

THE SCALE SQUADRON  
OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Founders of the  
US Scale Masters Championships

# SCALE DIMENSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SCALE SQUADRON OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AMA CHARTER 1520 – EST 1977

MAY 2020

# WARBIRDS & CLASSICS

# CANCELED

# UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

PROUD SUPPORTERS & FOUNDERS OF  
THE U.S. SCALE MASTERS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS



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## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### COMMANDER

Sam Wright  
[sam-w@cox.net](mailto:sam-w@cox.net)

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Pano Coromelas  
[pcoromelas@gmail.com](mailto:pcoromelas@gmail.com)

### PAST COMMANDER

Mike Greenshields  
[mikegreenshields@gmail.com](mailto:mikegreenshields@gmail.com)

### TREASURER

Tim Cardin  
[tim.cardin@cardenwest.com](mailto:tim.cardin@cardenwest.com)

### SECRETARY

Ed Woodson  
[seulberger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seulberger@sbcglobal.net)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Wolfe  
[copsmom98@aol.com](mailto:copsmom98@aol.com)  
Gordon Truax  
[gltruax@att.net](mailto:gltruax@att.net)

### WEBMASTER

Mike Greenshields

### OCMA REPRESENTATIVE

Ed Woodson

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Pano Coromelas

P.O. Box 8074

Fountain Valley, California 92728

EMAIL: [Commander@ScaleSquadron.com](mailto:Commander@ScaleSquadron.com)



# COMMANDER'S VIEW



**Sam Wright**  
Commander

Hello everyone and I certainly hope all of you are remaining healthy. Those of us in the mature or older category are more at risk than the younger members, so we must adhere to the caution and guidelines even more.

This Covid-19 situation has certainly altered how we live and interface in our society and I know some of you are getting cabin fever. I think the more fortunate members are the ones at home that are in their shop building something that needs completed. I am sure this issue of the newsletter will reflect that with photos of projects from our members. I suppose if any good came out of this mess, getting back into the shop to build your projects is one of them.

I have to say without a lot drama canceling our June event, Warbird & Classics, is the hardest thing I have ever had to

announce. I have been Commander of the Scale Squadron twice before over the last 25 years and nothing was harder than this announcement.

I have had several conversations with the county and the James Event people and it was obvious that while Orange County would relax the rules a bit, there would be restrictions and that is a good move as I feel we still need to pay attention to this virus situation. Those restrictions would have impacted our event in attendance, food, and spectators.

Fortunately, the Scale Squadron is in good financial condition with little overhead and we can weather this year without an event. There is a lot of conversation about re-scheduling the event this year, but many clubs will be doing the same thing. That may create a lot of event duplication on the same dates and that will be a task for the AMA Sanction Coordinator.

I am confident we will still have our Christmas Party assuming and hoping this Covid-19 will be under control and we will all be

back to a normal life, whatever would be considered normal after this,

On the good news side and we certainly can use some good news, OCMA with great effort with Orange County Parks & Recreation has arranged to open the field with restrictions. Please read and observe the restrictions. While it is not a great situation it is an opportunity to fly and get out of the house. A great thank you to the OCMA Board of Directors for this effort and successful solution.

In the meantime, stay healthy, finish your projects and keep those photos going to Pano for the newsletter.

God Bless you all and your families for a healthy time during this situation in our lives.

I used to say I love the smell of Jet Fuel in the morning, now I love the smell of ZAP in the morning!

**Sam Wright, Commander**

sam-w@cox.net

# EDITORS NOTE:

With all this Covid-19 stuff causing the club house to close, I still wanted to have a show and tell. So, I decided to do it virtually! We sent the email out to everyone and you responded. Thank you all for sending me your SHOW AND TELL items this month.

Hope you all enjoy!



Pano Coromelas, Editor



01072020

# WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE BUILDING

This month I want to highlight Joe Trama. Joe has been working on a Charlie Kellogg plans TBM Avenger. This has since been purchased by Nick Zirolini plans.



