

# The Aero Historian

TWIN CITY AERO HISTORIANS



Volume 38 Number 3

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

March 2004



Steve Macey's prize winning Hasegawa Macchi MC.202. Steve makes it look so easy.

## Between The Lines

by Steve Erickson

No this isn't a article about WW I . It's about your old childhood pas-time. You must remember coloring books and crayons and trying to draw between the lines. Never thought that it would come in handy for modeling, did you. Well painting a model is sort of the same, pick a color and fill in a blank space and keep that color in the right spot, but no lines, freehand only. You pick a scheme, from a book, photo or drawing and transform it into a three dimensional model.

How many times do you see all of your subject, or both sides for that matter. Not a lot. So what does it really look like, all done? Where does the camo pattern go on the back side? Where are the stripes, or in black and white-which color is which? So back to your childhood and make your new coloring book.

I was working on a Hasagawa 1/32 Bf-109-G2 from I/JG54 in Russia, with a strange field applied

scheme, but with only two partial pictures and the fuselage obscured by the wing, how do I paint the blank spaces?

To connect the dots (camo stripes) and fill in the lines I made my own coloring book. I found a nice clean, white (not a color drawing) line drawing of a 109 and copied it. A xerox of a line drawing is just like a coloring book - black and white lines. Of course I enlarged it several times, just to make sure I could stay between the lines. I always make several copies just in case I miss, oooh, I mean change my mind. Copies are good you can cut them up to change them or move parts around. When I get what I want I make several good clean copies to work from. Now I can experiment with color drawings till I have a master for my model.

I keep a wide range of Eagle and Prisma brand color pencils for drawing in panel lines and shading on my models; those my new crayons. Of course you can't match colors like RLM 74 or 75 or even OD

exactly, but I do have light and dark gray pencils and brown sienna works for OD. By making your own color drawing you can get an idea of how a model will look and if you'll like the scheme. Like my Bf-109 I was able to draw in the parts of the camo scheme I could see and try and fill in the blanks. It's not as easy as it sounds, you have to get the proportions right or it won't fit, and its better to mess up a xerox copy than a model. My 109 was dark green, light green, then brown stripes, then repeated up to the windscreen, then blanked out by the wing. But the rudder was brown. So I played with my pencils and copies till I had the right number of stripes, the right width to end up at the rudder in brown. I had to juggle size and placement, it took several trys to get it right.

Its not as crazy an idea as it sounds. Its also fun and saves messing up a model. I don't do it that often but it helps from time to time. It's just a tip that may help, if you don't like my idea....erase!

## TCAH Officers

**President**, Ken Hornby  
651-552-0888  
**Vice-President**, Bernie Kugel  
651-771-3525  
**Secretary**, John Dunphy  
952-758-6519  
**Treasurer**, Tom Norrbohm  
612-881-5763  
**Historian**, Tom Norrbohm  
952-881-5763

## Newsletter Info

*Article Submission Deadline: 22nd of each month.*

*Editor*

**George Mellinger**  
(melli004@gte.net)  
5212 West 47 Street, Apt. 2  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
H:605-362-5603

*Distribution Editor*

**Bernie Kugel**  
2080 Ivy Ave. East  
St. Paul, MN 55119  
H: 651-771-3525

**Newsletter Photographer**  
Steve Jantscher

**Send articles to:**

Via E-mail: melli004@gte.net

Via Snail-mail:

George Mellinger  
Attn: TCAH Newsletter  
5212 W. 47 Street, Apt.2  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Send Change of address notice to:

Tom Norrbohm  
9936 Columbus Ave. S.  
Bloomington, MN 55420

## TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday March 13 at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:00 PM. Socializing and vendor scavenging will begin about 12:30. So come early. This month Saint Paddy is wearin' the green, and so should your aircraft. Olive Drab is a sort of green. We will also have a guest speaker who flew the Avenger during the Pacific campaigns.

