



2006 IPMS/USA Region VI
Chapter of the Year



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Newsletter of the Austin Scale Modelers Society

July 2007

SPRUE EXAMINER



Bondo Industries Scratchbuild a resin 1/48 X-24C

by
"Bondo" Phil Brandt
IPMS # 14091

Background

The X-24C, begun as a NASA/USAF design study in 1974, was slated to be a Mach 8 "lifting body" follow-on to the wildly successful but closed out (1969) X-15 program. Here was to be a lifting body using not relatively low-output Bell X-1 engines as in the existing lifting body programs (XC-24A/B; HL-10; M2F2/3); this one would be driven by the X-15's XLR-99, with the even more powerful Atlas ICBM engine as a backup. A second, airbreathing, version was to be produced concurrently. Design and wind tunnel work continued, and even the Lockheed Skunk Works got into the act with a larger, even more radical (Mach 12) modification proposal.

The X-24C was not to be, however. In 1978, NASA, using the reasons of project overruns,

cancelled the program, although some have suspected that it went "Black."

In The Beginning...

This curmudgeon had the expensive (\$55!) but decent 1/72 French Sharkit resin release of the X-24C on the shelf for years, but since its scale clashed with the four 1/48 lifting body offerings by Collect-Aire, which were already residing at the Weirdness Works Division of Bondo Industries, it was going to have to be Scratchbuild City. The Sharkit included decent three-views which were enlarged to 1/48.

A basswood master of the wedge-shaped fuselage lent itself to straightforward shaping via bandsaw and large table sander; same, same for the flying surfaces. The most difficult part of this operation was getting the join surface angle between the fuselage and wings just right. The vertical fin and canted minor fins were fairly easy to sand to overall shape (but more difficult to form a snug join line on the fuselage).

Dividing the fuselage master into segments for pouring RTV molds was the same arrangement

(continued on page 4)

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2007 Show Schedule

Emerald City Modelers, OZCON 2007, Wichita , KS
 IPMS/El Paso, Bassett Place Show, El Paso, TX
IPMS/USA, 2007 National Convention, Anaheim, CA
 IPMS/Fort Worth, SuperCon 2007, Arlington, TX
 IPMS/Metro Oklahoma City, Soonercon, Moore, OK
 CASM, 6th Annual Contest, Little Rock, AK

August 11, 2007
 August 12, 2007
August 22-25, 2007
 September 8, 2007
 September 29, 2007
 September 29, 2007

Editor's Notes...

Summer of 2007 in Central Texas starts with an unusual twist: rain! We have had nothing but wet weather for the last three weeks. As outdoor activities grind to a halt, I hope we all seize the opportunity to spend some quality time at the workbench. I was told once the output of modelers up north are much higher than us in the south simply because of their prolonged hazardous weather conditions. To that extent I hope it rains more often as I sometimes still entertain the idea of completing every single kit in my collection!

As you all know, Bondo took home the Best Aircraft trophy in our show in April. This month he shows us how he kitbashed and scratchbuilt his X-24C in order to win that award. If you like building ship models, you'll enjoy **Raul Guzman's USS Monitor** turret and my interview with him during my monthly trip to the Valley. My old school buddy **Adrian Mann** sent me yet another OOB review of his latest BSG collection: Human Fighter Mk.7 from Black Sun Models. The KTFM spotlight is on our vice president **Dave Edgerly** this month.

The July meeting will be on **July 10th** at 7:00pm at the usual Yarborough Branch Library. We'll have another **quarterly contest** with the special theme of "**anything that gets wet.**"

Our **summer picnic** this year is on **July 21st**. More details on that on page 12.

Eric

ASMS Officers for 2007

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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. Subscription to the newsletter *Sprue Examiner* is \$15 yearly. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.

Kenny's Korner
(until I can think of something better)

Summer! Hope everyone is getting some sun. As I write, we still have roads closed near our house because they are under water. Our picnic is on Saturday the 21st at 2:00 pm at the Kachoris family ranch. Be there or be square and bring a friend.

You should bring a friend every time we meet. We always have room for more! Introduce someone to the great hobby we all share. Invite them to come to meet people who share their hobby. Bring fresh bodies (said in my best zombie voice).

The library has changed its policy concerning meetings. We are now to vacate the meeting room at 8:30 pm (2030 for those with 24 hour watches, you know who you are) I have asked Ted Paone to sign us up for the room from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. If anyone knows of another place we can meet that meets our requirements (good lighting, no cost for those attending or to the club), please let one of the officers know.

Try and stay dry, and I will see y'all on Tuesday.

