

Meeting Info

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

NOTE: There will also be a special feature: "**Tool Time**." Bring one or more of your favorite tools to describe and discuss.



Nothing on the display table proclaimed the group build theme "Rescue & Recovery" more eloquently than Bill Michaels's nifty 1:72 scale SB2C-4 Helldiver, built from the Academy kit and heavily faded to depict a US Coast Guard plane based at San Diego in July 1945. For more pictures and info on Bill's build, see Page 5.

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Minutes from the April Meeting

Chapter President George Lellios convened the meeting shortly before 8:00 p.m. Between 15 and 20 members were in attendance.

George discussed the newly produced club flyers and logistics for distributing them to various locations.

First VP Bill Michaels led the choosing of the theme for this year's group build. After suggestions and discussion of a number of possible choices, a first ballot was cast to arrive at three finalists: "Oh Canada," "It seemed like a good idea," and "Out of this world." A second ballet determined the winning theme, "Oh Canada," which will include equipment in service with Canadian armed forces, equipment designed/built in Canada, and equipment in worldwide service manned by Canadian personnel.

Treasurer John Touloupis presented the monthly income/ expenses report. A motion was made and passed to accept the report as read.

A few Patcon-related items were brought up and discussed briefly. Most were tabled for future meetings. It was determined that the Patcon Committee would convene a meeting in the near future.

This concluded the business meeting, which was followed by Show-and-Tell and the monthly raffle.

Show-and-Tell

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Mike Hirsch ......1:72 HO4S RCN (Italeri)
                                  1:72 UH-34 (Italeri)
                            1:200 B-52/X-15 (Dragon)
                  1:200 RAF L-1011 Tanker (Hasegawa)
               1:48 P-40E Japanese markings (Hasegawa)
                                1:72 Messerspit (Bron)
                              1:48 Messerspit (Tamiya)
                           Fi 103 Buzz Bomb (Tamiya)
                       1;72 Spitfire floatplane (Brengun)
Bill Michaels ...... 1:72 SB2C-4 USCG Rescue (Academy)
Pip Moss ...... 1:72 Ho3S Dragonfly (AMP)
            1:72 HO4S-3 Chickasaw USN (Revell/Italeri)
Bart Navarro ......1:48 P-39 Airacobra (Monogram)
                  1:35 Schützenpanzer Marder (Tamiya)
Brendon O'Malley......1:24 Mercedes AMG GT3 (Tamiya)
Ken Sullivan.....1:72 OV-10 Bronco (Academy)
John Walker .....1:35 Bergepanther (Italeri)
                  1:72 P-40E Aleutian Tiger (Hasegawa)
                    1:72 P-40E Flying Tigers (Academy)
                                     1:72 P-40K (SK)
                              1:72 P-40N-1 (Academy)
                             1:72 P-40N-5 (Hasegawa)
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Tom Warchal......1:100 RB-79 Mobile Pod Ball (Bandai)

Raffle Report

April Winners

Dan Costa, Revell 1:48 C-45F Expeditor George Lellios, Patriot Chapter T-shirt Ken Sullivan, AMT Starwars Speeder Bike Matthew McGrath, Accurate Miniatures 1:48 B-25B John Walker, Airfix 1:72 BoB Anniversary Set

Valleycon Report

First, it was an excellent show. Tom Warchal, Tom Flaherty and I drove in together, arriving around 9:30 a.m. It was fairly busy, although memory is that 2019, my last attendance, was busier. Many kits on the tables but not as many as 2019. Overall, quality was pretty high across all subjects. I'll be posting favorites on my Instagram account and cross-posting to Facebook.

Mike Hirsch asked for Patcon flyers to hand out to vendors, and to engage them about buying table space; it sounds like he killed it as we may be pretty near to selling out tables. I look forward to hearing more from Mike during the upcoming Patcon committee meeting.