## General Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2004  
by Johannes Allert

President Ken Hornby called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. Special guest and speaker was LTC.Lou Martin, USAF (Ret.).

Fleming Display & Club Logo - Since no volunteers have stepped forward to help or lend ideas to the Club Display or Logo, Pres. Ken Hornby submitted an alternative. He has suggested the the club out-source the work to professionals. His preliminary work estimated the costs run between \$100 - \$2000 for finishing the Fleming display case as well as an update for the club logo. A motion to spend up to but not in excess of \$2000 was made and the members voted to proceed with that option.

Club Display Case - VP Bernie Kugel had members rotate the collection of kits in the TCAH Club Display Case out in the Lobby. There's still room for more so if you are interested, contact Bernie.

Incorporation of Club - The question of incorporation was brought up, but Pres. Ken Hornby said there were no further updates to this regard.

Club Photo - TCAH Member photo is tentatively set for the May meeting. Pres. Ken Hornby to contact Commemorative AF to lend B-25 & hangar as backdrop.

MTO Contest - There were several entries to the first "theme contest" focusing on the North African Campaign. The winner this time is Steve Macy.

IMPS Club Contact - John Roll has stepped forward to be the Club Contact. He announced that IPMS dues will be increasing as of 1 July 2004 to \$25. Also, the "letters to the Editor" column will be reinstated in the IPMS Journal.

TCAH voted to sponsor a trophy package to the IPMS Nationals which will be held in Phoenix from 4-7 August 2004. TCAH requests that the trophy package go towards an aviation category.

TCAH Club Contest - Pizza Drivers wanted. Everything is on schedule, but the club needs a volunteer

to pick up the pizzas for the meeting day. Please see VP Bernie Kugel.

TCAH Awards - Nominations were taken for the various categories. the only one submitted was Steve Macy for "TCAH Modeler of the Year". TCAH Member of the Year submissions are still needed by the committee. Due no later than end of month.

Guest Speaker - LTC Lou Martin spoke on his experiences while serving in the USAF for 22 years. He flew the C-133 stateside as well as in Vietnam. He gave an excellent account of some of the problems encountered with stalling out in the C-133, as well as solutions the USAF came to in overcoming those problems.

The meeting ended at 3:30 pm.

## Business Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2004

There was no business meeting this month. They resume in March.

## Treasurer's Report

February 2004

by Tom Norrbohm

We still have money! We have \$8210.09 in our account and 82 members on the roster.

## March Guest Speaker

By Noel Allard

I have invited Mr. Robert P. Provost of Minneapolis to speak at our March meeting. Bob was an Avenger pilot with VC-88 in the Pacific. He, like the earlier President Bush, ditched a TBM in the Pacific near Iwo Jima. After the war, when flying from Minneapolis Naval Air Station, he was one of a team dropping 2000 lb. bombs in the muskeg north of Red Lake in Northern Minnesota in 1947 to make watering holes for drought-stricken wildlife. Bob will give us an interesting "Strategic Briefing" on the famous mission to "Get Yamamoto."



## From the President

by Ken Hornby

When I was first elected to this position I remarked on how proud I was of being a part of this club. For me, the February meeting shows just why. We had a pretty good turn out for our first "Campaign Contest", a great guest speaker, and we had a club member offer his expertise to help with the planned display for the airport we now call home. I want to take this opportunity to thank several people for making our recent meetings so successful: Your Vice President, Bernie Kugel for running the Campaign Contest; Noel Allard, for finding and scheduling several very interesting guest speakers, and Steve Jantscher for offering his help with graphics for the Richard Fleming display. As I wrote earlier, Noel has arranged for another speaker this month, Mr. Robert Provost, a TBM Avenger pilot. See a fuller description elsewhere in this newsletter. Our theme this month is aircraft in a green livery, so let's see some green on that table. We will also be voting for the TCAH Club awards this month; Modeler, Historian, Newsletter Article, and Member of the Year. The winners will be presented with their awards at the April meeting. Speaking of April, the club contest is almost upon us. To paraphrase a previous writer of this column, just build something! We've had several great meetings but we need everyone's input to continue the momentum. If anyone has any suggestions or constructive criticism, the latest club roster was available as of last month and my name is on it. Anyway, we've got another important, interesting meeting this month, so I hope you'll plan to be there. We will be having a business meeting after the general meeting, the main topic being next month's club contest.