Kenny



Just for Fun!

by
 Tim Robb, IPMS #34705

My pink P-40 began as a Scale Modeling 101 class for several of my non-ASMS member friends. Hasegawa recently released a new and gorgeous 1/48 P-40E kit that rendered my pile of four old Otaki kits obsolete for making a serious model out of. But that also made the simple to assemble Otaki kit a good choice to use in teaching my friends how to build up and finish their first model. So off we went building Otaki P-40s.



I had several P-40E decal sheets on hand, so early on had everybody pick decals for an O.D. over gray scheme, intending to keep the painting simple. Well, one fellow in the class, who will remain nameless but his initials are John Weber, missed a couple of sessions after we had our models together and were doing seam work. So as a prank I painted his model, which he had left with me, hot pink. The next time John was present we had the big laugh, and the pink P-40 became a running joke.

Well I wasn't really keen on this P-40 model because I knew the Otaki kit was inaccurate and lacking in detail. So I started toying with the idea of really finishing mine in pink. Every time I thought about it, I almost giggled out loud (or maybe I did). And hey, why not? Modeling is supposed to be fun! Pink it is!

About this same time, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. adopted a change in ordination standards allowing practicing homosexuals to be ordained as Ministers and Elders. That doesn't sit well with me (see Lev. 18:22), but they didn't ask me. So it wasn't much more of a leap for me to make my pink P-40 a hypothetical "what if the Presbyterian Church had a P-40?" model.

Milton Bell made the decals of the symbol of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and I applied them on to white ovals painted on the model using a 60 degree ellipse template to make the masks for the ovals. So there it is, a no guns, accurate camo pattern, but very PINK P-40. And I had a lot of fun building it. Do you think Floyd would get stirred up if I built a pink 109?

Modeling is fun! Go build a model!

Tim



(Scratchbuilds a 1/48 X-24C continued)

as with the Sharkit release. Hollowing the fuselage pieces was easier than I had envisioned, since the Dremel with coarse sanding drum mounted went through the stuff like a hot knife through butter.

**Kitbashing Phase**

Since the NASA /USAF plan was to reduce costs by maximum use of X-15 and other off-the-shelf components, the Weirdness Works Division employees went the same route, utilizing the Special Hobbies X-15 cockpit tub (suitably modified to fit the slimmer driver's area of the X-24C) and seat, nosegear well and the XLR-99 engine exhaust.

**The Scratchbuilding Continues...**

The X-24C was to use a larger, extended exhaust cone, and that of the model's came from resources in the Bondo Industries Airframe Reclamation Area. The aft bulkhead and detailing (through which the exhaust flows) was handmade, as were the jettison/dump tubes ala X-15 (formed from aluminum and brass tubing) protruding from said bulkhead.



Your correspondent had considered using the resin Special Hobby X-15 dump tubes, but they were much too delicate and, IMO, too small. The subject's instrument panel and shroud were built to fit within the X-24C's narrower (than the X-15) forward



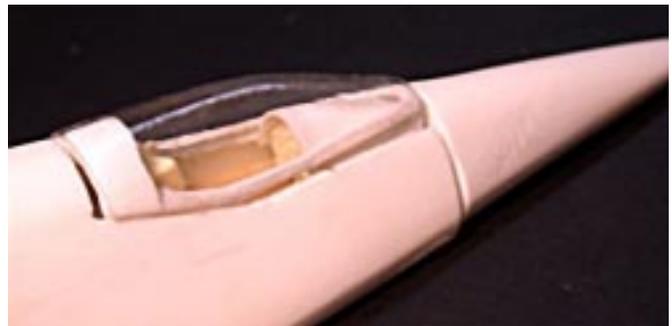
fuselage. Main gear wells were created from plastic sheet with some corrugated sheet in the ceiling.

Canopy

A basswood master was carved and cast in resin, to use as a vacuform mold. I try as much as possible to do open canopy configurations which, IMO, add materially to any model's busyness and presentation. And, an open canopy, especially one made of thin, vacuformed plastic, needs framing of some type to give the appearance of structure, especially in a subject such as the X-24C which undoubtedly had to withstand even more forces than that of the hefty X-15 one.



Accordingly, I poured an additional canopy shape and cut away much of the resin to leave only a frame, which, of course, nests perfectly within the vac outer shell. The finished canopy mounts to the fuselage spine via a brass pin.

**Gear Struts/Wheels**

Cannibalized we used to say "cannonballed" in USAF flightline parlance-from the ol' Monogram F-5. The modified nose strut and wheels are from an Evil Empire fighter item; I can't remember which.

