

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year
2009 IPMS Region VI Website of the Year



Vol. 17, No. 9

Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

September 2009

SPRUE EXAMINER



End Of The Line Spitfire

Model by Pat Rourke
Text by Eric Choy

Ten years after the first flight of prototype K5054, the last member of the legendary Spitfire family, F Mk.24, entered service with the Royal Air Force in 1946. With the most powerful Rolls-Royce Griffon engine, Mk.24 was capable of reaching a maximum speed of 454 mph at 25,000 ft and service ceiling of 43,000 ft. Armed with two Hispano 20mm cannons on each wing, it was one of the deadliest piston-engined fighters of its time.

Only 81 Mk.24 were built due to the end of hostilities of WWII, and No.80 Squadron was the sole operator that utilized the type in substantial number. In 1949, 80 Sqn was sent to Hong Kong to counter the increasing communist activities in Mainland China. The last Mk.24 officially retired from service after the Queen's birthday flyby ceremony in 1955. This occasion also marked the last frontline operational sortie undertaken by a Spitfire in British service.

For someone like me who spent time in the Crown Colony, Spitfire always has a special place in my heart. I have plenty of reference

material to help me write about the aircraft that defended a tiny British outpost in the Far East (or debate Whitehall's logic of sending a single Spitfire squadron to deter a full scale Chinese invasion!) But for Pat Rourke the armor modeling enthusiast, it is purely his love of the subject matter; Pat rarely built any model with wings, and I don't think I have ever seen Pat build any aircraft other than Spitfire or Seafire.

Construction

This F. Mk.24 kit is arguably one of the best 1/48th scale aircraft models ever released by Airfix. The dimension and recessed panel lines are in scale and nicely done. Pat reported no trouble putting the parts together. The only issues he had were slight fit problems on the wing roots and one of the engine cowling bulges. They were easily dealt with using putty and some sanding. The cockpit was built out-of-the-box, and the only thing he added was seatbelts made with Tamiya masking tape.

Painting and Decaling

Pat chose the colorful 80 Sqn at Kai Tak Airport marking for his model. The camouflage scheme calls for Dark Green over Medium Sea Gray with Korean War "emergency" identification markings. Similar to the D-Day invasion stripes,

(continued on page 4)

ASMS is on the Internet

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Austin, TX 78727
Tel: (512) 246-8904
Email: hobbytownaustin@gmail.com



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Tel: (512) 836-7388
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www.kingshobby.com



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www.williamsbrothersmodelproducts.com

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Dennis Price **Ion Tesu**

John Seaman **Rick Willaman**

Upcoming Events**Model Shows**

| | |
|---|----------------|
| IPMS/Fort Worth, Supercon 2009, Arlington, TX | Sept 12 |
| ASMS Austin Model Show, Austin, TX | Sept 26 |
| IPMS/Metro OK City, Soonercon 2009, Oklahoma City, OK | Sept 26 |
| IPMS/CASM, Sproo-Doo 2009 Region 6 Convention, Little Rock, AK | Oct 3 |
| AMPS/AABS Centex South Central Regional, Cedar Park, TX | Oct 24 |
| IPMS/MCMA, Texas NNL #5, Irving, TX | Nov 7 |
| IPMS/Acadiana Plastic Modelers, GatorCon 2009, Lafayette, LA | Nov 7 |
| IPMS/El Paso, Bassett Place Veterans Day Event, El Paso, TX | Nov 8 |

Local Events

| | |
|--|--------------|
| FINA-CAF Airsho 2009, Midland, TX | Oct 10-11 |
| Ft. Worth Alliance Airshow, Ft. Worth, TX | Oct 24-25 |
| Wings Over Houston, Ellington Field, Houston, TX | Oct 31-Nov 1 |
| Randolph Air Force Base Airshow, San Antonio, TX | Nov 7-8 |

Support Our Troops!

