

## Directions to the Club Meeting Location

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

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

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

• miles toward the Fleming Field airport terminal building.  
**If coming from east Twin Cities on westbound 494:**

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



The Aero Historian is published monthly by the Twin City Aero Historians, Inc., a joint chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society and International Plastic Modelers Society/ USA, for members and readers as part of their annual dues or fees.

The group is open to aviation enthusiasts from teenagers on up who are interested in aviation modeling, photography, collecting, art and writing.

The Twin Cities Aero Historians (TCAH) meet the second Saturday of every month at 1:00pm.

See above for the new meeting locations and directions.

Mail Newsletter material to the editor and address changes to the treasurer.

### Monthly Themes 2024

January-TCAH Club Contest

February-Water subjects. (ships, floatplanes, etc)

March-Commonwealth subjects. (British, Aussie, Irish, etc.)

April-Club Auction. (Bring all your stuff you don't want anymore)

May-Ugly subjects (you are left to your own opinions here!)

June-The Golden Age (subjects between the wars) (1920-1940)

July-Modern Military subjects (1991-present)

August- World War One subjects

### September- Sci fi and real space

October- modeling 'disasters' (again, you decide what that is for you)

November- A "Silk Purse" from a "Sows Ear" (a build from a notoriously bad kit)

December- our annual "White Elephant" kit exchange



# The Aero Historian



Volume 57 Number 9

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

September 2024



**Tamiya P-47D Bubblemop**  
**1/48 Scale**  
*by Mark L. Rossmann*

### "OH JOHNNIE – 350<sup>th</sup> FG"

**Final Mission**  
*by Mark L. Rossmann*

#### History

The P-47 was an outstanding escort and ground attack aircraft and was the heaviest and largest single seat fighter built during WWII. It rose out of a humble beginning which saw its ancestors the P-35 and P-43 fall short of expectations.

Early on the "Jug" was used

as an escort to the ETO heavies, but was replaced as the P-51 came on-line; its best role was that of a ground attack aircraft both in the ETO, MTO, PTO and CBI theaters. P-47's was used by the U.S., British, French, Mexican, Brazilian and Russian air forces.

#### Lt. Raymond L. Knight

Enlisted into the Army Air Corp on Oct 12, 1942 in Houston Tx. Commissioned as a pilot in May 1944 after training at Stamford, Sherman and Foster fields in Tx. Continuing at Matagorda and Abilene Tx., he

finally was assigned to the 350th FG / 346th FS in Italy.

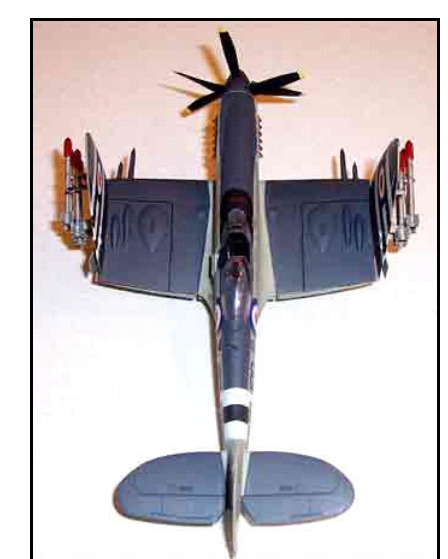
He flew 82 missions from December 1944 until his death on April 25, 1945. Promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. in March, by the time of his death he had 180 hours of combat time while flying 82 combat missions. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, six Air Medals and posthumous Medal of Honor for his last missions over the Po Valley in northern Italy.

Over two(2) days, he  
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**TCAH Officers**  
**President**, Mark Copeland  
**Vice-President**, Steve Hustad  
**Secretary**, Bob Maderich  
**Treasurer**, Dennis Strand  
**Historian**, Merrill Anderson

**Newsletter Info**  
*Article Submission Deadline: 22nd of each month*  
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 Dennis Strand

**TCAH This Month**  
**September Theme** — Sci fi and real space  
 The monthly meeting will be held Saturday September 14, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:00 pm. Come early.



**President's Address**  
 by Mark Copeland  
 Hello Everyone! Here we are at one of my favorite times of the year; it's the beginning of the fall model show season! This all starts off with the premiere event of the season, our own **NordicCon!**

**NordicCon** all started several years ago, all being organized and initiated by our club Vice President, Steve Hustad. Through the years, it has gained a reputation as one of the best model shows in the Midwest. It started out as an exclusive TCAH event, but now it currently involves several model clubs throughout the Twin Cities. It is our annual contest/exhibition that celebrates the modeling community here in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

The success of the event comes from the tireless effort of the volunteers who sacrifice their time to put on the show. The set-up and takedown process is probably the most vital part when we need "lots of hands." At our September meeting, **NordicCon** Chairperson, Bob Maderich, along with Erik Zabel will be looking to draft volunteers for specific duties at the show. Please sign-up to help the cause!

