



1/48 Scale Monogram B-25J modified to TB-25K
by Dennis Strand

"Miss Mitchell": The Early Years
by Dennis Strand

As mentioned in the August TCAH newsletter, the CAF Museum Officer, Todd Loftquist, wanted to know if he could get a model built of "Miss Mitchell" as she appeared in 1958. He showed me a fuzzy black and white photo of a TB-25K radar

crew trainer, while she was at Fleming Field, all those years ago. Eventually this aircraft would become the B-25J named "Miss Mitchell" that we know today.

I decided to give this mild conversion project a try, bought a 1/48 Monogram B-25J Mitchell (gun nose version) on eBay and made a list of things to do.

1.) Fabricate a radar

nose.

2.) Modify air scoops on top of the nacelles.

3.) Modify exhaust system.

4.) Fair over tail guns, but leave tail gun transparency in place.

5.) Delete dorsal gun position.

6.) Delete armor plate under cockpit along with cheek guns.

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TCAH Officers

President, Mark Copeland

Vice-President, Steve Hustad

Secretary, Bob Maderich

Treasurer, Dennis Strand

Historian, Merrill Anderson

Newsletter Info

Article Submission Deadline: 22nd of each month

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Send Change of Address Notice to:
Dennis Strand

TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday December 11, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:00 pm. Come early.



President's Address

by Mark Copeland

Happy Holidays Everyone!!!

Thank you all for your support and confidence in allowing me the honor of serving as the President of the **Twin City Aero Historians**.

It was exactly 44 years ago this month when my father drove me to my first TCAH meeting in December of 1977, because I hadn't yet received my driver's license!! I walked into that meeting, held at the NARDET Building on the Naval Reserve Base at Minneapolis International Airport, with a nervous excitement.

Sitting in the back of the room during my first TCAH meeting and listening to all these old guys talk about aviation history and scale modeling was amazing, but also a little intimidating. I had just attended the **Metro Scale Model Show** at the Registry Hotel over the previous Thanksgiving weekend, where I was invited to come to next club meeting by some of the current TCAH members.

I'll never forget meeting Bob Nelson, George Minarik, Jack Mugan, Noel Allard, Bob Lemm, Chuck Mayer, Dave Galbraith, Ed Kueppers and several other **TCAH legends**, for the first time. Several members brought their latest works and everyone gathered around asking questions like, "how do you do that?" or, "what decals did your use?" The members shared ideas, techniques and the latest news about the hobby. What I most remember about the whole experience was the immediate outpouring of hospitality and friendship.

Several years went by and

my membership lapsed at times, driven mainly by school, girls, work or my geographical location at the time. However, I came back into the hobby and to the club, in 1986 and gradually began getting more involved. Ultimately, that led to holding the office as President from 1990 to 1995.

Now coming back to the office after all that time is quite exciting and I look forward to keeping the traditions of the club alive and well.

We all should feel very blessed with the club leadership team we have in place. You couldn't ask for a more committed group of individuals as club officers. Our new Vice President, Steve Hustad is an organizational genius and a great facilitator, not to mention one of the best modelers in the world!! Our Secretary and Nordic-Con Chairperson, Bob Maderich is like a shark, *he always has to be moving!!* His energy, dedication and commitment to the club are truly inspiring!! And then there is our faithful Treasurer, Dennis Strand has always led by an example of honesty and transparency.

Then there are the two members "behind the curtain" who so diligently serve the club in a quiet, but incredibly significant way. Sean Brzozowski, our TCAH Webmaster keeps tabs on our main source of information and communication for us all, our award winning website, www.aerohistorians.org.

Lastly, our talented fantastic Newsletter Editor, Bob Arko who does such a wonderful job in bringing our TCAH newsletter to life every month.

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We have one heck of a team of committed individuals that work very hard so the **Twin City Aero Historians** can flourish and move forward.

John Moore founded the club in December of 1966, in fact, the first meeting was actually held in his basement!! That makes this year, 2021, our 55th Anniversary. I know.....I can't believe it either!!

The **Twin City Aero Historians** has long been built on the principle of tradition, a committed membership and the love we all share for aviation history and scale modeling.

But the true essence of what this club is all about, are the remarkable people who share a common special bond of friendship that we have for one another. That's the way I felt back in December of 1977 and that is what it feels like today!!! I'm just happy, that some things never change!!

Let's continue to grow the club, carry on the traditions and have a lot of fun!!

May this season be full of great memories!! To one and all, Happy Holidays and here is to 2022!!

Thank you again for allowing me to serve.

December Meeting Notes

This month will be the "White Elephant" event. Bring a wrapped kit of your choosing to exchange with the other members in what is a time honored club tradition, and a lot of fun!!

DON'T EAT LUNCH prior to

the December meeting!!!! Subway sandwiches, chips and soft drinks will be provided to everyone at the meeting. We will have a nice mixture of sandwiches to choose from. So please come hungry!! Lunch is on TCAH!

TCAH MISSING IN ACTION:

I wanted to make a plea to the membership regarding a few items that have gone missing. It's no one's fault by any means, however I wanted track down a few club items.

1. Laptop computer.
2. Telescopic Work Lights that were used during IPMS Regional Contests and Nordic-con events in the past.
3. "Go Pro" Camera used for close-ups during regular meeting "show and tell."
- 4.

If you have any of the above items, please either call or email me.

Mark Copeland
(952) 239-6202 -
moke388@isd.net

Or, see me or one of the Club Officers at the next meeting. With COVID and the span of time that the club didn't meet, it's no wonder things went astray. Thanks everyone!!!