In support of the initiative to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones in Iraq, IPMS/USA has elected to have the following contact points for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please contact:

SFC Fleming, Leighton O.
leighton.fleming@us.army.mil

-or-

Michael DeWalt
michael.dewalt@iraq.centcom.mil

-or-

MWR
c/o G. Vickers
KBR/C-5, Unit 6012, APO AP 09378

**ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2009-10**

| | |
|--|----------|
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| Angela Forster treasurer, agforster@aol.com | 331-4644 |
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| Kathy Roady vendor liason, asmsvendors@swbell.net | 260-2907 |
| Milton Bell IPMS/USA coordinator, mbell6@austin.rr.com | 454-2395 |

Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is affiliated with the International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS) as the Republic of Texas Chapter. ASMS meets the second Tuesday of each month except December. Dues for full membership are \$20 yearly. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Mike's Montage...

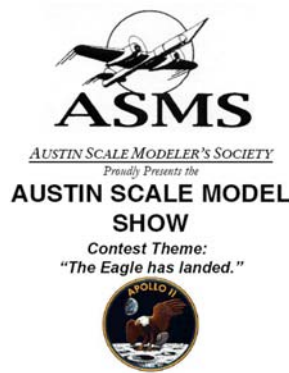
Ladies and Gentlemen, let's get ready to rumble! In this corner, weighing in at hundreds of model entries, is "It's all plastic to me." In the other corner, weighing in at hundreds of contestants, is "frenzy modeler."

Time is running short, and the ASMS annual show is near. We are in the bottom of the ninth inning, two outs and the bases are loaded. It's the fourth quarter, fourth and goal with 2 seconds left to win the game.

To make it to the end and come out on top, we need to put on the best show possible. For it to happen, we need all our club members to help out in one way or another. This is your time to find your hidden talent and put it to good use for the show. So if you have not volunteered yet, please do so. If you cannot make it, do what you can, spread the word.

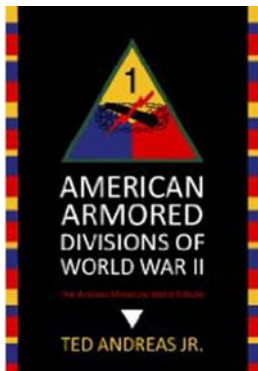
In advance, thank you all, for all your hard work. ✂

Mike



Book Notice

by Mike Kachoris



Having the love of history and model building, **Ted Andreas, Jr.**, a fellow modeling brother from Centex Modelers in Killeen, has recently written a book called "**American Armored Divisions of World War II.**"

The product description at Amazon states:

The book is a tribute to the American Armored Divisions of World War II. It includes brief biographies on men who served in those divisions, and pictures of scale models used to represent each of the sixteen divisions that were activated by the United States Army. It also has Order of Battle charts showing all of the assigned main units within each division.

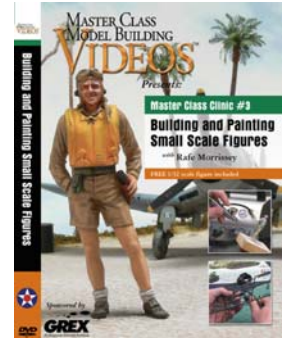
For anyone who is interested in this subject matter or wants to be the first one on your block to own one, you can purchase the book through Amazon.com. ✂

Mike

Latest Release from Master Class Model Building Videos

by Floyd S. Werner, Jr.
IPMS #26266

Master Class Model Building Videos is proud to announce the release of our fourth title, "Master Class Clinic #3: Building and Painting Small Scale Figures." The current cost is \$49.95, but for now we are offering an introductory rate of \$45.00, plus \$6 shipping in the US and \$10 for overseas orders.



The new DVD features Master Modeler Rafe Morrissey demonstrating his techniques for producing attractive small scale figures. Like other releases in our titles we even give you something to practice on: included inside the DVD is an exclusive 1/32nd scale resin US Marine Fighter Pilot in Tropical Dress sculpted by Master Details. This figure is only available inside the DVD and will not be sold elsewhere...ever.

Featuring the exquisite video skills of David Powell, two time Emmy Award winning videographer, you will see what it takes to turn resin and plastic into a realistic miniature figure. You'll be able to experience everything but the paint fumes. Unlike other instructional DVDs, you'll actually see how to paint figures with an airbrush, how to use enamels and acrylics to their full advantage, and all the techniques to bring "life" to your three dimensional historic art.