The event is on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 09:00 am. Set-up begins at around 7:00 am and the show goes from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**Contest, Exhibition or Both?**  
 We've expanded the ways modelers can participate. There's the Contest for those who want to compete for awards and there's the Exhibition for those who want to share their builds

without judgement. All entries, contest and exhibition, will sit together on the category tables differentiated only by their entry forms.

No need to choose. You can enter builds in both. Your \$20 Participant Fee, charged at the door, covers an unlimited number of entries...contest and/or exhibition.

**Contest**  
 Contest Entries will be judged. Gold, Silver and/or Bronze will be awarded in each of the 47 categories as well as special sponsored awards. Participants with multiple entries in a single category are only eligible for one category award.

**Exhibition**  
 Display your work for all to see without judgement. Exhibition builds will not be judged so they aren't eligible for any category or sponsored awards. This is for the simple joy of sharing your skills with our modeling community.

**So bring your best builds to NordicCon 2024 and join the fun!**

Lastly, I received a nice email from our member, Chris Siemback, who shared a wonderful link to a **Fine Scale Modeler** – YouTube video that featured a wonderful tribute to our late member, Frank Cuden. It is a great video and shows off several of Frank's builds through the years. Check it out:

<https://youtu.be/LsYeMqR5vBk?si=lZCq2DILpPLpkHIS&t=784>

Steve Hustad will be taking the helm for the next three  
*(Continued on page 10)*

**On The Table August 2024**

MODELER	KIT	MANUFACTURER	SCALE
Pierce Jones	Shin Musna Gundum	Bandai	1/144
Bernie Kugel	F4U-1A Corsair	Revell	1/32
	F4F-4 Wildcat	Revell	1/32
	SBD-3 Dauntless (WIP)	Matchbox	1/32
	Spitfire MK22 (WIP)	Matchbox	1/32
Bob Ferreira	Spitfire MKXI	Revell	1/32
Paul Dial	Marder II	Tamiya	1/35
Kevin Rickbiel	SE 5	Scratchbuilt	???
Mark Copeland	Yokosuka Ohka 22	Brengun	1/72
Don Stauffer	Fokker D7	Battleaxe	1/32
	DH-2	Wingnuts	1/32
Steve Hustad	Dornier DO217N2	Italeri, etc.	1/72
Steve Jantscher	J-20 (Chinese Fighter)	Meng	1/48
	Gato class sub	Hobby Boss 1/350	1/350
Erik Zabel	Bristol F2B	Wingnuts	1/32
	Hansa Brandenburg W.12	Wingnuts	1/32
Steve Erickson	F4U-1	Tamiya	1/48
	P-51b	Tamiya	1/48
	KI61-hei	Tamiya	1/48
	M10	Tamiya	1/35
Harold Parsons	Enrich Taube	Copper State models	1/48
	and his vast array of World War fighters		
Dennis Strand	Halifax MKIII	Fonderia Miniature	1/48
	Savoia-Marchetti S.79	Classic Airframes	1/48
Bob Maderich	Nieuport 11	Eduard	1/48
	1950 Ford pickup	Monogram	1/24
	Fokker D8	DML	1/48
	Model T ambulance	ICM	1/35
	British MKI tank	Masterbox	1/72

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meetings due to my work schedule and my overseas travels for my job. We will be in good hands with Steve leading the September, October and November meetings.

I look forward to seeing everyone at NordicCon!



### Treasurer's Report

by Dennis Strand

As I write this treasury update, there has been no TCAH financial activities in the previous 30 days. Our club account stands at \$6157.67. See you at the September meeting.



### For Sale

by Noel Allard

Jo Kotula Artwork. 82 pc. collection. 72 Model Airplane News covers by Kotula, 5 complete magazines, others are just original covers from 1933-1967. Three are autographed by Kotula. WWI and WWII images. Plus 3 Air Trails covers by Calhoun Smith and 3 Popular Aviation covers by Herman Bollin. Only \$50 for the lot. Noel Allard. nallard@unitelc.com.



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with a pilot.

The decal positioning was easy to follow, however the checkered tail decal split and careful repositioning was required. A couple of black checkers had to be touched up. Note: these were printed in 1995 and always consider using a decal saver product on old decals.

Looking at pictures from the resources, it was important to understand why his plane had silver wings, so the time frame is important as to how you model it. His plane was the only Olive Drab one of his unit, it is thought to be a replacement aircraft that was going to the 1st BFS (Brazilian Unit) before redirected to the 350th FG. In January 1945, Knight flew through his own bomb blast requiring a complete wing replacement, thus getting his silver wings from salvaged aircraft.

Additionally different drop-tank types were used in the ETO and MTO, single and double ribbed. These were pointed out to me by Norris Grazer of THUNDER CALS. I started to look harder at drop-tanks on pictures and sure enough there they were. I spotted a great picture in the "P-47 Thunderbolt with the USAAF in the MTO, Asia and Pacific" book, on page 24, of a 65<sup>th</sup> FS Razorback. I used a single ribbed tank for this MTO model.

