



THE PATRIOT

IPMS Patriot Chapter Newsletter
Pip Moss, Editor

Billerica, MA
www.ipmspatriot.org



March 2015

Meeting Info

The next Patriot Chapter meeting will take place on Friday, March 6, 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 March meeting will be a build session with a business meeting, Show-and-Tell, and a raffle.



John Walker built this neat 1/35 scale diorama/vignette of a German mortar crew dug in and sheltered by a wrecked T-34/76. The tank is from Italeri; the figures are from Tamiya. Everything was built pretty much OOB with some extra details such as rifle slings, straps, etc. John used Tamiya acrylics and weathered with pastels and powders. The base was built up from a block of pink foam insulation using cellulay, sand, pebbles and static grass. For another view of the piece, see Page 4.

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Minutes from the February Meeting

CHAPTER President Dave Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:50. About 15 members were present.

Dave read an announcement from the NoreastCon sponsoring chapter regarding prices for vendor tables and other items.

Dave also brought to the club's attention that member Richard Price was the subject of an interview in "Fine Scale Modeler" magazine. The article covered Richard's techniques and methods for building the award-winning HMS Essex.

Dave moved the discussion on to subjects for the group build. Ideas on the list included WWI, Multi-Function Systems, Fabulous Fifties, Anything that Floats, Fast and the Furious, and The Number Four. After several rounds of elimination voting, the final selection was **Anything that Floats**.

Dave tabled discussion of the group trip until the next meeting. As planned, during the March meeting the club will select the final candidates for the trip and then vote on the actual location at the April meeting.

John Touloupis reminded members that dues for 2015 are due, and at this time only 15 members have paid.

John then read the treasurer's report. There was a motion to accept the report as read; the motion was seconded and passed by majority vote.

That concluded the business portion of the meeting. There was a brief break for the sale of raffle tickets, followed by Show-and-Tell. After Show-and-Tell concluded there was a final round of raffle ticket sales, followed by the raffle. After the raffle the meeting broke up for the night.

—Rick Lippincott, Secretary

Show-and-Tell

Tony D'Anjou 1/35 M38A1 Jeep (AFV Club)
Richard Price..... 1/350 Supermarine Walrus (Trumpeter)
John Walker..... 1/35 T34/76 diorama (Italeri/Tamiya)

Raffle Report

February winners:

Tony D'Anjou, Revell 1/48 Ventura Mk. II RAF
Ken Meyers, Revell 1/48 P-40E
Bill Michaels, 1/144 Gundam

Show-and-Tell Gallery

Two views of Richard Price's 1/350 scale Supermarine Walrus, destined for one of his extraordinary ship models. Richard made numerous modification to the tiny plane: wings were cut and folded and given rib texture, the engine nacelle was streamlined, the engine was rebuilt, wheel wells and gun positions were drilled out, and tail fin struts were fashioned from brass rod. Photo-etch parts from White Ensign supplied wing and engine struts, prop, float struts and wing hinge. The model was rigged using monofilament tippet line.



Show-and-Tell Gallery (continued)



Two views of Tony D'Anjou's 1/35 scale M38A1, built OOB and painted with Model Master enamels. Tony adds, "When building a model, sometimes things go wrong, so the Jeep ended up as a wreck. The base is an old award plaque with cat letter for the ground surface."



Another view of John Walker's 1/35 scale German mortar crew and derelict T-34/76.



Adventures in Plastic Surgery: Hafner H.8 Rotachute Mk.IV

by Ora Lassila,
Patriot Chapter

The Hafner Rotachute was an experimental British glider-autogyro from the 1940s, Raoul Hafner's idea for a parachute replacement, something that could precisely deliver combat troops to the battlefield or behind enemy lines. Hafner, an Austrian émigré, was a rotorcraft pioneer and designed several autogyros. After World War II he became the chief helicopter designer for Bristol and was responsible for designs such as the Sycamore and the Belvedere.



Several prototypes of the Rotachute were built and successfully tested by the Airborne Forces Experimental Establishment (AFEE), part of the RAF No.70 Group based at RAF Ringway. The Rotachute was apparently easy to fly. Flights were conducted with launches either by towing with a Jeep or with a Tiger Moth. After tow cable release, the aircraft would glide down, the rotor being propelled by autorotation, a principle first utilized in the 1920s by the Spanish aviation pioneer Juan de la Cierva, inventor of the autogyro. The same principle allows modern helicopters, in the event of an engine failure, to descend safely in an "autorotation landing," similar to the way the Rotachute was flown.

My model represents the prototype "P-5" in its final Mk.IV configuration in the Summer of 1943. All Rotachutes had the same color scheme and roughly the same markings. Differences between the prototypes were mainly in the landing gear (some aircraft had wheels, others did not) and the tailplane (in order to improve lateral stability, the Mk.IV configuration had vertical fins with trim tabs).