**Detailing The Cockpit**

After searching many, many Eduard color-etched cockpit sets at King's Hobbies, the Mirage III item was selected because it had a relatively narrow instrument panel and consoles. Seatbelts came from a True Details generic jet belt PE fret. Unfortunately, the canopy obscures much of the interior cockpit view.



Before the large trapezoidal opening in the fuselage (beneath the cockpit) was filled with plastic sheet, quite a bit of balancing lead had to be added, and I feared for the plastic gear struts; so far they're hangin' in.

Finishing

Because so many decals would be used, I elected to go gloss black lacquer in the spray can (Testors) over a suitably prepared (read many iterations of Acryl Blue, wetsanding and automotive lacquer-based primer) surface. Five color coats did it, and after overnight drying—even lacquer, when applied in multiple "wet" coats (this wetness is especially needed for dark colors so that the lacquer will level with zero orange peel) needs additional time to harden—the decal drill started.

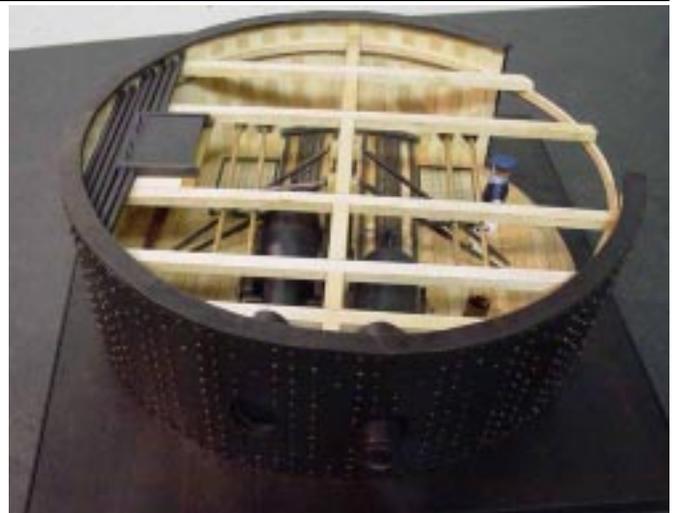
The hardest decal to find was an appropriately sized yellow/black "NASA" stripe for the vertical fin. The ancient Revell 1/65 X-15 tail logo fit the bill almost perfectly, albeit with a bit of additional—I had two of the sheets—yellow background. All stencils came from the Special Hobbies sheet, and the tiny NASA logo on the nose from the Cutting Edge NASA sheet.

To seal the decals and knock down some of the gloss, the bird was given a "dusting" — and I really mean dusting: the airbrush pressure is set to almost 30 psi, and with the gun held more than six inches away, yours truly's hand make swift strokes above the airframe with greatly thinned (at least 50%) Testors semigloss clear water based acrylic. The light dust coat practically dries as it contacts the surface, and the sheen is quite uniform: no bluish-white puddles which will not dry uniformly. It works; try it!

Conclusion

Don't know why this curmudgeon suddenly put aside straightforward kits (yeah, Collect-Aire is real "straightforward") to do something like this. But hey, somebody in HS Land's gotta demonstrate that there's been a whole lotta aerospace development since 1945. Can I have an Amen on that?

"Bondo" Phil



USS Monitor Turret

by
Raul Guzman, Jr.

My model of the Monitor gun turret was scratchbuilt in 183 hours over a period of 39 days. The inspiration for building it came after seeing the 1/32nd scale resin Verlinden kit. An acquaintance of mine had done a fine job making the Verlinden model. I took several photos of it and decided to make one out of wood and metal. I had originally decided to make it twice the size of the Verlinden kit, but after figuring the size of the brass rods I would need to make the Dahlgren cannons, I decided to make it 1/24th scale, 150% of the size of the Verlinden kit instead.

I bought the resin kit, took measurements and tried to find what information I could on the web and in libraries. When all was said and done, my model weighed in at 20 pounds, most of which is located in the two massive cannon barrels. I made the turret so it revolves on a small section of the Monitor's deck that I added. Needless to say, the ladder, the blocks (with sheaves), the gratings, the floor planks (with trunnels) the mechanism parts to swivel the turret, the buckets, the cannon ball racks, the Dahlgren carriages, the cleats, etc. were all made from scratch.

Here are some particulars about the construction:

I made the turret's circular base out of plywood and planked it with basswood planks (photo 1). I bought a supply of coiled brass sheet that I could use for the metal sheathing for the side of the turret.

