



Col. Robert E. Thacker's P82 Betty Jo, named after his wonderful wife at the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum.

Commander Mike's Comments

Already February??? Really?! We have another fast paced year!! Happy Presidents Day and Valentines Day. If you gotta a sweetie I highly suggest doing something nice for her. She does put up with your modeling addiction!

We are fresh off of a great AMA show and a fantastic start to the year. Don't forget we have a new AMA show this Nov!! And, starting next month it's Scale Masters Qualifier season. Gunsmoke in Arizona and word is Hemet canceled so watch for updates. scheduled! To help kick off the season right Sam and Tim Cardin will present a good Scale Competition intro at the meeting this month. If you are flying Anything Scale you are ready to start. Come to this month's meeting and get the details!

Safety: we talked about lipo storage last month, let's talk about other explosive topics :). Did you know balsa dust can be ignited in a flash fire from a very small ignition source? It's true! Be sure the air in your garage is clear of balsa dust. Blow it out, sweep it out, vacuum it up, and even mist a little water into the air. All of these things will ensure you do not have a flash fire. It's like going to the gas station. One unlucky spark at just the right moment and blammo!! Is it common? No. Does it happen? Yes!! Plus your wife will appreciate not having to wade through dust and so will your lungs...We'll see you at the meeting Monday night! Bring you projects and let's talk scale competition!! Even for beginners too!

Mike

NEWSLETTER FEATURES THIS MONTH

- ★ BAD ANGEL P51 Story
- ★ February Program
Getting ready for Gunsmoke
- ★ Gunsmoke Qualifier Flyer
Castle AFB Flyer
- ★ Col. Robert E. Thacker 100th
Birthday
- ★ Joe Martin Museum

UPCOMING COOL EVENTS

OCMA SWAP MEET
Saturday February 24, 2018

Arizona Electric Festival
February 9-11, 2018

Gunsmoke Scale Qualifier
March 16-18, 2018

Scale Squadron
Warbirds & Classics Event at
OCMA Field June 15-17, 2018

Planes of Fame Air Show
May 6-7, 2018

Top Gun 30th Anniversary
May 2-6, 2018

4th Annual Castle Giant
Scale Fly-In May 24-27, 2018

The Scale Squadron 2018 Board of Directors

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SCALE SQUADRON MEETING MAP & DIRECTIONS

Address: 17250 Los Jardines West - Fountain Valley, CA

Next Meeting: Monday February 12, 2018 7:00 PM

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=17250%20Los%20jardines%20west%20fountain%20valley%2C%20ca&qsn=&form=QBRE&sp=-1&pq=undefined&sc=0-12&sk=&cvid=4B9C75CD7F824EB5ACEB99E1DCFC7BAF>

Click on the Link above for Google Maps and Directions



EDITOR'S NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Sam Wright, Editor - Looking for Content, Articles & How to Tips related to Scale Modelling



Well here I am back in the saddle again, pardner! Tim Johnson who did an excellent job with the newsletter relieved me after 18 years of that job, so thanks for the break Tim! Tim is now keeping our Scale Squadron website up to date. If you haven't visited the website, please do as it contains a lot of good information and if you see something outdated, jerk Tim's chain.

Lots of others look at our website particularly when we approach our Warbird's and Classic's event this coming June. You can click on the website link on the front page and it will take you directly there. As a matter of information in case you missed it, all website links are called "Hyperlink's" and when you click on them in this newsletter, they also will take you to that particular website saving you the time to close your PDF reader and open a web browser.

Technology marches on and we want you to be right there with us.

What's with the Trooper ha in the above photo? That is your Editor at our 2017 Christmas party and the hat belongs to Retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer, Scott Whyte. Amazing the things we don't know about people.

As you know any good editor is always looking for material for the newsletter. That can be photos of your projects, news, events, or a How to article. All are welcome. If you are not totally technical or computer savvy, let me know and I will figure a way to get the article in the newsletter.

On that note, if there is anything you would like to see, let me know. More three views, mystery aircraft, or article's on cool planes to build.

My goal in between all the balls I juggle, I want to get the newsletter to you as early as possible. That would also mean getting your material to me early enough to include in the upcoming edition.

I hope to see you all at the meeting, Monday February 12, 2018, 7:00PM. Don't forget your show & Tell planes, projects, plans, and scale rubber powered projects. We all want to see what you're doing!