#### Aircraft:

**Note:** After the block number, Evansville aircraft were identified by the **-RE** suffix, while Farmingdale aircraft were given the **-RA** suffix.

**Aircraft:** 'OH JOHNNIE', P-47D-27-RE, 42-26785 – Lost over Apennines northern Italy.

**Unit:** 346<sup>th</sup> FS/350<sup>th</sup> FG, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Pisa Italy – April 1945.

**Pilot:** Lt. Ray Knight (KIA) – April 25, 1945. His remains were buried in Woodlawn

Garden of Memories in 1949 and reburied in the Houston National Cemetery

in a special section for Medal of Honor recipients on April 25, 1992.

**Model:** Tamiya; P-47D Thunderbolt "Bubbletop", Kit #61090, 1/48<sup>th</sup>

**Decals:** AeroMaster: 48-192 – Thunderbolts Galore IV (1995)

**Drop Tank:** THUNDER CALSs – Vertical Rib Tanks – Single Rib (qty 2)

#### Paint:

Tamiya sprays: AS-6 Olive Drab, AS-7 Neutral Grey (under body of plane), TS-17 Gloss Aluminum (wings) TS-29 Semi-Gloss Black.

#### References:

1. Decal Sheet
2. P-47 Thunderbolt with the USAAF in the MTO, Asia and Pacific – SMI Library (Kagero)
3. Air Force Historical Support Division Web Site: <https://www.afhistory.af.mil/FAQs/Fact-Sheets/Article/639610/knight-1st-lt-raymond-l-knight/>
4. Osprey Combat Aircraft - #92 "P-47 Thunderbolt Units of the Twelfth Air Force" – Jonathon Bernstein.



**Saturday, September 21, 2024  
9 am to 4 pm**

**Veterans Memorial Community Center  
8055 Barbara Avenue  
Inver Grove Heights, MN**

**Join us at the Midwest's Largest Scale Model Contest & Exhibition.**

**This year's highlights will include:**

- Hundreds of the best built models in the region
- Free Online Pre-registration...avoid the check-in line
- Participants can enter the Contest (judged), the Exhibition (not judged) or both
- Vendor area featuring 100's of kits and supplies
- Raffles throughout the day
- Free Make-n-Take for Kids
- A visit and coverage by **Fine Scale Modeler**
- Only \$20 for unlimited entries; only \$5 for spectators.



*(Continued from page 1)*  
 destroyed fourteen(14) enemy aircraft in strafing airfield's and led attacks by his squadron mates that destroyed 10 more.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> he volunteered to lead Lt's. Henehan and Hosey on a recon of the Ghedi airfield. He did a low-level pass on the field, observing eight(8) German planes under camouflage. Rejoining his flight, he led them in, he accounted for five(5) of the aircraft with his flight getting two (2) more.

Returning to base for refueling and rearming, he volunteered to lead 3 other pilots on a recon of the Bergamo Airfield. Using the same technique, he discovered a heavily camouflaged squadron of enemy planes, while being hit by ground fire. Leading 10 passes on the field he destroyed six(6) fully loaded twin engine planes and two(2) fighters, with his flight destroying five(5) more.

Final Mission

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, with his damaged P-47 repaired, he lead

"Ivory" flight, to Ghedi, to destroy the remaining four(4) JU-88's missed from the previous day. He cruised down the middle of the runway taking heavy fire, here he destroyed his fourteenth (14) plane, calling in the rest, his flight got ten(10) more. After the flight retreated from the field he radioed to see if anyone was hit, no one was. However, he said he was badly damaged and didn't know if he could make it back. His squadron mates tried to persuade him to bailout over friendly territory, when he wouldn't, told him to land at Forli. He refused knowing the 350<sup>th</sup> FG needed Thunderbolts, he continued on, gaining altitude slowly. Lt. Hosey went ahead to find the lowest point to fly over the Apennine mountains. He thought Knight was going to make it, then Knight's plane hit treetops, tumbling it hit the mountain and exploded.

His action helped stop a pending Luftwaffe attack on the allied push over the Po River, saving countless allied lives. Lt. Bill Hosey, a few days after the mission, signed documents for a

posthumous Distinguished Service Cross. Twelfth Air Force headquarters rejected it in favor of the Medal of Honor. Knight along with Col. Kearby (PTO), were the only P-47 pilots to receive the Medal of Honor in WWII.

With the allies on the north of the Po, the Germans air offensive stopped and their supplies gone, von Vietinghoff surrendered Army Group 'C' on May 2nd 1945, against the orders of Kesselring.

Model

The Tamiya Bubble Top, represents a D-25 through D-28 versions. It is well designed with the build taking about 2 to 3 weeks. The engine detail is very good, but if the cowling is left off, after market items would enhance it. The flaps are positionable while control surfaces are molded in place, except the rudder. If you want to show off the cockpit area you really don't need aftermarket items, a parachute harness might be an option, the kit does come  
*(Continued on page 10)*