In order to make the turret sit and swivel on a small portion of the Monitor's deck, I cut a square section of plywood and secured a wooden dowel in the middle. This square section was covered with brass plates



Photo 1

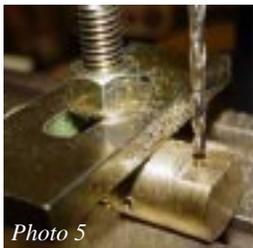
that I had cut (photo 2). All the brass in the model was darkened with Blacken-It and then sprayed and sealed with a matte finish.



Now it was time to turn the solid brass rods to make the Dahlgren cannons. It turned out that if the brass rods had been any bigger, I would have not have been able to mount them on my lathe (photos 3a and 3b). After some time and effort, I had two very heavy cannons made. Each massive cannon barrel weighed seven pounds when finished (photo 4)!



The back attachments to the cannons were milled and drilled in my Proxxon milling machine (photo 5) and then glued to the main cannon barrel. The carriages to mount the cannons were made out of wood and then covered with brass plate segments. I used brass brads to simulate the rivets (photo 6). These same brass brads were used for the rivets on the outside of the turret.



For making the sides of the turret, I cut a length of the coiled brass that could wrap around the circular wooden base of the turret. I then used contact glue to attach segments of wood to the inside of this brass (photo 7). These wood segments had been drilled where the rivets would be located. I then used contact glue to add brass segments to the outside.



The rivet openings were then drilled through the brass. The rivets (brads) were added. This (the sides of the turret) was then glued and nailed to the turret base. I then glued two more wood panel rows to the inside of the turret. To make the friction bars inside the turret that the gun carriages would slide on, I used rectangular pieces of brass I had purchased (photo 8).



The lifting mechanisms were made from brass tubes or milled pieces of brass. I decided to leave an opening in the side and to only put on a small portion of the roof to allow for better viewing.

The sole figure on the model was made of wood, with the exception of his arms and head, which I got from a car mechanic figure.

After all items were made, it was a matter of putting everything in its place and stepping back to see what I had done.

If you would like more information on how I made this model, feel free to contact me at guzmanshipmodels@gmail.com or go to my website <http://www.guzmanshipmodels.com> for more complete photos of this model and others I have made.

Raul



A low angle interior shot of the turret.



The business end of the Dahlgren canon.



Meet Raul Guzman, Jr.

Most of us are familiar with the name Raul Guzman Jr. as his models *Rattlesnake* and *HMS Victory* won best of show in both our shows the last two years. Last month I caught up with him in his home in McAllen during one of my monthly trips to the Valley. We had a nice chat on ship modeling, contest politics and his current/future projects. Using our "KTFM" format, here's my interview with this master shipmodeler:

Day job

Retired Texas history teacher.

I've been

Building models for 20 years. When I was a teenager, I used to build car models and was quite good at it. My first "serious" model was a log cabin I built as a teaching aid for my class. After I finished, I wanted to try something more challenging like a sailing ship. Since then, I'm hooked.

Primary modeling interest

Sailing ships.

Favorite era

Any period up to American Civil War.

Main reason why I build models

I enjoy the satisfaction of finishing a model and the appreciation of my work from fellow modelers.

Other than building models, I enjoy

Competitive cycling.

My favorite "master" modeler is...

Harold Hahn and Bernald Frolick, both fantastic ship modeler.

The size of my unbuilt collection

Two. Each ship model takes about a year to finish, so I've enough work planned for the next two years.

My wife's opinion of my hobby

Is positive, since she knows exactly where I am at all times.

First model I completed

Diora (?) with custom upholstery made from velvet cloth, circa 1967. It won the best model at an in-house model contest.

Longest time I took to finish a model

It took me a year (1,150 hours and 48 minutes working hours, to be exact) to finish my *HMS Victory*.

Best model I built so far

HMS Victory and my recently completed *Oliver Cromwell*.

Worst model I ever built/encountered

1/50 Santa Maria. It was my first plank-on-bulkhead ship I built.

I'm currently working on...

USS Essex, a sister ship to *USS Constitution*.

Dumbest thing I ever did when building a model

I once switched different parts of the mast on the wrong mast of the ship I was building. I failed to notice the error until I entered it into a contest!

Worst thing I ever did to express my anger or frustration while building

None. When I get frustrated, I just walk away and do something else. I limit my daily modeling to 4-5 hours so I can maintain my sanity and avoid burnout.

Modeling experience I would like to share with my peers

The first time I took my models to a contest, I received many praises from my peers and show attendees. But to my surprise, I did not win anything. I was so disappointed that I stopped building models for a while. After a year of hiatus, I returned to the hobby and started another ship. I was super nervous when I entered it in a model contest. Luckily, it won, and I learned there is no sure thing in competition.