There is one more thing I need to remind everyone about. Normally I stay behind to make a quick sweep of the area after a meeting and find a couple of scraps of paper and maybe a plastic drink bottle. After the last meeting I picked up an unusual amount of trash and left behind "stuff". I think we have a pretty

good thing with our present meeting place and I'd hate to see us booted out for not taking care of the space we use. If you got home last month and realized you forgot something, see me this month to see if I have it or know what happened to it. In the future please police your own mess and look around you to see if you've left behind anything.

## On The Show Table

February 2004

### Aircraft

Merrill Anderson		
Airfix 1/72	DH-4	
Airfix/Blue Rider 1/72	DH-9	
Pegasus 1/72	Sopwith Snipe	
1/72	DH-9A	
Copperstate 1/48	Sopwith Dolphin	
Steve Erickson		
1/48	Gloster Gladiator	
1/48	Macchi 202	
Jim Kaltenhauser		
Academy 1/72	P-51C	
Hasegawa 1/72	Hellcat I	
Bernie Kugel		
Eduard 1/48	Ki-115	
Steve Macey		
Hasegawa 1/48	P-51D	
Fletcher Warren		
Hasegawa 1/72	Jack	
Hasegawa 1/72	Val	
Lou Martin		
display	C-133	
Ship		
Steve Jantscher		
Revell 1/72	U-Boat VIIC	
Armor		
Don Burgoyne		
1/35	JS-2 Stalin	
Pat Butler		
Revell 1/72	Panther G	
Contest Models		
John Fuller		
Airfix 1/72	Hurricane IIC	
Bernie Kugel		
Airfix 1/48	Bf-109F	
Hasegawa 1/48	Ju-87B	
tauro 1/48	Macchi 202	
Steve Macey		
Hasegawa 1/48	Macchi 202	
Tom Norrbohm		
Hasegawa 1/32	Bf-109G-6	
Dave Pluth		
Fujimi 1/76	Panzer I Pak 43	
Matchbox 1/76	M3A1 Stuart	
Tamiya 1/72	Spitfire V	
Italeri 1/72	SM-79	

Dennis Strand		
Tamiya 1/48	F4F-4	
Fletcher Warren		
Revell 1/72	Panzer III	

## The V-P Report

by Bernie Kugel

Well the first of our Campaign themes have come and gone. And Steve Macy was our winner with a 1/48 Hasegawa Macchi Mc.202. There were many models on the table and I'd like to see this continue as a regular club event. In August, we are having our next Campaign theme. Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. I plan on seeing several ships, Shermans, and USMC aircraft. So get building.

On Feb. 7, the Rochester IPMS had their annual model contest. Several of our members attended and took home quite a few awards. Congrats are in order for Gary Anderson, Merrill Anderson, Johan Allert, MG-SGT Krummrey, myself, and our newest member Fletcher Warren, who did a great job in the junior categories.

Not much else going on. So with winter winding down, get your models done.

## TCAH Calendar

April - TCAH Club Contest. No special theme.

May - VE Day - Late war European Theater. Luftwaffe models returning from January will be shot down.

June - RAF & Commonwealth

July - Red, White & Blue.

August - Campaign Theme - Guadalcanal.

September - Aircraft of the War on Terror.

October - TCAH salutes the United States Marine Corps.

November - Club election & auction  
No theme.

December - Campaign Theme - Eastern/Russian Front.

