

The Aero Historian



Volume 44 Number 9

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September 2010



1/48 Accurate Miniatures TBM-3
by Mark Rossmann

Pacific Predator— TBM Avenger *by Mark Rossmann*

Sub hunting was recognized as a natural for the Avenger as she trolled the Atlantic for the U-Boats, aboard the Bogue with VC-9, VC-42, VC-65, and VC-95, Core VC-1, Card VC-9 and VC-1, Guadalcanal VC-58 and VC-13, Wake Island VC-58, Santee VC-29, Suwannee(VGS-27) and Block Island VC-1 and VC-6) with total kills of 32. The Pacific

theater had its success, but far less numbering 8 in all, with 7 Avenger or assisted Avenger kills, aboard the Chanango, Anzio VC-82 and VC-13, Suwannee VT-60 and Tulagi VC-92.

Pacific Predators early kills came in 1943, with Chanango aircraft sinking I-21 off the Gilbert Islands. But CVE Liscombe Bay fell victim to I-175 in late November 1943, suffering much loss of life. Two kills occurred in

1944, first in June when a VT-60 Avenger sank I-184 near Guam, the second was a shared kill between VC-82 and its escort destroyers of I-41, several hundred miles east of Sumar. 1945 Off Iwo Jima, VC-13 sank two submarines on successive days, January 26th & 27th, a 960 ton "RO" boat and a large I-boat. Two more sinkings occurred off Okinawa by VC-92 Avengers, of an I-boat and a month later of I-361. The final Pacific Avenger kill

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TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday September 11, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:30 pm. Vendor baiting will begin about 12:30, so come early.



From the Prez

by Larry Donovan

Hello and welcome to the September Newsletter!

As we are all busily engaged in building, filling, sanding, priming, and painting bits of plastic, etch, and resin in time for Nordic Con I'll keep this message short. Besides I'm dealing with another canopy disaster---time to see if a quick vac replacement can be had!

Topic #1: The September regular meeting will proceed after a special meeting to consider a proposal to amend the By-laws and Club Constitution. Our esteemed (and overworked) Secretary, Mark Jacques, will provide the specific proposal elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Topic #2: BRING stuff for the Nordic Con Raffle to this meeting. Kits, resin or etch (or both) aftermarket, decals, books and monographs; one modelers junk is another modelers treasure. By bringing these to the September meeting the Nordic Con Raffle co-ordinator Jeff Fries will have time to arrange the raffle. Jeff has also very kindly availed us of his services to run the silent auction.

Topic #3: Nordic Con chairperson, John Ross, has worked very hard to pull this event together. But he/we need your help! We need volunteers (still) for the Raffle/Silent Auction table; assistance with site security; runners to place models on the appropriate tables; and MOST IMPORTANTLY we need more Judges. Please see the following individuals: Raffle/Silent Auction-Jeff Fries; Site security and Runners-John Ross; Judges-Bernie Kugel.

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Secretary's Notes

by Mark Jacques

The meeting was called to order at 1:30PM.

Larry briefly reiterated his ground rules from last month: Let's have fun, but be courteous.

Guests/Visitors: Our guest speaker for the October meeting, Captain (ret.) Ken Volker, paid us a visit as a guest of Mark Rossman

Vendor update: Axel had a new Schiffer book: "German Armored Trains, 1904 - 1945", along with "Vought F7U Cutlass: A Developmental History", "Consolidated B-32 Dominator: The Ultimate Look from Drawing Board to Scrapyard", "Night Hawks and Black Widows: 13th Air Force Night Fighters in the South and Southwest Pacific 1943 - 1945", "Leatherneck Bombers: Marine Corps B-25/PBJ Mitchell Squadrons in World War II", "We Flew Alone: United States Navy B-24 Squadrons in the Pacific - February 1943 to September 1944", and "Above an Angry Sea: United States Navy B-24 Liberator and PB4Y-2 Privateer Operations in the Pacific - October 1944 - August 1945".