Raul's latest: privateer *Oliver Cromwell*



Region 6 Update

by John Vanek, RC6

Okay, Everyone,

I know that I have been out of touch for the last few months and I apologize. First off, I've had a lot to do with my new position at work. Which is not an excuse, but it is the truth. Second off, there have been some major changes happening in my life which I'll share in just a minute. But first, let's go over some of the IPMS/USA things.

Item #1: Upcoming IPMS/USA elections. For those who haven't been reading the journal, going to the IPMS/USA website or local chapter meetings we are well under way with officer elections. While I won't use my position to root for any candidate I feel obligated to at least encourage everyone to vote. Over the last few years we have noticed a reduction in the number of members who take this opportunity to exercise their right to vote. You can mail in the card included in the last issue of the Journal or cast your vote on-line. How much simpler can you get? Please, I'm begging you, vote. Take just a couple of minutes out of your busy day and let your voice be heard.

Item #2: Upcoming IPMS/USA chapter renewal. I know that it won't officially kick off for another four months, but I want to get everyone on the same page here. While the renewal itself isn't that complex, there are some things that every chapter should have ready by September. First off, make sure that you have a current list of ALL officers for your chapter. This means you will need names, IPMS/USA numbers, addresses and email (if available) for your chapter officers. This includes nonelected positions as well. Second, you will need the names and IPMS numbers for all the other members of your chapter. Taking the time to do these two small things will significantly reduce the amount of time for your chapter to get your paperwork in and get your chapter renewed for 2008.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. Dick Montgomery, our venerable DLC, will be happy to field your questions and assist you in any way reasonable and possible.

Item #3: National Convention 2007. I won't take a lot of time with this, but I want to make sure that everyone at least gets a link to the 2007 IPMS/USA National Convention site. The address is <http://www.ipmsusa2007.org/>. They should have the most current information available on-line. Please do not send me any questions regarding the event. I would hate to pass on old or (gasp) incorrect info. They can give you the skinny on everything and are more than happy to answer any questions or concerns about the upcoming convention.

Now I mentioned that I would explain these changes at the beginning of this email so now here it is. I am happy to share with all of you that today, June 30, 2007, Annie and I were

married in Lewisville, TX. It's a long explanation as to why, but below I am including links to our websites which will fill you in on some of the background and details. I also am including links to the Dallas Morning News article and video of the ceremony. You just have to see it to believe it.

For those who know me, this shouldn't surprise you too much. For those who I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, this is just kind of how my life goes. But believe me, it was a beautiful ceremony. If you live in the Dallas Metro area you may have seen the TV spots. Yep, it was really me. We would be overjoyed to have you sign our guest book on the website if you would like and I'll happily share your emails with my new bride.

I would like to thank all of you for your understanding during the last few months and please accept my apologies for being slow in responding to your emails. I promise I'll try to do better in the future.

The sites are:

Video:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/video/dallasnews/hp/index.html?nid=155695>

News article:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/063007dnmet99centwedding.2f82447.html>

Our websites:

<http://home.loveofmylife.us>

<http://wedding.loveofmylife.us>

Well, that's all that I have at this time. Everyone have a safe and fun 4th, and I hope to see ya'll soon. (My new Texas twang.)

Hasta!

JAV

Did You Know?

A good place to find modeling clay, ice-cream sticks, and other craft items is any good Teachers Supply Store. Look around; there are all kinds of items a modeler can put to use.

Got Tips?

Want to be famous on the Internet without having to pose nude? Try sharing that favorite modeling tip of yours with the others on our website! Email it to our webmaster, Mike Gilsbach (mike@gilsbachdesigns.com), and he will post it to our latest tip section on our homepage. And be sure to visit the tip section regularly. You'll never know what neat trick you can pick up from your fellow members.

Editor



Black Sun Models 1/72 Human Fighter Mk.7

Cost: \$54.00 + shipping
 OOB Reviewed
 by Adrian Mann

The Mk.7 Human Fighter of the Colonial Fleet is based on the older Mk.2 model with upgraded avionics and additional armaments. BSG viewers got their first glimpses of a Mk.7 when Apollo landed his "ride" on *Galactica* in the pilot episode. Most of *Galactica's* Mk.7s were destroyed during the Cylon attack, and until the arrival *Pegasus*, the fleet defense fell on the shoulders of refitted Mk.2s from *Galactica's* museum collection. Since then, Mk.7 squadrons from *Pegasus* and the newly built machines by its onboard manufacturing facility began to replace the aging Mk.2s in Adama's ragtag fleet.