To celebrate the new release, we've also lowered the prices on our other titles. So check out our website (www.masterclassmodels.com) for the Summer Sales special pricing. Remember: Modeling is fun! ✂

Floyd

2009-2010

Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

| | |
|-----------|---|
| September | Quarterly Contest Presentation by Rick Herrington |
| October | Presentation by Kathy Roady |
| November | White Elephant Contest Presentation by Mike Kachoris |
| January | Presentation by Eric Choy |
| February | Presentation by Tim Robb |



(End Of The Line Spitfire continued)

they were black and white bands painted chordwise around each wing and the rear fuselage.



Pat first base-coated the entire model with Medium Gray. Then he masked off the gray with Tamiya masking tape and sprayed the Dark Green pattern and the yellow wing edge ID bands. After a coat of Future, the decals were applied. This was where he went into major problem.



Apparently, the light colors on the decal sheet were not opaque enough, and the white areas looked like gray when the color underneath showed through.

On top of that, some of the small stenciling "dissolved" and disappeared when submerged in water. Pat decided to go ahead and finish decaling before fixing any of the opaque problems. As far as the missing stenciling, they were few and far between. So he did not bother to replace them with aftermarket ones.

Pat reckoned the best way to fix the opaque problem was to paint over the white decals with paint. So he dull-coated the entire model and carefully masked off the non-white areas. He sprayed white on the wings and hand-painted the lettering on the fuselage. It took him three days to "repair" all the whites on his model.



Finishing

After the decal debacle, Pat encountered no further problem finishing the model. The propeller was done without fanfare, and the wheel hubs were painted with Humbrol Metallic Silver. After a thinned artist oil wash to darken the



panel lines, he sprayed the entire model with a Satin Clear coat for that semi-gloss finish on most post-1945 aircraft.



Conclusion

Except for the trouble with the decals, Pat enjoyed building this end-of-the-line Spitfire model. Eagle Strike has a late Spitfire sheet that offers the exact same 80 Sqn markings. Should you decide to build this excellent Airfix kit in Far East livery, I highly recommend using the Eagle Strike decal instead of the kit supplied one. ✈️

Eric





IPMS/USA 2009 Nationals Report

by Tim Robb, IPMS #34705

Hey. Just got back from a great time at Nationals in Columbus, Ohio. The single most impressive thing to me without a doubt was the lovely weather there. At no time did the temperature exceed 85°F, and it was often below 80°. Walking around downtown Columbus to various restaurants near the venue was very pleasant. Our hotel was located in the Arena District where theaters and ballparks are also located, and it is a clean and attractive area.

Everything up there in that state is lushly green and beautiful. There are many types of plants and trees that live in places that receive rain that are unknown to us living here in the wastelands of central Texas. Several types of spruce trees grow there in addition to pine trees so they will have some green trees all year round that must be very pretty during their times of winter snow. I am reminded of all this as I arrived back in San Marcos today on my water-rationing water-the-yard-day and have been sweating buckets in 100°+ heat for several hours hand watering trees and setting out lawn sprinklers trying to keep my front yard grass merely alive.

The venue (Hyatt Regency) where we stayed at was a very nice hotel. The contest display was held in a large ballroom on the third floor. Unfortunately, the lighting in that room can only be described as poor. Oh well, the show went on.



The vendor and seminar rooms were in the meeting room area directly below on the second floor, and it was simple to move back and forth by escalator. The vendors were spread out in seven different rooms. There

was an adjacent food court area on the first floor with half a dozen decent choices for a sandwich for lunch. This was a

popular spot and an easy place to make new modeling friends from other parts of the country.

The contest was well attended by east coast modelers, and the turnout in model entries was very good, although I have not heard the number. By my estimation, aircraft categories had the most entries followed by armor. Cars were a little light, but most of those that were there had beautiful finishes.

