



SPRUE



EXAMINER



Vol 20 No. 3

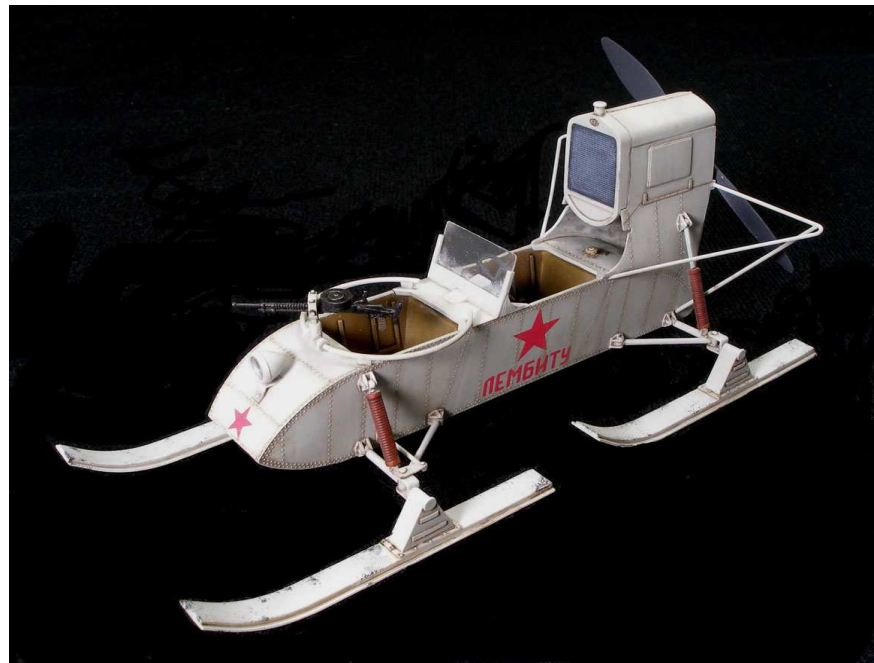
March 2012

2011 IPMS/USA Website of the Year

2010 IPMS/USA Region 6 Chapter of the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Newsletter of the Year

2009 IPMS/USA Region 6 Website of the Year



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Trumpler Aerosan Trumpler's 1/35 RF-8/GAZ-98 by Eric Choy

No one knows for certain who invented the first power driven sleigh. Most agree that honor probably goes to Igor Sikorsky, the famous aviation pioneer who gave us the helicopter. While studying at the Polytechnic Institute in 1909, the twenty-year-old engineering student mounted a 15 horsepower motorcycle engine and a propeller on the back of a two passenger sleigh and created a sensation on the snowy streets of Kiev. Sikorsky might have viewed this project as nothing more than a stepping stone to his aircraft design. The idea caught on and in no time aerosleds were widely used in Russia delivering passengers and mail during the winter seasons.

The Soviet military also put aerosleds to good use in the Civil War (1917-23) and Winter War with Finland (1939-40). By the beginning of WWII, *aerosan* (Russian for aerosled) battalions were organized for both logistics and

troop transport duties. Rarely were they used in actual combat as they were built from plywood with minimal armor protection.

The Kit

This is not the first time the RF-8 aerosan is being offered in 1/35th scale. As I remember, previous efforts were made by Kirin, Plus Models, and Vision Models. Trumpeter's latest release is the first kit that retails for less than the price of a decent lunch. I picked mine up from my LHS for less than \$12, tax included. With the low part count and fairly simple construction, I reckoned this would be a nice weekend project. So I dived right into building it without doing the proper research. Needless to say, I suffered the consequence later on.

Construction

Trumpeter's products have come a long way as far as engineering and the part fit for this kit is generally good. The only problem I encountered was where the upper and low lips meet on the front cowling. As you can see from the photo, there was a significant gap. It was easy to fix with sheet styrene. The fit of the top of the engine housing was sluggish, but it was

(Continued on page 4)

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Upcoming Events

Model Shows

MCMA Showdown 22 Dr. Pepper Ctr., Farmers Branch, Texas	3/10/12
Tiger Fest XIX, St. Jerome KC Hall, Kenner, Louisiana	3/24/12
Lone Star Figure Show, Renaissance Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Texas	3/30-31/12
Cajun Model Fest XXVII, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana	4/14/12
Model Mania, Stafford Center, Stafford, Texas	4/28/12

Local Club Meetings

CenTex Modelers, Trinity Lutheran Church, Copperas Cove, Texas	3/15/12
Austin Armor Modelers Society, Old Quarry Branch APL, Austin, Texas	4/4/12

Other Events

LSMMS Modeling Day, Shady Hollow Comm. Ctr., Austin, Texas	3/10/12
Biplane Fly-In, San Marcos Airport, San Marcos, Texas	4/28/12
Spring Air Fair, Pioneer Flight Museum, Kingsbury, Texas	4/28/12



Support Our Troops!

