



THE PATRIOT

IPMS Patriot Chapter Newsletter
Pip Moss, Editor

Billerica, MA
www.ipmspatriot.org



April 2011

Meeting Info

The next Patriot Chapter meeting will take place on Friday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church in Billerica, MA. The church is located on Concord Road, just as it meets Route 3A (Boston Road) at the Billerica Town Common. The April meeting will be a build session with a business meeting, Show- and-Tell, and a raffle.



Mike O'Keefe says he wanted to branch out a bit in his modeling, and he certainly walked the walk with this 1/144 scale Star Wars Millennium Falcon. Mike built the Fine Molds kit OOB, painted it with various acrylics, and weathered it with pastels. Very neat indeed.

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Minutes from the March Meeting

CHAPTER President Dave Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:20. About 15 members and guests were present.

Dave issued a reminder that 2011 dues are past due, and encouraged members to renew.

Dave briefly discussed the possible model show at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, in September. He told the club that the event is not a “done deal,” but that we should start planning now so that we have an assortment of kits available. Pip Moss spoke briefly about tying in the “100 Years of Naval Aviation” theme, and discussed the list of aircraft that we would like to see on display if the event takes place. [See the special announcement below for further information.]

Dave provided an update on Tom Babbin’s recovery and encouraged all members to write to Tom by way of the website set up for communicating with him.

Dave said that starting at the April meeting, he’d like to engage in serious discussion of a group trip for this year. He suggested both Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome and the New England Air Museum would be good destinations for the trip.

That concluded the business portion of the meeting, and Dave moved on to Show and Tell. After Show and Tell there was a brief break, followed by the raffle. After the raffle, the meeting broke up for the night.

—Rick Lippincott, Secretary

Show and Tell

Alan Beeber 1/32 Star Trek Work Bee
1/72 UD12 Chickenhawk Drop Ship
Tony D’Anjou 1/35 M7 Priest (Academy)
Rick Lippincott 1/35 M48A2 (Monogram)
Mike O’Keefe 1/144 Millennium Falcon (Fine Molds)
Chris Tolley 1/72 P-38L (Revell)

Raffle Report

March winners: Bill Michaels (1/48 Hasegawa B5N1 Kate), Tom Boisvert (1/72 Hasegawa TBF-1 Avenger), and Alan Beeber (1/48 Accurate Miniatures Yak-1). The raffle netted \$10.50 at the March meeting, bringing the total profit for the year so far to \$38.50.

I went to DownEastCon and got some good deals on stuff for the raffle. Look for new stuff to be added to the raffle table over the next couple of months.

—Bill Michaels, 2nd Vice President

Special Announcement

Fantastic Model Miniatures 2011

Robert Butler and I met with two members of the National Heritage Museum staff on Wednesday, March 23; we’re happy to report that the exhibition will indeed take place and that a date has been set: Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2. This is a couple of weeks later than what we had been expecting, but the museum is unable to accommodate any special events in September. Actually, the later date will give us some welcome extra time to organize coming out of the summer lull.

Now that FMM 2011 is officially on, it’s time for club members who haven’t done so already to get started putting together their lists of possible model contributions for the exhibition. This includes juniors, so if you have any young modelers in your families who have completed model projects, we’ll welcome hearing about them as well. If you have any questions, please email me at pnmoss@comcast.net.

—Pip Moss

Show and Tell Gallery



Chris Tolley's 1/72 scale P-38L Lightning, built OOB and painted with Tamiya and Model Master colors. Chris did some weathering using Tamiya Smoke. He used the kit decals for the well known "Putt Putt Maru" flown by America's third leading ace of WW2, Charles MacDonald, C.O. of the 475th FG. Chris adds, "This was a good learning experience."

Alan Beeber's roughly 1/72 scale paper model of a UD12 Chickenhawk Drop Ship. The model was a free download from www.toposolitario.com. The UD12 was created for use in science fiction wargaming. Markings are for a fictitious Warsaw Pact unit.



Tony D'Anjou's 1/35 M7 Priest howitzer, built OOB and painted with Model Master enamels. Tony also did some weathering on the tracks.

Show and Tell Gallery (continued)

Rick Lippincott's 1/35 M48A2 Patton, built OOB and (probably) painted with Testors spray enamel, and weathered with 30 years worth of dust. Rick used an aftermarket decal sheet for the markings of an unknown Israeli Defense Force unit. Rick adds, "The kit was built circa 1980, inspired by (but not an exact replica of) an Israeli M48A2 I photographed near Jerusalem in August 1977."



Alan Beeber's 1/32 scale paper model of a Star Trek Work Bee shuttlecraft. This was another free download, from www.paperaviation.de. Markings are for a Federation work spacecraft aboard the movie USS Enterprise NCC-1701A.

Do you research your models before and/or during the build, and if so, how?