Sam

2018 Squadron Dues - Re-Up Now! Still only \$30.00 includes the monthly newsletter, Magnetic name tag and FREE Christmas Party! Pay online with PayPal.

Go To: <http://www.scalesquadron.com/membership-application/>

Click on the website link to go directly to the website and also renew your 2018 club dues with PayPal.

INSANITY

Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Albert Einstien

BAD ANGEL...The real story why a P51 has a US Flag Kill Marking!

Special thanks to Frank Kelly for this article



Bad Angel in Hangar #4 - Pima Air & Space Museum, Tucson, Arizona

You probably don't know the story of this P51 with an American Flag on the kill markings. What a great scale subject to model too!

Proudly displayed on the fuselage of 'Bad Angel' were the markings of the pilot's kills: seven Nazis; one Italian; one Japanese AND ONE AMERICAN. Huh? "Bad Angel" shot down an American airplane?

Was it a terrible mistake? Couldn't be. If it had been an unfortunate misjudgment, certainly the pilot would not have displayed the American flag.

I knew there had to be a good story here. Fortunately for us, one of the Museum's many fine docents was on hand to tell it.

In 1942, the United States needed pilots for its war planes; lots of war planes; lots of pilots. Lt. Louis Curdes was one. When he was 22 years old, he graduated flight training school and was shipped off to the Mediterranean to fight

Nazis in the air over Southern Europe. He arrived at his 82nd Fighter Group, 95th Fighter Squadron in April 1943 and was assigned a P-38 Lightning. Ten days later he shot down three German Messerschmitt Bf-109 fighters. A few weeks later, he downed two more German Bf-109's. In less than a month of combat, Louis was an Ace. During the next three months, Louis shot down an Italian Mc.202 fighter and two more Messerschmitt's before his luck ran out. A German fighter shot down his plane on August 27, 1943 over Salerno, Italy.

Captured by the Italians, he was sent to a POW camp near Rome. No doubt this is where he thought he would spend the remaining years of the war. It wasn't to be. A few days later, the Italians surrendered. Louis and a few other pilots escaped before the Nazis could take control of the camp. One might think that such harrowing experiences would have taken the fight out of Louis, yet he volunteered for another combat tour. This time, Uncle Sam sent him to the Philippines where he flew P-51 Mustangs. Soon after arriving in the Pacific Theater, Louis downed a Mitsubishi reconnaissance plane near Formosa. Now he was one of only three Americans to have kills against all three Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Up until this point, young Lt. Curdes combat career had been stellar. His story was about to take a twist so bizarre that it seems like the fictional creation of a Hollywood screenwriter.

While attacking the Japanese-held island of Bataan, one of Louis' wingmen was shot down. The pilot ditched in the ocean. Circling overhead, Louis could see that his wingman had survived, so he stayed in the area to guide a rescue plane and protect the downed pilot.

It wasn't long before he noticed another, larger airplane, wheels down, preparing to land at the Japanese-held airfield on Bataan. He moved in to investigate. Much to his surprise the approaching plane was a Douglas C-47



The actual Kill markings on the Bad Angel P51



Lt. Louis Curdes in the cockpit of Bad Angel

transport with American markings.

Pilot Lt. Louis Curdes in his P-51 Mustang "Bad Angel". He tried to make radio contact, but without success. He maneuvered his Mustang in front of the big transport several times trying to wave it off. The C-47 kept ahead to its landing target. Apparently the C-47 crew didn't realize they were about to land on a Japanese held island, and soon would be captives.

Lt. Curdes read the daily newspaper accounts of the war, including the viciousness of the Japanese soldiers toward their captives. He knew that whoever was in that American C-47 would be, upon landing, either dead or wish they were. But what could he do?

Audaciously, he lined up his P-51 directly behind the transport, carefully sighted one of his 50 caliber machine guns and knocked out one of its two engines. Still the C-47 continued on toward the Bataan airfield. Curdes

shifted his aim slightly and knocked out the remaining engine, leaving the baffled pilot no choice but to ditch in the ocean.

The big plane came down in one piece about 50 yards from his bobbing wingman. At this point, nightfall and low fuel forced Louis to return to base.

The next morning, Louis flew cover for a rescuing PBY that picked up the downed Mustang pilot and 12 passengers and crew, including two female nurses, from the C-47. All survived, and later, Lt. Curdes would end up marrying one of these nurses.

For shooting down an unarmed American transport plane, Lt. Louis Curdes was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Thereafter, on the fuselage of his P-51 «Bad Angel», he proudly displayed the symbols of his kills: seven German, one Italian, one Japanese and one American flag.