The Iraq Model Network is an initiative for providing model kits, supplies, and reference materials to our service men and women serving in the combat zones of Iraq.

Any individual, chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please visit the IPMS/USA website (www.ipmsusa.org) and click on the Support The Troops page link.

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Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the second Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$20 (individual) or \$25 (family).

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Message from the Prez...

Greetings Fellow Modelers,

I hope you are all finding plenty of time to enjoy modeling this Spring.

Thanks to all who went to Model Fiesta in San Antonio. I think all ASMSers who entered came back with some type of award.

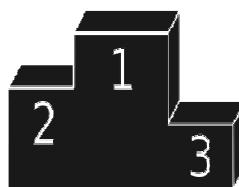
We have plenty to look forward to in the near future. April 28 in particular is a *big* day. Three cool events all on the same day: The Houston Show, the Spring Fly-in at the Pioneer Flight Museum and a biplane fly-in at the San Marcos airport.

I'll see you at the club meeting Thursday, March 8.

If you haven't paid your dues please bring your dough for that. Club shirts are also in for pick up.

Bring a model and bring a friend.

Tim



Quarterly Contest Schedule

by Ron McCracken
Vice-President

Just a reminder our clubs quarterly contests are held on the last month of each calendar quarter. Here are the dates and themes for the remainder of 2012.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>
March	<i>Open</i>
June	<i>Hypothetical: spurious markings, etc.</i>
September	<i>Dragon: any Dragon kit or dragon model</i>
December	<i>White Elephant/ gift exchange</i>

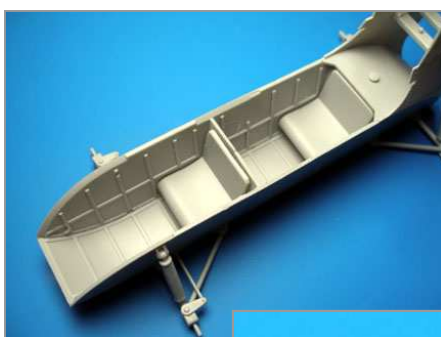
Page Three Girl

On Valentine's Day a 28mm female thief (Dark Sword Miniature) in camo pants stole Bob Bethea's heart and his W&N Series 7's. Fortunately Bob had just finished this portrait of her before she disappeared. Please alert the authorities if she is sighted.



probably my fault because I glued the grille to the top first.

If you are going to use the kit supplied seats, they need sanding on both sides in order to fit inside the cabin. The fuel tank cover (A1) should be glued after, not before, the back seat is installed. I painted the inside cabin Humbrol Khaki (26) according to instruction. Shadows and highlights were done with Raw Umber artist oil and Humbrol Dark Earth (29).



The kit includes a decent motor but most of it will never see the light of day after being installed. I am sure a f t e r m a r k e t companies will h a v e a m p l e



opportunities to spiff it up while charging us three times the original price of the kit for their replacement sets. Such is the business of our hobby these days, but I digress...

Painting & Weathering

One trick I learned from figure painters is that you don't use the color white to paint things that are white. There is no color lighter than white for highlights, so always use light gray or ivory as the base coat when painting white objects. For this reason I chose Humbrol Light Gray (64) for the exterior of my model.

While waiting for the paint to dry, I got on the Internet to kill time and stumbled on the review of this kit on Perth Military Modeling Site. Aside from the parts' inaccuracy, the biggest problem the reviewer claims is the plethora of rivets all over the hull.

As I mentioned earlier, the real thing was made of plywood with flush screws, so there should not be any raised rivets at all. (So much for not doing research before starting a project!)

