

The Aero Historian



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May 2011



Nichimo 1/48 Mitsubishi Ki-51 Sonia
by Mark L. Rossmann

Mitsubishi Ki-51 Sonia **Nichimo 1/48**

by Mark L. Rossmann

History

The Ki-51 was the Japanese Army Air Forces truly all around aircraft. Designed in 1938, as a ground attack plane, it remained in service throughout the war,

even when over taken by more modern aircraft. Thanks to its great features; sturdiness, reliability and maneuverability made it virtually unaltered during the war. Even an attempt to replace the aircraft in 1941 by three prototypes of the Ki-70, showed the improvements did not justify it to go into production. The aircraft placed emphasis on crew protection, and the

possibility of operating from airstrips close to combat operations. Production of the aircraft began in 1940 and ceased at the war's end with no fewer than 2,385 being produced. It first saw action in China, then throughout the Pacific.

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TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday May 14, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:30 pm. Vendor baiting will begin about 12:30, so come early.



Secretary's Notes

by Mark Jacques

The meeting was called to order at 1:33PM.

Guests/Visitors:

Dan Johnson and Ken Jensen made an appearance; Ken brought in a couple of his masterpieces as well. No guests or new members this month.

Vendor update:

Check www.RollModels.com for the latest offerings (books, kits, P-E, Resin, etc.) from Roll Models (because John has too much new stuff to list here); check www.drawdecals.com for the latest offerings from Greg Drawbaugh; check www.wingsntreads.com for the latest from Winston; and www.schifferbooks.com for Schiffer Publishing's offerings available through Axel.

No show table theme this month. The show table was presented by Steve Rewey. See the list of our member's works on display later in the newsletter.

The upcoming schedule of club events is:

- May 2011 - "Hawks, Eagles and other Birds of Prey." - Dave Hueffmeier,
- June 2011 - Open - no theme selected as yet,
- July 2011 - Open - no theme selected as yet,
- August 2011 - "Towed Artillery" - Bob Maderich II,
- September 2011 - Open - no theme selected as yet,
- October 2011 - Open - no theme selected as yet.

Please see the previous newsletter for Dave Hueffmeier's

column explaining May's show table theme.

Old business:

The decal swap continued again this month occurring in the lobby before the meeting and during breaks hosted by Joe Grimme. This program will be in a "pilot" mode for a few months. Details of which were covered in the February newsletter. This is an opportunity to use the TCAH pages on the Yahoo Groups to let folks know what you have to trade and what you are looking for.

And the winners of the annual Twin Cities Aero Historians awards are:

- 2010 Modeler of the Year: Frank Cuden;
- 2010 Historian of the Year: Mark Rossman;
- 2010 Newsletter Article/Presentation of the Year: Dave Nelson;
- 2010 Member of the Year: John R. Ross.

Congratulations to all of this year's awardees.

One item of old business overlooked (mea culpa, mea maxima culpa) at the meeting is the subject of the club auction. The points in question are:

- Do we want to stay with a single club auction or more?
- If we stay with a single club auction, do we want to move the club auction to sometime in the after New Year's (like we did this year)?
- If we do move the auction, do we want to consider a replacement activity in November after the Club Officer Elections (such as a Holiday or White Elephant Exchange)?

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Airline Chatter

by Terry Love

Note - This month is the 30th annual anniversary of this column being collected written by me. I took it over from George Manarik, when he passed away over 30 years ago, in 1981.

Boeing announced that GE Capital ordered 10 Boeing 777s for leasing out to airlines. Deal is worth \$2.8 Billion.

Turkish Airlines ordered 15 Boeing 737-800s worth more than \$1.2 Billion. Boeing has over 2000 737-800s on back order.

Airbus announced that in the first quarter of 2011, they received orders for 69 airliners, and delivered 119 airliners.

Southwest Airlines completed inspections of all of their Boeing 737-300s. They grounded 5 of them due to cracks that they discovered. All this occurred when the ceiling ripped off of one of their 737-300s in flight.

Delta Airlines is going to re-start scheduled services to Heneda Airport in June. Service was cancelled after the huge earthquake on March 11.