My favorite model was a modern aircraft carrier with a beautifully lighted and detailed hangar deck, beautifully done little bitty jets, and dozens of painted figures that were no more than 1/8" tall. There was a big US flag on the deck ringed by these little figures holding it up, rippling in the breeze, and totally convincing.



This piece was the big winner as it turned out, winning Peoples' Choice, Best Ship, and Best of Show. I was personally stunned and thrilled to receive a second place award for my Beech Staggerwing in category 158, 1/48th and larger Civil. There were eleven entries in the category, I think. Or nine. Or ten. Anyway it wasn't just two!



BIG kudos go to Eric Choy for winning the Newsletter of the Year Award for himself and ASMS. Congratulations Eric!

Another big highlight of the show was spending a day at the USAF Museum in Dayton. I did not pre-register for the bus tour, and the tour was full when I arrived to register at the show. This seeming blunder on my part worked out well as I was able to find a spot in a private car heading over there on Friday instead of Thursday, the bus tour day.

I had a great time there with Lee Forbes, two others from Alamo Squadron, and a couple of east coast guys that Lee knew. What an awesome place! Well worth the price of admission – FREE. There was no way to fully take in all that was there in a single day. I concentrated on taking pictures figuring I knew much of what was written on the signage at the various displays. But I gotta go back sometime. I know I missed a lot.



Adjacent to, and under the same roof of the USAF Museum, is the National Aviation Hall of Fame. It is so integrated with the USAF Museum that I didn't know it was not a part of the museum until told so by a staffer on duty there. The Hall of Fame had several very good interactive displays illustrating how heavier than air flight is possible. If you go to the USAF Museum, be sure you don't skip this area.

Nationals are really super. This is my fourth, and I have enjoyed every one of them immensely. Each has its own flavor. Atlanta in 2005 had an outstanding slate of speakers and demos to attend. This year that schedule was weak, but the trip to the Air Force Museum easily made up for it.


If you have never been to an IPMS Nationals, I strongly urge you to go. And I strongly urge you to enter. The competition is tougher, but the number of entries in some categories dictates large numbers of splits. There were eleven (11) splits in 1/48th prop for example, and multiple splits in other categories too. In aircraft no sub-category had more than 19 models after the splits were made. Most of the entries also come from modelers just like you and me, not supermen. You can win at nationals, but you have to enter first.



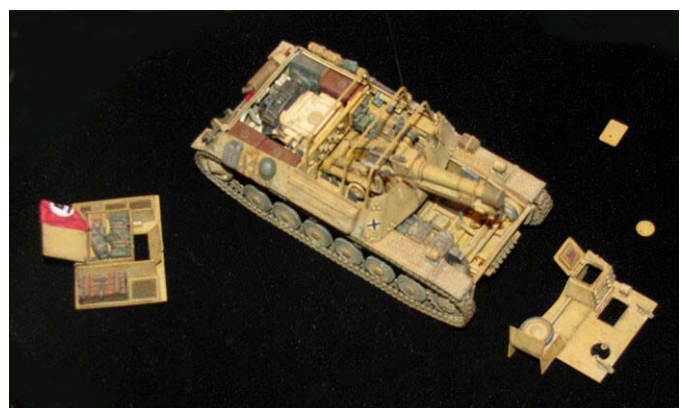
This year I got to see the "made by humans" nature of the models close up as Lee Forbes asked me to come in and help judge. So I served as an apprentice judge and was placed with a team of three experienced national judges. In practice, the leader of our four-man team told each of us other three to "look'em over and tell me which three or four are your top choices." So I got to compare my judging skills to the other two experienced judges' skills to see if I came up with the same top choices as they did. Then we all four wrangled over the final placement. It was tough, and it was fun and educational too. It took us three and a half hours to judge the three categories that we were assigned to. You know what I saw? Yes, the same types of errors you see on models at local contests. Yes, you too can win at nationals.

Next year's Nationals will be in Phoenix, and an old ASMSer, Steve Collins is the contest coordinator. I ran into Steve at judging. We were on the same team, and since we had not seen each other or kept in touch for 16 years, it took us about 20 minutes to recognize each other and remember the connection!