Greg Drawbaugh had a selection including: Northwest DC-4's, Delta 737-800's, Delta 737-200 "Wavy Gravy", Northwest DC-10 "Bowling Shoe", "Black Bunny" DC-9-30, Catalina Fire Bomber "Always", P51-2 Reno Racer "Maytag", F6F-1 Hellcat Racer "Little Nugget", Northwest DC-3's, Golden Knights DHC6-12 Twin Otter, F7F-1 SIS-Q Flying Service, F7F-2 SV Flying Service, B17-1 Aero Union.

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Airline Chatter

by Terry Love

Virgin Atlantic Airlines ordered 40 Airbus A-320s worth \$3.3 Billion plus options for 20 more. This will become their main domestic European aircraft.

Continental Airlines earned \$233 million in the second quarter of 2010.

Jet Blue earned \$30 million in the second quarter of 2010.

Delta Airlines earned \$467 million in the second quarter of 2010.

American Airlines lost \$11 million in the second quarter of 2010.

Baku, the airline of Azerbaijan, ordered 2 Boeing 767-300ERs, 2 Boeing 767 freighters, 2 Boeing 737-800s, and 2 Boeing 787 Dreamliners.

British Airways has leased 3 Boeing 747-800 freighters. The 747-800 model is 18.3 feet longer than the 747-400 freighter. It has 16% more cargo volume. It has both nose and side doors for loading and unloading cargo.

Airbus will increase its production rate of their A-320s. It will increase to 38 per month next August, and then to 40 per month in early 2012. Presently the A-320 is being produced at the rate of 34 per month.

Mexicana Airlines filed for bankruptcy on August 4.

Airbus has a back log of over 2,200 A-320s. Airbus delivered 498 A-420s in 2009. By the end of June Airbus had delivered 250 A-320s so far this year.

American Airlines traffic has

increased to levels from 2 years ago. Traffic increased 2.7% as compared to July of 2009. American increased its capacity by 3.1%. Their load factor was almost 88%.

Cathay Pacific Airlines of Hong Kong, ordered 30 Airbus A-350s. The A-350 is Airbus's version of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The A-350 will have a range of 8,000 miles.

Boeing says that as of August 1, the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner has amassed 463 test flights and 1446 flight test hours. About 3,000 test flight hours are now required by the FAA.

Thai Airways ordered 7 Airbus A-330-300s. Thai already has 20 Airbus A-330-300s.

Mexicana Airlines, who is in bankruptcy, will return 27 Airbus to lessors, or about 40% of its fleet.

Pinnacle Airlines, a Delta Airlines commuter partner, will begin Minneapolis to Toledo, Ohio service on November 1 using Bombardier CRJ-200s.

Delta Airlines says that its Pacific traffic (ex-NWA routes) rose 6.2% so far this year. Also Latin American route traffic rose 3.4%

Delta Airlines is adding flights to London from Detroit and Atlanta starting October 31.

Delta Airlines plans to hire 240 pilots next year. Delta has no pilots on furlough.

Delta Airlines has 81,000 employees. Delta will hire about 1,000 people next year. Also all flight attendants have been called back from layoffs, and some of the new hires will be flight attendants.

Airbus announced the deliveries of the new A-350s are being delayed by at least two years to 2015.

Mexicana Airlines was purchased by a private Mexican consortium. No details are available.



NEWS RELEASE

Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame To Induct Nine Persons in 2011

This spring the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame will honor nine persons from the stage at their annual induction Banquet. Among the new inductees are: Arthur Donahue, WWII Battle of Britain pilot and author, a St. Charles, MN native; Dale "Red" Jackson, pioneer Faribault, MN long-distance flyer and record-setter; John R. Mohr, well-known aerobatic pilot, FBO and airline pilot from Virginia, Minnesota; Donald and John Stuber, brothers who operated American Aviation at Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie, MN; Peter G. Tanis, inventor and manufacturer of industry-leading aircraft heaters; Col. Leo K. Thorsness, Viet-Nam pilot and POW, for which he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor; Brian G. Utley, soaring champion and NAA contest board member; and Noel Allard, pilot, author and historian.