The fix is easy: just sand the hull smooth. But that was something I was reluctant to do as I had already painted the base coat. Worst still, there was no way to sand the hull without breaking the suspension and propeller guards I had already glued on. Feeling depressed, I asked a good friend of mine for advice. He suggested I proceed forward and ignore all the inaccuracies. His thinking was that no one would know the difference, except an aerosan aficionado. Why let that bother me for a box stock build? I thought good and hard and decided he was right.

What's the moral of the story here (besides always do your research)? Don't read any review once you have started a kit! When the kit's accuracy is in question, build it box stock. No one can blame you for not following the instruction on an out of the box project!

Anyway, back to painting. Next I mixed a color lighter than the base coat and sprayed this on areas highlighted by a zenithal light. These were my first highlights. Allowing it to dry overnight, I painted the panels that I would later decal with Future.

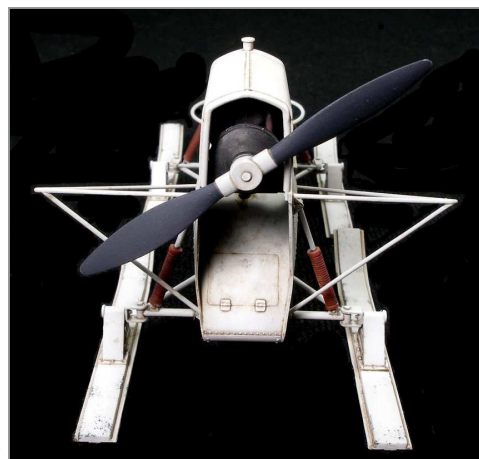
The choice of color for the suspension was a tough one. The box art depicts the entire suspension assembly in aged rust while the painting and marking guide shows only the springs in a rusty color. Which one is right? Accuracy be damned, I decided to go with the latter.

The kit's decal are thin. They reacted well to Micro Sol. Another coat of Future sealed the decals and on to weathering.

For this project I chose not to apply any filters. Pin wash and shadows around the rivets were done with an artist oil wash of Raw Umber with a lot of gray. The idea was to create a slightly darker tone without a huge contrast of colors.

Next I applied super highlights on high points and edges with pure white. This gave my model the feel of "white" without the monotonous color finish.

A friend asked me to try Alcad II's Klear Kote Flat (ALC-314) for dull coating, so I went out and bought a bottle. This



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A friend asked me to try Alcad II's Klear Kote Flat (ALC-314) for dull coating, so I went out and bought a bottle. This stuff ain't cheap but it works wonders. It dries dead flat without any chalky residue. I'm really happy with this product.



The clear parts were then installed with Future. I dry brushed the edges of the wind-screen with gray for a dust/ice effect. For the machine gun I used Gunze Mr. Metal Dark Iron (214) as base and highlight with Tamiya Metallic Gray (XF-

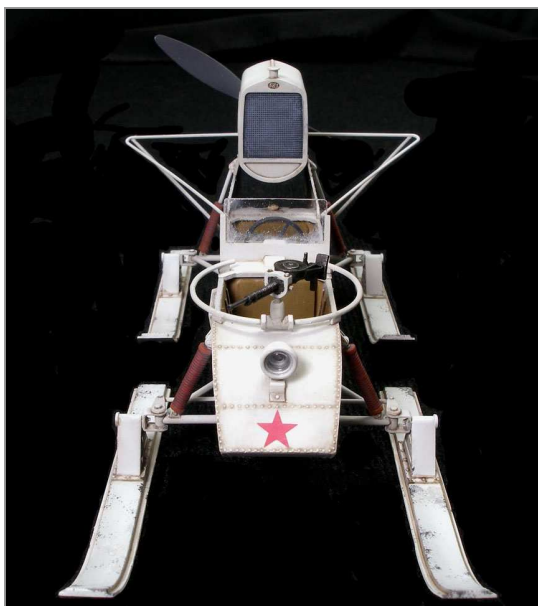
56).

To show chippings on the skis, I “sponged” Panzer Gray here and there and came back with a silver Prismacolor pencil for highlight. I also added diesel stains around the fuel cap with leftover Raw Umber wash heavily diluted with thinner.

Conclusion

It took about six weeks to finish my aerosan. Not exactly a weekend project but a whole lot faster than more of my other builds. Trumpeter is to be commended for bringing down the price of a kit. The research that went into it is highly questionable. I suppose the old saying is true: you get what you pay for!

Eric



Dues are due!