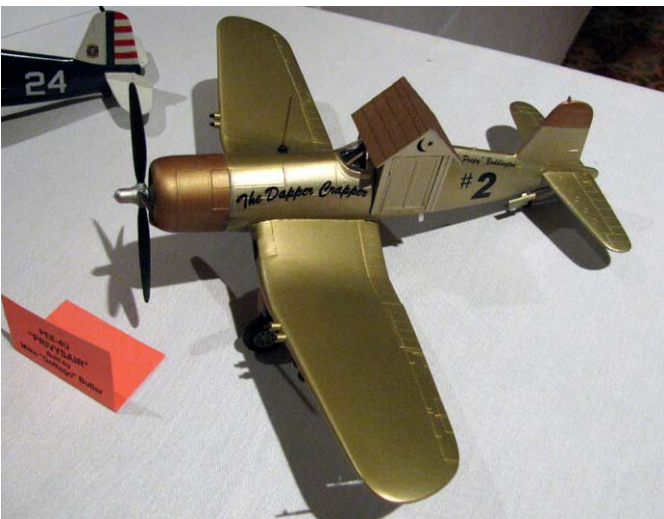
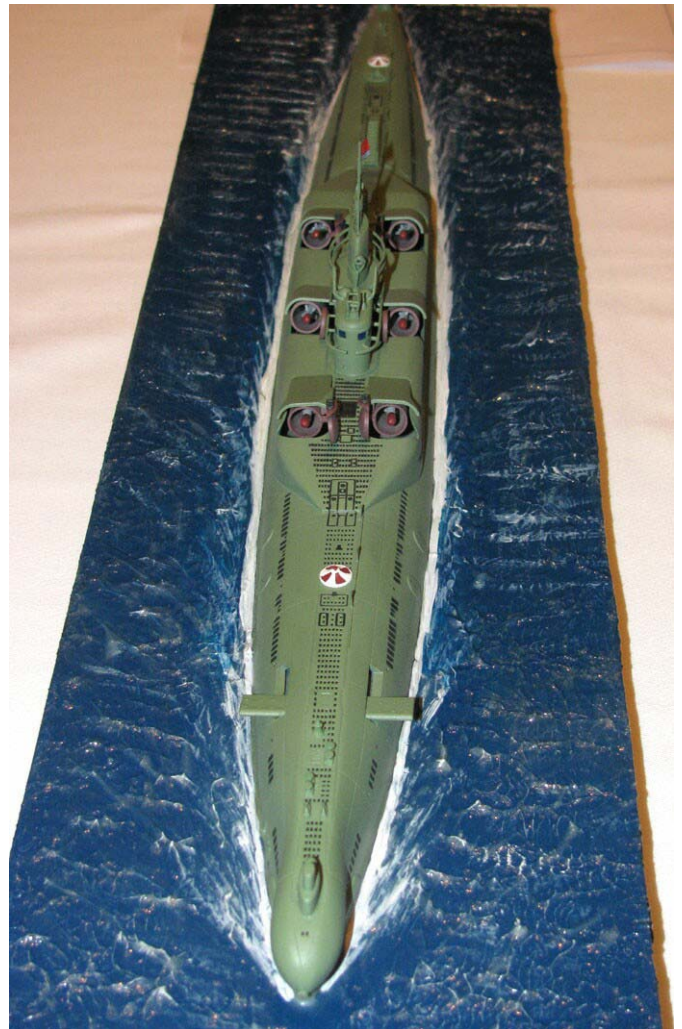
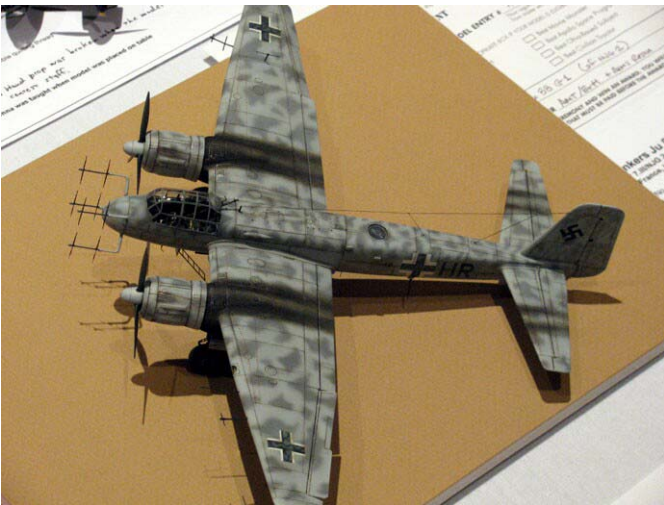
2011 Nationals was to be hosted by an east coast club, but none has tendered. In fact the only complete bid for 2011 came from Omaha, so it's Omaha for 2011.