After I acquired the "Galactic Enemy Fighter" (a.k.a. Cylon Raider), I knew sooner or later I need to have the "Human Fighter" (a.k.a. Colonial Viper) to go with it. The good folks at Black Sun Models apparently heard my daily prayer and decided to continue their BSG series kits with the Mk.7 fighter. Now if they can just do a Raptor in 1/72...

The Kit

All of the 17 kit parts were cast in light grey resin with no fresh or bubble. The fine recessed panel lines are both in scale and very nicely done. Both cockpit and ejection seat details are fairly basic. The included pilot figure can be used to fill most of the void, but should you want to "go to town" superdetailing, you can easily do so by kitbashing any modern jet photo-etched detail sets.



The canopy is vacformed, and two examples are provided in case of any mishap. Nice touch by Black Sun Models.

Instructions were printed on a double sided sheet with parts list and color inserts of the cockpit layout and instrument panel.

There is no assembly drawing, but none seems necessary as construction is quite straight forward.

Painting and Decal

The model can be finished in two different color schemes, depending on which battlestar the fighter belongs to. *Galactica's* Mk.7s are medium blue/grey overall, and *Pegasus's* Mk.7s are light grey, almost off-white, with light blue/grey trim. A color illustration is included to show the colors as well as the differences between the two schemes.



As usual in any of the Black Sun Models kits, the decal is provided by JBOT Decals. Marking options on this ALPS printed sheet contains lettering and numbers for any fighter in the Colonial Fleet. Personally, I doubt anyone would care to model any battlestar fighter other than those onboard of *Galactica*

and *Pegasus*. But you'll never know when the unused items may come in handy one day. Perhaps the series writers might bring back yet another surviving battlestar!

I'm very impressed with this all resin limited run kit from Black Sun Models. If you enjoy their "Galactic Enemy Fighter", which I reviewed earlier in this newsletter, you'll love this "Human Fighter Mk.7". Highly recommended.

This model is available exclusively on Starship Modelers' on-line store (www.starshipmodeler.biz).

AM



Solution to last month's puzzle

Old Rumors & New Kits

Here it is Summer already. With all the rains in the latter part of June, it still feels like Spring but if you've been in Austin long, you know that July and August will not be Spring-like. Get ready for some HOT weather! Look at it this way; your paint will dry faster. Maybe real fast.

Don't forget, July means it's time for another quarterly contest and this time the subject is "anything that gets wet." Sorry, sweat doesn't count!

Show-wise, things have been pretty quiet. The IPMS/USA nationals are coming up in late August and I'm sure ASMS will have a significant contingent heading for the OC.

Now for some model stuff.

I just heard that Classic Airframes will offer a 1/48 Martin Baltimore which should be ready for the August Nats! Two versions will be offered—one in the temperate scheme and one in the desert markings of North Africa. Check out their website for the box-art. Uncle Jules also plans to re-release the Blenheim. Which version was not mentioned in the note I saw but this was one of CA's best efforts. Now if they will just get me a Hudson.

The big question is still unanswered regarding Tamiya's missing number 100 kit. What will it be—aircraft, armor, car, ship? Who knows. While we are waiting to see what else Tamiya pulls out of its sleeve, we will soon see their I-400—that's pronounced "E-400"—super submarine. Scale on this kit is 1/350. As you might expect, it's not real cheap but at just over \$60 for what will likely be a good kit, it's not unreasonable.

And in case you were wondering, the I-400 comes with detail hangar, Seiran float planes, and the option for a full or water-line hull.

If you are a fan of large scale WWI models, Roden has released a good looking 1/32 kit of the Pfalz D.III. The kit comes with markings for six aircraft. So far, Roden seems to lead the pack with releases of a Fokker Dr. I, Fokker Tri-Plane F.I, Fokker D.VI, and the S.E.5a. These are all good kits.

Apparently there's a good market for 1/32 subjects of all kinds. Don't forget that the Trumpeter F-100 is still "fresh" and aftermarket materials are just making their appearance. A modeler can spend as much time and money on one of these kits as they can afford. The latest is from Pacific Coast Models and is the first large scale kit of the Reggiane Re. 2005, a single engine Italian fighter of WWII.

And don't forget that the Hasegawa P-47D is still new and very nice for the price. The Ki61 Tony should be released in the states very soon but no hard date at this time. August should be the release month for the 1/32 P-39 from Special Hobby.

Trumpeter has announced plans for the P-47D Razorback but that's still a future release. And they have plenty more "large-scale" kits planned.

Dropping down a notch to "God's Scale" Italeri has released their 1/48 version (actually it's the older AMT kit) of the F7F-3N Tigercat night fighter. They also plan a release of the old ESCI kit of the MiG 27 Flogger D as well as the 1/72 B-52G. Many of these are re-releases of kits that have been out of production for some time. It will be good to see them again.

