

USS St Paul, CA 73
1/700 Scale
by Jim Kloek

USS St Paul, CA 73
The Last All Big Gun Cruiser
Gulf of Tonkin, 1967
by Jim Kloek

History: The USS St. Paul was launched on September 16, 1944, and commissioned on February 17, 1945. She was the most highly decorated Baltimore Class cruiser, winning one Battle Star in WWII, eight in Korea, and eight in Viet Nam. The St. Paul was the only 8" gun ship that

remained in commission that was not converted into a guided missile cruiser, which made her the last gun fighter. She made five deployments off the coast of North and South Viet Nam providing gun fire support to allied troops. She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on July 31, 1978 and sold for scrapping in January, 1980. There are a lot of good photographic references for the appearance of the St. Paul in her final configuration, which were

very helpful in accurately guiding this build.

The Model: This model portrays her as she looked in 1967 during her deployment to the Gulf of Tonkin. Because there are very few kits available of Viet Nam era ships, a major conversion was required. She was one of the "round stern" Baltimores, and the closest starting point for the build was the Trumpeter USS Pittsburgh

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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

Editor

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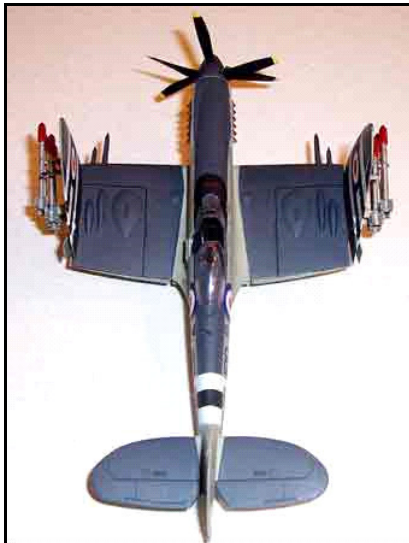
boba@arkokraft.com

Send Change of Address Notice to:
Dennis Strand

TCAH This Month

Annual Club Contest

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday January 13, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:00 pm. Come early.



President's Address

by Mark Copeland

Happy New Year!! I hope that everyone enjoyed their Holiday Season and 2024 is off to a prosperous start.

My apologies for missing the last few meetings, my job took me to England, Normandy, France and Savannah, Georgia. Thank you goes out to Vice President, Steve Hustad for running the last few meetings. Also, my thanks to Secretary Bob Maderich for successfully executing a great "White Elephant" event at the December meeting.

At our last two meetings, Steve Hustad addressed a concern that we have for the lack of newsletter contributions. Our last two issues (November and December) were blank due to the lack of submissions. I hate to use the old cliché, but I think it applies. Our newsletter is only as good as what we the membership put forth and perhaps a better definition of appropriate submissions needs to be clarified.

Newsletter articles can wide-ranged. Historical subjects, modeling ideas, build articles or new techniques, etc. Sharing information with your fellow members is the point of it all. So if you have a modeling build article to share or something that is related to aviation history, please submit it to our Newsletter Editor, Bob Arko at boba@arkokraft.com. We would love to learn what you have to share!

For those who enjoy history, here is the schedule for the remaining programs for the **Minnesota WWII Roundtable**. This is a gem within our

community that has been going for over 37 years! The programs are **free**; however there is a \$6.00 charge for parking.

January 9th - JAMES CONROY – Author of **THE DEVILS WILL GET NO REST** will discuss the *Casablanca Conference* of January 1943 where the clash of strategies was agreed to as a grand strategy for the Allied victory in both theaters.

February 13th - ERIK BRUN, KYLE WARD and OLAF MINGE have collaborated to edit the **THE VIKING BATTALION** which is a collection of biographies of the Veterans from 99th Battalion which was formed of Norwegian-Americans to liberate Norway but show great valor in the battles of Europe.

March 12th - **SELLING THE WAR** – On the Homefront & Battlefront - JAMES KIMBLE – Author of **MOBILIZING THE HOME FRONT** will present the efforts to rally patriotic support of the public on the domestic front. In addition, TODD DePASTINO – Author of **BILL MAULDIN**, will show how the cartoons of "Willie and Joe" in 'Stars and Stripes' was used to raise the morale of the troops in the battlefields.

March 26th - EARLY WARNING – THE COAST WATCHERS. KAREN MOORE – Author of **GRACIE and THE RADAR GIRLS** will tell of the Coast Watchers in Hawaii whose mission was to prevent a repeat of December 7th at Pearl Harbor. MARY BERG – interviewed Beryl Rettinger who served as a Coast Watcher in England to alert the Allies of Nazi air attacks

April 9th - DAVID DWORAK - Author of **WAR OF SUPPLY** will
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discuss the logistical efforts in the Mediterranean in the early part of the fighting in the European Theater.