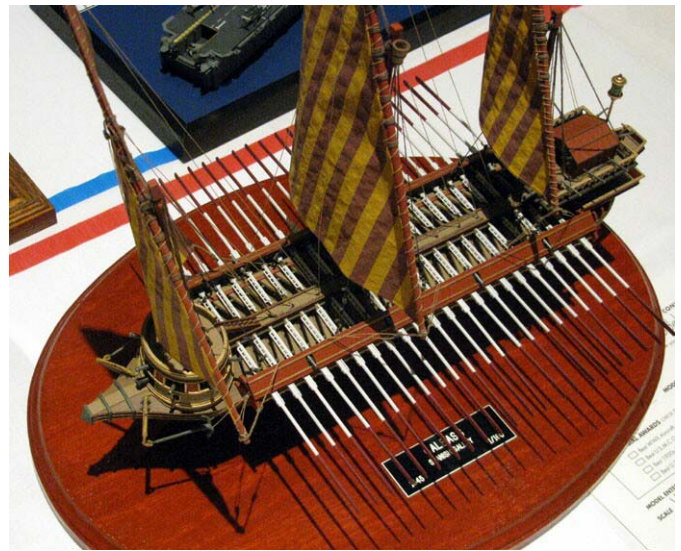
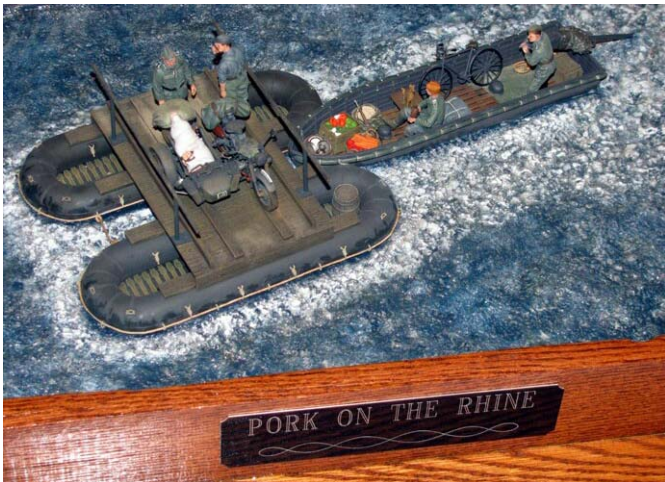
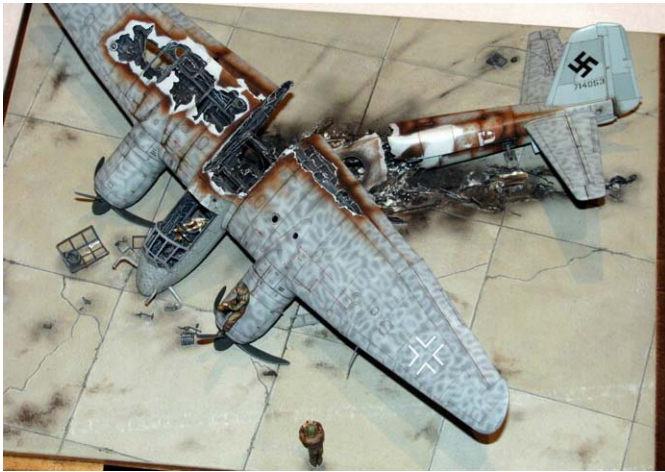
Final impressions: Nationals are cool, super, the bomb, you put in the adjective. Go. Enter. Judge. And between now and the next one, go build models! 