The starting point for the model was the Fly Models' 1/72 scale kit. It is a nice kit, accurate with respect to measurements and shape, and comes with some photo-etch details as well as decals for several aircraft. Compared to its size, the kit is rather pricey—I paid \$23.95 at Spare Time Shop last year. This was a fun project, partly because I had built another model of the Rotachute a long



time ago when I was a teenager; at that time there were no kits available, so the model was scratch-built.

As for the Fly Models kit, it turned out that a fair amount of work was required for a satisfactory result, and many of the kit parts had to be replaced with scratch-built ones. The main airframe parts (fabric-covered tail, tailplane, structure on top of which the pilot's seat rests, landing gear wheels and skid, as well as the rotor) were usable. The rest of the front-fuselage structure was fabricated from Evergreen styrene rod stock. The landing gear axle, because of its bent shape, was made from steel rod. Brass wire was used for some smaller details.

One major flaw of the kit is that the rear fuselage is open from the front. In the real aircraft, on the other hand, the opening (behind the pilot's seat) was covered with fabric. I used .005-inch styrene sheet to fix this problem.



I painted the model with Tamiya acrylics. They are my number one choice for paints nowadays, mostly because I don't have to thin them for airbrushing. (NB: I use the Badger 105 Patriot gravity-feed, dual-action airbrush which is so easy and quick to clean that I now paint practically *everything* with the airbrush.) After painting, I applied some Testors Glosscote, then the decals, and finally some Testors Dullcote.

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Build Report (continued)

For purposes of displaying the model, I had to figure out how to get it to stand in the right position. The real aircraft had a very lightweight tail and some lead weight in the nose, and stood with the landing skid touching the ground. The model obviously lacks the weight, and the tail is quite heavy; also, there is no opportunity to add any weight in the nose. Thus, the choices are either to glue the model onto some kind of a base (this is what I did with my original Rotachute model 35 years ago) or to use some kind of support. This time, I chose the latter option and used a Preiser mechanic figure to gently hold the tail up. Basically I just superglued the figure to the end of the tail.

I would recommend this type of a project for everyone. It is definitely “something different,” and the result is—in my opinion—quite striking thanks to its small size. There are more possibilities available: Pavla has a kit of the Focke-Achgelis Fa 330 “kite” autogyro that the Germans used as an observation post on submarines. I have the kit and may attempt it next.

Bibliography:

- Aeroplane Monthly, August 1991
- Aircraft Illustrated, July 1979
- Airfix Magazine, September 1977



Upcoming Events

- March 15 **MassCar 27th Annual Model Exhibition**, Holiday Inn, Taunton, MA.
Contact Stu Marcus: marcus_stuart@yahoo.com or 603-382-9724.
- March 29 **Valleycon XXV**, IPMS Wings & Wheels, Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee, MA.
Contact Al LaFleche: ajlafleche@comcast.net or 413-306-1270.
- April 11 **RepLicon 27**, Long Island Scale Model Society, Freeport Recreation Center, 130 Merrick Ave., Freeport, NY
Contact Robert DeMaio: taurleo@optonline.net or 631-707-3442.
- April 12 **Downeastcon 2014**, IPMS Southern Maine, Thornton Academy/Linnell Gymnasium, 438 Main St., Saco, ME.
Contact George Bangs: brokenyokefarm@gmail.com or 207-625-8007
- April 12 **BuffCon 31**, IPMS Niagara Frontier, Knights of Columbus, 2735 Union Road at William St., Cheektowaga, NY.
Contact Tom Faith: tkebj5@roadrunner.com or 716-683-4897.
- April 25 **Can Am Con 13**, IPMS Champlain Valley, VT National Guard Armory., 255 LaFountain Street, Winooski, VT.
Contact Chris Graeter: cgrae4906@aol.com or 802-878-1275.
- May 2 **NoreastCon 2015**, IPMS Northeastern NY, Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY.
Contact Nick Phillipone: bpbittern@frontiernet.net or 518 736-2434.
- May 17 **NorthShoreCon 2015**, IPMS North Shore, Gloucester High School, 34 Leslie O. Johnson Rd, Gloucester, MA.
Contact Dave Reardon: 978-325-0049 or nsscalemodeler@gmail.com.
- July 22–25 **IPMS National Convention/Contest**, Hyatt Regency, Columbus, OH.
Log on to <http://www.ipmsusa2015.com/>
- September 13 **Patcon 2013**, Hudson Elks Lodge, 90 Park Street, Hudson, MA.
- September 20 **Rocon 34**, IPMS Rochester, Webster Recreation Center, 1350 Chiyoda Drive, Webster, NY.
Contact Cliff Wiley: cwileyone1946@yahoo.com or 558-317-2702.
- October 17 **HVHMG Exhibition & Contest**, IPMS Mid-Hudson, Elks Club Hall, 29 Overocker Road Poughkeepsie, NY.
Contact John Gallagher: jgallag@entergy.com or 845-462-4740.
- October 18 **GraniteCon XXIII**, Granite State Modelers, Nashua Elks Club, 120 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, NH.
Contact Keith Touchette: touchettekr@gmail.com or 603-578-9231.