May 14 - DAVID O'KEEFE – Author of **ONE DAY IN AUGUST** will relate the tragic failure of the 1942 assault on Dieppe and how the lessons learned led to the success of D-Day on June 6, 1944.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting and having a great 2024!!



Treasurer's Report by Dennis Strand

Happy New year to one and all! We begin the first month of 2024 with a tidy \$5,511.86 in the bank. There were no expenses this month. However, there were 6 renewals and two new members who also joined our ranks. Kyle Cajune from Princeton and Christian Wright from East Bethel signed up. Welcome aboard gentleman.

As I write this report in the middle of December, TCAH has 49 paid members and 9 "life" members. I will be emailing reminders to those members who are not yet checked off on our 2023 roster. If you are not signed up for 2024, you can send a check for \$15.00 to: Dennis Strand, 833 Manomin Ave., St. Paul, MN 55107. You can also catch me at the January meeting. At that time, the list for the 2024 roster will be frozen. Although, memberships will be accepted at any time throughout the year, their names and information would not be included on the new roster.



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kit. Unfortunately, this kit represents Pittsburgh "as commissioned" in WWII, and by 1967 the St. Paul looked profoundly different. Although I did not realize it when I started, this project would be one of the most difficult but enjoyable builds I have done, challenging all of my kit bashing, scratch building, and spares box creativity skills. It also provided my first excursion into 3D printed parts.

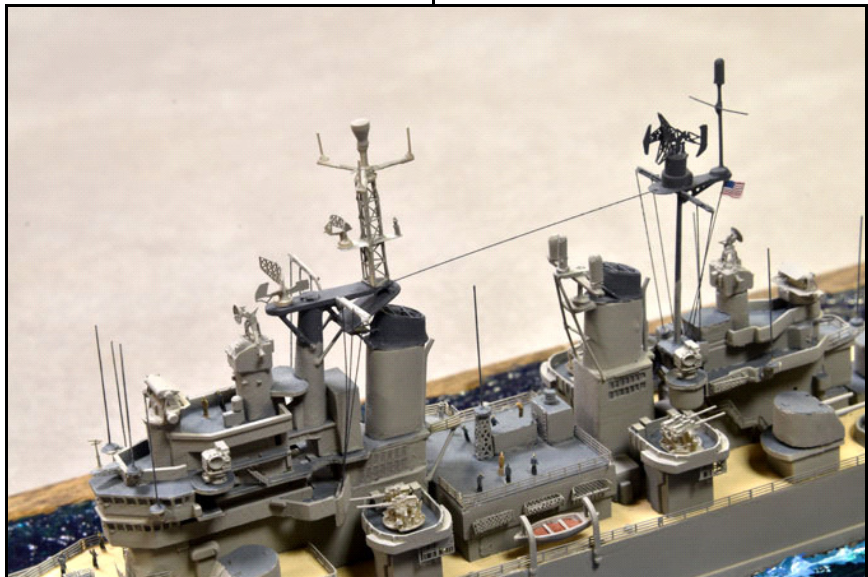
The first and most tedious part of the project was removing the WWII weapons and fittings. As commissioned, Pittsburgh had 26 20mm mounts, eleven quad 40mm mounts (each of which had its own separate director) and two aircraft catapults. Although the guns themselves were separate parts, many of their associated gun tubs and mounts were molded into kit parts and had to be cut and/or chiseled off and the resulting damage repaired. All of the mounting holes for these weapons had to be filled. In addition the St. Paul had its forward 5"/38 twin mount removed (to accommodate an Admiral's staff in her role as a flagship), so its mounting spot on

the kit had to be removed. Interestingly, although the aircraft catapults were removed, she retained the original aircraft crane which was used for loading and unloading things like ammunition.

Once all this cleanup was completed the fun part of the build could start. The forward superstructure of St. Paul was significantly altered over time. The most visible change was the addition of a second bridge level to accommodate an admiral and his staff when the vessel served as a flagship. Fortunately Model Monkey makes 3D printed resin parts for this superstructure conversion. The three parts of the bridge conversion went together well and fit smoothly with the underlying kit parts. I broke the platform off the foremast pylon while removing the printing gates, but Model Monkey replaced it for me, quickly and at no charge.

Model Monkey also provided 3D printed replacements for the 8" gun turrets, four of the twin 3" gun tubs, as well as replacements for the Mk 34 and

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Mk 37 directors, and the Mk 13 radar antenna. Veteran Models provided the MK-22 3"/50 twin gun mounts and their four Mk 56 directors. The remaining director and search radars came from the White Ensign Models (WEM) photoetch set for Baltimore class cruisers.