Tim









Volunteer Modelers Needed for USS Lexington Museum Display

Recently, I had contact with Mr. Randy Barnes, an IPMS member out of the Corpus Christi area. He is working with the Lady Lex Museum On The Bay Association to redo the museum on USS *Lexington*. He is asking for volunteers to build and donate models for the museum's new display. Copies of information and criteria of what is acceptable will be available at the next meeting. If you cannot attend but are interested in taking part, please contact him directly via email at shspr@shsrockport.org.

Mr. Barnes will have a table at our upcoming show in September to answer any question in person.

Mike Kachoris

Old Rumors & New Kits

September brings thoughts of cooler weather and tables full of models and vendors' stuff at our annual model show on the 26th. Let's hope they really coincide this time!

IPMS/USA Nationals are over and we had some good luck! Our newsletter was named Newsletter of the Year. Congratulations to Eric and all who have contributed to make the award possible. Hey, that's you—members' articles make this a dynamic and useful publication—keep 'em coming!

Yes, it's just a few short weeks until show time. Got that last model finished? Signed up for a job at the show? Can't help you with the model but if you come to the meeting Tuesday, you can pick the job you want.

And, if you want to donate a kit or two (preferably sealed) you can do that as well. And if you want to be a sponsor, a donation of \$50 will not be refused. So, get ready. A successful show requires an effort by all of us.

Hasegawa's new Ki 44 Shoki "Tojo" is finally out and I have to say 1/32nd scale is right for this kit. The Tojo was a smallish airplane anyway so it will fit in just about any space a big 1/48th scale modern jet will occupy. It is not just an enlarged version of the company's excellent 1/48th kit but has some new parts and engineering that should make building a little easier and certainly more interesting.

It's a certainty that aftermarket resin and PE details will be forthcoming for Tojo but nothing has shown up yet. About the only thing the kit really needs are seat belts and there are already aftermarket sets for IJAAF subjects. The small cockpit access doors are not open which is probably a good thing. I've seen very few photos that show the doors open so closed is probably the norm. Markings for three aircraft are included.

If you were around during the 1950s, and still in middle school, you surely remember watching *Sky King* on TV. Sky King and his niece Penny saved the west from all manner of bad guys while flying Sky's airplane the "Songbird" from one adventure to another. The Songbird, at least during the early episodes, was a Cessna T-50, also known as the Bamboo Bomber. It was a 1930s design that was picked up by the armed forces during WWII and turned into a training aircraft and light transport. After all these years, Czech Models (Squadron) has released a 1/48th kit of the aircraft. In case you came to watch the show later on in its multi-year run, the early Cessna T-50 was replaced by a Cessna 310.

I remember seeing a lot of Bamboo Bombers around small airports when I was a kid. In fact there was a red and cream painted version at our local field.

The kit looks good in the box and there are ample resin and PE parts for details. This time the PE parts are colored and there are

markings for Songbird as well as an US Army bird and a navy JRC-1.

Last month I mentioned that Classic Airframes was not shutting down. I also mentioned the next release which was to be a Fiat BR-20, a light twin-engine bomber used by the Japanese as well as the Italians. Well, the time has apparently come. Special Hobby is showing the kit on its website and since they and CA often share tools, I would expect to see the BR-20 in CA boxing in November. It's an interesting subject and I'm sure it will sell well. There may be a vac-form kit, but this is the first injected 1/48th scale kit of the BR-20 that I'm aware of.

Revell/Monogram has reissued one of their better 1/48th kits although the subject has gone through several mods since the kits release. This is the Su-20 Frogfoot and is a very cleanly done kit of the Soviet ground attack aircraft that was used extensively in Afghanistan. Think of it as a Russian A-20.

R/M has also reissued their 1/48th P-51B. This is the kit that Monogram produced years ago. The tools were reworked to make them more "up to date" so the resulting kit is engraved and some parts are improved. I've built it and it's a very good cheaper alternative if you really want a pretty good early Mustang.