If you don't wanna get “one of those looks” please bring yourself and your dues money to the next meeting.

You can pay in person (\$20 for an individual or \$25 for your entire family) or send a check made payable to **ASMS** to our treasurer:

Angie Forster
1503 Black Cherry Drive
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Your dues are much needed and appreciated.



Modelfiesta 31 Recap

by Eric Choy

The foul weather on the morning of Alamo Squadron's Modelfiesta did not deter us modelers from attending the first Texas show of 2012 a week ago. It was good to see everybody out and about, especially those who had health issues recently. I am glad that they recovered and are all modeling again.

The show went smoothly as usual. The vending area was extraordinarily busy no small thanks to a real life "Storage Wars" buyer who picked the right place to unload all the kits in a storage unit he'd won in an auction. It created a feeding frenzy all through the morning. By late afternoon the deals got even sweeter. For \$100 you could fill up a wheeled container with whatever you wanted no question asked. Everyone went home with something, except of course for the poor guy who lost his model collection when his stuff got repossessed!

On the contest side, according to the numbers supplied by Lee Forbes, there were 549 entries and 165 contestants. Entry wise, that was a 17% gain from 2011. No doubt this was largely due to Alamo Squadron's decision to waive the previous-winners-not-eligible rule this year. The turnout of automotive models was lighter than usual. Armor, watercraft, diorama, and figure entries were about average. So the surge came mainly from the aircraft categories.

At the award ceremony, both Milton Bell and Jim McDaniel outscored other ASMS members in the number of winning plaques. The Best Aircraft award went to a most excellent 1/48th B-24, and Cory Sutton from Oklahoma took home Best Armor with his 1/35th Stryker. The Best of Show was given to Jim Rice of San Antonio for his 1/24th vignette titled "Capturing the Eagle, Waterloo 1815." Not only were the figures and the horse beautifully painted, there were all scratchbuilt by Jim. Congratulations all around to everyone.

Eric



1/700 container ship AMEX by Lee Washborn



Amazing 1/48 paper model on an F-117



1/48 PB4Y-2 Privateer by Oliver Lopez



1/72 F-100 by Jim McDaniel



1/24 Porsche Carrera GT by Carl Roberts



1/4 Me.110c Instrument Panel by Peter Ortege.



1/35 Sci-fi M.A.K. M16S by Mike Picard



1/35 Last Ferdinand by Aaron Smischney.



1/35 vignette "Italy 1944" by Clif Bailey.



Fun in the Summer Time by Jeff Forster

The Forster clan found themselves making a road trip to the east coast this past summer for my nephews wedding in Charlotte, North Carolina. I figured I would look up all the hobby shops and museums that I ran into along the way and write this article for our club newsletter.

We left Texas heading first to West Virginia. I told myself that I did not want to visit too many shops like Hobby Town USA since IMO once you've seen one; you've seen 'em all. I'd done some research on hobby shops on route. Checking to see what might be worth a stop while at the same time watching the clock. There is nothing worse than stopping and having your better half give you the "look" every time you start to pull over for another shop! I got lucky because my sweetie usually looks the other way and if she's not interested she'll just stay in the truck.

First I attempted to stop at Memphis, Tennessee to see MidSouth Hobbies. Unfortunately I missed the turn on the highway and did not relish the idea of turning my truck and trailer around to get there so we skipped that one. We came upon the Casey Jones Museum. This turned out to be a nice stop with a train museum and Casey Jones home on display. There are nice shops and a great BBQ joint on the grounds. The museum featured a steam locomotive of the type Casey himself drove, a film room with the story of Casey Jones and a goodly amount of other items on display.

Our next stop was the Patton Museum in Fort Knox, Kentucky. This was a bit of a disappointment. The museum had shipped out every piece of armor that was not WWII related, leaving very little to be seen. I believe half of it was closed off for refurbishment. After leaving Fort Knox we arrived in my wife's hometown, Winfield, West Virginia. Between visiting my in-laws I managed to find time to visit a couple of nice hobby shops. The first was a great shop called West Virginia Hobbies & Crafts. This shop is located in Teays Valley, West Virginia. I have been visiting this shop for years and it's one of my favorites. This hobby shop is the size of a hobby lobby. The husband/wife owners have split the store in half with one side consisting of women's crafts and the other side having all the great guy stuff! It is filled with radio control planes, cars, and helicopters. They have a tremendous stock of trains in all scales, and a lot of models. These people have their kits at very nice pricing making it impossible for me to wait till I got home to buy them! I was really surprised at the difference in price's from one hobby shop to another. These

guys were the lowest by far!