Hasegawa continues its series of P-40 kits with the "K" version. This is the second boxing of the short tail version of the venerable P-40 but the first one for stateside release. Box art for this kit shows a north Africa desert scheme but there are several decal sheets available for CBI and other theater markings. I may do one in lend-lease Russian markings.

Hasegawa has also released the latest version of the B-26. This time it's the B-26F/G Marauder and I'm sure it will be an excellent kit since it's just another version of the earlier model. The only faults I've heard about the kit was the difficulty in placing weights to keep the nose down. I hear there's space just behind the cockpit/bombay bulkhead. I've also heard that some modelers strengthen the main landing gear with brass rod inserts, just in case.

I really like the new series of light twins from Hasegawa since the 1/48 versions are generally too big for my work bench.

Hasegawa has also reissued a number of their earlier 1/72 kits but these are in limited supply so if you missed them the first time around, it's a good time to get them. These include the Yak-3, Mc.202, Fw-190A-8, Me-109G-6, Ms.406, and F4F-4 Wildcat. They have also reissued their AD-6 Skyraider in VA-85 markings. It's an excellent kit and not that old.

For the Rotorheads, you might want to check out Italeri's VH-71 "Marine One" (EH-101). This is the 2009 version—obviously not yet in service—of the presidential helicopter. Scale is 1/72.

For the armor builders, check out the new 1/35 LVT-2 Amtrac from Italeri. Other Italeri armor includes the ABM 42 with 47/32 AT gun and the 1/214 Fire Jeep.

For the REAL armor fan, don't forget the Dora 80cm Heavy Railway Gun. This was the largest gun ever built and according to some sources had the shortest career. It was in service for only 13 days and fired 48 shells in anger. To make the gun operational, it required 25 trainloads of equipment and the work of 2000 men plus six-weeks of assembly time. Not very efficient but it was an impressive weapon. The completed model is 53 inches long, it's 8 inches wide and the barrel is 26.5 inches long. It's from Merit and will set you back a good bit of change.

See you all Tuesday

Milton

Know Thy Fellow Member

Name

Dave Edgerly

Day job

Engineering Tech

I'm a...

"Re-born" modeler for 12 years or so.

Primary modeling interest

Ships and armor.



Favorite era and subject of my primary modeling interest

WWII.

Main reason why I build models

Gets me away from the tele!

Other than building models, I enjoy...

Riding my bike.

I was influenced/inspired to build models by...

My dad.

My favorite "master" modeler is...

Russ Holm.

I consider myself...

A builder as well as a collector.

The size of my unbuilt collection

Somewhere between 101 and 250.

Best excuses I used for buying yet another model kit

"I got resisted!"

Plan for my unbuilt collection before I die/give up this hobby

Pass on to my heirs.

First model I completed

Revell B-47. 1961?

Longest time I took to finish a model

1/48 C-47B. It took me five years and six months to complete.

Best model I built so far

Tamiya 1/35 FAMO.

Worst model I ever built/encountered

Lindberg P-47.

I'm currently working on...

Dragon 1/35 M1-A1

Dumbest thing I ever did when building a model

Catching a falling X-Acto.

Worst thing I ever did to express my anger or frustration while building
I once loaded a 12-gauge shotgun with birdshot...



Annual Picnic and Auction Set for July 21

It's summer picnic time again, and it'll be held at ASMS party central: **Mike and Sally Kachoris house in Mountain City**. As usual, there will be food in the kitchen, water in the swimming pool, video games in the game room, gift exchange for your significant other, and most importantly, an auction for our club.

The date of the picnic is set for **July 21**, NOT July 14 as I previously stated in last month's newsletter. Sorry folks, my goof. So please do not arrive a week early to celebrate Bastille Day with the Kachorises. I'm not sure how "frog friendly" they are and how will they receive your french sidedishes!

For those of you who need reminding, here are the basics for the picnic again:

You and your family are invited. The club will provide the BBQ, and club members bring sidedishes, drinks, and desserts. Mike and Sally have no free booze, so if you want to drink, you have to bring your own beer, wine or any other alcoholic toxin.

For the club auction, please bring one or more modeling-related item, such as a kit, book, or decal. These donations do not have to be brand new or shrink-wrapped, but they should be in good conditions with no missing parts or pages. The proceeds gained in this auction will go directly to ASMS operating fund for future events like our annual show, Christmas party or road-trip. So clean out that closet and bring as many goodies as your vehicle can carry.

