



P-51 Stinger VII
by Mark L. Rossmann

15th FG / 45th FS Colors

by Mark L. Rossmann

The "Sun Setters", were the VLR Mustang pilots of the 15th, 21st and 506th Fighter groups, VII Fighter Command. Based on a volcanic island in the Pacific Ocean they flew 650 mile missions to Tokyo and back, if you made it you were a member of the "Tokyo Club".

The 15th FG loaded 82 P-51's aboard the USS Sitkoh Bay at Ford Is. and shipped off to Guam. From Guam they flew to Saipan on Feb 14th. The 15th FG arrived on Iwo Jima March 7th,

1945. The 15th FG was the longest serving Mustang group operating out of Iwo.

The 45th got its first taste of action on March 9th, when Col. Beckwith lead one of three missions in support of the Marines on Iwo, also attacking Kama and Kangoku islands just off the coast of Iwo.

Black Friday, June 1, occurred when a large weather front was entered by all 3 Fighter groups. As a result 27 planes and 24 pilots were lost, on that day's mission no plane was lost to fighters or ground fire. One of the 45th pilots, 1 Lt. Arthur Barry,

MIA, was able to turnaround but lost power 275 miles north of Iwo and crash landed in the ocean. He was able to get into his raft, but got dumped out when a storm hit on June 5-6, and lost all his rations. June 7th he was picked up by a destroyer, closing the chapter on the worst mission for the VII Fighter Command.

45th FS P-51's were assigned numbers 50 to 99, was commanded in the following order by Maj. Gilmore Snipes, Maj. Arthur Bridge, Capt. Harold Collins and Maj. Robert Moore.

Stinger VII, #67, 44-63483
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TCAH Officers

President, Robert Maderich II
Vice-President, John R. Ross
Secretary, Marty Agather
Treasurer, Dennis Strand
Historian, Tom Norrbohm

Newsletter Info

Article Submission Deadline: 22nd of each month

Editor
Bob Arko
6417 Rice Court
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
651-481-8887
boba@arkokraft.com

Send articles to:
Bob Arko
6417 Rice court
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
boba@arkokraft.com

Send Change of Address Notice to:
Dennis Strand

TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held Saturday March 14, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:00 pm. This is the annual Club Auction.



From the Prez
by Bob Maderich II

Welcome fellow club members to the March newsletter!

First off, let me congratulate the modelers who graced the display table at the February meeting. There were some fine pieces on display. And on that note, be aware there will be NO "On the Table" at the March meeting on account of the club auction.

Speaking of that, (the Auction) we will be starting the meeting at 1:00 that Saturday, since the auction takes a good long time. We will have a few business items to attend to and then it's off to the races. So, please bring all the old stuff cluttering your closets and donate it to the club. It should be a blast.

The 'few' items we need to address at the beginning of the March meeting are:

- 1) Voting on the club awards
- 2) Voting on the Club Challenge idea
- 3) Looking at a few of the Survey results, but we may wait till April to do this.

See you in March



From the VP
by John R. Ross

Thanks for a great meeting and more importantly a fantastic presentation from Mark Krumery on WWI Wingnut kits.

Remember that this month is our annual auction and it is traditionally our largest fund raiser of the year. Dust off those kits you're not going to build a donate those to the auction, then bring your check book to the next meeting and be ready to bid on all the treasures we'll have up on the block. You'll gain some shelf space, help the club and bring home some new treasures for your SSR (Strategic Styrene Reserve).

This is your last chance to help us shape the club. Let us know what you think of the club and what if any changes you'd like to make. The Survey is located on our web site right from the main page. Please take a few minutes and let us know what you think.

Finally, we'll be voting on the club challenge this month as part of the meeting. We have yet to really define what that means but we had two suggestions at the last meeting. The first was having everyone build the same kit and the second was building something from our stash. My suggestion is that we pick a theme that will allow us to do both. Since not all of us have extensive stashes we'll need to have an option that allows for those that might want to acquire the item. So we have some choices here like: WWII Airfix kits – this could be any WWII aircraft kit from Airfix, any scale. Battle of Britain – this could be any aircraft, manufacturer or

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Airline Chatter

by Terry Love

Emirates Airlines of Dubai said that they would purchase 100 more Airbus A-380s if they would re-equip the A-380 with a new engine. Cost would be \$43 Billion.