The next shop visited was Hobby Exchange in Huntington, West Virginia. This is a quaint little shop just across the river. The owner is quite nice and is very helpful. This store carries models and some R/C stuff as well as card games. They carry some interesting models that I was able to pick up. I was very happy that they still had a 1/6th scale Batgirl kit that I had seen there several years before. I grabbed that one off the shelf.

We traveled down to Charlotte, North Carolina for a family wedding. Since we were going to be there for about 5 days, I decided to see the town. I found out it had a lot to see in the way of museums and a few hobby shops. There is a Hobby Town

USA, and as I noted earlier is a chain store and they all seem to be pretty much alike. Next stop was Hobby Stop just across the South Carolina border. They sit just off the highway all by themselves. They carry everything from R/C stuff to trains, telescopes and plastic models. The staff was quite friendly and made the visit a nice experience.



While in Charlotte I visited several museums. First was the Charlotte Aviation Museum, Which sounded very good from the travel description but I discovered it was located at the main airport next to an Air Force Reserve C-130 outfit. I went into the hanger and was surprised to see the aircraft that crash



landed into the Hudson River in New York City. I was amazed that they trucked it all the way to Charlotte! It takes up a lot of room in the main building so not a lot of other aircraft were on display.

The staff plan on having it restored. I was really happy to see a D-558 Sky Streak on display. There were many things of interest to see in the main building. Unfortunately some FAA ruling is keeping them from allowing visitors to see the aircraft outside or to visit the other buildings. I left a little disappointed.

The next museum I visited was the Transportation Museum which is an old railroad repair site from the early 1900's. This turned out to be quite an experience! The State of North Carolina has control of the museum and has done a great job restoring it to its former glory. There is ample parking and a number of train cars on display. They have a working railroad that swings you around the museum grounds on a 20+ minute trip. The first building you enter is the major rebuild building. It's around 3 football fields in length and it was here that they pretty much rebuilt engines and cars from the frame up. They have configured it to be several museums in one. They are bringing in some aviation pieces from a DC-3 to some unusual civilian stuff. There are also some nice classic automobiles. The next building is the round table building and I will let you train heads know it is filled with locomotives, cabooses and some special vehicles. You can climb aboard some of these cars which brought back memories of my youth. These vehicles are really nicely restored. They also have a working round table that you can ride for a dollar! One other building houses a movie theater and some other interesting items. If you decide to visit the Transportation Museum bring your walking shoes because there is a lot of walking to do!



related novelties. The great thing was that just about everything was for sale! So bring your money and maybe you can go home with a nicely restored vehicle! I had a great time and highly recommend this place.

Charlotte is the hometown of NASCAR and just about every team is headquartered there. Most of the big teams allow you to visit their shops and see their museums. I visited the Hendricks museum but forgot my camera that day. Still it was a great experience.

The last stop in Charlotte was a trip to the NASCAR Hall of Fame. This was an awesome experience! The building is quite nice and the exhibits are top notch. There are a lot of interactive stations set up to keep you busy for a full day. You can even see how good you are as part of a pit crew or climb into full size vehicle and go on a virtual-reality race. I spent most of a day there and had a great day.

One place I forgot to mention on the way up to West Virginia the TV and Movie Car Museum. This was a smaller museum but well worth the visit. They have many cool vehicles on display and its worth a visit.



Our last museum was on the way home. We stopped at the Air Force Museum. It's about 2 ½ hours away from my in-laws house and we stop there almost every trip. This trip we saw the Hanoi Taxi, the first C-141 that brought the P.O.W's out of Vietnam. The Air Force was nice enough to repaint it to the white and grey colors of that time. Of course it's a B model now as there is no A models left. This is the best museum IMO.



Well, the Forster Clan made it home after a very busy vacation and lots of fun to be had. I hope this gives you some ideas on great vacation spots. Wild wonderful West Virginia is a beautiful place to visit and Charlotte, North Carolina is really nice with even more places to visit than I had time to see. Go ahead and plan a trip of your own.