A Great Place to Visit - The Joe Martin Foundation Museum
 Joe Martin was the Inventor and manufacturer of the Sherline lathe and Mill. Joe also was an RC pilot and a friend of mine. This would make a great Saturday field trip!

The Joe Martin Foundation Miniature Engineering Craftsmanship Museum

Carlsbad, California



1/6 scale 1932 Duesenberg SJ with running straight-8, 32-valve engine and working 3-speed transmission by Louis Chenot.

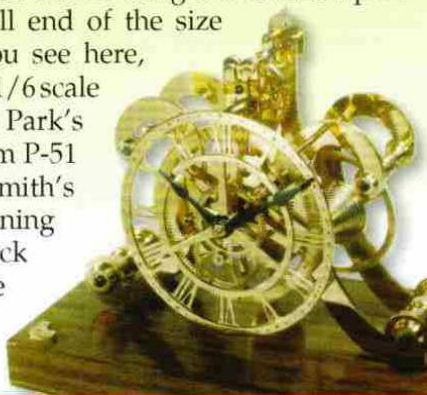
The Joe Martin Foundation for Exceptional Craftsmanship hosts an online museum at www.CraftsmanshipMuseum.com. Now there is also a physical museum where you can come to see the work of some of these fabulous craftsmen in person.



DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS!
 Engines are run in the machine shop at 10 AM, Noon and 2 PM each day.

1/16 scale cutaway aluminum P51-D Mustang by Young C. Park.

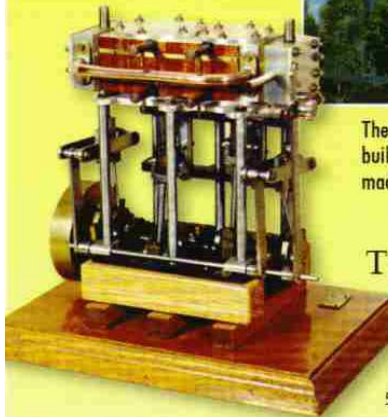
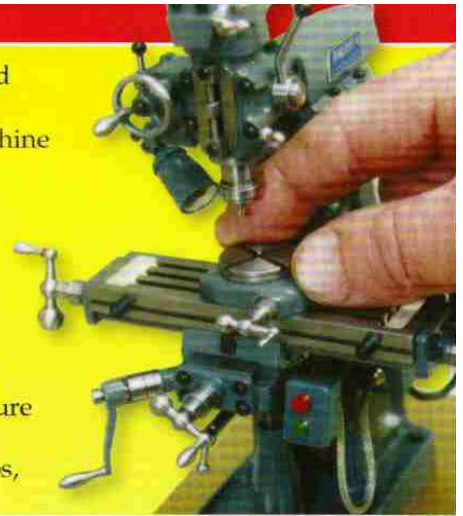
The purpose of the Joe Martin Foundation is to recognize and reward outstanding craftsmanship in projects at the small end of the size scale. The items you see here, like Louis Chenot's 1/6 scale Duesenberg, Young Park's 1/16 scale aluminum P-51 and William R. Smith's gold medal winning epicyclic train clock are among over one thousand items now on display.



www.CraftsmanshipMuseum.com

Barry Jordan of England built the 1/14 scale Bridgeport milling machine shown at the right.

Below is a small live steam marine engine from the collection of well known modeler Rudy Kouhoup. Also on display are over 450 more functional miniature engines plus miniature guns, ships, trains, autos, cranes, clocks, tools, dollhouses and more.

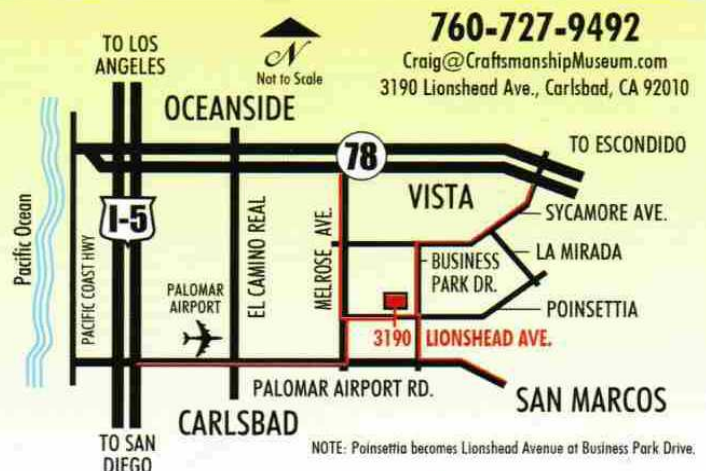


The 16,000 square foot Joe Martin Foundation building in Carlsbad, CA features a working machine shop and large ground floor display area.

