

Chapter Contacts

Please forward to your members!



Look Mom, no attachment! This Austin newsletter is available by clicking directly on this link:

<http://austinsms.org/news/2016/April2016.pdf>

(It's also available at the chapter website: www.austinsms.org)

As mentioned earlier, the Austin newsletter is one of those that I really look forward to every month. They are blessed with several regular contributors who provide really interesting stuff. One is Rick Cotton, who provides a build article of his Viking longship. As a bonus he gives us video of a Viking birthday song. (Really!)



(These “Vikings” sing the Happy Birthday-Funeral Song in a minor key with a sing-song dirge style: one typical refrain being “Happy Birthday ...you’ll be soon dead and cold” .

And it goes on. And on. You get the idea. (And you thought I was kidding.)



Rick's own picture shows his upper lip has disappeared under a growth of some sort. He must be getting ready for Vikings try-outs. Or are these facial mats a new tonsorial trend for modelers?

Meanwhile Mike Lamm describes celebrating Valentine's Day bybuilding a model under the pressure of the clock. Pictures are included of the clock at start and end: 9:10 AM Sunday, February 14th to 8:58 PM on the same day: numerous in-process pictures illustrate the build. A subtitle for the article might be "How Not To Make Points with your Wife on Valentine's Day".

And of course there is Austin's always-interesting "Old Rumors – New Kits" outline of upcoming hobby kits. It's hard to keep up with all the new companies offering kits we would never have dreamed would appear: as is often said, it's the Golden Age of Modeling. (But it takes a lot of GOLD to buy this stuff!)

Ron McCracken contributes to this issue with a build article on the Trumpeter 1/72 scale kit of the North American **RA-5C Vigilante** . The big airplane started out as the A3J ,a big, shipboard supersonic nuclear bomber. It was another product of the North American plant in Columbus Ohio where Curtiss had built SB2C Helldivers during WWII. The big “Viggie” was and is legendary: I’ve heard it said that the “trap” arrival of the big bird could be heard and felt anywhere on the ship!

Photo # USN 1140473 RA-5C lands aboard USS Saratoga, circa 1969



When Naval aviation lost their strategic nuclear mission to the ballistic missile submarine force in 1963, sixty production and prototype aircraft were converted to the reconnaissance mission as RA-5C's; a further 36 were new-builds at least partially due to combat attrition.

The RA-5 had a tough mission in Vietnam: eighteen were lost in combat with many crewmembers becoming unwilling guests of the North Vietnamese.



For several years Naval Air Station Sanford, located a few miles northeast of Orlando, Florida; had been the “master base” for the Navy’s heavy reconnaissance community, as it had been earlier for the heavy attack community with the Douglas A-3 and the A-5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Air_Station_Sanford



"Gate Guard" RA-5C at Orlando-Sanford Int'l Airport, the former Sanford NAS

When the naval station was closed in 1968, the local community refashioned their windfall of long jet runways into an international airport, renaming it ORLANDO-Sanford International to better identify it with central Florida tourist attractions. It offers leisure travellers (to Disney, etc.) an often-cheaper and less congested travel alternative to Orlando International. For example, this article aimed at BRITISH tourists notes why Sanford is a better destination for their nine-hour flights direct from England to visit central Florida attractions resorts like Disney World (aka "The Mouse House"). <http://orlandoinformer.com/blog/why-brits-must-fly-into-sanford-international-airport/>

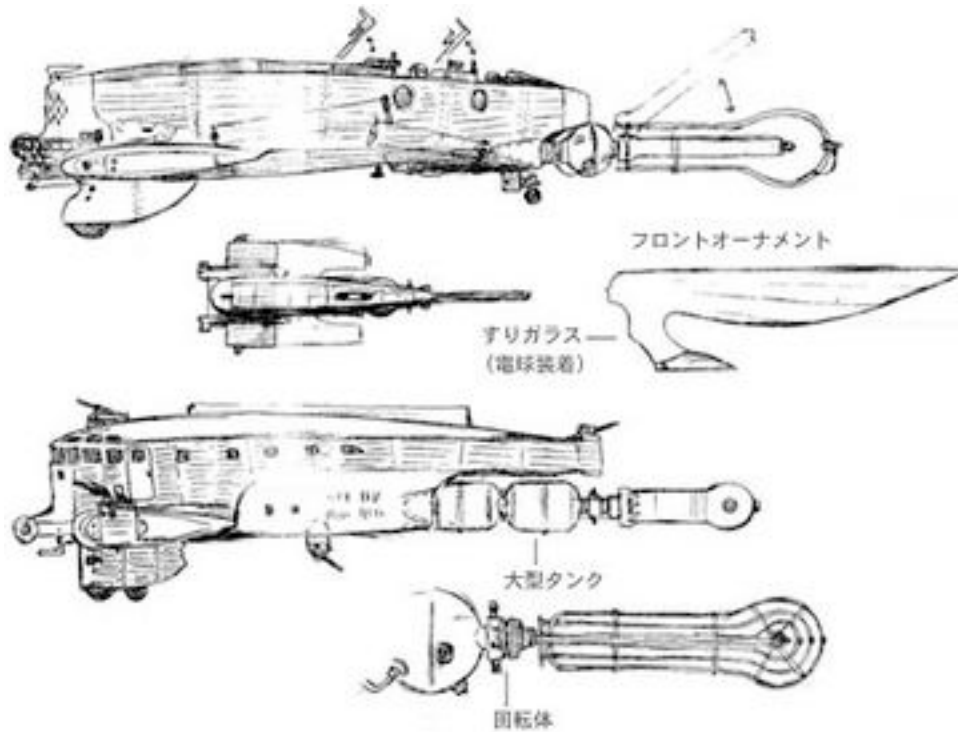
About the Auckland (NZ) newsletter forwarded yesterday: I had commented on this rather odd model seen at their March meeting;

thinking it was a kit bash of sorts into an “open cockpit space ship”. It turns out that it’s a Hasegawa KIT!



