

# MASTERS QUARTERLY



Volume 10, Issue 4  
October-December, 2008

## US SCALE MASTERS QUARTERLY DEC., 2008

### Congratulations to our new officers:

Carolyn Van Herk, Chairman - Mitch Baker, Director of Admin

Jeff Lovit, West Coast VP - Mike Barbee, East Coast VP

Gary Norton, Finance Director

### CHAIRMAN UPDATE

By Carolyn Van Herk

Hi everyone,

We had a wonderful time at the 29<sup>th</sup> Championships in Sarasota, Florida October 9-12. I had the pleasure of working with Jon Hay and his committee in putting on this event and they did an outstanding job. The weather was beautiful and cooperated with no rain and very little wind. We did have to drop one event the Horizontal Eight due to space restrictions.

Congratulations to our winners in the Advanced Class, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Brian O'Meara from CO flying his Sea

Fury, in a very close 2<sup>nd</sup> we had John Boyko from Franklin, OH with his Pitts Special, taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Chip Greene from Tampa, FL with his Grumman F8F-2 Bearcat, 4<sup>th</sup> place went to Jim Hess, Jr. from Sarasota, FL with his Extra 260 and Kirby Cole from Clearwater, FL took 5<sup>th</sup> place with his A-1 Skyraider.

In the Expert Class, Dennis Crooks from Rockville, IN took 1<sup>st</sup> place for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row with his P-38, Tom Smith from Sarasota, FL took 2<sup>nd</sup> with his A-1 Skyraider while David Hayes from Roanoke Rapids, NC came in 3<sup>rd</sup> with his Thrush.

Mike Barbee from Delaware, OH took 4<sup>th</sup> with his WACO YMF -5 and David Johnson from

### *In This Issue*

Chairman's Update  
VP Reports  
Regional Manager Reports

From the Chairman	1,7
VP—West Report	2
VP—East Report	2,5
Regional Managers	3,4,5
The Dream	6

(Continued on page 7)



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## West VP Report:

By Jeff Lovitt, Vice-Chairman West

I'd first like to congratulate the winners from the recently completed finals event in Florida, particularly Dennis Crooks on his third straight and 4<sup>th</sup> career US Scale Masters win. To everyone who made the trip, and made the event possible, thank you.

The wheels are in motion for the 2009 Finals in Washington. The NW team of Advisors has swung into action to begin the task of preparing for the upcoming finals. This is going to be an excellent event if the brand new site and pre planning that I have seen are any indications. Plan now to qualify and attend. This will be an event not to be missed.

Many have noticed that attendance at our events is declining. There are many reasons for this and local qualifiers are also dealing with the same problem. We need sponsorship support/dollars, but we need to give something to the sponsor in return. We need spectators, but we need to give something to them in return also. There is a vital inter-relationship between sponsors, event, and spectators. The event can not be expected to grow and prosper (or even tread water) when the sponsors and spectators are not catered to. It's easy to say that sponsor dollars are down because of the economy or changes in the hobby. The reality is that we are not providing something of value to the sponsor. If the event makes a commitment to promote itself, attract pilots/builders and put on a show for spectators, then sponsors will have a reason to get involved and contribute. If the event makes a commitment to put on a show, then the event will attract paying patrons. If the event makes a commitment to rewarding pilots/builders who travel such great distances, then the show will be that much better and the sponsors will have more reason to get involved.

These areas are completely intertwined. The Masters and qualifiers can grow and prosper but only if a commitment is made to grow the event so that sponsors will want to participate with us in these events, rather than having to go to them each year with hands out for their donations. It is important, perhaps now more than ever, that we commit ourselves to becoming something of value to sponsors and spectators so that we can establish this event into the future.

Jeff Lovitt, West Region VP  
[jlovitt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlovitt@sbcglobal.net)  
 USSMA West VP

## Eastern VP Report

By Mike Barbee, Vice-Chairman East

Hi everyone it is newsletter time again but most of all it is time to vote. Our organization's elections are being held and this is one way to express your views. I am again running for the East Coast job. I thank you for your support and want to make sure you all understand I enjoy getting your input. Don't hesitate to email me with your ideas or your events and qualifiers.