The Hall of Fame Best Aviation Writing by a Minnesotan for the Year 2011 will be presented to Al Zdon, for among other writings, his biography of Kenneth Dahlberg, WWII Ace. The Hall of Fame will also present two or more scholarships

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Upcoming Model Events

by Mark Jacques

11 September 2010 - Gateway to the West Show and Swap Meet – IPMS Gateway @ The Hitter’s Choice Batting Cages, 534 Workman Road, Eureka, MO, www.ipms-gateway.com/invite2010.htm

18 September 2010 – OzCon 2010 – Emerald City Modelers @ the Kansas Aviation Museum, 3350 South George Washington Boulevard, Wichita, KS, www.ipmswichita.org.

19 September 2010 – 15th Annual Model Car Contest – The South Central Modelers @ Nicollet County fairgrounds, Union Street, St. Peter, MN 56082 http://public.fotki.com/72superduty/south_central_model/

25 September 2010 – Nordic-Con 2010 - “Higher, Farther, Faster” – Twin Cities Aero Historians @ Productivity Inc., 15150 25th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55447. www.aerohistorians.org

15 - 17 October 2010 – 36th Annual MMSI Show – The Military Miniature Society of Illinois @ The Chicago Marriot, Schaumburg, IL www.mmsichicago.com

16 October 2010 – Glue Crew 2010 Model Contest and Swap Meet – The Glue Crew @ Howard Johnson Inn and Conference Center, 7101 Mountain Road, Wausau, WI www.thegluecrew.com

30 October 2010 – KC Con 2010 – IPMS/Great Plains @ The First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Road, Kansas City, MO, contact Stuart

Malone at 913-530-3529 or smalone@kc.rr.com or www.ipmsgreatplains.com

13 November 2010 – 28th Annual IPMS/Butch O’Hare Open Model Contest – The IPMS/Butch O’Hare @ St. Paul’s Church of Christ, 5739 Dunham Road, Downers Grove IL, contact John Wendt at 630-969-9016 or jwendt001@comcast.com or www.butchoharemodelers.com



Nordicon 2010 Update

by John Ross

The event is really coming together. We have planned for a great event but we really need your help:

1) We still need volunteers, we only have about 40% of the positions filled. Some of the spots like set up and tear down I know we will get a lot of last minute help on but for areas like Registration and The Raffle we really need your help. Shifts are typically only a couple of hours each and can really have an impact on how things come together. Please consider signing up for a shift, we can work with most schedules and will appreciate any thing you can provide.

2) Judges – Here’s a chance to learn a new skill and help the club. Last year we relied heavily on other clubs to provide the judging for our show. While we appreciate their contribution we need to be more self sufficient. If you are concerned that we cannot enter something and be a judge, rest assured that you can. Our judging system has us using an alternate in the judging process so when you come to one of your

entries the alternate can step in and you can walk away while they judge the entry. Also if you’ve never done this before we have plenty of experienced judges to help you learn the skill. If you think you can help in this area please contact Bernie Kugel.

3) Finally, we are still looking for a few more donations for the both the Raffle and Silent Auction. We would prefer sealed kits but the only real requirement is that the kits need to be complete and unstarted. Donations here will help us keep the cost of the event down. We have already received some donations from Vendors attending the show and even something from Revell and Moebius models. Anything left over from the Raffle will be used in the Auction in November. Please consider a donation.

In addition to this year’s event we also have some information regarding next years. I know we still haven’t held this year’s event but if we are going to do one next year we need to get this on the calendar for both the IPMS and the Event Location. So please come to this month’s meeting and have a listen.

I know we have not held the event but I wanted to extend a Thank you to everyone on the Nordic Con Team for their hard work and dedication to the event. If you see one of these guys please extend a Thank you to them as they have dedicated time and energy into this. They are: Bernie Kugel, Bob Maderich, Dave Nelson, Don Stauffer, Jeff Fries, John Roll, Larry Donovan, Sean Brzozowski, John P. Ross and Tom Norrbohm. Thanks for all your hard work guys!!!