## TCAH Annual Contest

Chairman: Steve Macey

The annual TCAH Model Contest will be held April 10, 2004 (the second Saturday in April) at the Terminal of the South St. Paul Municipal Airport (Fleming Field). Registration will begin at 11 AM and close at 1 PM. Judging will begin at 1 PM. Judges will be selected by the Contest Chairman. Any current TCAH member may volunteer to judge. The rules and categories are as follows:

### RULES:

1. You must be a paid member of TCAH or an invited guest of TCAH (See contest chairman for details).
2. No joint projects.
3. Entry fee is \$0.50 per model.
4. Judges will be selected and will have the authority to disqualify models if needed.
5. Models which have previously placed first in a TCAH or IPMS sponsored contest can not be entered, but may be displayed.

### CATEGORIES:

1. The following is a general guideline that can be changed by the contest chairman to reflect types or quantity of models entered. Any category can be subdivided if necessary.
2. Junior--those members or children of members who are under 17 years of age.
3. Novice--those who have never entered a TCAH contest (TCAH member) or any member who has entered a contest but has not placed.
4. General--Out-of-box models.
5. Advanced--those with minor modifications. This will normally be limited to "drop-in" accessories (i.e. seats, seat belts, wheels, etc.) or minor metal work (i.e. ignition harness, brake lines, etc.).
6. Master--models that have been extensively modified or altered (i.e. extensive use of resin, photo etch or parts substitution).
7. Non-aircraft models will be entered into their own separate categories.
8. Categories can be subdivided if the number of entries warrant.
9. These descriptions are meant to serve a guidelines only. The contest

## Patronize Your Local Hobby Shop...OK

by Dave Heffernan

A few years ago I was at University Hobby browsing the magazines when something interesting happened. A group of about four or five regulars and employees were hanging around the front of the store, talking loud and checking out pornography on the store's computer. These guys were all very over eight and would look quit at home in the movie "Deliverance". A man and woman walked into the store. The couple appeared to be middle class, well dressed, and neatly groomed. I don't know what their motivation was for stopping at University Hobby. Maybe they were looking to help one of their kids with a school project. Maybe they were looking for a gift. Maybe they wanted to get started in modeling themselves. As soon as they

chairman reserves the right to make a final decision if a question of category placement arises.

### JUDGING

1. Judges are to be selected by the contest chairman from volunteers. Entrants are encouraged to judge but not in the category entered.
2. Only one-third of the models entered in each category will place.
3. Judges will pick the best 10% in each category and list them in order with the best being first.
4. If less than 3 Models are entered than only one award will be given.
5. The annual TCAH Memorial Model award will be voted on by all TCAH members present considering only TCAH member models. The model receiving the most votes will receive the award.
6. Any TCAH SIG or special interest group may present an award. The Chairman shall be notified by the group of their intent to do so. And the award shall be in the hands of the chairman at the time judging begins.

I'll need a few members to help set up and register models. If you would like to help or be a judge, call me at 651-735-4334 or E-mail me at [RCAF\\_413@Yahoo.com](mailto:RCAF_413@Yahoo.com).

walked in the door all the "regulars" and employees stopped everything they were doing. Then in stark silence just stared open mouthed at the new customers like they were from another planet. The couple was visibly uncomfortable. They took a quick tour around the store, whispered a couple of nervous comments to each other and quickly exited. That was good because now the store regulars and employees could go back to making bad jokes and looking at pornography. I had to wonder why these new customers had been made to feel so uncomfortable. After spending some time pondering the question I realized it wasn't just these customers but all customers were treated in the same manner. Customers were either stared at by guys who seemed to be just hanging around, or, if they wanted to know something they would have to bully their way through loud, obnoxious and unrelated conversation. Easier to forget about hobbies and go to a nice restaurant and get a steak. Well University Hobbies is gone.

I used to work close to Hobby Depot in Richfield. For years during my lunch hour I would take a drive over to Hobby Depot and take a walk around the park. I visited the store several times a month and spent quite a bit of money in the process. The folks at Hobby Depot always acted gruff and uninterested at best and generally treated me as a nuisance. Maybe I'm one of those guys that just rub folks the wrong way. Nevertheless I was a good customer and I was never treated as anything more than an inconvenience. Well Hobby Depot is gone.