Side View of the fuselage



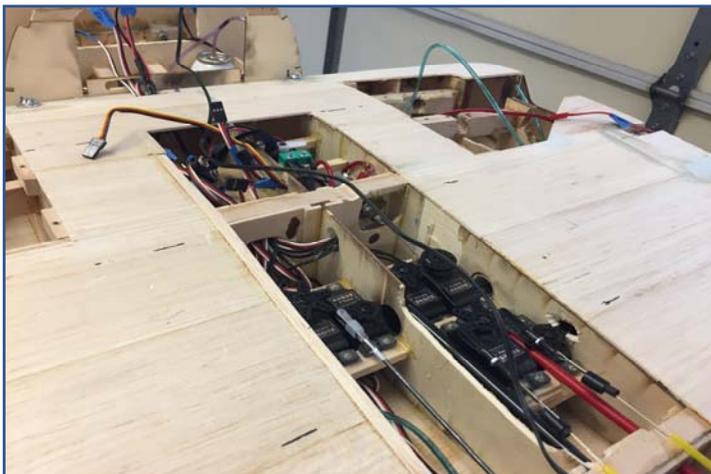
Joe putting in a lot of time on this bird.



Interior coming soon



Hidden panel for switches



Getting all wired up



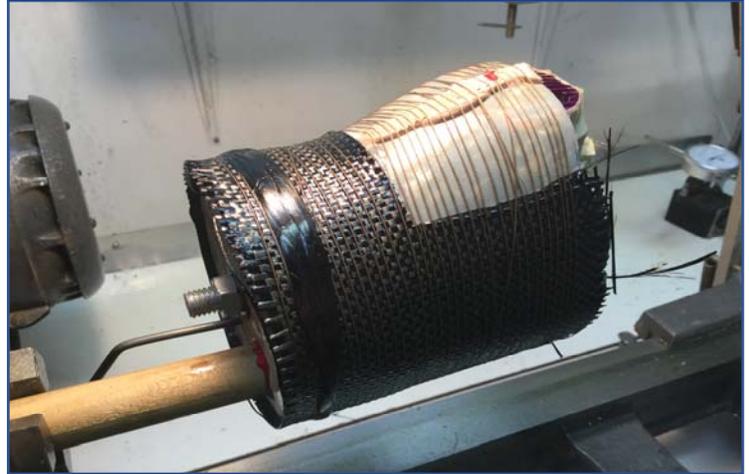
Tail wheel

# WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE BUILDING

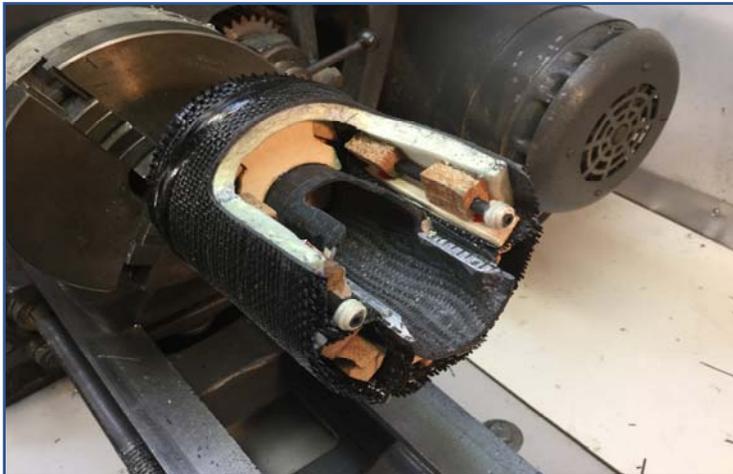
I got more updates from Rob Hahn's Fan project for his Freewing A-4 Skyhawk foamy



Using lathe chuck as third hand. Bondo Mohawk will stay exposed during lay-up and will prevent lashing thread from sliding down the face of the fairing mold.



Laid-up and cured. The lashing thread come off easy.