(Continued from page 2)

John Roll is back with a lengthy list of new offerings from Aber, Academy, Airfix, A-Model, Aoshima, AZ Models, DML/ Dragon, Fine Molds, Fujimi, Hasegawa, HobbyBoss, Lifelike, Master Barrel, Planet Model, SAM Limited Publications, and Valom; As usual, please check the RollModels.com website for details of the latest product offerings.

See later in the newsletter for a detailed list of the display of workmanship from our "On the Table", as presented by Bob Friskney.

Nordicon 2010: According to John R. Ross (J.R.), Nordicon 2010 is progressing nicely. There will be the raffle and a silent auction for some larger quality kits, books, decals, accessories and possibly a completed work or two. There is still a need for volunteers for security, assistants for registration, judging, the raffle area, and anywhere else there is a need. The meeting for volunteers and judges at Productivity, Inc. on Friday, 30 July 2010 included a tour of the planned vendor, registration, display, judging and raffle areas. The committee will present further details as they become available. This month's meeting is the deadline for sponsoring a "special" award. To date the following awards have been posted: **"German Aircraft in Foreign Service"**, **"Best Polish Subject"**, **"Best Painted Figure"**, **"Best Armor Subject"**, **"Best Ordnance"**, **"Best WWI Aircraft Model"**, **"Most Unique Model"**, **"Best Aircraft"**, **"Best Automotive"**, **"Best Competition Vehicle"** and **"Best Theme Subject"**.

Old business: A motion

was made to amend the Constitution and By-Laws to create the position of Sergeant at Arms. Under the direction of the Club President or other presiding officer, the Sergeant at Arms plays an integral role in maintaining order and decorum at club meetings and club sponsored/ hosted functions and to assist in practical details of organizing meetings. The Sergeant at Arms is elected annually. Should this motion pass, Article Three of the Constitution of the Twin City Aero Historians will require amending to include the position of Sergeant At Arms, a new article describing the function of Sergeant At Arms will need to be created and Articles Eight through Ten will need to be re-numbered. In addition, Section 6 of the By-Laws will require amendment to include the position of Sergeant At Arms and the duties of said position. As with any ammendment to the Constitution and By-Laws "shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a meeting called for such purpose".

As we have run out of scheduled Theme Tables this year discussion was raised regarding Theme Tables and frequency of the Theme tables (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly). After consideration since last month's meeting and following discussion this month, the following themes, their schedule and their sponsors are as follows:

- October 2010 - "1970 to 1974 Vietnam: US Navy/Marine aircraft and their PAVN (North Vietnamese) counterparts" – Mark Rossman. In conjunction with the theme, a guest speaker, Captain (ret.) Ken Volker, who served with VF-51 "Screaming Eagles" during 2 cruises in '71-'72 aboard the U.S.S Coral Sea.

- January 2011 - "Mustang Round-up" – Dave Hueffmeier
- February 2011 - Color Table "Red" – Greg Drawbaugh
- May 2011 - "Hawks" - Dave Hueffmeier

A twist on previous years: if you propose a theme (and its accepted by the group) be prepared to be the moderator/presenter for that months "On the Table". We will continue to have an "open" On the Table in addition to the Theme Table – similar to what we did in June with the Snap-Tite challenge on the table to the far right and the other 2 tables for the "open" items.

New business: John Ross Jr. and Bernie Kugel are still in search of volunteers from the Twin Cities Aero Historians for various functions during this year's Nordic Con show. Since the Nordic Con Show was agreed upon by the membership of this club, we have an obligation to have a significant presence in the operation and attendance of the show. We already have a significant participation from members in other clubs for **our** show (this year and over the past several years as well).