Airlines reported a good March for travelers. Air Tran Airlines traffic was up 5.5% on 6.8% capacity growth. Alaska Airlines traffic was up 19.3% on a 16% capacity growth. American Airlines traffic grew .8% and Delta Airlines's growth was .5%. U S Air had a 3.9% traffic growth on a 3.6% capacity growth. U S Air load factor was 84.1%.

United Airlines may park 34 Boeing 737-500s and 10 Boeing 767-300ERs in an attempt to offset rising jet fuel prices. The

Boeing 737s are an average of 15 years old, and the Boeing 767s are an average of 10 years old.

Boeing is going to raise the production rate of their 737-800s to 35 per month by the end of this year. Presently the rate is 32 per month. Next year, Boeing will raise the rate to 42 per month. Boeing has a backlog of over 2000 orders for the 737-800. Production will continue for another 15 to 20 years.

Cathay Pacific Airlines, based in Hong Kong, ordered 10 Boeing 777-300ERs, and 15 Airbus A-330-300s. Cathay Pacific now has 46 Boeing 777s. They like the aircraft.

Delta Airlines will cut capacity (ie - park airplanes) by 2% in the second half of 2011 due to high fuel prices.

Fed Ex ordered 4 more Boeing 777 freighters worth \$1.08 Billion. This brings their total of 777s to 17.

Qatar Airways ordered 3 Boeing 777-300ERs worth \$1.3 Billion.

U S Airways has prepared itself for a merger. They are ready. It would be the last "big deal mergers" in the U S airline market. U S Airways will be a part of it.

Kenya Airways ordered 9 Boeing 787 Dreamliners.

American Airlines lost \$463 million in the first quarter of 2011. It was mainly due to higher fuel prices. American paid an average of \$3.00 per U S gallon. American intends to retire 25 MD-80s in 2011.

Airbus announced that Ca-

thay Pacific ordered 15 Airbus A-330-300s. Orders for the Airbus A-300-300s have now passed the 500 mark. Over the last three years, 27 new customers have ordered the A-330-300. Cathay Pacific is the largest user of the Airbus A-330 series with 46 in their fleet, and another 21 on order.

United Airlines lost \$213 million in the first quarter of 2011.

Jet Blue earned \$3 million in the first quarter of 2011.

Southwest Airlines earned \$15 million in the first quarter of 2011.



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NordicCon:

The theme for the show is "Back in Black". Efforts are being explored for on-line or electronic registration forms. Bernie has announced that there will be a Judges meeting/paint in at Flemming Field on the 3rd Friday in July (7/19/11) starting around 7:00. The Special Awards and their sponsors (to date) are:

- Best Polish Subject - Sean B.
- Best Ordnance - Mark J.
- Best Figure - MMFS
- Best Armor Subject - MMFS
- Best Competition Vehicle - RPM-Mpls
- Best Ship - Roll Models
- Best U.S. Naval Aviation Subject - Roll Models
- Best Multi-engine WW2 German Aviation Subject - Luftwaffe SIG
- Most Unique Model - MSM-North
- Best Sci-Fi Subject -

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Upcoming Model Events

by Mark Jacques

7 May 2011 – Mad-City Modelers Show – Mad-City Modelers @ Doubledays Banquette House, 4586 Baxter Road, Cottage Grove, WI, contact Kerry Fiske @ 608-438-1842 or fiske1@centurylink.com

21 May 2011 – Boots and Treads II – “Then and Now” – Minnesota Military Figure Society/AMPS @ Fleming Field Municipal Airport Terminal Building, 17345 Henry Street, South Saint Paul, MN. Registration begins @ 9:00 am; Admission opens @ 10:00 am. <http://mmfs.wetpaint.com>

5 June 2011 – NNL North Model Car Show – RPM-Mpls @ Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 American Blvd W, Bloomington, MN 55420. 10:00 to 4:00, \$10 for entrants, \$5 for spectators. Contact Bob Maderich @612-423-2985 or www.RPMModelClub.com

3 – 6 August 2011 – IPMS/USA National Convention: “Omaha by the Sea” – IPMS/USA @ La Vista Convention Center, Omaha, NE contact: www.ipmsusa2011.org or email omahabythesea@cox.net

24 September 2010 – Nordicon 2010 - “Back In Black” – Twin Cities Aero Historians @ Knight of Columbus Hall, Fridley, MN. www.nordicon.com or www.aerohistorians.org

26 to 28 April 2012 – AMPS International Show – The Armor Modeling and Preservation Society @ WW2 Victory Museum, Auburn, IN. Theme to be announced.