Occasionally I spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon driving around the cities and doing a little shopping. I may take in a mall, electronics store, auto dealer, no agenda just cruise around and shop. On three of these occasions I drove over to Har Mar Mall with the intention of visiting Woodcraft Hobbies. On every trip there was a hand written sign taped up on the door that read "be back in ten minutes". I complained about this to a fellow club member who worked at the

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Spraybooth Logic

### Priceless

By Dave Pluth

The thrill of the hunt is a powerful thing. The desire to prove yourself superior or to see where you rank amongst your peers has a strong pull. Whether you are carrying a rifle in search of the 12 point buck or you are carrying that Me 109 into the contest room, the rush is eerily similar.

For those of you reading this that have been out on a pheasant hunt with your dog on a crisp fall afternoon, you can relate. Your dog goes on point or flushes (unfortunately sometimes both) and that bird kicks up in front of you as big as life. You freeze momentarily and then pull the shotgun up to your shoulder with your heart beating hard in your chest and wait for the bird to line up and just at the right moment you squeeze the trigger. With a blast the bird falls and your dog is off to retrieve it for you. You start to relax as your very proud pup starts back to you with the bird in his mouth. You take the bird from your dog and put it in your vest. You give your dog a bit of water, a pat on the head and off you go to start the hunt for your next bird.

On many levels models shows can be looked at in the same way. You spend a great deal of time preparing, researching and building a model. You strategize and in some cases even look at the categories that aren't particularly populated in order to have the best chance of winning or at least placing at a show. You seek out a special paint scheme that is particularly striking and will definitely catch the judge's eye.

So you spend a bunch of time working on your project alone. You hit some websites to glean a bit of info on the kit that you are doing. You find that the kit isn't really as accurate as you'd like. But if you buy \$100 worth of extra crap for it, somehow it will magically transform into the award winner that you have planned and hoped for.

You find those special decals that are made by monks in a town in South Africa. You feel good about

the fact that the money they raise from these decals is being used to feed the homeless in South Africa. You take the big step and order the decals (giving your credit card to someone over the internet in a foreign country, risky, but worthwhile you think). Six weeks later the decals arrive and they are everything you'd hoped that they would be.

You decal your now nearly completed model and go to bed for the night. In the morning you stop by the workbench before going to work and find that the decals went on perfectly. This may be the best model you have ever done; in fact you are sure of it.

The evening arrives after a very long day at work and you move down to your hobby room to settle in and complete your masterpiece. With the spray of your airbrush, the gloss and flat coats go on without a hitch. After a light touch of weathering, your nearly perfect model is complete.

You quickly inventory what you have done like a Mastercard commercial. Model \$30, cockpit set/new wheel wells/new control surfaces/new engine/new wheels \$85, carrier deck display base \$25, award winning validation – priceless!!!

The day of the contest comes along and you confidently stride into the room. You know that no-one suspects what you have in the box because you've guarded it's secret like the government guards Area 51.

You register and walk confidently in the room to place your model on the table of validation, only to find that there were at least three other modelers that had the same idea of the perfect scheme that you did. You are still confident however that you can win because no-one has put the same effort into the kit that you have. That is until another guy shows up an hour later with almost the exact kit and spare parts. Your heart sinks.

The time for awards comes and goes and you lose to another "perfect model". The part that really angers you is that it was one that was built "out of the box". While it was nice, you are still despondent over the fact that they didn't do all

the work that you did. You walk away from the show depressed and questioning if all this stuff is worth it. You even begin to question whether modeling is something you want to continue.

Remember the dog story earlier in this column. Well, my time training dogs and hunting pheasants last fall taught me a great deal about my modeling. What I came to realize while I was walking all those miles following my dog (who walked about eight times the miles I did) was that the part I really enjoyed about hunting wasn't necessarily the rush I got from shooting. It was the time I spent with my dog out in the woods, away from work and phones. Whether I got anything that day reflected little on how I felt about the days hunt.

