

PLANES: Each craft requires over 1,000 hours of work

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more — results in museum scale models of actual aircraft that are accurate down to the smallest detail.

“Every part is where it would be on the full-size,” he said. “All the markings are where they would be on the full-size.”

And they fly, under radio control. As a member of the Cascade Modelers, Kufchak’s creations regularly take to the skies over an airfield near the Highway 20 viewpoint east of Sisters.

Kufchak builds aircraft of

the first half of the 20th century, and often has multiple projects in progress at any given time.

“I have a B-17 (World War II American bomber) that’s been under construction for about two years now. I build World War I and World War II,” he said. “I don’t build anything with turbines. I’m a propeller guy.”

Over the years, Kufchak has built hundreds, if not thousands, of models, each with that exacting attention to historical and mechanical detail.

While his work is a triumph of engineering, there’s no question that it belongs hovering above an art show.

“It is an art, and I appreciate the art of it,” said

Kufchak.

Viewers are welcome to see the art on the walls — and in the air — at the Lodge, and come out for the festivities that begin at the Lodge on Friday, September 2 with a wine-and-appetizer reception between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., with live music by Chris Patrick and Selah Broderick.

During this time guests can meet the artists and bid on their works in a silent auction. During the reception the founding Art Guild members will be honored.

On Saturday, September 3, Art at the Ranch will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with live music 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by singer/songwriter duo Rindy and Marv Ross.

Another new feature of the Art Fair is the Plein Air Paint Out at the Ranch on Saturday, September 3 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held near the lake. A People’s Choice Award will be given and the paintings will be for sale from 1 to 5 p.m. A children’s painting workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. will be taught by Rachel Lovegren. Children will have an opportunity to hang their art for public display.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Lee Kufchak and his World War I-era Fokker.



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The rugged, reliable Curtiss Jenny.

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