For me, and I'm sure for many other modelers and artists, the research is and has been a lifelong pursuit. No matter how good you are, no one can reach their potential without learning all that you can about your subject. I've learned from the best to always be digging for accurate information pertaining to my subjects from the natural world. Sometimes it shows up in the strangest places. For example, I've found that animals camouflage themselves with a limited number of patterns that are shared between all species. The spotted cowrie mollusk has the same pattern as the jaguar. I once used a modified version of a female pheasant's pattern and coloration to paint a life restoration of a female T-Rex for a museum exhibit. The results were vividly realistic. From game bird to Jurassic Park!

—Robert Butler

Being who I am, the pleasure I get is from building. As the project advances I then start looking for information when things start looking muddy. So research is kind of an afterthought.

—Tony D'Anjou

I research them INSTEAD of building them, it seems.

—George Morrison

I do research my models in two ways: I read up on (and find photos of) the full-size subject, and I also read reviews of the kit to see what errors and construction issues need to be addressed.

—Al Denton

My research can happen at either point, depending on the circumstance. For example, our last group build (Cross Dressers) had me searching for different aircraft in different schemes; I sought out types that made a good group such as a line of different versions of the P40. With any luck, some of these will appear at the "Amnesty" session later this year. A result of this search/research is that I learned more about the P40 breed. The research also resulted in more interest in aircraft of the VVS.

Once I have chosen an example, I do some research on the web (various modeler websites, google images, etc.) to back up the kit instructions. I have found that some color call-outs can be wrong! An example was for the propellers of the 1/144 P3 that I had built. The plans indicated blades that are all black instead of grey with black boots.

The various model websites give good advice on correct colors and detail; sometimes I get hooked on a subject and then get the kit. I suppose that that would come under the heading of pre-research!

When building my 1/48 Spitfire Mark V in VVS markings, there was a bit of doubt as to the antenna layout. Likewise, the colors for the P40 in VVS markings needed research and correction. I found that the best info came from a single source ... I asked Pip.

—Mike Hirsch

When I see a subject that interests me, I will look it up to find what version best suits me, such as colors, markings, nationality, etc. I will then try to find the model manufacturer whose kit most meets my specifications.

—Bob Hale

Yes, I do research the subject matter most of the time, using as many sources as possible, mostly books. In an effort to streamline the latest project and get it done quicker, I have fogone any research material, yet the Tiger is yet to be finished. Ha ha ha.

—Kurt Kunze

I've used all the classic sources: Squadron/Signal "In Action" publications, other publications, books specializing on the subject.

Of course, of late it's fast and easy to do web research as well. In addition to search engines, there are also large numbers of photo hosting websites that contain enourmous amounts of data. I just went to Flickr, entered "Me-262" as a search term, and it looks like there are at least two thousand photos (a mix of museum shots, scans of old photos, plus recent color photos of some of the "Stormbird Project" Me-262s flying at airshows).

But if it's a C-130, C-141, or C-5, I just head into the basement and dig up the blueprints, flight manuals, and service manuals that I "rescued" from the trash many years ago.

—Rick Lippincott

Depends on what you mean by "research." I generally build OOB, or close to it, so I rarely worry about whether or not the left-handed radiator shutters were only used on aircraft with serial numbers less than 6214. But I will try to research the use of colors and markings, to try to be as accurate as I can. For example, I have learned that I can't trust kit manufacturer color call-outs—they are often wrong. I am also interested in the historical aspects of the subject, so I will do research to find out the significance of a given set of markings.

I mostly use the internet for this type of research—nearly every subject has been discussed at some point on one or more of the various modeling forums. A few minutes of research led me to the correct colors for my Matilda and Stuart tank—both Tamiya and Academy had it wrong. It also didn't me long to find out the story behind the Dutch markings on my Tamiya Buffalo.

The type of research I do the most of is the pre-purchase variety. I often look for reviews and build articles for a given kit before purchasing it. A bad review doesn't stop me from buying—but I like to know what I'm getting into.

—Bill Michaels

I research them before, during, and after I build them. I primarily use print resources (books, magazines, decal sheet instructions) which I own. I haven't found the net to be that much use as a modeling reference, although there are some exceptions like the IPMS Stockholm web site.

—Jim Qualey

Question of the Month (continued)

I do both. I tend to build subjects (plane/pilot) I read about in books or magazines, and I'll keep that data handy while building along with technical publications. One of my favorite tech-pubs is Aerodetails. I think they are just about the best for photographs. I also like Squadron walkarounds and Detail & Scale. I also have some very good hardcover reference books in my library I can use if I'm doing some extensive research on a particular type of aircraft.