Chicago O'Hare airport is the world's busiest airport again in 2014. O'Hare had 881,993 arrivals, and Atlanta had 868,359 arrivals.

United Airlines earned #1.97 Billion in the year 2014.

Virgin America Airlines earned \$84.4 million in the year 2014. Alaska Airlines earned \$605 million in the year 2014. Southwest Airlines earned \$1.1Billion in the year 2014. American Airlines earned 2.9 Billion in the year 2014. Jet Blue Airlines earned \$401 million in the year 2014. Spirit Airlines earned \$236.7 million in the year 2014. Delta Airlines earned \$2 Billion in the year 2014.

Boeing announced that the U S Air Force has ordered 2 new Boeing 747-800s that will replace the current Boeing 747-200 that is being used as Air Force one. Delivery is set for 2022.

Delta Airlines newest hub is Los Angeles. Delta operates 154 daily departures to 48 destinations. Delta has the most destinations to Latin America from Los Angeles than any other airline.

American Airlines took delivery of their first Boeing 787 Dreamliner. American now has operated every Boeing designed jet airliner since the 707 came online.

Qantas Boeing 747-400, VH-

OJA (msn 24354) is being retired. It has a total of 25.9 years of service, 13,833 cycles, and about 100,00 flying hours. It has flown almost 5 million passengers. It was delivered in 1989. Instead of being scrapped, it was donated to a museum in Australia.

ANA airlines of Japan ordered 3 Boeing 787 Dreamliners, and 5 Boeing 737-800s. Plus ANA ordered 7 Airbus A321s.

Delta Airlines has hourly flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco using the Boeing 717 (the last Douglas DC-9s variant built). They were obtained from Southwest Airlines after their merger with ATA.

Avianca Airlines of Columbia ordered 100 Airbus A-320s worth about \$10.6 Billion.

Emirates Airlines of Dubai is one of the fastest growing airlines in the world. This year, they plan to hire 11,000 people and 20 aircraft to their fleet.

Asiana Airlines ordered 25 Airbus A-321s valued at \$2.8 Billion.

Transavia Airlines of France, ordered 17 Boeing 737-800s valued at \$1.7 Billion.

KLM is beginning to phase out their entire fleet of Boeing 747-400s. It will be done over the next 3 to 4 years. The first one retires this October. U S Air retired their last Boeing 767 on February 19. It was N252AU. It served U S Air for over 25 years.

Airbus has done it with their A-320 series of airliners, and it is VERY profitable for them. So

now Boeing is going to do it. What? Boeing is going to open up an assembly production line for their 737-800 airliner in CHINA !!! It is a VERY smart decision money wise, but there goes all of that technology. 

Treasurer's Report

by Dennis Strand

At the February meeting we had one returning member and two new members, Steve Metz and Peter Martin, sign up. Welcome aboard to all!

The mid-month totals were expenses of \$0.00 and income from dues of \$50.00. The club's total cash assets as of Feb. 15, 2015 are \$4611.68.

Be sure and bring your kits, books and any other modeling goodies to the March auction and I am sure we will see this total increase substantially! 

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scale kit. Invasion Stripes – this could be any aircraft used from D-Day to the end of the war, any scale, any manufacturer. These are just some ideas. We can further expand this to include other subjects from the time period with a theme like Battle of Midway – this would include aircraft, ships or other vehicles.... Just something to kick around.

Unfortunately I won't be at the auction this year, I'll be taking some reference photos at Pearl Harbor, but rest assured I will get my kit donations into the auction. Remember to look inside as some people include aftermarket items with the kit donations..... 