The same can be said for my modeling these days. I used to be the guy that got upset when I lost or didn't place at a contest. I was angry or upset when I left, even though when I looked really close at my own work, I realized I didn't deserve to win or even place for that matter. In fact when I won, many times, I still knew I didn't deserve it.

What I have come to realize is that at least for me, it's about the people and the joy that the hobby brings, not the number of plaques and awards that I have hanging on my wall. It's about the friendships that have been forged and the pre-game meal on meeting day, not the contest at the meetings. After all, the awards I did win throughout the years are all sitting in the bottom of a drawer, but the people and experiences of the last ten years of modeling are with me everyday.

So, for now, shut up and build and this time take a little bit of time to enjoy the experience and share it with someone else.

## Contest Calendar

5-7/8-04 R-5 Con- KC-Con  
Kansas City Expo Center  
Contact: Darren Roberts  
913-782-1159  
Dar-  
ren.roberts@ipmsgreatplains.co  
m

## Airline Chatter

by Terry Love

Blue Moon Aviation is based here at MSP. It is a charter airline owned by Richard Page, former President of Champion Airlines and MGM Grand Airlines. Blue Moon has a contract to fly the Minnesota Timberwolves NBA Basketball team. The Airbus A-319-112 has CFM-56 engines. It was previously owned by Sabena Airlines of Belgium before they ceased operations.

NWA operates one of the oldest fleets in the world. On January 1, 2004, NWA had 432 airliners whose average age was 18.1 years old. Most major US carriers' average age is around 10 years old. The old age stems from the 165 Douglas DC-9s that NWA operates. The average age of the NWA fleet of DC-9s is around 30 years old. The rest of the NWA fleet is around 9.5 years old. Instead of replacing the DC-9s, NWA started upgrading them in 1994. NWA had certain economics from operating fully paid-for aircraft - low ownership costs.

China ordered 21 Airbus A-320s for China Southern Airlines. China, with this order, will have 238 Airbus A-320s.

Boeing delivered 281 airliners in 2003 worth \$22.4 Billion. Boeing earned \$700 million for the year of 2003.

Air Tahiti ordered its fifth Airbus A-340-300 for delivery in June of 2005.

Mesaba Airlines will keep their Avro RJ-85 jet airliners. NWA owns 11 and leases 25 of them and sub-leases them to Mesaba. NWA has about \$500 million invested in them. Five of them are parked in Marana Air

Park, Arizona. Two will return in April, and the other three will return in June. NWA has leased the Avros to Mesaba through April 25, 2007.

Pakistani Airlines received its first Boeing 777-300ER.

South African Airways began service using their new Airbus A-340-600s from Atlanta, Georgia to Cape Town non-stop.

Surinam Airways bought s Boeing 747-300 from KLM.

Northwest Airlines is closing all of their CTOs- city ticket offices. The use of the internet for booking and paper-less ticketing, and check-in, is the cause of the decline in usage of the CTOs.

Nippon Cargo Airlines ordered 3 Boeing 747-400 freighters for \$600 million for delivery starting in 2005. The Boeing 747-400 freighter can haul 120 tons of cargo, 25 tons more than the standard 747-200 freighter. Also the 747-400 freighter burns 15% less fuel, allowing the freighter to fly further and to more destinations.

China Southern Airlines bought 21 Airbus A-320s, and 6 regional jets from Embraer.

Singapore Airlines flies the longest scheduled flight in the world. It is from Singapore to Los Angeles, 7,937 nautical miles, and 18.5 hours. Singapore operates and Airbus A-340-600 on this route.

Loganair operates the shortest flight in the world. It is between the Scottish Islands of Westray and Papa Westray. Scheduled flight time is 2 minutes. With a strong tail wind, the flight takes 1 minute. Loganair operates a Pilatus Islander. It is not believed that there is any beverage service on this flight.