Hours:
 Tuesday thru Saturday
 9 AM - 4 PM

Closed Sun., Mon., Holidays

The foundation is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code. Donations are tax deductible.



Driving Directions

From I-5: Take Palomar Airport Road exit, go east about 6 miles to Melrose Avenue, turn left. Turn right onto Lionshead Avenue. 3190 is 1/2 mile on your left.

From 78 (Eastbound from I-5) Take Melrose Exit, turn south. After about 4 miles turn left onto Lionshead Avenue. 3190 is on your left. **(Westbound from Escondido)** Take Sycamore Exit, go south 1.5 miles, turn left onto Business Park Drive. After 1 mile turn right onto Lionshead Avenue. 3190 is 1/2 mile on your right.

Gunsmoke 2018

Scalemasters Qualifier



Hosted by The One Eighth Air Force March 16, 17, 18, 2018

Competition in 5 Classes:

Expert, Team Scale, Advanced, Pro-Am Pro, Pro-Am Sportsman

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Friday: Static Judging - 10AM to 3PM

Sat & Sun: Flight rounds - 8:30AM to 3PM

Awards Ceremony Following the Flight Rounds

Entry Fee: \$40 Spectator Parking \$6.00 per Vehicle

Food at Concession Stands available Sat & Sun

Free Coffee & Donuts Friday Morning for early arrivals

Pizza & Wings Friday Night

Registration available on line at RC Flight Deck.

WWW.RCFLIGHTDECK.COM

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Contest Director: Paul Goldsmith 602-323-7753 PT19Nut@aol.com

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1/8 TH Air Force Commander: Rick Marshall 623-300-7781

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jegeyer@centurylink.net

www.usscalemasters.org + www.ocaf.org +

www.azmodelaviators.com

→→ 21ST ANNUAL →→

4th Annual Castle 2018 ~ Giant Scale Fly-In

**HOSTED BY
AMA CLUB 4021 ~ “CENTRAL CA MODEL FLYERS”**

Castle Airport, Central California, off Highway 99

May 24th to 27th 2018

Landing Fee - \$35.00

R.V. Camping for the Event - \$40.00 or for Front Row - \$60.00

Pilot Automobile Parking – \$5.00 for the entire event

No Charge for Airplane Trailers, Tow Vehicles or Dinghys

Vendors * Raffle * Food

“IMAA” Legal Turbines Welcome

Scotty Malta, (Event Director & Registration) --

scottmalta@comcast.net (209) 617-5789

Rick Maida, (CD) – mrcorsair@usa.net (408) 460-1526

COL. ROBERT E. THACKER EYES THE CENTURY MARK FEBRUARY 21, 2018

Our flying buddy and our dear friend, Col. Robert E. Thacker said he will do it and he will hit that 100th Birthday on February 21, 2018.

Even after being rolled up into a ball at a quiet crosswalk in San Clemente by a women driver, he survived with no broken bones, but other issues that are on the long process of healing in enough time to enjoy his 100th Birthday.



The Col. a long time modeler also has a decorated history in the US Army Air Corp and the USAF.

The Col. flew the P82, Betty Joe from Hickem Field in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 28, 1947 to LaGuardia airport in New York in 14 hours, 33 minutes with his Co-Pilot Lt. John Ard. This is the longest distance for a fighter aircraft of 5051 miles non stop.

Among his many accomplishments supported by his numerous decorations, he also lead a squadron of B17's into Pearl Harbor when it was under attack by the Japanese, and being shot at by US Guns on the ground. He was able to land his B17 fleet safely with some damages since the B17's were in the midst of the Japa-

nese fighters with no armament on board to return fire.

The Col. as we call him is the owner of a huge F100 turbine pow-



ered jet and has several good mission under his belt on a trainer cord at events such as the Best in the West Jets at Button Willow, California. He is also a recent inductee into the AMA Hall of Fame.

You can send the Col. Birthday wishes to:

Col. Robert E. Thacker USAF, Ret.

1703 Calle Marie

San Clemente, CA 92672