As good as the Model Monkey parts are, nothing beyond additional gun directors is available for changes aft of the first funnel. The deck house between the two stacks is scratch built, with a few detail parts from my spares box. On the aft superstructure itself, the mounting platforms for the Mk 56 directors were scratch built with

help from the spares box. An addition to the aft end of the superstructure was also scratch built.

Where things really got interesting was reproducing the masts and electronic antennas, all of which had to be scratch built using brass and styrene rod,

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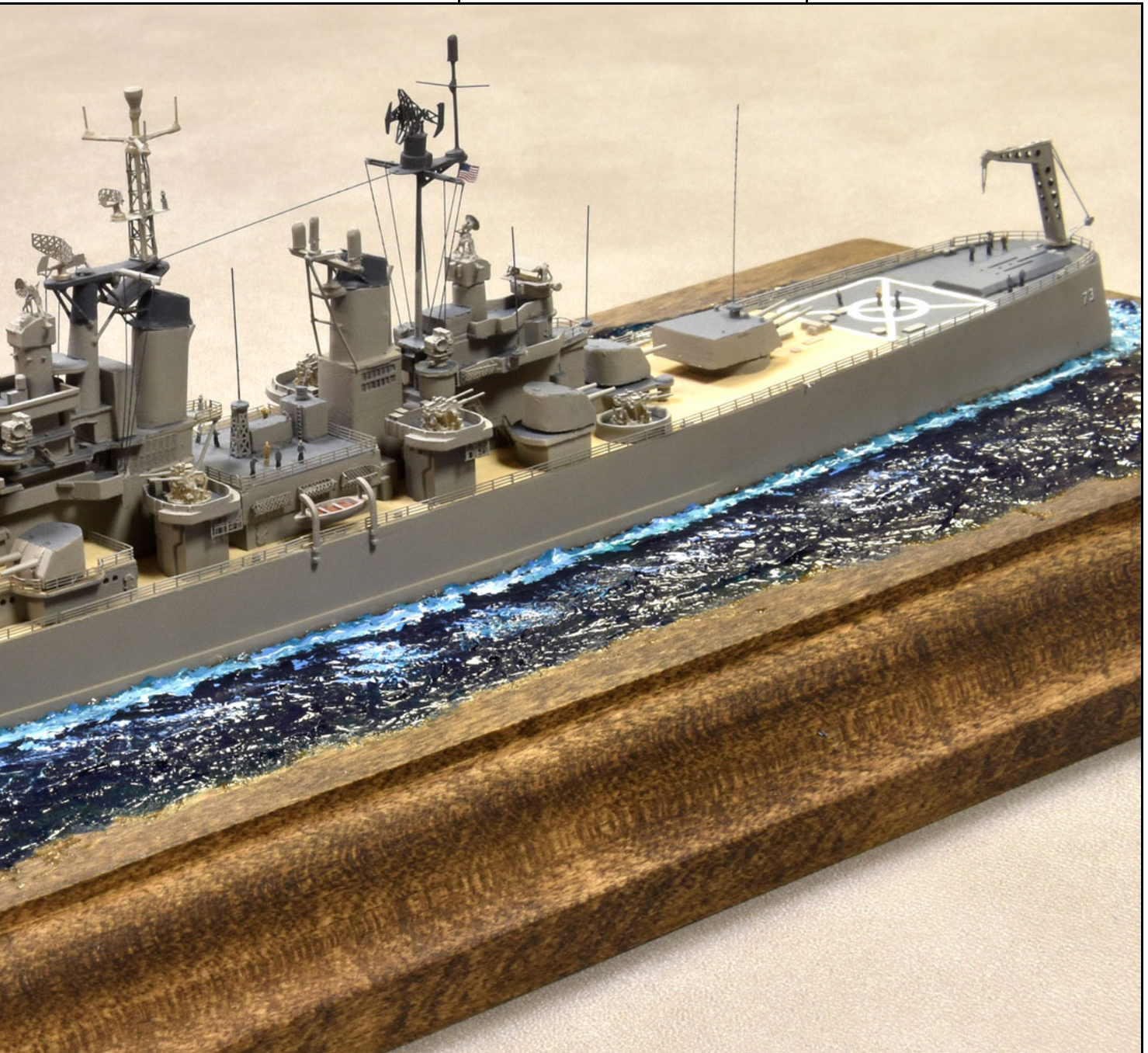
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and new or repurposed photoetched parts. Starting at the bow and moving aft, the NTDS antenna between the anchor chains is scratch built using PE spreaders from a modern USS New Jersey PE fret. Moving farther aft, all the whip antennas are fine stainless steel wire. Looking at the

foremast, the bracing and heat shield under the pylon platform are built from styrene rod and sheet. The SPS 6 and SPS 10 PE radar antennas are from the WEM fret. The yard arms are repurposed PE davits from a destroyer fret. The lattice mast is a repurposed deck edge radio tower from a WWII Essex carrier fret. The three spoke antenna

platform at the top is a repurposed PE rotor from a 1/700 helicopter. The antenna platform on the front of the aft funnel is entirely scratch built from styrene rod and sheet. The main mast is brass rod with a styrene platform and the SPS 8 radar is from the WEM fret. The PE crew figures and the railings

