Chapter Contacts

*Please forward to your **members!***

At their recent mee+ng, editor Rob Morales led the Show 'n Tell parade of a number of airliner models with this 1/144th Revell model of the Bri+sh Aerospace model BAe 146, a small four-engine short-haul or regional airliner whose produc+on ran from 1983 to 2002.

The kit's original subject is BAe's " STA Military Demonstrator" ...a configura+on which never saw any orders. Rob converted the kit back to the airliner configura+on and livery of "Flybe", a regional airline whose history I found to be a confusing list of mergers and predecessor airline names. Even a true airliner enthusiast would reach for a program to keep track of these players, so I won't even try! Below, Rob's model sits quietly ignored at the chapter's mee+ng at Hobbytown USA, while everybody is watching the slide show.....

The 146 is noted for its quiet operation, making it a good fit for airlines operating into small, close-in airports like Berlin's famed (and now closed) Tempelhof. Below a Brussels Airlines BAe 146 is seen parked under that airport's iconic, humongous,curved, and covered ramp ....virtually indoor parking for airliners.

A more recent and very much in operation "in-town" airport very much in use by the type is London City Airport. The layer's runway is less than 5,000' long, so only a limited number of airliner types are allowed to operate there, and those use steep approach and departure angles.

The airport was built in very recent years on the abandoned former "Docklands" of East London. History buffs will recall the area from the era when London's docks were its link to the outside world ....and thus a major target during the London Blitz of 1940, and later a]acks throughout the war.

Almost fi)y years ago and without CGI (Computer-Generated-Imagery), the director of the great movie **The Ba]le of Britain** made sure the famous Docklands were idenBfiable in his image of this Lu)waffe He 111 crew bombing London ....the docks are seen just to the le) of the bomb aimer, hunched over his sight: further le) is the Thames River itself. (This Image by my iPhone, right off the TV screen!)

By the beginning of the 19th century, London's old docks along the Thames River had became insufficient for the great city's ship traffic, but the inven+on of steam power at about the same +me made it feasible to dig ar+ficial harbors in otherwise useless marshland. The first of these large ar+ficial harbors which were called "Docklands" was opened in 1855, the last in 1921.

These docks flourished un+l well acer WWII, when they were suddenly made obsolete by the new container shipment method, because the ships carrying containers were to large for the Docklands. For those interested, there are several good reads on the subject .....here are two:
h]p://londonsroyaldocks.com/londons- royal-docks-history/
and h]ps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Docklands

(One neat historical factoid: the famed "Mulberrys", floating structures which were towed across the English channel to form artificial harbors on the French coast and a key to the D-Day invasion success, were secretly built within London's Docklands!)

I could go on and on, but this 'thread" has already "pulled" far from the subject of a model on the table at an IPMS chapter's last meeting at Hobbytown USA!