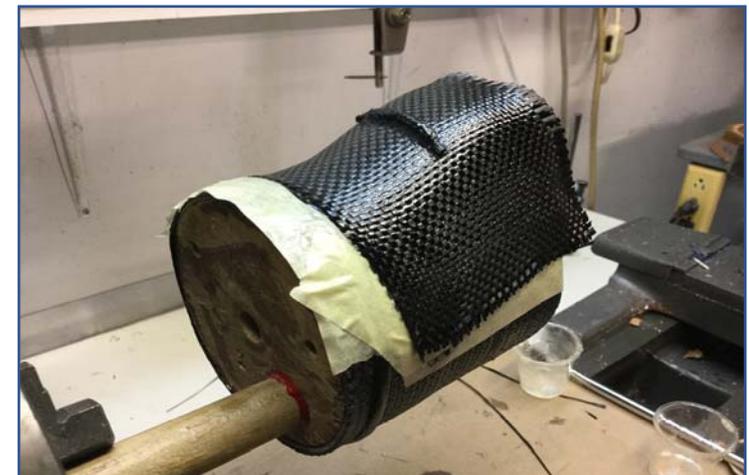
Hatch mold removed and CF trimmed flush with opening.



Four of the original eleven stators were used as formers during lay-up. Here they have been removed.



Ready to lay-up hatch. The shine is polyvinyl alcohol mold release. You may remember that term from Larry W's recent presentation.



Laid-up hatch. The sausage link looking thing on top is a piece of aluminum tube in a small CF sleeve. It has to do with securing the hatch.

# WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE BUILDING CONT.



Needs more work but we are getting there.



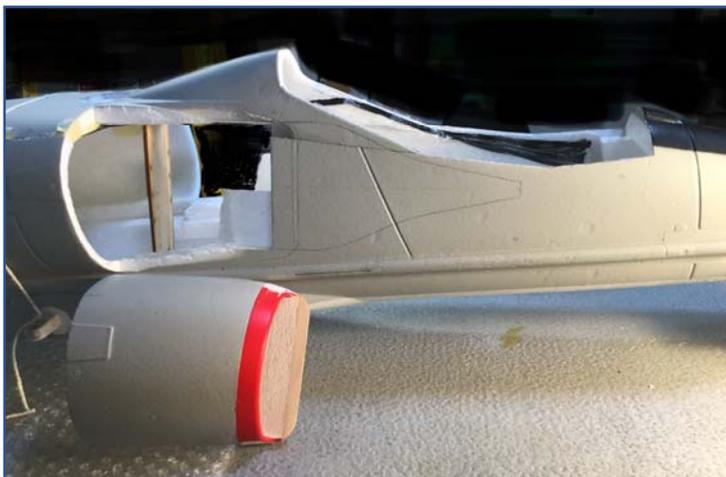
Is this like putting a flathead V8 in a Porsche?



This is how big the intakes would have to be to equal the area occupied by the 90mm fan blade less hub.  
Mmm ...what to do



Some scenes may be graphic, viewer discretion is advised.



This is intended to become a vacuum operated, NACA looking, variable intake enhancement device. That is 60k CF tow reinforcing the inside of the cockpit area and it continues on back to as far as the vertical fin. Still curing at this point so I can't mess with it. This is the A-4 Skyhawk.



You can see what my intention is with this work.

# SHOW AND TELL VIRTUAL REALITY

Show & Tell is for our members to show off their scale aircraft project in any stage from plans to being framed up to a completed model. Scale ARFs or full-bore scale models are welcome.



Sam with a Jet Hanger F9F Cougar. Power jet fan 90mm with 12s Lipo batteries. Scale Cougar gear with brakes.



Full cockpit with RC Geek Pilot, after burner LED and sliding Canopy. I had this for quite a while and now time to quit looking at it and git er done!



David Coe and Richard demonstrate a Harbor Freight borescope for use in seeing inside hard to reach spaces such as the tail section of a P-51 Mustang.



The borescope is useful for many other services such as looking at automotive pistons, sewer drains, etc. Retail for \$80, less on sale.



In January Karl Swope purchased a VQ model of a F8F Bearcat and I am glad that I did. Now I have something to work on during this pandemic period.



I have started to work on a F8F with a 79.5" wingspan and will have a 40cc four stroke gas engine. This plane will be the largest plane that I have worked on.