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Scale Model World 2023
Telford, England
The Greatest Model Show in
the World!!
by Mark Copeland

In early November, I had the opportunity to once again attend **Scale Model World 2023** in Telford, England. This is the largest scale modeling event in the world, comparable to scale of the **IPMS USA Nationals**.

The event is traditionally held over the second weekend in November at the **International Exhibition Center** in Telford, England which is just west of the Birmingham in the British Midlands. The event attracts modelers from all over England, Europe and throughout the entire world.

Scale Model World is truly a celebration of the hobby and a mutual sharing of the passion for scale modeling. There is a competition or contest that follows traditional IPMS rules where a gold, silver and bronze medal is awarded in each respective category. There are also recognition awards for the runners up as "Commendable." Entries this year topped over 1000 models.

The event is spread over three venue halls. Yes, that's **three** enormous venue halls. When you walk into the event for the first time, you literally lose your breath and your heart seems to almost skip a beat. The vendors are amazing and you find things there that you never see here in the United States. **Hannants**, easily the best mail-order hobby supplier in the world, provides a service called "click and collect" to their customers. You can fill up a *Shopping Cart* on their website

and have the order sent directly to the show. Once you collect your order at Telford, they extend an extra 10% percent off your total. That also saves you the postage costs to send it all home, providing you bring an extra bag!

The best part of any model show is meeting fellow modelers and making new friends. The

show isn't focused on just the contest or the vendors; it's about celebrating the hobby. Throughout the three venues are several Special Interest Groups (SIGS) and individual club displays. As you pass through the aisles you will see tables full of model displays highlighting a particular subject like **WWII RAF Bomber Command** or **Air Show**
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On The Table—December 2023

| Modeler | Kit | Manufacturer | Scale |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Steve Erickson | Carro Armata P-40 | Italeari | 1/35 |
| Erik Zabel | KI-43 "Oscar" | Hasegawa | 1/48 |
| Jim Kloek | Mig-29 | Hasegawa | 1/72 |
| Jim Kloek | USS St. Paul | Trumpeter | 1/700 |
| Don Stauffer | Revolutionary war cannon | Pyro | 1/16 |
| Franklin Haws | Hawker Hurricane | Airfix | 1/48 |
| Bob Ferreira | FW-190A-5 | Eduard | 1/72 |
| John Roll | ME 262 (in progress) | Hobby boss | 1/48 |
| Harold Parsons | GAZ Tiger | Suyata | 1/48 |
| Harold Parsons | T-90 Russian tank | Suyata | 1/48 |
| Harold Parsons | Supermarine Seafire XVII | Airfix | 1/48 |
| Steve Hustad | Junkers F13 | Revell | 1/72 |
| Cameron Jamison | Mercedes F-1 car (1954) | Starter | 1/43 |
| Bob Maderich | Austin A40 Ambulance | Airfix | 1/35 |
| Bob Maderich | Albatross DIII | Eduard | 1/48 |
| Bob Maderich | Albatross DIII (von Richtofen's) | Eduard | 1/48 |
| ? | Boeing 727-200 | Minnecraft | 1/144 |

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.

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Flight Teams. Next to that will be a club display from **IPMS Denmark** or **IPMS Manchester, England.** Modelers are all willing to share and talk about their models and the hobby. You get the chance to meet fellow passionate modelers from throughout the world.

Airline tickets to England in November are usually much less expensive than at other times of the year. I saw a Basic Fare (Coach) Ticket on **Delta Airlines** – Minneapolis to London – Heathrow for less than \$600.00. You can easily catch a train from Heathrow to Telford with just a couple of changes. Or, if you are like me, just rent a car and drive the two and a half hours to Telford.

If you ever have the chance

to attend a **Scale Model World** event, I highly encourage it. It is an experience that you won't ever regret. I plan to attend the show annually, *even if I have to swim!*



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are from Gold Medal Models. There are many more details added, but they are mainly the usual things one would do with a ship model, and do not need special mention.

In conclusion, this was a challenging and time consuming project, which was nevertheless quite enjoyable. It produced a unique model of a ship of local interest.