Sean Kringle and Serg Melendez both made it to the show. Both gents' work schedules have been keeping them from attending Friday meetings though both will try to make it to the next Zoom meeting.

After the awards ceremony, Al LaFleche announced to everyone that "another chapter" was considering moving their con from a competition model to an expo model and briefly the reasons why. I was sitting near the back of the room and saw a few heads bobbing up and down in what appeared to be approval. He asked if they would attend such a show and to raise their hands and nearly everyone in the room did. He then asked if anyone would not attend such a non-competitive show and no one raised their hands. I did not expect this kind of overwhelming positive response but was happy to see it. I then introduced myself to Al and thanked him for asking the members for us. He was glad "to help Pip out" and also thought it was a terrific idea. He described the complexities of both open and IPMS judging and thought this could be a "good thing" (BTW, all quotes are paraphrases).

In fact, they did not have overall category and event awards this year because judging ran longer than anticipated, and many people had removed their models early. The judges wanted to revisit some potential candidates, but they were gone, so they felt it best to give no award. A hard decision I'm sure, but the right one.

That's the show in a nutshell, I'm sure other attendees can fill in what I missed.

—George Lellios

Show-and-Tell Gallery







Mike Hirsch: 1:72 scale Sikorsky HO4S-3

Mike added a simple ceiling and some ribbing to the cargo cabin. The kit-supplied hoist was the wrong type, so Mike scratchbuilt a replacement. Paints are Model Master enamels. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for an RCN aircraft aboard HMCS Bonaventure in 1953.







Mike Hirsch: 1:72 scale Sikorsky UH-34

Mike built the kit OOB and painted it with Model Master enamels. Decals are from the kit and from a Printscale sheet. Mike notes that the kit decals were somewhat short on the many white stencils that emblazoned the airframe. Markings are for an aircraft serving with the French Navy in Algeria.







Bill Michaels: 1:72 scale SB2C-4 Helldiver (Academy)

Bill built the kit OOB and painted it with Vallejo acrylics. He was going for a well-faded airframe with fresh insignia. Decals came from the kit. Bill created the RESCUE markings by cutting masks on his Silhouette cutter and painting them.







Pip Moss: 1:72 scale Sikorsky HO3S-1 (AMP/LF)

The lower framework for the portside boarding assembly was scratchbuilt from stretched sprue, and the ventral antenna blade was fashioned from sheet styrene. The flimsy photo-etch hoist hook was replaced with the molded piece from an LF kit, and the gray float above it was made from a piece of styrene strip. Paints are Model Master RLM 02 Gray-Green for the cockpit, Mr. Color C365 Gloss Sea Gray for the exterior, and MM Light Gull Gray for the rotors, which, on the real aircraft, were fabric covered. Note the varnished wooden tail rotors. Decals are from the LF kit and worked very well. The model depicts "Honey Bucket," an aircraft captioned in a period photograph as taking off from the battleship USS New Jersey off Korea in 1952.







Pip Moss: 1:72 scale Sikorsky HO4S (Revell/Italeri)

The kit was built mostly OOB with scratchbuilt dorsal antenna blade (sheet styrene) and ventral antenna rod (stretched sprue). Primary paint is Model Master enamel Fluorescent Red FS 28195 mixed with a small amount of MM International Orange. All rotor and tail striping was masked and painted. Decals are partly from a Printscale sheet, but the NAVY designators, plane numbers, unit designators and data blocks were all computer generated and laser printed. The model depicts a USN rescue helicopter based at San Diego in the 1960s.





Ken Sullivan: 1:72 scale OV-10A Bronco (Academy)

Ken built the kit OOB and painted it with various acrylic lacquers. Decals are from the kit.

Ken writes: "This aircraft qualifies for the Rescue & Recovery theme because it can carry two litters to evacuate personnel. It is currently being used by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. I saw this plane somewhere online and thought it was so cool looking I had to get the kit and push it ahead of all my other WIPs.