# SHOW AND TELL VIRTUAL REALITY

Show & Tell is for our members to show off their scale aircraft project in any stage from plans to being framed up to a completed model. Scale ARFs or full-bore scale models are welcome.



Pano got this PA-18 Super Cub from one of his friends. It belonged to his dad who recently passed away



Not sure who the manufacturer is but it is going to be fun to fly it. I call it Carl after his dad.



My mustang is now on her own wheels. Bud Nosen P51 This is the one that Sam highlighted in his newsletter.



DLE 85 Robart Main retracts, Sierra tail wheel retract. Smart Fly system Futaba Radio



Joe Trama sent in these two. This is a Phoenix Model Stinson Reliant. DLE 20 67" Wing span coming in at 14 pounds.



This is Joe's Hanger 9 Mustang 89" wing span DLE 55 Rear exhaust Electric retracts 25 pounds

# TIPS FROM THE SHOP

## PAINTING RC PILOT FIGURES



I put a huge amount of detail in the helmets of my Best Pilots pilot figures because its the topmost thing that's viewed when your pilot is sitting in the cockpit. Most flight helmets are leather and that's what's shown here. The following technique works like magic in replicating leather of all kinds, but it works the best when your pilot figure has leather texture molded in the helmet. I've included information here for doing a bang up job on WW2 Navy cloth flight helmets as well.



First paint the helmet, earphones and goggle frames flat black. When painting areas like this, it is quicker to paint where the black meets another color with a fine brush and then fill in with a larger brush. Kind of like coloring within the lines in a coloring book. After all is painted flat black and dry

we are going to learn a technique called dry brushing.



Dry Brushing is a fairly easy technique to highlight raised detail. A medium soft flat brush works perfectly. Mine is all curled out at the ends from use, which actually makes it work better. The trick is to not let a lot of paint come off the brush. To help this, just barely dip the tip of your brush into the paint. You only want about a 1/16 of an inch of paint on brush.



In this instance, the color we are going to paint Sailor's leather helmet is, uh, **MMA Leather**. After dipping your brush ever so slightly into the leather paint, brush it on an old clean T-shirt until there is almost no paint coming off the brush. (If you have

# TIPS FROM THE SHOP

visitors in your painting area, be sure to use an old T-shirt and not underwear... for obvious reasons.) Lightly whisk the brush across the area to be leather. Magic starts to happen and the black helmet starts to look just like leather. For a darker leather helmet, use less paint and for a more brown leather helmet use more. This technique takes the most time, but it is the most rewarding for the realistic effect achieved.

## Navy Helmets

The Best Pilots Pappy Boyington figure uses an altogether different technique since WW2 Navy/Marine flying helmets were made of cloth not leather. But we do use the **Dry Brush** technique to get the earcups to look like leather that house the headphones.



To get Pappy's helmet to look real, first paint the cloth area **MMA Dark Tan**. To bring out the detail, we apply a wash.

**-Washes-** A wash is simply thinned down paint that is very watery. This allows the pigment to run into lower areas like stitches, ridges and seams to make that detail "pop". I discovered a very useful wash that works a bit better than plain water. We'll call it *Best Pilot's Wash*. To make, mix slowly-

no bubbles – 5 parts water and 1 part Future floor polish in an empty medicine bottle or similar container. The Future is a well-used magical liquid used by fine scale modelers for years, and they are still discovering new uses for this liquid in modeling. Check it out online. The stuff is pure acrylic so it mixes great with MMA Acrylic paint. When used in *Best Pilot's Wash*, it tends to let the paint pigment settle into the crevices better and not creep back out like it would if using plain water. That's my theory anyway. Only drawback, if there is one, is it leaves a shiny surface which will be corrected later with the flat clear coat.



Take a drop or two of *Best Pilot's Wash* and add just a tiny drop of burnt umber so that you get a light brown transparent puddle. Take that and wash it over Pappy's helmet, taking care to make sure it flows in all seams and NOT over the face or skin areas. You gotta be careful with that. I've noticed that the pilots in the South Pacific had

# TIPS FROM THE SHOP

prominent sweat stains around the goggles on their helmets. Something to do with flying and fighting in a tropical environment tends to make one sweat! To achieve this effect, simply wash a layer of burnt umber and Best Pilots Wash in those areas. Usually about three layers will get the effect.