Ohio has it's first snow so this brings a screeching halt to the concrete work. It's time for the migration to the lower level shop. I have just started a new plane and hope to have it complete for the Toledo show. If I set this as a goal I usually have it flying by Top Gun. I have chosen a different subject a far cry from the trusty Waco ; it is a T-6 Texan II military trainer. The plane is 113" long and 118" wing span. It is a turbo prop and I will use a Jet Cat Turbo prop. We laid up the fuselage last weekend with five other modelers helping. It has been a long time since I did some fiberglass lay up work. All the way back to the 80's and my pattern planes. It was an all day project we started at 8:00 AM and had it joined and back in the mold at 7:00 PM. The others that help were learning the technique and did a great job. I and Bob Patton were the veterans. It was good fun getting together for the day and I get a fuselage out of it. I have the wings built and ready for primer as is the stab and rudder. I have posted some pictures on my web site [www.Monsterhanger.com](http://www.Monsterhanger.com).

I want to say a couple of words about the Championships in Sarasota . GREAT JOB. Jon Hay and all his club members did a first class job on the event. The club field was very good although some thought that the runway was a bit short. There were three of us from Columbus that traveled together to the contest and we were all very pleased with the efforts of the club and Jon.

The attendance was down maybe because of fuel prices, I don't really know, but you missed a good one. The banquet was great - when was the last time you had a steak at a dinner for over 80 people? I hope we can get a string of good venues together to host the Champs. The site in Washington

*(Continued on page 5)*



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**Scale Masters North West Regional Manager**

Roly Worsfold – rolydd@telus.net – 250-374-4405

Hello All,

I hope all is well with everyone, here's a North West update.

The 2008 Scale Masters Championships are now history. Dianne and I flew down leaving the RC plane behind - that was tough. The event was done very well by the Sarasota club. We also managed to take in the Monster Bird fly-in the following weekend.



**Dick Hansen and his Harris Lee Award**

Dick Hansen and Bob Raser from the Portland Or. Area represented us very well at the 2008 Championships. Dick was awarded the Harris Lee award which recognizes people who go above and beyond the norm to support and promote Scale Masters. Well deserved, this was the 22nd Championships that Dick has participated in. Most of you know Dick has over 100 excellent DVD video of Scale Masters events and museums the latest of the 2008 Scale Masters Championships and all the North West Qualifiers are available through his website <http://www.hansenscalevideos.com> - check them out.

**BIG NEWS** - The 2009 Scale Masters Championships is going to be held in Wenatchee WA in September hosted by the Wenatchee Red Apple Flyers - CD will be Gene LaFond. Their new site which in my opinion a World Class RC Flying facility with a 600 foot paved runway behind a 700 foot grass runway; I could go on and on - checkout the photos at their website <http://www.redappleflyers.org>.

Scale Masters Mid-West Region website <http://ussma-midwest.org/forums/index.php> a good general discussion website.

RC Scale Builder website <http://www.rcscalebuilder.com/default.asp> this is a good builders forum site, lots of good building tips and how to articles.

Pat Savage has agreed to be an advisor to the North West Regional Manager from the province of Alberta - Pat Savage. Pat lives in Edmonton and will work with the people in Alberta to promote the Alberta Scale Qualifier and provide input to improve our program. We now have advisors for all states and two Canadian provinces:

Rick Dunn – Oregon  
 Gene Lafond – Washington  
 Mike Ingram – Idaho  
 Pat Savage – Alberta  
 Roly Worsfold – US Scale Masters North West  
 Regional Manager – British Columbia

Looking forward to next years North West activities;

- 5 qualifiers plus the Scale Masters Championships
- Boot Camp at the Evergreen Museum in Oregon where the Spruce Goose resides.
- North West Hobby Exposition February 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> <http://www.nwmodelhobbyexpo.com> - we plan to have a Scale Masters booth and a presentation in their meeting room

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**While Competition is the Forum the emphasis is on Fun and Sportsmanship**

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## South Central RM Report

by Lawrence Harville  
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We southern boys are in the middle of some very very cold weather down here so not much to report on now. The temp in in the lower 50's and we think we are freezing. Can't wait for the first qualifier in our area. I think that is the Arizona qualifier.

The Texas Championships-Scale Masters Qualifier is in the planning stages and should be on June 6, 2009 at the Fort Worth Thunderbirds new flying site. More on this in the next newsletter.

For the past few years our second day of the event has either been rained out, blown out and we have had only a one day event, so for 2009 we are planning a Saturday only contest. For now that is about all that is happening in our region. I have sent out a request for some photos here are couple of my planes.