The Bronco was used in Vietnam to pursue enemy combatants in the jungle. It has a slow loiter speed and can stay in the air for three or four hours. The Bronco has a large center nacelle for two pilots in tandem as well as space for five fully equipped soldiers or two rescue litters. For armament, it has sponsons to carry a combination of machine guns and rockets, bombs, etc. The Bronco was developed in the 1960s, but served right up into the 1990s and in fact served in the deserts wars. The most famous OV-10 squadron in Vietnam was the "Black Ponies."



John Walker

1:35 scale Bergepanther Ausf. A-Henchel (Italeri)

John added a transmission from Verlinden and Eduard photo-etch screens. Paints are Tamiya acrylics with weathering powders, pastels and pencil lead. Decals are from the spares box. Markings are for 1./ Panzer Regiment 3, 2nd Panzer Division, Normandy, 1944.

John writes, "Most later Bergepanthers were built with provision for the winch, but did not have it installed. Since the Italeri kit was weak in this area, I built the kit without using the winch and installed a wooden floor. The model comes with a crude transmission. This was modified to accept the Verlinden resin transmission, and those ancillary parts that can be seen were scratchbuilt. The driver's compartment was tweaked out to match photos of the real vehicle. The zimmeritt was applied using a Cavalier resin set. Many minor parts were sourced from the spares box, such as the spare tracks and schürzen (skirts). The figures are from DML."

A variant of the Pz.Kpf. V Panther, the Bergepanther came about in 1943 to aid in the recovery of heavy and medium tanks, which had previously been carried out with difficulty by halftracks. The Bergepanther proved to be an effective replacement, and its armor allowed it to function even under enemy fire.













Tom Warchal

1:100 scale RB-79 Mobile Pod Ball middle range support & rescue unit (Bandai)

The kit was built OOB. Tom used extensive pre-shading as well as multi-shading for inner frame details. He used drybrushing on the skeleton of the inner frame to draw out the realism of the composite frame. The red crosses were masked and painted. Decals are a combination of stock and custom. Markings are for the Earth Federation Space Force.

The Federation refitted about 1200 of the civilian-model worker space pods, known as SP-W03 Space Pods. The Federation reinforced it with heavier armor and mounted a 180mm low-recoil cannon on top. The Ball mobile pod also had vernier thrusters mounted all along the body.





Mike Hirsch: 1:200 scale NB-52B and X-15 (DML)

The DML kit provides both aircraft, which were built OOB. Mike used various Alclad shades for the NB-52 and Model Master enamels for the X-15. He notes that the red/white tanks on the X-15 were a pain to mask, but he is pleased with the results. Mike suspended the NB-52 above the base (not shown) with brass tubing, and he used invisible mending thread (thin nylon monofilament) to suspend the X-15 from the mother ship. The vignette shows the X-15 just after release from the mother ship and before its rocket engine fires up.

Nicknamed "Balls 8" because of its serial number ending in 008, the NB-52B started life in 1955 as a Boeing RB-52B reconnaissance bomber. It entered NASA service in 1959. It was modified at North American Aviation's Palmdale facility to enable it to carry the X-15. As on its NB-52A predecessor, a pylon was installed beneath the right wing between the fuselage and the inboard engines with a 6-by-8 foot section removed from the wing flap to accommodate the X-15's tail.

The modified bomber flew 159 captive-carry and launch missions for the X-15 program from June 1959 until October 1968. It was first used to launch the X-15 on its fifth flight, January 23, 1960. It also flew missions for the X-24, HiMAT, Lifting Body vehicles, X-43, early launches of the OSC Pegasus rocket, and numerous other programs. Balls 8 was finally retired from service in 2004.







Mike Hirsch

Top: 1:72 scale (Brengun) and 1:48 scale (Tamiya/Fusion) "Messerspits" (Captured Spitfire Mk. V with Daimler-Benz engine)

Middle: 1:48 scale P-40E (Hasegawa) Bottom: 1:72 scale Spitfire Mk V floatplane (Brengun)





Bart Navarro: 1:24 scale Hudson Hornet (Moebius)

The kit was built OOB. For paint, Bart used nail polish thinned with lacquer thinner and then applied a Rustoleum spray clear coat.