Jeff

Carrier Strike-US Naval Air-Power at Sea by: Andy Evans

reviewed by Floyd S. Werner, Jr. IPMS# 26266

US Naval aircraft are the tip of the spear and project US foreign power throughout the world. The aircraft often sport some fantastic paint schemes for special events. This book from SAM Publications is a soft bound book with 100 pages of A4 size that is just chocked full of some really great color photos. Interspersed throughout the book are 50 color profiles that the modeler will find inspirational.



The book is broken down into four major sections: Strike Fighters, Air Support, Operations and US Navy Carrier Air Wings. Each major section is further broken down with highlights on the aircraft.

Strike Fighters covers the attack aircraft such as the F-18, F-4, A-6, A-7, F-14, and AV-8B, as well as, some of the bombs used by them. Each subsection provides a brief history of the aircraft and notable missions such as shoot downs. The



pictures are large and quite useable for the modeler. The weathering on these aircraft is quite unique and will be a challenge for some modelers. The pictures are a perfect reference including the undersides of the aircraft. What I liked is that they include some of the older aircraft that have been used by the Navy, especially the F-14.

Air Support covers the less than glamorous aircraft that are essential for the carrier to do its mission. Aircraft such as the S-3, EA-3, A-6E, E-2, C-2 and the latest EA-18G "Growler". You'll notice that reads like a new release from Hasegawa



and Kinetics. Those modelers will definitely have a joy with the reference material. I really liked the Arizona C-2 Greyhound. Rotor heads won't be disappointed. The Frog (CH-46) is covered as is the huge MH-53E.



Some notable operations such as Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom are highlighted. This section shows the mission loads typically carried on combat operations.

These aircraft just don't appear over land without the ships that got them there. The following section shows the USS Theodore Roosevelt, USS Enterprise, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and the USS Harry S. Truman air operations. The flight deck photos are very interesting.

This is a really nice book that combines a good overview and history, as well as, superior photos. The modeler will find this a good value for the money. The photos will provide plenty of inspiration for the modeler.

Highly recommended

Thanks to SAM Publications for the review copy. You can obtain yours by contacting them at www.sampublications.com. Let them know you heard about it here.

Floyd

Lone Star Military Miniatures Society Modeling Day from Bob Bethea

The next Lone Star Military Miniatures Society modeling Day is set for Saturday March 10th from 10AM until 4:45PM. It will be held at the Shady Hollow Community Center on Doe Run off of Slaughter Lane in South Austin. We would love to have anyone interested in *ANY* kind of modeling to show up. There are plenty of tables, chairs and room. Bring along your own extra lighting if the fluorescents aren't enough for you. We have a refrigerator and a microwave available. You're welcome to bring any food item for yourself or others to share. However, we traditionally order pizza for lunch. Everyone throws in some money so we don't have to leave to eat.

Directions: From MoPac: Take MoPac (Loop1) south and exit on to Slaughter Lane. Go LEFT (East) for about 1.5 miles and at the Brodie Lane traffic light, turn RIGHT onto Brodie. Go down into Shady Hollow subdivision to Doe Run and turn LEFT. Go two blocks down Doe Run and the community center is on the right.

From Interstate 35: From either direction take Slaughter Lane exit off of I-35. Go EAST on Slaughter Lane (left if you're coming from San Antonio or right if you're coming from Austin) go about 5.5 miles to Brodie Lane. At the traffic light, turn LEFT (south) onto Brodie. Go down into

Shady Hollow subdivision to Doe Run and turn LEFT. Go two blocks down Doe Run and the community center is on the right. Parking is available on the side and behind the community center.

Give me a call at 512.784.7002 if you get lost!

Bob



Newsletter Articles!