**MASTER TIP-** Dry Brushing brings out raised areas of detail and mimics highlighting and fading. Washes brings out recessed areas of details and mimics shadows. Drybrush = light, Washes = Shadow



To finish the helmet, you can lightly dry brush a bit of light tan on the seams and straps that hold the goggles on. This makes those details stand out realistically and adds to a more complex color variation.

## Goggles

Straps – The goggle straps on Sailor were a bit more complex than his American ally's. They were part cloth covered elastic and leather. For the cloth part I painted it with **MMA Dark Tan** and then applied a very thin Best Pilot's wash with a bit of Burnt Umber.



The leather part of the strap is painted **MMA Flat Black** and then dry brushed with **MMA Leather** mixed with a bit of Burnt Sienna for an almost wine color. This gives a nice variation in leathers and is historically accurate.



# TIPS FROM THE SHOP

Pappy's goggle straps are a base of **MMA Flat White** with a very thin *Best Pilot's* wash with a bit of Dark Grey.

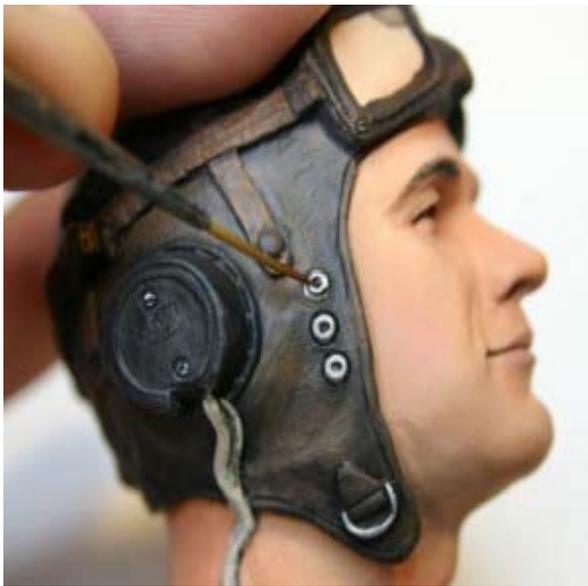


The goggle frames are painted with a base coat of Flat Black (don't paint the lens area yet!) and dry brushed with the same wine-ish color brown.

Pappy's goggle frames are **MMA Neutral Grey** dry brushed with MMA Flat White

# TIPS FROM THE SHOP

## HEADPHONES



The headphones are left black. For extra detail, dry brush them lightly with a touch of grey, just the upper area and seams. There are two screws on the headphones, to give them a bit of a metallic look, I touched them with a metallic silver colored pencil. Use metallic enamel paint for other metal parts for a "metallic" look.



Add the "Best Pilots" printed lenses and the job is complete! Pretty good eh"?

(Above) Whether in a Corsair, or in a Wildcat like our lead photo, (both taken at Top Gun!), Pappy Boyington from Best Pilots looks like the real MacCoy! Lyle's painting techniques and his sculpting talents are simply, well... the BEST.

# TIPS FROM THE SHOP CONT.



Text & Photos by Lyle Vasser

Around the entire figure, draw an outline whose width is equal to  $1/8 R$ . If the marking is the postwar type, which includes the red stripe inside the white bar sections, the width of the stripe is equal to  $1/6 R$ , and it is centered on the white bar. Note that the red stripe is slightly wider than the blue outline.

<https://www.modelairplanenews.com/pilotpainting#outer-popup>

**MODEL**  
**Airplane**  
NEWS



Howdy!