Bart Navarro: 1:48 scale P-39 Airacobra (Monogram)

The kit was built OOB and painted with Mr. Color acrylic lacquers. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for a Lend-Lease aircraft in service with the VVS (Soviet Air Force) in Russia during the Great Patriotic War. Unlike the Americans, the Soviets liked the P-39 very much and achieved excellent results with it, initially as interceptors shooting down German dive bombers and escorts at low level, and later, after Soviet air supremacy was achieved, as ground attack weapons.





Bart Navarro: 1:35 scale Schützenpanzer Marder 1 (Tamiya)

The kit was built OOB and painted with Tamiya acrylics. Bart weathered the model with AK Interactive Mud and used Burnt Sienna oils for rust streaking. Decals are from the kit. Markings are for a vehicle serving in Panzergrenadier Training Battalion 92 with the 9th Panzer Training Brigade stationed in Munster, Lower Saxony, in 1972. Entering service in the early 1970s, the Marder infantry fighting vehicle is still in use today with the German armed forces.





Brendan O'Malley: 1:24 scale Mercedes-AMG GT3 (Tamiya)

The kit was built OOB and painted with Zero Paints 2P-1492, over which Brendan applied a gloss coat of Mr. Color GX-100. Decals are from Hobby Design for the "Mann Filter" car that raced as part of the Mercedes-AMG team at the 2018 24 Hours of Nürburgring, placing 17th.

Brendan writes, "This kit was a joy to build, the only challenge being that the head- and tail lamps were a little fiddly to glue together. You'll want to fill the seams in the rear bumper air ducts and around the rear quarter panel and side spoiler air ducts."







John Walker: Three 1:72 scale P-40 Warhawks

Top: P-40E (Hasegawa) Middle: P-40E (Academy) Bottom: P-40K (Kovozavody Semily)

See Page 17 for build information





John Walker: Two more 1:72 scale P-40 Warhawks
Top: P-40N-1 (Academy)
Middle: P-40N-5 (Hasegawa)

Build Info:

Page 16 top: True Details resin cockpit set added. Paint: Vallejo Air with light weathering using pastels. Decals from an Academy P-40E kit. Markings are for the 11th FS, 343rd FG, Kiska, Aleutian Islands, 1942.

Page 16 middle: Kit was built OOB. Paints are Vallejo Air. Canopy framing was done with painted magic tape strips. Panel lines were accented with DW soap grunge, and light weathering with pastels. Decals are from Academy and Hasegawa kits. Markings are for the 23rd FG (previously the AVG), Burma, 1942. This plane is often identified as being flown by Col., then Gen. Robert Scott, author of "God Is My Copilot."

Page 16 bottom: Kit was built OOB. The drop tank is from a Hasegawa kit. Paints are Vallejo Air with slight pastel weathering. Decals are from Aeromaster. Markings are for the 25th FS, 51st FG, Assam Valley, India 1944.

This page top: Kit was built OOB. Paints are Vallejo Air. Panel lines were accented with DW soap grunge, and light weathering with pastels. Decals are from Aeromaster. The skull was customized with eyes at the front of the exhausts and blood drops on the mouth. Markings are for the 89th FS, 80th FG, Assam, India, Spring 1944.

This page bottom: Kit was built OOB. Paints are Vallejo Air with light pastel weathering. Decals are from the spares box and Woodland Scenics. Markings are for the 45 FS, 15th FG, Nanumea Island, Ellice Islands, December 1943.

Contact Rodney Currier: nickmatt2@roadrunner.com.

October 22......HVHMG 2017, IPMS Mid Hudson, Elks Club, Lodge Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Contact John Gallagher: ggallagher@optonline.net or 845-462-4740.

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