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John R. Ross

- Best Nightfighter - Geek Week Modelers
- Best USMC Subject - Wings-n-Treads
- “Back In Black” theme subject – TCAH.

The cost of the special awards is quite reasonable – only \$40 – the sooner these can be posted, the better.

New business:

Johannes has volunteered to do a presentation for the May meeting, based upon his Capstone Paper for Norwich University on Defense Policy and the Panama Canal before WWII.

HUB Hobby in Richfield has a display case available to us to display our work – See Paul the next time you are at Hub if you want to put something on display.

No other new business was brought up. The current dues fee is \$10 for regular members and \$5 for Junior and Senior members.

For those wishing to receive a hard copy of the Treasurer's report, please contact Dave Hueffmeier. Copies of the club roster are available from Mark Jacques on request.

04/17/11 Post script: For those club members not on the TCAH Yahoo Group: Tom Norrbohm notified us of the passing of a past member of the TCAH – Loren C. Johnson. As Tom announced, “Hi Guys, A former club member who was active in TCAH in the 60's and early to mid-70's has died. Loren C. Johnson passed away at home on April 11th. He was 80 years old. Loren left the club in 1975 and pursued other

interests. I remained in touch with him since that time and only recently when his health took a turn for the worst did I lose touch with him as he was rehabbing after having his lower leg amputated. I last spoke to him about 6 weeks ago and he was at home and I had planned a visit with him to catch up on things.” Tom will prepare an entry for the “Gone West” page of our website. Some of the more long term members may remember Loren for his immaculately trimmed beard and his ever present beret. I remember him from my visits to that mystical hobby shop that was once on Cedar and then on Minnehaha, when he would stop by and visit with Bernie Fletcher. Others may remember him from the annual Military Memorabilia Collector Shows at the State Fairgrounds. Loren was the one who regaled to me the significance of the deck gun (from the U.S.S. Ward) present on the State Capitol grounds.

Among the highlights listed in his obituary in the Star Tribune are, “Loren was a remarkable, individualistic man who was passionate about history, his collections, and the people of Newport, MN, where he spent much of his life. Loren was a veteran of the Korean War, a member of the 25th Division. He was an archeologist for 23 years, serving as Director of Renovation with the MN Historical Society, where his primary contribution was directing the renovation of Fort Snelling. Also an artist, he designed jewelry and was a print maker. His fantastic collections ranged from rare guns to intricate WWII airplane models he handmade, selections of both now residing in museums. There will be a celebration of his life later this spring, details to follow.”



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Design

The "Sonia" as designated by the allies, was an all metal low wing monoplane having along glazed canopy that housed two,

940 h.p.

Kit

This kit was introduced before 1990, yet with fine detailed engraved lines and rivets along with a reasonably

and camera, oxygen tanks and masks, oil reservoir and more. I used the decals for a 67th Independent Air squadron, also included 49th and 71st Independent air squadron and Independent Air Corps 48th squadron.