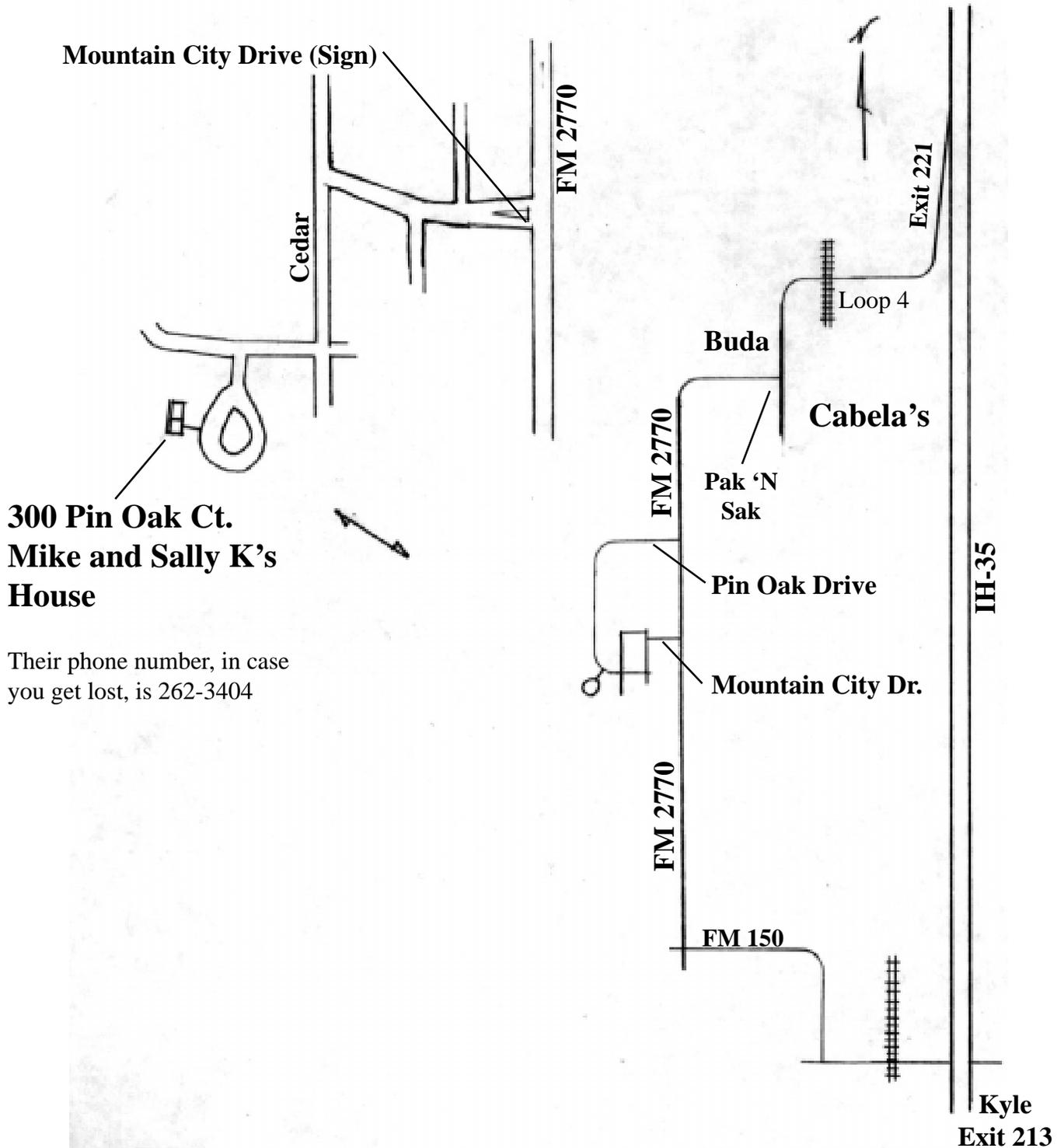
The gift exchange for the ladies and gals attending has a \$10 limit, and it can be arts & craft, coffee/tea basket, book, baked goods with recipe, or whatever she fancies. Be sure it is wrapped or gift bagged.

The picnic starts at 2:00pm, and a map to Mike and Sally Kachoris's house is on the next page. In case you get lost, their street address is **300 Pin Oak Ct.**, and their phone number is **262-3404**.

See you all there!

Annual Picnic and Auction July 21, 2:00pm

Map to Mike and Sally Kachoris's Place



Their phone number, in case you get lost, is 262-3404

**Next Meeting
July 10, 2007**



**2006
IPMS/USA Region VI
Chapter of the Year**

*Austin Scale Modelers Society
Eric Choy
13213 Marero Drive
Austin, TX 78729*