First off, Lady Alice took some damage at Gunsmoke when the tailwheel seized. Gentle crosswind for the flight making the take off a complete handful until the tail came up and the rudder took over. I blamed it on the crosswind and went about my flight. Other than a really crappy takeoff, the flight went well until landing. The landing began nice enough, as I recall I even hit the

centerline of the runway for a real grease job. All was beautiful until the tail set down and nothing was going to stop the crosswind from turning it into the fence. Hindsight, I could have landed 20' further down the runway and just spun out in the dirt, missing the fence. Thank goodness the fence was plastic netting which didn't damage anything, not even the prop. It did spin Lady Alice completely into the netting and she took a post on the left-wing root at the gear pocket. The damage was ugly and totally deflating, but nonstructural and completely repairable. I now have a heptagon tail

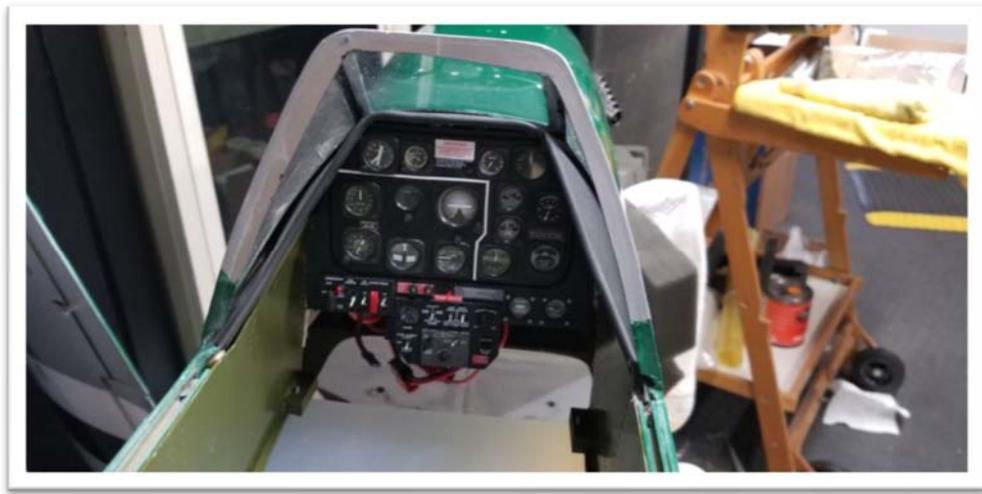


wheel for my strange things box. My event was completed with that flight and I left for home the following morning. To put things in perspective with that; The drive to Phoenix was absolutely horrifying, weather wise. It was a nasty storm all the way to quartzite with the worst being from Indio to the border. Near zero visibility, even at 20MHP and nothing but semi-trucks passing each other at less than 1 mph speed difference. It

was the most nerve wracking drive ever in the 40+ years I've been going to Phoenix. The good news; the world was fairly normal when I left that morning. It was wonderful to see all my friends, shake their hands, give them a hug, rub shoulders, etc. Life was normal and good!



I spoke with my Wife Saturday and she told me of the empty shelves at the store and the panic that was beginning to take hold. I returned to a different world, everyone wearing masks and gloves, hoarding Tp for some strange reason which I still have not figured out. On Monday OC Health called for in place sheltering and the governor made it officially state wide the following day. Handshakes and hugs is no longer the normal social interaction. We all sit tight now waiting to see what the world will be like when we're allowed out.



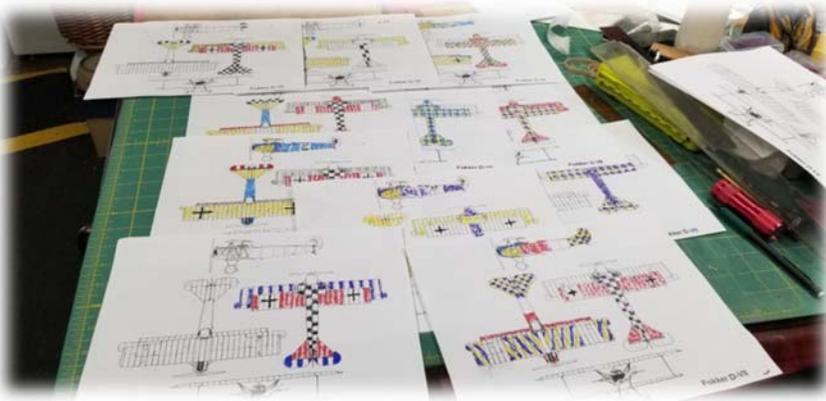
Coming home to a quarantine just sent me right into the garage and instantly into repairing Lady Alice. Three weeks down the road, Lady Alice is not just repaired but finished. I had no cockpit and made a makeshift mount for a seat and rubber banded a 1/5 scale pilot in a 1/4 scale airplane for the qualifier. Now it's a full cockpit, still missing a pilot but everything else is there. She is standing on her nose waiting to make flight #5.