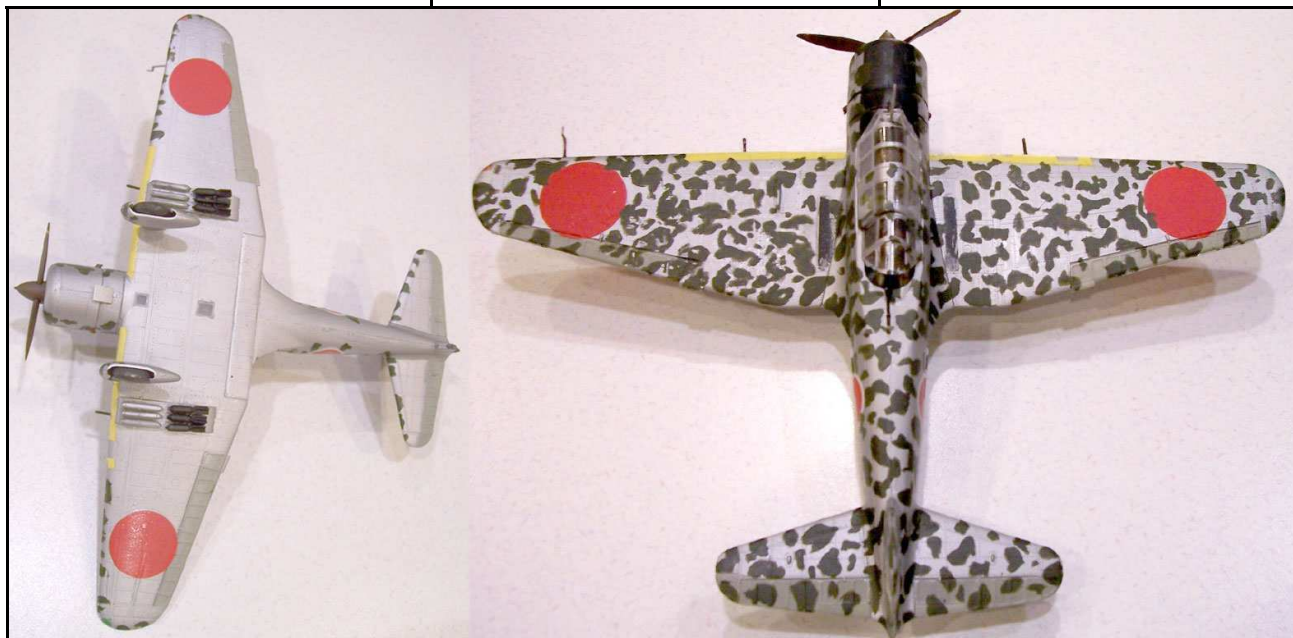
and pilot. Having a maximum speed of 260 mph @ 6500 ft, weighing in at 6000 lbs, able to carry 440 lbs of bombs, three machine guns with two 7.7-mm wing guns (later 12.5-mm) and a 7.7-mm in the rear cockpit. The engine was a Mitsubishi Ha-26-II, 14 cylinder radial, air cooled with

detailed cockpit with two crew figures and detailed rear machine gun make it an exceptional model to build. The kit contained several bomb options, including "flash" bombs for reconnaissance photos, 50 kg lb bombs, radio equipment, engine, camera plate and mount

Construction

The kit was straight forward, with no problems of fit. Used Testors Silver metallic Spray paint. Tamiya acrylic colors for the pilots, interior and hand

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painted camouflage spots. Instructions are in Japanese, but a separate English monologue is provided. Please note the relative scale size of the Ki-51 to "Madam Wham Dam" of the 506th FG out of Iwo Jima.

Opinion

With the price of plastic models going sky high from the elite model companies, and you know who they are, the older models available and the US based companies models are quite appealing in price and quality, and build up quite nicely.

Maybe it's time to start pushing back and not pay the high prices.

References

Kit Instructions
World War II Combat
Aircraft – by Enzo Angelucci and
Paolo Matricardi



On The Table—April 2011

Modeler	Kit	Manufacturer	Scale
Frank Cuden	PT-19	Planet Models	1:48
Frank Cuden	P-51D	Hobby Boss	1:72
Frank Cuden	F-86F	Airfix	1:72
Steve Macey	SAS Jeep	Hasegawa	1:48
Steve Macey	MiG-21 MF	Eduard	1:48
Larry Donovan	Bloch 174 – WIP	Heller	1:72
Larry Donovan	F6F-3 – WIP	Academy	1:72
Gary Anderson	P-40N Warhawk	AMT	1:48
Steve Rewey	P-47D25 Thunderbolt	Hasegawa	1:32
John R. Ross	Seaview Display	Moebius	1:350
John P. Ross	F-16C	Tamiya	1:48
John P. Ross	Me-109 G-6 Trop.	Pro Modeler	1:32
Erik Zabel	T-34/85 w/ Bedspring Armor	Dragon	1:72
Erik Zabel	OH-6A	Tamiya	1:72
Gary Chambers	TA-4J – Took Box Art Photograph	Hasegawa	1:48
Ken Jensen	N.A. AT-6 – Solid	---	1:48
Ken Jensen	Ryan STM - Solid	---	?

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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