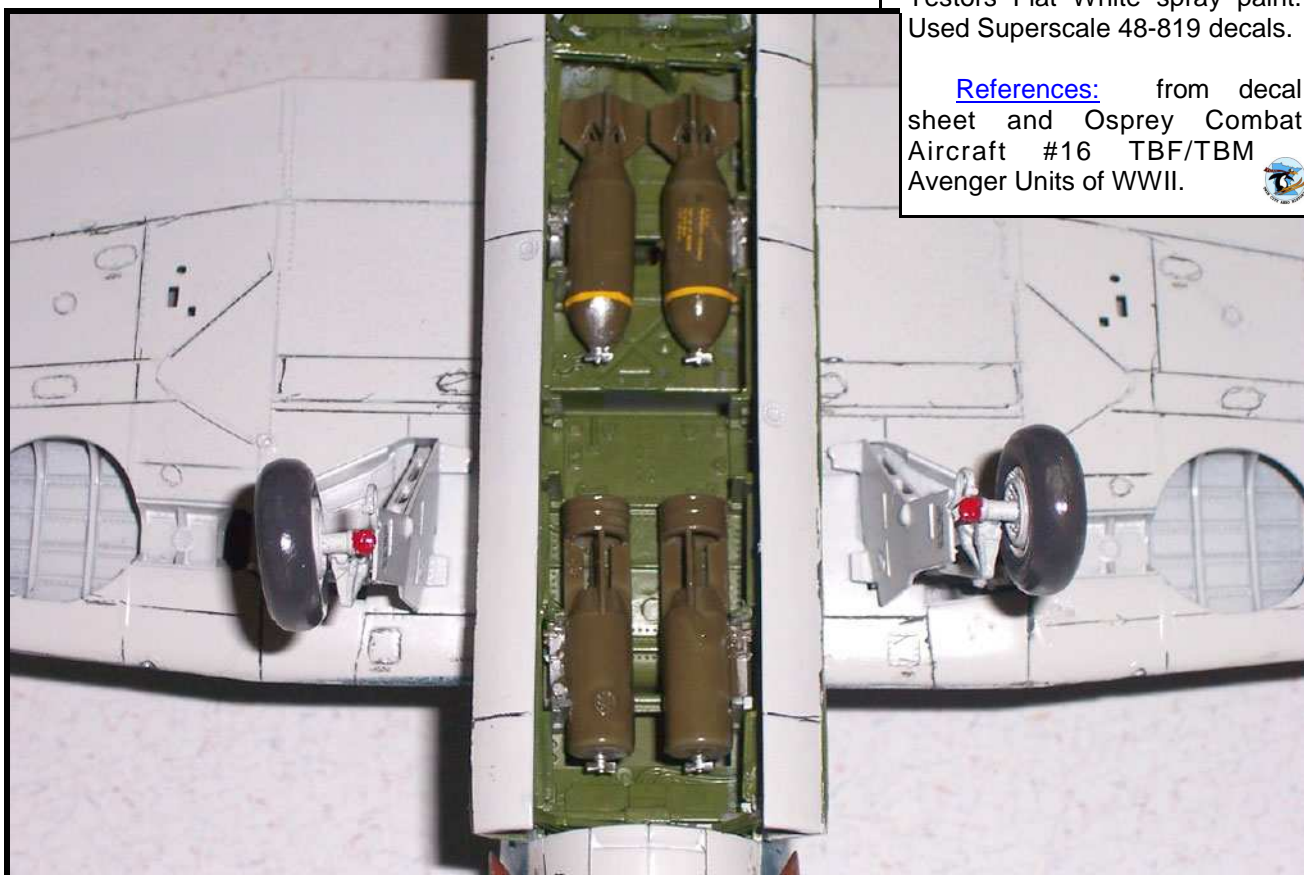
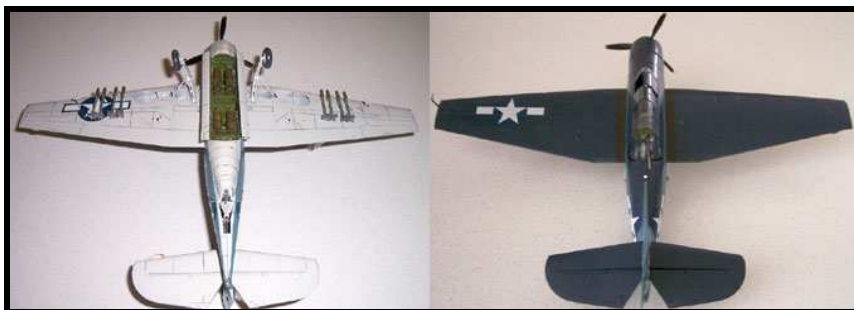
No other new business was brought up.