I had purchased a and a 1/3 Scale Pitt ARF that I planned to put in the air post haste. Having just retired on February 1, I spent the first six weeks plugging away on Lady Alice to make Gunsmoke, going to the field only long enough to maiden it. My plan was and still is to go flying several times a week. I added the ARF's to my hangar to do just exactly that.

With Lady Alice now ready, I turned my attention to the DVII. I was just going to put it together and fly - full ARF. No point to that, I'm not even sure where I'm going to put it just yet. So I started peeling the covering off for recovering and paint. To date I've had it mostly together but nothing is glued. I have a couple of last touches before it's ready for paint and have spent the last week or so printing out three views and





coloring them in different schemes using colors that I have on hand. Once I've decided on a scheme, I'll paint it. However we are still looking at another month in quarantine at minimum, certainly that before OC Parks allows us to open the field again. So it is very likely that I will paint it, install as much hardware as



I can and then put it all back in the box. Then probably do the same thing with the 1/3 scale Pitts. Unless, I find something else to build. I'll be deciding this in the next few weeks.



Sorry I don't have pictures of the damage on Lady Alice, I was too preoccupied at the time and only started taking pictures one the repair was underway.



- Tim Cardin

**MONTHLY MEETING NIGHT**

**Monday**

**May 11, 2020**

**7:00pm**

**MAY MEETING**



As we continue to monitor the rapidly evolving situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19), our first thought is for the safety and well-being of our members impacted by these difficult circumstances. In these unprecedented times, it is important that we come together to support all those impacted.

# EVENT CALENDAR

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**MORE EVENTS TO VISIT OR PARTICIPATE IN  
COMING UP!**

**WAITING TO SEE WHAT  
EVENTS ARE GOING TO  
BE RESCHEDULED.**

**I WILL KEEP EVERYONE  
POSTED.**



# SCALE SQUADRON OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## *Advancing and Promoting the Hobby of Remotely Controlled Scale Miniature Aircraft*

Many people from all walks of life find it fascinating to produce a miniature working replica of a full-size object be it a doll house, sailing ship or operating steam locomotive. In our case it is our passion for Flying Machines that motivates the Scale Squadron.

Our members have diversified interests in all facets of aviation history, from the first aircraft to fly at Kitty Hawk to the modern-day jet. Advancements in technology have provided us with ready-to fly kits, on-board cameras, in-flight telemetry, multi-cylinder engines as well as high powered miniature jet turbines that burn real jet fuel. Today as scale modelers we pursue nearly every possible aviation subject with the confidence that not only will our project be successful, but

that it may outperform that of its scale counterpart.

Squadron members delight in the pursuit of authenticity for scale projects. This requires research and documentation of specific aircraft and their variants. Many of the flying replicas thus created are of "Museum Quality" and our members take to the skies with these flying miniatures regularly and successfully. On the other hand, not every member makes a scale masterpiece. That's OK too! Whatever pleases you is what counts. Whether you are kit-bashing, volunteering at charity aviation events, or making molds from scratch for Scale Masters or AMA National Championship scale aircraft, Scale Squadron is a club that embraces all facets of scale aviation R/C modeling and the related community.

Scale Squadron Club Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Green Valley Adult Clubhouse, 17215 Los Jardines West (just north of Slater) in Fountain Valley, CA. The meetings start at 7PM and last about 2 hours.

Our meetings throughout the year include the usual club business as well as Member Show & Tell, Modeling How-To's, Aviation and Industry Presentations, and good ol' time social gathering to help enlighten and encourage our membership to push the boundaries in the art of Miniature Aircraft Replication. Like-minded visitors are always welcome. All members and visitors alike are encouraged to bring their latest scale models and projects!