Tigercat  
Vindicator

Gear up and locked

## Midwest Quarterly Manager Report

By Mitch Baker  
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Build season is in full swing. I am looking forward to what folks come out with to compete next season. I am trying my hand at a Bates A-36 from Jerry's latest set of plans. We will see what happens. A lot has gone on in a short amount of time. The USSMA Championships and the 1/8th Air Force Fall Fly-In. Both events were great. Congratulations to the winners of the Championships and the award winners at the fly-in. I have said this before, but if you have not been to one of the OEAF fly-ins you are missing a great event. I have full picture coverage on the USSMA Midwest site. [www.ussma-midwest.org](http://www.ussma-midwest.org). Activity in the forums has slowed down a bit so I would like to see folks start chatting away. Join in and let us know what you are building for competition or just for fun. There are also forums for you to express your opinion on how to improve USSMA, so lets take advantage of it. That is all for now. Get back to building and look forward to a new fun year in USSMA. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all the USSMA family.

Mitch Baker  
USSMA Midwest Regional Manager



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## Northeast Regional Manager Report

Mitch Epstein

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First off, congratulations to all the contestants who qualified for the Scalemaster's Championships. Those who were able to attend in Sarasota showed a skill level not easily achieved. One of the great things about Scalemasters is that a spot in the Champs has to be earned and those who did showed why. I attended, not as a contestant, but as helper and mechanic to Matt Lupri who campaigned his beautiful Ziroli P-51 "Prudence". Problems with ground handling on the hard surface kept him from achieving good flight scores but the plane stayed in one piece (miraculously) and he will be better with more practice.

It was a long trip down from Massachusetts but well worth it as we felt very welcome not only by the Scalemasters organization but the Sarasota host club. What a great job they did at an absolutely outstanding site. The only hitch was that the figure eight maneuver had to be deleted to eliminate the possibility of noise complaints by neighbors. As an aside though, I heard nary a complaint by any competitor for not having to do this troublesome mandatory maneuver. Winter is settling in here in the Northeast....building season. I'm hard at work on a 30% Waco YMF which will be powered by a 215cc radial. Watch out Mike Barbee....I'm coming after you.

Progress is being made towards having a new site for Northeast qualifiers. Jack Buckley, Jim Sbrogna and I are working with Frank Alvarez toward nailing down logistics and permits for using the South Albany Airport in Selkirk, New York in June. It's a great site with plenty of parking and easy to get to from the whole Northeast area. Just 15 minutes South of Albany, NY, there are plenty of hotels and restaurants. The possibility is there for a championships at some later date.

I'm going back down to the workshop now...applying rib stitches and pinked reinforcing tapes is a pain in the a\$\$.

Mitch Epstein

Thank you,

Mitch



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## Southeast Regional Manager Report

[http://www.mikechilson.com/ussma\\_southeast/](http://www.mikechilson.com/ussma_southeast/)

Mike has resigned for personal reasons, but wishes all the best to the new officers and the members of USSMA.

Mike Chilson

USSMA Southeastern Regional Manager

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## VP East Report continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

looks good and they have good support. The next site could possibly be in Albany, Indiana - also a good site and a good old leader Dale Arvin to head it up. Stay tuned for the details. I also got some mail from Mitch Epstein about a site on the east coast. He is shooting for 20012. That's what we need: commitments out far enough to plan travel years in advance. Well that's it - I am on my way back down to the shop. Thank all of you for your support and the support of the Masters keeping scale modeling alive and flying.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

Mike Barbee East Coast Chairman

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Thoughts from the Editor;

We often see the phrase "Keeping the Dream Alive". I never met Harris Lee and could not find anything about the Dream anywhere, so I asked former National Chairman Earl Aune to write something up—he sent me the eulogy he wrote for Harris, which pretty much sums it up. Here it is:

### **A Tribute to Harris Lee** 14 June 1922 - 30 April 1998

"Harris Lee had a dream. Yes, 22 years ago he had a vision.... A vision of people getting together to have fun. He understood the importance of building memories, together. He understood the importance of having fun.

"Today, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1998, we get to celebrate his life, his memories, and his love.

"As a Naval Aviator in WWII he flew F6F Hellcats off aircraft carriers in the Pacific, a very dangerous job to say the least. It took nerves of steel to climb into the cockpit and fly off the deck of a fast moving carrier headed into battle. Each flight brought about a stark reality that there was a good chance you might not make it back. Many did not. Harris did, and he was proud of his service. His government was proud of him as well and awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross medal. He would often joke with others that may have flown in one of the other services. In one such humorous discussion at the 1986 Championships banquet with ace Air Force pilot Frank Klibbe, Harris identified "pilots" as those that guided boats in and out of harbors but airplanes are flown by Naval Aviators!