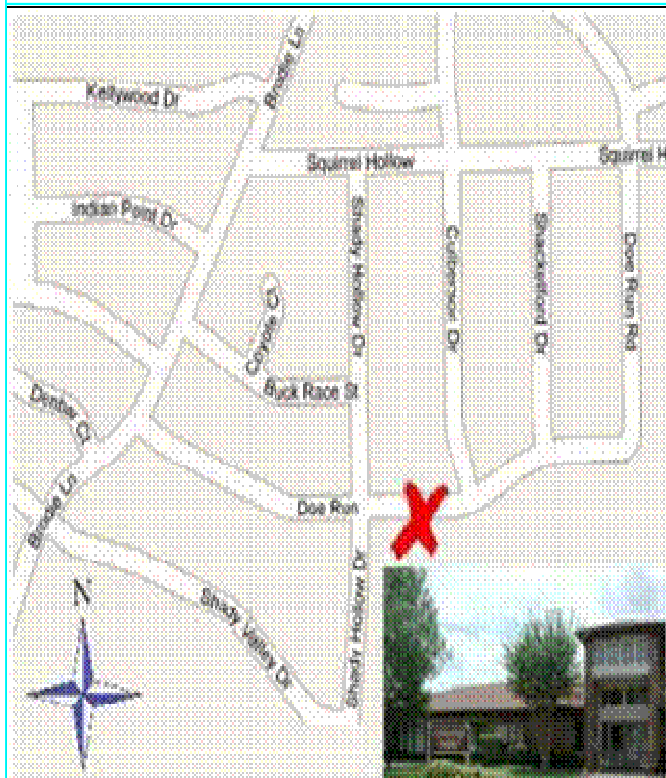
Any Size

Any Shape

Any Modeling Subject

Submit your articles to benmorton@grandecom.net.

Assistance is available just for the asking.



Monthly Program Schedule

Month	Who/Subject
March	Mike Poole WW I aircraft
April	Ron McCracken cockpit detailing
May	Bob Bethea figure related issues

Old Rumors & New Kits

Milton Bell
IPMS # 16702

The 2012 show season has begun. Several ASMS'ers made the trip to Live Oak last month to show the colors at the Alamo Squadron's annual all-day event. We had a respectable turn out and we took home our share of trophies. With the price of gas today, it's best to car-pool and share some of the expenses. I stopped off in San Marcos to pick up Tim Robb and Ben Morton and I'm sure a bunch of the others came with passengers.

It was a good day. It was cooler than I expected and a bit wetter but nothing like the show of about six years ago when there was an ice storm! That was not fun.

A lot of modelers go for the show, some for the bargains, but I like to visit with fellow modelers that I haven't seen since, well, last Fall. No one should have been disappointed. There were plenty of vendor tables and some honest bargains and there were certainly some outstanding models. Sure glad I gave up judging because I would hate to choose between some of these miniature works of art!

Best of Show went to a figure. And a scratch-built figure at that. What is this world coming to? Wow!

Now about the new kits soon to be available. Two items catch my eye. Both have been done before but not by today's standards. Both should be popular subjects.



First is the all-new 1/48 T-28B Trojan from Roden. This company did a good job on the

Mohawk so I expect no less for the T-28. And I expect to see different versions in the months ahead. I've seen photos of the sprues and the instructions and I'm looking forward to holding one in my sweaty little (?) hands. Price for this puppy will be about \$50. Wish it was less but I consider it's a good sign just to see the kit produced.

Next up is one of the strangest aircraft ever flown in. It's from Special Hobby and thankfully it's in 1/48. It's the Flying Pancake V-173. Back in the late 1940s when the

big news was sightings of "flying saucers," the usual excuse was "you just saw the Flying Pancake." Of course there was no chance it could have been around the country to so many sighting locations. But now, you can have your very own model of the V-173.

Although it's not new for this month, the first shipment of the Great Walls 1/48



TBD-1 sold out. Not to worry; a new shipment is probably at your LHS as you read this. It's a good looking kit in the box and is obviously popular. I considered one for a while but I have several of the old Monogram version stashed away and it's good enough for me.

Ever since I lost my old Hasegawa F4U-4 to excessive heat build-up in the Plexi case I've wanted to do another one. Somewhere I have another old Hasegawa kit but Hobby Boss has a new one out that may just be the replacement that I've wanted. I understand there may be a few glitches but I'm a fixer if I feel it's necessary. And no, I'm not a rivet counter! I just like the Corsair.

Hobby Boss has a couple more 1/48 kits that may appeal to the aircraft modeler. Both are versions of previous releases. The Yak 38 Forger was released as the single seat VTOL Russian fighter. This new kit makes the Yak-38U Forger B, a two-seat trainer version. They are also showing a F3H-2M Demon which should be a hit with the 60's era jet crowd.

Speaking of jets, you may want to check out the 1/48 F-16A/B NSAAC Adversary kit from Kinetic. There were some really interesting schemes on these "foreign" birds.