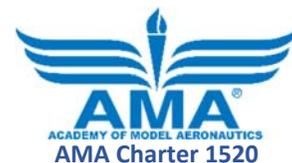


# SCALE SQUADRON OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

THE SCALE SQUADRON  
OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership in the Scale Squadron is open to all AMA members who are interested in safe, formal, and informal flying, including the research, building and flying of Scale R/C Miniature Aircraft. Membership Annual Dues are \$30.00 covering January 1 through December 31. Membership begins after verification of your current Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Membership Card and receipt of Scale Squadron membership dues. Membership in the Scale Squadron includes a monthly newsletter and Squadron name tag. Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm.

NEW  RENEWAL  Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Ext \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
AMA# \_\_\_\_\_ FAA \_\_\_\_\_ USSMA \_\_\_\_\_ FCC/Ham \_\_\_\_\_ EAA \_\_\_\_\_

### MODELING INFORMATION

Years in R/C \_\_\_\_\_ Modeling Level: New  Intermediate  Expert  Need Help

Interest Area: WW1  WWII  Golden Age  Civilian  Vintage  Jets

Private or Commercial Pilots License & Type Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in Scale Competition? Yes  No  Would Require Assistance

How did you hear about the Scale Squadron? \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Meeting Preferences. Check all areas that you would like to see at the monthly meetings

How To  Videos  Guest Speakers  Scale Techniques  Scale Contest Prep

Your Ideas \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to assist at Scale Squadron Events? Yes  No  Maybe with Help

Registration  Gate  Flight Line  Judging  Scoring  Cooking

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: This information is only for the Scale Squadron Data Base and will not be shared or sold to any outside agencies. Your information may be used in a Scale Squadron Membership Guide available only to paid members.

# ABOUT THE SCALE SQUADRON

## SCALE SQUADRON OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Officially AMA  
Chartered on  
April 7th, 1977

# 1977

## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Scale Modeling is the accurate recreation of aircraft in aviation, from the early biplanes to the latest jets of the 21st century. Whether it's built from scratch, a kit or an ARF, scale modeling strives to recreate the airplane as historically accurate as possible. Paint schemes, rivets, windshield glass, and even pilots are faithfully painted and built to exacting specifications. The end result is a flying recreation of the original full-size airplane.

Our members all have one common goal - to share their knowledge of aviation, aviation history, and scale modeling.

Our monthly meetings are open to everyone, and often feature "how to" seminars on building and flying model aircraft.

Each year the Scale Squadron hosts and participates in numerous events, with the overall goal of bringing together modeling

enthusiasts from all over the world. Events our members historically and perpetually attend are:

- Top Gun
- U.S. Scale Masters
- Warbirds Over the Rockies
- Arizona Electric Festival
- Best in The West Jet Rally
- One Eighth Air Force Fly-in
- Battle of the Builders

The Scale Squadron also hosts their own annual event known as The Scale Squadron Warbirds and Classics. This year will be the 9th year running of the Squadron event.

The Scale Squadron dates back to the early 70's. Harris Lee, Bert Baker and Bob Olson were the original founders of the Scale Squadron and members of the Orange Coast RIC Club. Their interest in scale modeling brought them together regularly at Lee's home. The word soon got out, and their numbers quickly grew. Scale modeling became the hottest new interest within the R/C community.

The first official scale modeling club was formed in 1973 with events held at Mile Square Park.

Scale modeling was in its infancy yet immensely popular as attested to by the large participation at each of their events. Harris Lee devised a plan for sanctioning a series of local qualifiers around the country and then having a fly-off to determine the national champion. Out of this idea the U.S. Scale Masters was started and is the premier scale competition in the country today. Pat Potaga, of Scale R/C. Modeler Magazine, helped to put this program on the map. His articles and front-page color photos helped fuel the fire of scale modeling. The modeling world owes these visionaries a debt of gratitude. Thank you Bert Baker, Bob Olson, Jerry Ortega with special thanks to Harris Lee.