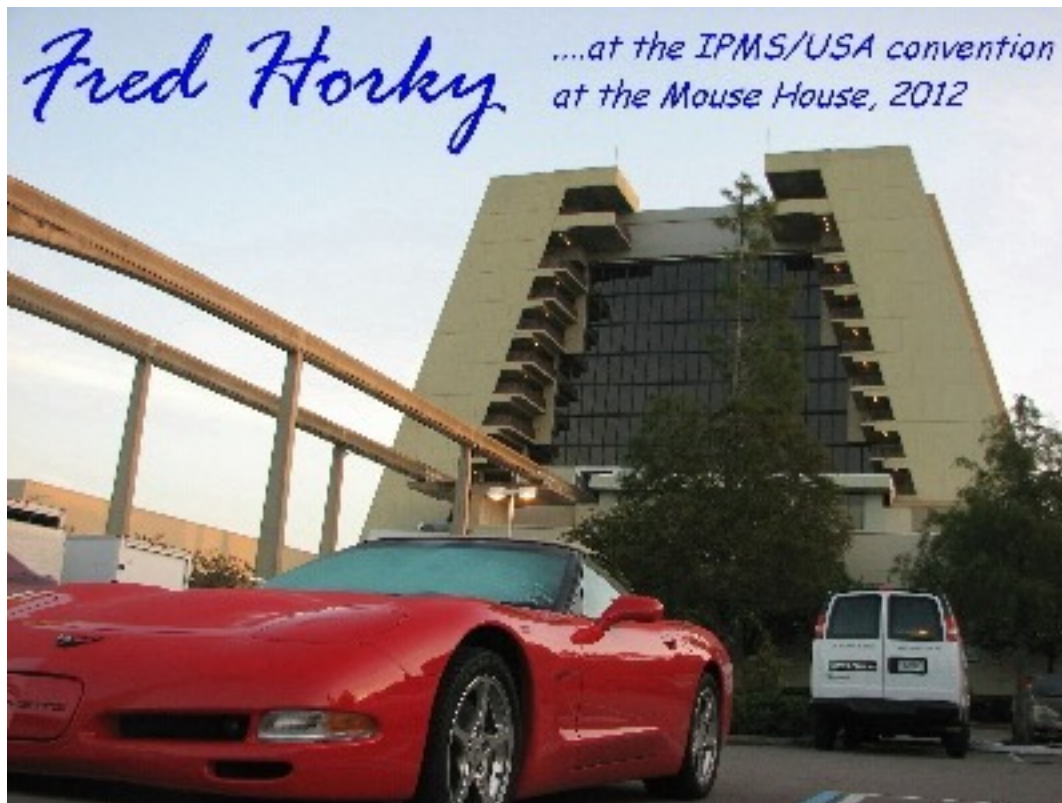
My friend Neal Izumi of Hawaii quickly provided the answer ...”*The weird air car thing is a ‘vanship’ from the Japanese anime “The Last Exile”. I believe vanship is a generic term for a flying car thingy. I think the egg beaters are the anti-gravity propulsion system. I have no idea what the knife-like device is at the front., as I have not watched the show. **The model is a modern injection plastic kit from Hasegawa, believe it or not.”***

Googling “The Last Exile” turned up more pictures, including this general arrangement sketch.



All of which proves (again) that I have indeed led a sheltered life.

One final comment: I don't know how it happened, but the Austin editor credited me with having pointed out that this **Thursday, April 21st** celebrates two disparate events.* The first was the founding of Rome in 753 BCE. The second, more important to us and especially to Texans; is the anniversary of Sam Houston's 1836 defeat of Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna in a battle near present-day Houston. San Jacinto is thus where the independence of the independent Republic of Texas is marked.



IPMS 6390

P.S. * As you might imagine, over the millennia a LOT of other things have also happened on April 21st. For example, on that date in 43 BC, Mark Antonyyou remember him from that high school exposure to Shakespeare, don't you?defeated by Aulus Hirtius in the Battle of Mutina. Yeah, I didn't know that either. But you probably remember Mark Antonyhe looked a lot like Richard Burton. (Check that: you have to be pretty old to remember HIM!)



A lot of other mostly-bloody things happened on April 21st, one very notable in 1918 when one Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen was shot down and killed during World War I. Who shot him down is still subject to some debate: Canadian fighter pilot Arthur “Roy” Brown was first credited; later analysis credits Australian anti-aircraft gunner Sgt. Cedric Popkin. You chose your side of the argument.

One thing seems sure: “The Red Baron” was not done in by a beagle.



Among April 21st birthdays, the most notable is one Elizabeth Alexandra Mary ...aka Queen Elizabeth II who will be ninety.