America West Airlines begins

service on June 1 from Phoenix to Anchorage using AIRBUS A-319s.

KLM took delivery of its third Boeing 747-400 freighter in February.

SAS wants to sell its entire fleet of AIRBUS A-321s.

Air Canada announced that 20 of its Airbus A-319s will replace all of the Boeing 737-200 fleet operated by its low cost subsidiary ZIP, by the end of 2004. The Boeing 737-200s came from the merger of Canadian Airlines. Air Canada has also retired all of their Douglas DC-9s. This year Air Canada also begins to phase out their Avro BA-146 RJs.

Delta Airlines will begin service from Atlanta to Buenos Aires on December 1, 2004 using Boeing 767-300ERs.

United Airlines will begin service from Chicago to Nassau on May 1, 2004 using Airbus A-320s.

TED, the low cost airline owned by United Airlines, flies AIRBUS A-320s With 156 seats on board. By comparison, NWA operates the same aircraft With 124 seats.

Jetsgo, the new low cost Canadian airline, bought 18 Fokker 100s from American Airlines, bringing Jetsgo total to 32 Fokker 100s. The airline Also operates 14 Douglas MD-83s. At one time, American Airlines had 74 Fokker 100s and U S Air had 40. All of the Fokker 100s have been parked for some time.

World Airways has a fleet of 11 Douglas MD-11s and 7 Douglas DC-10s. These are going to be replaced by Boeing 767-300ERs and Boeing 747 freighters. World is Also evaluating the Boeing 747-400

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Hobby Shop Continued from page 4)*  
store and he assured me that the recalcitrant employee had been talked to and the situation corrected. So armed with my cash, check book and credit card I set off to once again visit Woodcraft Hobbies. When I got to the store there was a hand written sign taped up on the door reading "will open later". I thought this was a strange solution to the problem. Well Woodcraft Hobbies is gone.

Don't worry there are still some hobby stores left in the Twin Cities. I recently went to Hub Hobbies in Richfield to get replacement straps for my paint shaker. When I asked if they had the part I was told abruptly "no they didn't and I could only get the part directly from the manufacturer". The employee didn't take one second to look at the part or consider what I was asking for. He just said he couldn't help me and walked off. I went home and ordered the part from Squadron. They arrived at my home four days later. I again stopped in at Hub in Richfield to get a copy of SAMI. I couldn't see the magazine on the rack. As I was looking for it an employee who is also a club member walked by. So thinking a fellow club member could help me I said I couldn't find SAMI on the rack. He just said "oh we must be out" and kept walking. Evidently the hobby shop attitude supersedes membership in the same club. By now I am accustomed to the typical hobby shop employee so I dug around the magazine rack myself and found SAMI behind another title. When I got home I subscribed to SAMI on line so now it is delivered to my home. At Hub in Little Canada I waited for some time in an ever increasing line while two guys behind the register made sure they were putting the correct drill bits into the right holes in a bit index. When the customer at the front of the line finally suggested maybe one guy could index drill bits and one guy could operate the cash register they seemed almost angry that he would presume such a thing and interrupt the important work they were doing by trying to give them money.

One of the ways Scale Model

Supply attracts new business is to position guys near the entrance at the bottom of the stairs whose job is to stare at customers as they enter the store with an effort to make them as uncomfortable as possible.

A while ago I ordered a huge photo etch set from Hannants. It is a very complicated set and it came missing instructions. I emailed Hannants and two weeks later I received a set of instructions from the manufacture in England. Last year I ordered a short run injection molded kit from Squadron. When the kit arrived I found the vacuum formed canopies had been damaged. I emailed Squadron and five days later I received replacement canopies in the mail. I challenge anybody to walk into any hobby store in the Twin Cities and tell them you need a replacement part for a limited run kit. Or that you need the instructions for a photo etch set. Go ahead try and see what happens.