Last month's big news was the release of Revell of Germany's PV-1 Ventura. One of the problems with the kit—and there are only a few—is the shape of the propeller. Mike West of Lone Star Models has already produced a set of new blades and spinners. I bought a set at the San Antonio show for a mere \$5. I notice that True Details also as a set for about \$9. The difference is that with Mike's you have to assemble blades into hubs with the pitch and angle jig that's included. The TD set is fully assembled.

Mike is also working on open cowl-flaps and new exhausts and a new bomb-bay door. Several other resin casters are getting in on the action so there are a lot of choices for modelers who want some special treatment for their Ventura.

And if you hadn't heard, the German branch of Revell, which was a separate company, has been purchased by Hobbisco which already owns the Revell/Monogram line of hobby kits. Let's hope that the fine kits we've been seeing at bargain prices from what was RoG will continue.

Now for a little info on new armor kits. I found a few items that are shown as "new" but not being a regular armor builder I won't swear to it. Dragon has a new IJN Type 2 (Ka-Mi) Amphibious tank in 1/72. I seem to remember another amphib tank but in a larger scale.



Roden has an interesting looking WW2 German half-track mounting a multi-tube rocket launcher. It's the Sd.Kfz.4/1 and is 1/72. The box art is pretty cool.

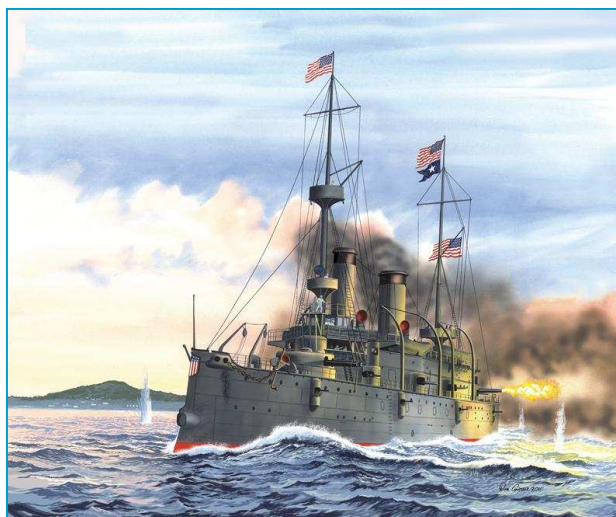
There's a new kit of a modern Italian 8-wheel armored car, the B1 Centauro Early Version and it's in 1/35 and comes from Trumpeter.



Also from Trumpy is the ASU-85 Self Propelled Gun, ca. 1970. This is the 85mm Airborne SP Gun and is based on the

BT-6 chassis. Going back a few years to WW2 they have a Soviet 122mm gun, typical of towed artillery of the period. The kit includes the limber and both kits are 1/35 scale.

For ship builders, there are a couple of odd scale kits from Encore. Both are of the same subject but one is a "premium" edition. The subject is the USS Cruiser Olympia and they are 1/232 scale.



That's about all I can pull together this month. I hope you have survived the winter and take advantage of this good weather to do some serious modeling. See you Thursday evening.

MB



Editor's Note:

In February's newsletter I spelled Bobbie Wilson's name incorrectly. My apologies!

Our annual BBQ/ Auction will be upon us sooner than one might think. This is a good time to start *cullin' the herd* (model stash) for the auction.



In the latest issue of...

IPMS/USA Journal

January/February 2012

Volume 24, Issue 1

- **Airborne Armor Oddity** - Rehabilitating ITC's Old 1:24 T92, by Ron Bell
- **Enamel Finishes and Polishing Lacquer** - Techniques for Creating a Showroom Shine, by Steve Janke
- **A Limited Run T-Bird** - Building a 1:32 Trainer of the 48th FIS, by Chip Jean
- **Forgotten War Thunderjet** - Putting a Shine on HobbyBoss' 1:32 F-84E, by Ed Kinney
- **Bardia** - 2nd AIF Infantry Sergeant Libya 1941, by Nicolas Bast
- **Getting to a Gato - Part 2** - Building the USS Grouper from Revell's Classic Lionfish Submarine, by Rick Nelson
- And much more!

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Austin Scale Modelers Society
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Austin, TX 78729
www.austinsms.org

Next Meeting:

March 8, 2012

at

Austin Old Quarry Library
(7051 Village Center Drive)

7PM to 8:45PM