Special Hobby has released an unusual version of the P-59. This is the YP-59 "two-seater" with an open cockpit in front of the main "office." Actually, they were used as early drone controllers but the poor soul up front had a simple windshield and little else. I'm sure it was a refreshing ride (to say the least!) if your suit was heated. The Special Hobby kit is in 1/72nd.

If you like BIG submarines, Lindberg may have just what you need. Their new IJN I-53 in 1/72nd scale comes with five Kaiten "Kamikaze" mini-sub/torpedoes. The kit contains some metal detail parts. It should make a very attractive model, especially for a fireplace mantel. The finished length is just over 60 inches!

The newest armor kit is probably the 1/35th Dragon T-34/76 Model 1942 "Formochka." Still new is the very nice Tamiya Matilda. I'm not an armor builder but this one looks good. Tamiya has also produced a Citroen 11 CV in German Staff Car markings.

Osprey has a new publication on the 23rd Fighter Group. Mushroom has a new one on Japanese Special Attack Aircraft and Flying Bombs. Casemate has two volumes that armor builders may want; *The Day of the Panzer* and *No Better Place to Die: Ste. Mere-Eglise, June 1944*.

And what's coming? Not a lot to report but Platz (Tasca) has announced a 1/144th A4-F Skyhawk in a 2-fer box and a 1/72nd Global Hawk. No word of release date but I'm looking forward to that little A4!

That's all for this month. Don't forget about signing up for jobs at the show. See you then. Now go work on that model! 

MB



In the latest issue of...

IPMS Journal

July/August 2009
Volume 21, Issue 4

- **That is My Goat** — An Operation Iraqi Freedom scene rendered in 1/72nd scale, by Mike Fleckenstein;

- **From Kit to K.I.T.T.** — Building an accurate replica of the Knight Industries Two Thousand, by Ed Wahl;

- **Rockets to the Final Frontier, Part I** — Mercury Redstone to the Shuttle: Six U.S. Launch Vehicles in 1/200th scale, by Mike J. Idacavage;

- **Hoist the Admiral's Flag!** — Hasegawa's 1/350th scale *IJN Mutsu* plays host to a meeting of VIPs, by Bill Kluge;

- **A Pharoahic Figure** — Finishing Moebius Models take on Karloff the Uncanny as The Mummy, by Michael Bare;

- **Cold War Naval Aviation in 1/48th scale** — One modeler's massive project for the National Museum of the US Navy, by Mike McLeod;

And much, much more!

By Modelers
— For Modelers®



Join IPMS/USA!

IPMS/USA is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage, of Dallas, Texas, in 1963, there are now branches of IPMS all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive *The IPMS Journal* six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer. As a member, you'll also be able to access our online **Member's Forum** where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the county offer **discounts** to IPMS/USA members.

To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or go to www.ipmsusa.org and click **Join IPMS/USA!** Payment may be made via personal check, money order, or credit card. Applications using Check or Money Order should be printed upon completion of the registration process and mailed to:

IPMS/USA
Dept. H, P.O. Box 2475
North Canton, OH 44720-0475

For any questions or problems with your membership application/renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Officer Manager, Ms. M.J. Kinney, at manager@ipmsusa.org

IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

IPMS No.: _____ Name: _____
(leave blank) FIRST M. LAST

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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VISA/MasterCard _____ Account # _____ - _____ - _____

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Signature: _____

Adult: **\$25** Junior (17 years old or younger): **\$12** **DOB:** _____

Canada & Mexico: **\$30** Other Foreign: **\$32** Foreign Air Mail: **\$55**

Family (Adult dues + \$5, one set magazines, # of membership cards required: _____)

If recommended by an IPMS member,
 list his/her name and member number _____ (name) _____ (IPMS#)

IPMS/USA

P.O. Box: 2475
North Canton, OH 44720-0475

Check out our web page: www.ipmsusa.org

**Next Meeting:
September 8th, 2009
at
Austin Terrazas Library
(1105 E. Cesar Chavez Street)**



Austin Scale Modelers Society
Eric Choy
13213 Marro Drive
Austin, TX 78729