Does anybody ever notice the number of spouses sitting in cars outside of hobby stores? I don't know of any other retail business where the spouse of the shopper feels so uncomfortable going in that they prefer to wait out in the car. I never see husbands and wives sitting in cars outside malls, restaurants, movies, libraries, health clubs or department stores. It is a hobby store phenomena.

How many times have magazine and internet articles advised new modelers to check with their local hobby store for the right tools and advice on getting started in modeling. Forget it folks. Your typical hobby shop employee couldn't be bothered to give you directions to the nearest restroom or the correct time of day. Remember a time when the hobby shop was a place where modelers could get together and share modeling experience over a cup of coffee? It just doesn't happen anymore. Maybe hobby shops make their money from R/C or model railroading. Maybe they just don't need the revenue plastic models generate. I understand that plastic modeling is a solitary hobby and maybe as a group we lack some social skills. But customers

are still customers.

I still enjoy going to the hobby stores. I like being able to look at the kits, turn the boxes over and pick up the occasional bottle of paint. But I go in spite of the prevailing attitude not because of it. And I never ask for help or advice.

It is the popular belief that mail order and internet shopping is responsible for the closing of local hobby stores. This is absolutely not true. Local hobby shops have done it to themselves. Mail order and internet stores have only provided the modeler with someplace else to go.

*(Airline Continued from page 6)*

freighter.

Air Guadeloupe and Air Martinique merged to become Air Carabeas. They leased an Airbus A-330 and use it to fly to Paris.

Fly Me, a new low cost Swedish airline, has obtained 4 Boeing 737-300s from Ansett of Australia.

Air Polonia, a new low cost Polish airline, has also obtained some used Boeing 737s.

Boeing 747 had its 35th anniversary. It first flew on February 9, 1969. So far, it has carried 3.6 billion people more than 35 billion nautical miles. So far, Boeing has delivered 1,341 747s.

Delta Airlines delayed the delivery of at least two Boeing 777-200s due to economic concerns.

South African Airways has begun service from Cape Town to Frankfurt, Germany using Airbus A-340s-200s.

Qantas will begin service Los Angeles to Brisbane, Australia using Boeing 747-400s beginning in June.

Singapore Airlines could be the launch airline for the new Boeing 7E7 airliner.

# Directions to the Club Meeting Location

## Where: South St. Paul Municipal Airport, a.k.a. Fleming Field:

Fleming Field is located on the southern extremity of the city of South St. Paul, on the bluffs above the Mississippi River, south of I-494, west of Concord Street and East of Highway 52.

## If you are 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 in front, with more parking available to the left near the line of hangers across the street.

Since the streets form intercity boundaries between South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, the street names change at the corners where you will be turning.

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 Steve Erickson at (763) 521-9948

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 editor.



The Internet Model Shop!  
Great Stuff!  
Great Prices!  
Great Service!

John Roll  
Vice President  
john@rollmodels.com

2709 Vale Crest Rd.  
Crystal, MN 55422-3427  
Bus: 612/545-0399  
Fax: 612/545-0899

RICHFIELD LITTLE CANADA

866-9575 490-1675

**HUB HOBBY CENTER**

OPEN: MON-FRI 10:00-9:00, SAT 9:30-6:30, SUN 12:00-5:00

Model Railroad   Radio-Control   Plastic Models  
Science Projects   Kites   Rockets   Road-Racing   Videos

\*Richfield\*   \*Little Canada\*  
6416 Penn Ave. S.   82 Minnesota Ave.  
Richfield, Mn 55423   Little Canada, Mn 55117  
(1 blk S of LUNDS)   (Hwy 36 & Rice St.)

## HobbyTown USA

Over 150 Franchise Stores Nationwide!

GEORGE ASADOURIAN  
OWNER

Valley Creek Mall  
1750 Weir Dr.   Phone (651) 702-0355  
Woodbury, MN 55125   Fax (651) 702-0610  
www.hobbytown.com

Twin City Aero Historian  
Atten: Bernie Kugel  
2080 Ivy Avenue East  
St. Paul, MN 55119

Return address requested