elite Units – Very Long Range Mustang Units of the Pacific War – Author: Carl Molesworth.

Decals: AeroMaster 48-794 through 797.

Web Site: 506<sup>th</sup>fightergroup.org

(Continued on page 7)





**462nd P-51s**  
*by Mark Rossmann*



(Continued from page 5)

This will be my last article on the 506<sup>th</sup> FG, I may build some more 506<sup>th</sup> P-51's, so here are some final items:

The last two weeks of August 1945, flying was restricted to the local area around Iwo Jima, waiting to hear of actual signing of the peace agreement. On August 31, the 'Sun Setters' were assigned a final VLR mission to Japan - a 'Display of Power' flight over Japan, led by Col Harper of the 506th FG. Few wanted to risk another long haul over the Pacific, and an incident did happen, 1Lt William S Hetland of the 457th FS, experienced engine trouble over the target area. Fortunately he made a safe landing at Atsugi Airfield and returned to Iwo aboard a C-46.

On 2 September, Brig Gen 'Mickey' Moore boarded an LB-30 Liberator transport with orders reassigning him to the Pentagon. Most veteran pilots and ground personnel, with in the week, began getting their tickets home. VII Fighter Command began shrinking rapidly, and in October pre-separation lectures were instituted for the men.

Hawaii for deactivation. The 21st FG finally transferred to Saipan in the final weeks of 1945 and then moved to Guam, where it was re-designated the 23rd FG in October 1946.

The final score which the 506th had tallied on the twenty-two effective VLR Missions run in the period 28 May to 14 August for the 457<sup>th</sup>, 458<sup>th</sup> and 462nd was as follows:

DESTROYED <sup>α</sup>	PROBABLES <sup>α</sup>	DAMAGE <sup>α</sup>	LOSSES <sup>α</sup>
Air::Ground <sup>α</sup>	Air::Ground <sup>α</sup>	Air::Ground <sup>α</sup>	Pilots::Planes <sup>α</sup>
39::22 <sup>α</sup>	11::11 <sup>α</sup>	33::96 <sup>α</sup>	20::29 <sup>α</sup>

Late in the year, the headquarters was moved to Guam and re-designated the 20th FW. The 506th FG was deactivated in mid-November and its remaining personnel transferred to the 21st FG, while the 15th FG was transferred to

Other targets of rolling stock, power lines, and shipping which, due to the nature of the targets, could not be accurately assessed for this score.



### On The Table—May 2013

Modeler:	Kit:	Manufacturer:	Scale:
John P. Ross	F-16I	Hasegawa	1/48
"	F-16C	Tamiya	1/48
"	Mig-23	Trumpeter	1/48
John R. Ross	Battlestar Galactica	Mobeius	1/4105
Don Stauffer	Ju-52	Eduard	1/144
"	DC-3	Minicraft	1/144
Bob Maderich	Char B.1 bis	Tamiya	1/35
"	Scarab Mk II	Mid Atlantic	1/43
"	Ferrari 166m	NG Models	1/43
Bruce McClain	F-15C	Academy	1/48
Winston Vermiliea	IL 2m Sturmovick	Tamiya	1/48
"	Yak-23	Planet	1/48
"	Su-24	Trumpeter/Komplete	1/48
"	Sd kfz -232	Tamiya	1/48
"	Type 95	Dragon	1/35
Mark Rossman	AD-4W	ERTL	1/48
Dave Gatts	Fw-190C-13	Kit bash/mod.	1/50



## 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

Twin City Aero Historian  
**Rick Schmierer**  
 1852 E. 39 Street  
 Minneapolis, MN 55407

Return address requested

The Aero Historian is published monthly 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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