Coming in September: Bob Friskney will present "Fun at Fedex/Kinkos".

It is getting time to consider refreshing our display case with some new examples of our club's craftsmanship. Larry may have more to say about this elsewhere.



More TBM Photos by Mark Rossmann



(Continued from page 1)
from Anzio's TBM's, assisted by screening destroyers of I-13 on July 16, some 500 plus miles east of Yokosuka.

This is an 1/48 Accurate Miniatures TBM-3 of VC-97, aboard USS Makassar Strait (CVE-91) in March of 1945. Note the unique fishhook emblem as if "fishing" for subs. Makassar's TBM's performed ASW duties, and close air support during the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns, but scored no sub kills. In 1944 the Avenger came equipped with 5" HVAR's, and gave it more than a broadside of a destroyer. An Avenger pilot proclaimed them "greatest thing since the nickel cigar" against island targets.

I Used Tamiya spray synthetic AS-19 Intermediate Blue, AS-8 Navy Blue and Testors Flat White spray paint. Used Superscale 48-819 decals.

References: from decal sheet and Osprey Combat Aircraft #16 TBF/TBM Avenger Units of WWII.



(Continued from page 3)

to young persons entering into careers in the aviation field. The Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame banquet stage will also see the presentation of several FAA annual awards.

We invite the public to attend and support the 2011 inductees on April 30, 2011. If you would like to be on the Hall of Fame's mailing list to receive reservation materials the first of the year, send a note or e-mail: Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 53, Park Rapids, MN 56470, or nallard@unitelc.com.



Special October Event

Presentation by retired Navy Captain Ken Volker. Ken flew F4 Phantoms, with VF-51 Screaming Eagles, on two deployments to Vietnam aboard the USS Coral Sea, 1971-1972. He was also posted to Top Gun after his deployment. Our October Theme Month will be US Navy/Marine Vietnam Aircraft from 1970 to 1974, and there North Vietnamese counterparts such as the Mig 17, 19 and 21's. So start planning and building and mark this special event on your calendar!



(Continued from page 2)

Finally, I would be remiss in noting two important achievements by club members. Congratulations Bernie Kugel on your marriage to Lori, many happy years to you both! Also please see the new (October) issue of FineScale Modeler; our very own Frank Cuden has a great article on a conversion for Minicraft's DC-8-71. Well done again Mr. Cuden! See you at the September meeting...time to go on Roll Models website to find a replacement canopy -sigh- again.



On The Table—August 2010

Modeler	Kit	Manufacturer	Scale
Steve Hustad	Knocked-out Panzer IV Ausf. H vignette	Revell, and several after-market sets	1:72
Larry Donovan	Spitfire PR19	Airfix	1:72
Larry Donovan	Nakajima K84 "Frank"	Hasegawa	1:72
John R. Ross	EGG SR-71	Hasegawa	?
John R. Ross	X-15A	Revell	1:72
John R. Ross	P-40E	Hasegawa	1:48
Bernie Kugel	RF4F Phantom – Minnesota Air National Guard	Testors	1:48
Bernie Kugel	A4F Skyhawk	Hasegawa	1:48
Bernie Kugel	MiG-29	Academy	1:48
Bernie Kugel	AH-1G Cobra	Aurora	1:48
Erik Zabel	M8 Greyhound	Tamiya	1:48
Erik Zabel	Fokker D-VIII	DML	1:48
Erik Zabel	Nieuport Ni-23	Eduard	1:72
Bob Maderich	Mitsubishi EVO 5 Rally Car	Tamiya	1:24
Bob Maderich	Mitsubishi EVO 5 Rally Car	Hasegawa	1:24
Don Stauffer	Archduke Siegmund	Imai	1:12
Mark Rossman	RF-51 45 th TRS	Revell, Quickboost camera ports	1:48

Directions to the Club Meeting Location

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

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

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

- miles toward the Fleming Field airport terminal building.

If coming from east Twin Cities on westbound 494:

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

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Return address requested

The Aero Historian is published 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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