"His love for aviation was unbounded. After the war, he found that building and flying model airplanes held a similar fascination with flight. But the models of that day looked more like toys rather than full size aircraft. He built models that looked like full size airplanes, airplanes that he flew in the war, scale model airplanes was the way to go he envisioned. He dreamed of someday when the air was full of these scale aircraft, when the ground was covered with people having fun.

"Harris founded an organization that has enriched the lives of people, thousands of people, peo-

ple who enjoy building and flying scale model aircraft. Harris saw scale modeling as a catalyst to bring people together as they enjoy watching the characteristics of flight, something he loved dearly.

Ask a scale modeler anywhere in the world who is Harris Lee and they will tell you, without hesitation, that he is the Father of the Scale Masters, our mentor, our leader who has built the most prestigious scale contest circuit on the face of the earth, the U.S. Scale Masters.

"Interestingly enough, here is a unique combination of his love for aviation and his love for people, brought together under one theme.

With the help of a few of his close friends, he structured a series of 25 regional contests all across the country. He sent the winners his personal congratulations. These winners then went on to compete at the Grand Championships that is held annually in the fall. The concept worked. People came and had fun.

More people came, more people got involved. They came to visit with old friends and make new friends as well. The dream is alive. For 18 years he nurtured this, guided this, and it grew, and it is good.

For this, we celebrate his life and the rich heritage he has left for us to care for.

We will keep his dream, we will build his dream, and we are proud of the memories he has given us and grateful for the friends we now have as a result of his dream.

"He is now in his dream, where dreams come from. We will miss him dearly. I look for you in the gentle breezes, my friend."

Until next time,

Jeff

*Opinions expressed by me do not necessarily reflect those of USSMA*

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*(Continued from page 1)*

Champaign, IL came in 5<sup>th</sup> with his Albatross DIII. In 6<sup>th</sup> place we had David Pinegar from Warren, MI flying his Piper Arrow, in 7<sup>th</sup> was Bill McCallie from Tampa, FL and his Corsair, and in 8<sup>th</sup> place we had Richard Feroldi from Winter Springs, FL with his Albatros DVa. In Team, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Ron Peterka and his pilot Curtis Kitteringham from Escondido, CA with their Stinson SR-9. 2nd place went to Ed Simpson and his pilot Creige Jones from Tarpon Springs, FL flying their Space Walker. David Barry and his pilot Tom Smith from Sarasota, FL took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with their Nieuport 28C-1. In 4<sup>th</sup> place we had David Gianakos and his pilot Bob Frey from Phoenix, AZ and 5<sup>th</sup> place went to Tom Czenthe and his pilot Curtis Switzer from Cocoa, FL with their B-2 Bomber.

Congratulations to Kirby Cole who was awarded the "Young Eagle" Award which is sponsored each year by the One Eighth Air Force in Phoenix, AZ and awarded to the youngest contestants who qualify and attend the Championships.

Also, congratulations to Dick Hansen who was taken by surprise when he was given the "Harris Lee" Award at the Banquet on Saturday night. Dick is very deserving of this award, as this was his 22nd consecutive attendance at a US Scale Masters Championship.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Championships will be in Wenatchee, Washington next year. It should be a great time, they have a wonderful new field with no flight restrictions I understand and plenty of parking for your RV's. Please mark



your calendar for September 9, 2009 and plan to join us.

Don't forget to go on line and vote in the election of officers, you have until December 15<sup>th</sup> to do so. For those Champion Members who have not yet received your 2008 Championship shirts, please bear with me, I will get them out to you as soon as I can. I have just recently relocated to Kentucky and am still trying to get everything organized. I apologize for the lateness, but I will get them to you.

I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a joyous and happy holiday season. I am looking forward to working with you again in the New Year.

With Best Regards,  
Carolyn Van Herk

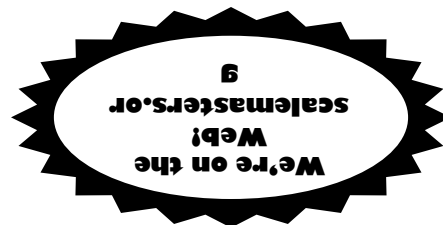


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Please consider a donation to USSMA. Your gift will help us to 'Keep the Dream Alive' for your organization.



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