<p>Secretary's Notes <i>by Marty Agather</i></p> <p>Next Meeting Sat, March 14 1:00 PM Start</p> <p>OPENING COMMENTS</p> <p>Survey not too much response to what we can do to improve/change meetings. Survey is on the website. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard.</p> <p>Auction: next meeting starting at 1:00</p> <p>No On the table next week.</p> <p>NEW MEMBERS OR GUESTS</p> <p>Steve Metz Tom Heckel Bob Corwin Pete ???</p> <p>In Anchorage AK, they have their club meeting every week. If you get up that way, the meetings are held every Thursday night at the Lions Club</p> <p>Axel: John Roll brother is ill so he did not attend.</p>	<p>August Merrill Fokker Scourge</p> <p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>Club Challenge: October</p> <p>Discussions ensued on whether we should all buy an inexpensive kit, or whether we should reach back into inventory and grab a 'shelf queen' that you'd never get around to building.</p> <p>Two Options: 1) Everyone builds the same kit. 2) We pick one of our own. No fair building something you were going to build anyway.</p> <p>Diorama's are definitely discouraged and will not count towards judging. We will discuss more at April Meeting.</p> <p>Club Awards for April</p> <p>President Bob made a suggestion that we initiate two new awards to recognize members a above the call of duty. Motion and Second Vote passed unanimously.</p>	<p>of 2014, so Eric Z and I got together to review:</p> <p>2014 Results 3612.50 Total income 2293.88 Total Expense 1318.62 Profit</p> <p>Thus, Nordicon did make a profit before paying the clubs back.</p> <p>We will have the following expenses prior to the event:</p> <p>\$ 475 Awards \$ 488 Tbles \$ 550 Facility Rental (50% of \$ 1100 due prior to event)</p> <p>Note that the facility rental has doubled since last year.</p> <p>MONTHLY TOPIC Mark Rossman, Did a great session on WWI models, primarily Wing Nut Wings.</p> <p>Other manufacturers with WWI planes: Roden Academy Spad XIII AVIS Special Hobby</p> 
<p>TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>\$ 4,561.68</p> <p>71 Paid members</p> <p>VENDOR REPORTS Schiffer books, Ultimate Looks, A-20 is coming next.</p> <p>OLD BUSINESS March - Auctions April – Club Awards and Lunch May Bernie June Bob's Dusenberg July Mark R. is trying to get Ken Rody B-17 G</p>	<p>Reimbursement of Nordicon: Club loaned the Nordicon Table Rental \$ 488 MM Figure Club has donated their OMG has no money. RPM voted to get their money back Merrill makes a motion to forgive the loan seconded by ??? Vote passes.</p> <p>Nordicon Meeting Overview: Oct 24, 2015 Committee leaders have been selected.</p> <p>Question about the finances</p>	<p>(Continued from page 1) was piloted by Maj. Robert W. (Todd) Moore, the leading VLR ace with 11 kills plus one flying a P-40N in the central Pacific. Maj. Moore transferred between the 78th and 45th FS several times before assuming command of the 45th on July 19th. Major Moore was awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Medal with nine OLC's. He passed away at the age of 81 on April 21, 2003 in Glasgow Ky.</p> <p>(Continued on page 7)</p>

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These models shows the simplified markings during the last two months of the war. Green wing tips, tail tip and propeller.

These were the initial markings of this unit, green/black/green propeller spinners, 18 inch slanted band with black border on upper fin and rudders and on the upper wings, just curling over underneath the front of the wing. "Foxy" and another Mustang met an untimely fate as noted on Page 68 of "VLR Mustang Units of the Pacific War", when the pilot of a third Mustang lost control and ran into them.

34 pilots were credited with partial or full kills from the 45th,

the most out of the VII Fighter command. After the Japanese surrender, the squadron remained on Iwo Jima until 25 November 1945, when it transferred to Bellows Field, Hawaii. On 8 February 1946, the squadron moved to Wheeler Field, where it stayed until inactivated on 15 October 1946.

These are among the last USAAF Mustang units to be activated for combat. If you would like to know more about the VII Fighter command, the Banzai attack and the storm of June 1, you will enjoy reading the following:

1) First I must give a big thanks to the "Tom Ivie" picture collection. Tom had responded to me 7 years ago when I first

wrote about the 15th FG, and has provided several more photos that I used planning the painting of these aircraft. Thanks Tom!!!

2) References: Osprey Aviation Elite Units – Very Long Range Mustang Units of the Pacific War – Author: Carl Molesworth.

3) Wikipedia – 45th fighter Squadron

4) Decals: AreoMaster 48-796 and SuperScale 48-1153.



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

Twin City Aero Historian
Rick Schmierer
 1852 E. 39 Street
 Minneapolis, MN 55407

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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