—Dave Schmidt

Indeed I do. Most kits are pretty good these days in terms of accuracy and completeness of detail, but there is always room for improvement. Recently, I pulled out a couple of kits for possible projects later on this year: Minicraft's PV-1 Ventura and Special Hobby's PV-2 Harpoon. Both kits looked okay dimensionally, but the cockpits on each of them were questionable and had minimal detail. A well-done cockpit is an anchor point for any model, and I needed more information than I had on hand. In fact I was embarrassed to discover I had very little in my library on either aircraft. That was quickly remedied, but I'm still wondering how the open wing slats on the PV-1 are supposed to look, because on the Minicraft kit they are shown in outline form only, as are the under-wing landing lights. Bottom line, if I want the model to look like the real airplane, I have to go the extra distance to make it so.

—Art Silen

Almost the only research I do is on weathering patterns and pictures of old structures and railroads. Happily, many photo archives are available on-line.

Here's an example of civil war photos from Shorpy: <http://www.shorpy.com/image/tid/46>. Here's a Heulett unloader from Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heulett>

If you haven't seen these in action, you can find good videos on Google. The operator cab is right above the bucket. He rides in and out of the cargo hold on every cycle.

Do you want to see your favorite airfield in the 1950s? <http://www.historicaerials.com/>

Here's the railroad yard at Iron Horse Park in Billerica, run by the Boston & Maine railroad, still in active use in 1971: <http://www.historicaerials.com/aerials.php?scale=1.99255378541034>

—Harry Vig

I can't think of any model I've built in the last 30 years that didn't involve research, but the nature and degree of the research varies depending on the subject. For example, if I'm building a Spitfire, I'm less likely to need as much research into colors and schemes as I would for a Russian or Japanese subject. If I'm building (as I currently am), an inter-war biplane like a Curtiss F11C-2, I'm much more likely to need information on basic structure and configuration than I would for something more comfortably in my knowledge base like a Mustang.

While I have, and make use of, a decent collection of reference books, I have come to rely more and more on the internet for research and to answer questions that invariably seem to crop up. The Plane Talking forum at Hyperscale is my usual go-to source. Their search function is pretty good for digging up past threads that often contain the information I seek. If I can't find answers that way, I'll post questions, which are usually answered. Aircraft Resource Center (both forums and walkaround sections) and Britmodeller have also proved to be useful resources.

For modern subjects, access to online photos is a wonderful resource. For example, when I was working on the Eurocopter Tiger for the 2009 Group Build, it was immensely satisfying to find hi-res color photographs of the actual bird I was modeling. These photos were especially invaluable for placement of the scores of tiny stencil decals provided by the kit.

As others have mentioned, I too tend to look up online reviews of kits I'm building for heads ups that may be helpful. I don't get too wrapped up in the often contentious nitpicking about small inaccuracies, but I will sometimes make modifications to a kit based on these reviews. For example, in a current project, an ICM 1/48 scale Spitfire Mk. VIII, I know from reading many reviews that while this is one of the more accurate kits for dimensions and shape, the main landing gear struts (like those of the Hasegawa kit) are a couple of millimeters too long. I therefore shortened the struts, an easy mod that pays good dividends in a model with the proper "sit."

—Pip Moss

Upcoming Events

- March 26 **"Flight School" Aircraft Modeling Seminar**, IPMS/Hudson Valley, East Fishkill Community Library, 348 New York Rt 376, Hopewell Junction, NY
- March 27 **Valleycon 21**, IPMS Wings & Wheels Modelers, Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee, MA. Contact Al LaFleche: ajlafleche@comcast.net or 413-306-1270; or go to www.wmodelclub.org/
- April 10..... **BuffCon 28**, IPMS Niagara Frontier, Knights of Columbus Club, 2735 Union Road at William Street, Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY. Contact Dick Schulenberg: dick.schulenberg@excelco.net or 716-964-2161, or log onto www.ipmsniagarafontier.com.
- May 13-14..... **NoreastCon 40**, Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, 160 Holiday Way, Schoharie, NY. Contact Nick Filippone: bpbittern@frontiernet.net or 518-736-2434.
- June 11-12..... **RepLiCon 2011**, Long Island Scale Model Society, American Air Power Museum, 1230 New Highway, Farmingdale, NY. Contact Robert DeMaio: taurleo@optonline.net or 631-707-3442
- September 23-24..... **AMPS East**, Northeast Military Modelers Association, Danbury Plaza Hotel, 14 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury, CT. Contact John Gazzola: john.gazzola@ipmsmma.org or 860-617-1413.
- October 9..... **Model Festival 2011**, IPMS Igor Sikorsky, Milford Knights of Columbus, 625 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, CT. Contact Raymond Prokoski: modeleray@snet.net or 203 315-8630
- October 16..... **GraniteCon XIX**, Granite State Modelers, Nashua Elks Club, 120 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, NH. Contact Rodney Currier: nickmatt2@roadrunner.com or 603-726-3876.
- October 22..... **HVHMG 25**, IPMS Mid Hudson, Elks Lodge, 29 Overrocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY. Contact John Gallagher: showchair@hvimg.com or 845-462-4740.

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