Treasurer's Report
by Dennis Strand

This will be a brief update for the 30 days since my last report. There were several renewals at the November meeting and one new member. Leonard

Prakasam from Edina signed up for membership with the club. Welcome aboard Leonard! I am continuing to receive renewals in the mail from time to time. Remember, if you cannot or choose not to attend a monthly meeting, you can send \$15.00 to:

Dennis Strand,
833 Manomin Ave.,
St. Paul, MN 55107

and I will get your 2022 TCAH membership card in the mail. The club had no expenses this month, but plans for a feast next month and higher dollar amounts for award prizes in the club contest will change things in the near future. The clubs current total is \$6,265.55.



From the Secretary
by Bob Maderich

To all members of TCAH,

Here are the categories for the January club contest

1 Armor, all types/scales; (with a possible split to: 1/72nd & 1/48th Scale Armor & 1/32nd & Larger Scale Armor)

2 Automotive, all types/scales; (with a possible split: Bob decides this split!)

3 Nautical – Ships, Submarines, Sailing ships, etc., all scale/types

4 Dioramas & Vignettes, all scales/types

5 Figures, all scales/types
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7.) Retain side windows, but fair over gun barrel openings.

8.) Install small air scoops on each side of nose and aft fuselage.

9.) Install electronic/radio aerial array under nose.

10.) Finish aircraft in natural aluminum with black cowlings/nacelles and partial OD anti-glare panel.

11.) Apply appropriate national insignias as well as codes, radio call signs and serial numbers.

I used a small wooden spinning top toy for the radar nose. Chucking it in a drill press and using the drill press like a lathe, the nose cone was shaped and attached. Carburetor intakes on the cowl were replaced with air scoops from a Tamiya Beaufighter. A clear plastic dome from the spares box was glued to the tail opening and small styrene squares were placed over the gun openings in the side

windows.

For the exhaust modifications, I trimmed off the exhaust fairings from top half of the cowl and drilled a hole in each outboard side of the cowl. I installed an exhaust collector pipe made from plastic tubing into the hole. Two of the exhaust fairings that I trimmed off were used for air scoops on the aft fuselage. The exhaust fairings on the bottom side of the cowl were left in place.

I epoxied a styrene plastic plug in the dorsal turret opening and shaved off the bullet deflector bumps. A little grinding and sanding was employed to remove the armor plating under the cockpit. Two kit parts were used for the air scoops on the nose. The electronic/ radio antenna array for under the nose was scratch built from wire, plastic rod and white glue.

All gaps and seams were puttied and sanded. Panel lines were scribed on the fuselage.

The model was finished with various Alclad II metallic shades. Cowling/nacelles were painted flat black with a little red brown added. De-ice boots were painted gloss black and the anti-glare panel is olive drab. Decals were all from the extra parts bin except for the national insignias which were kit items with a red stripe added to the blue stars and bars. Finally panel lines were enhanced with a soft lead pencil and a final cover coat of Semi Matte Alclad Lacquer KlearKote.

I am pleased with the results. I guessed at some things, but to me, it looks like the aircraft in the photo. I notified Todd and, if it passes muster, the model will be placed in the Miss Mitchell display case at the CAF hangar.



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6 1/72nd Scale Aircraft, all

7 1/48th scale Aircraft, all

8 1/32nd scale (and larger)

Aircraft, all (with a possible split to add: Civilian aircraft & airliners – all scales/types)

9 TCAH P-40 Club Challenge

10 Fantasy, Sci-Fi & Real Space, all scales/types



On The Table—November 2021

Modeler	Kit		
Erik Zabel	JU 88 A1 (in progress)		
	231 Destroyer (in progress)		
Steve Hustad	Found in the Flowers (ME 262a)		
	King's Royal Hussars and Red 13 (ME-262a)		
Jim Kloek	Japanese BSN2 Kate		
	DKM Scharnhorst (new one from Flyhawk)		
	DKM Gneisenau (old one from Tamiya)		
Steve Erickson	ME 410		
	Dewoitine 410		
	44M TAS		
	Renault R39		
John Bernier	M3A1 Stuart		
Rob Zielinski	Panther vs. Sherman 100mm tanks		
Sean Brzozowski	Polish F-16C		
	Ground Battlecruiser "Turtosa" (3D printed)		
Dennis Strand	TBD Devastator		
	TB-25K		
Bob Ferreira	A quartet of 1/72 Fokker DR. I's		
Bob Maderich	Miller 91		
	Duesenberg Rollston bodied		
	Rolls Royce Armored car		
	1/72 P-40		
Jake	1/72 Hawker Typhoon		

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:

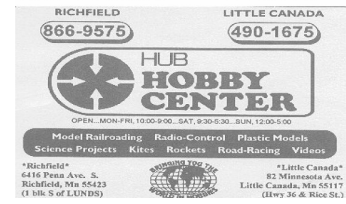
- Exit at the 7th and 5th Avenue exit (Exit No.65)
- Turn right (South) on 7th Ave and go approximately .6 miles to a 4-way Stop sign. This is South Street W. To your left there will be a McDonald's; to your right front there will be a Walgreen's.
- Turn left (East) at the 4-way Stop onto
- South Street 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 parking available.



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.

The Twin Cities Aero Historians (TCAH) meet the second Saturday of every month at 1:00pm.

See above for the new meeting locations and directions.

Mail Newsletter material to the editor and address changes to the treasurer.

