



SPRUE EXAMINER



New Date & Location for 2010 Meetings

Extra! Extra! Extra! ASMS monthly meetings in 2010 are now on a new date at a new (actually rather old) location.

We now meet on the **third Thursday of each month** back at the **Austin Yarborough Branch Library** (2200 Hancock Drive). So mark your new calendar and be sure to show up on the right day at the right place! ✈

Editor



**SS-Panzer Grenadier
Ardennes, 1945**
by Henry Núñez

When I picked up this figure, I knew this was going to be a fun project. This is another fine 1/16th resin figure by Alpine Miniatures. The body is in two parts with upper and lower torso separated at the belt line. The body halves have guide pins to make it easy connecting the two parts. After I cleaned up the usual stray resin mold lines, I glued the body parts together and filled the gaps with putty.

Next I carved out the solid resin plug underneath the anorak with a blade and used my Dremel to drill out the rest of the resin with a diamond tipped drill bit. Personally, I think this gives a three dimensional effect to the anorak, but it's perfectly fine should you prefer to skip all the extra work. The other pieces were then added to the body, except for the head and the right arm holding the MP40.

The MP40 came with a resin gun sling, but I didn't like it. So I replaced it with one made from 0.032 diameter lead solder flattened with a roller. I measured the length of the sling from the front to the back as it would normally sit slung from the shoulder. I then cut the front and back pieces and attached them to the gun.

The buckles to the sling were made with flattened solder wire also. The sling attachment ring which was molded in resin on the MP40 broke, so I made one out of thin copper wire. I drilled two small holes into the MP40 where the original resin ring was and glued the copper attachment ring onto the MP40.

I primed the entire figure with Tamiya Grey Primer and let it set to dry. I pinned the MP40 arm and head on a tooth pick for handling purposes and primed them. Alpine gave me two choices of heads: one with a helmet and one with a M43 soft cap. I chose the cap because of the sharper details and insignia. Plus the face showed much better features than the helmeted head.

(continued on page 4)

ASMS is on the Internet

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Upcoming Events**Model Shows**

IPMS/Alamo Squadron, Modelfiesta 29, Live Oak, TX	Feb 20
IPMS/MCMA, Showdown #20 2010, Irving, TX	Mar 13
IPMS/Houston, Model Mania 2010, Stafford, TX	Apr 24

Local Club Meetings

Austin Armor Builders Society, Austin Public Library Yarborough Branch	Mar 3
Lone Star Military Miniature Society, Shady Hollow Community Center	Mar 13
Central Texas Scale Modeling Society, Harker Heights Activities Center	Mar 18

Other Events

Brent Mullin's Open House, College Station, TX	Mar 19-20
Wings Over South Texas, NAS Kingsville, Kingsville, TX	Mar 27-28
Alamo Liaison Squadron Bluebonnet Picnic, Cannon Field, San Antonio, TX	Apr 17
American Heroes Celebraton, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX	Apr 17-18
AirFair 2010, Pioneer Flight Museum, Kingsburg, TX	May 8

Support Our Troops!

In support of the initiative to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones in Iraq, IPMS/USA has elected to have the following contact point for **The Iraq Model Network**. Any individual, IPMS chapter, or industry supporter who wishes to make a donation, please contact:



SFC Fleming, Leighton O.
MNC-I Sensor Management NCOIC
DSN 485-3344
leighton.fleming@us.army.mil



For more info, please contact IPMS/USA 1st VP John Noack (jnoack@ipmsusa.org).

ASMS Officers & Chairpersons for 2009-10

Mike Kachoris president, mjk005@excite.com	262-3404
Rick Herrington vice president, lehr3@sbcglobal.net	259-8565
Angela Forster treasurer, agforster@aol.com	331-4644
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Mike Gilsbach webmaster, mike@gilsbachdesigns.com	258-2952
Milton Bell IPMS/USA coordinator, mbell6@austin.rr.com	454-2395

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

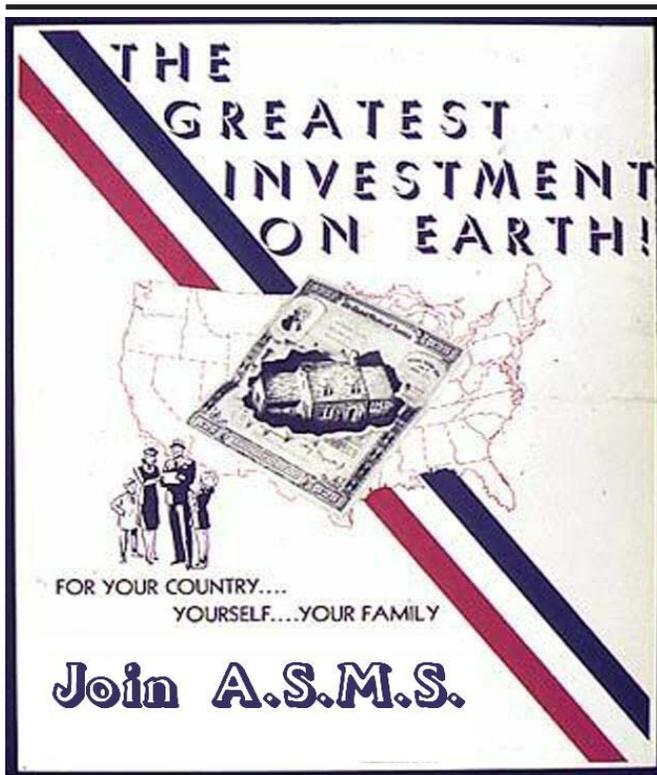
Mike's Montage...

Well it's February and there are a few events happening this month. One is Valentine's Day, and I hope you will not forget about your significant other, your wife, girlfriend, or husband. If anyone has neither, treat yourself. You deserve it. President's Day is also this month. If you are one of the lucky ones to have the day off, it's the best time to put the finishing touches on the models you have been working on.

February is also the start of the Texas scale model show circuit, starting with the San Antonio show in Live Oak. With the holiday season behind us, it's time to show off your new projects. If you are not quite finished, let's get crack-a-lacken.

I made an announcement at the last meeting regarding club members input. For the members that were not able to attend, I stated that this club is for you, the members, and it's you that make the club what it is. The officers are here only to guide the club. Without your input and suggestions, we can get stuck in a rut or stale. So if you have any ideas that you would like to see or want to contribute in some way to the club, please contact me or any one of the officers. Thanks in advance and happy modeling. 

Mike



Bring your dues (\$20 for individual, \$25 for family) to the next meeting or write a check payable to ASMS and mail it to:

Angie Forster
1503 Black Cherry Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78613

Tilly's Struggle To the Stars*

Tamiya's recent release of the 1/48th British Light Utility Car 10HP (Austin Tilly) has delighted both aircraft and armor modelers alike. It offers the usual superb engineering and crisp molding we come to expect from the biggest model company in Japan. However, according to Mike Starmer, a lead authority in WWII British military vehicles, there appears a major inaccuracy in reference to the RAF marking of this vehicle in the instruction sheet:



...in regarding the newly released Austin 5cwt Utility vehicle by Tamiya, it was NOT used by the RAF during WWII. The kit instructions have all been based entirely on modern inaccurate restorations. I have been in recent correspondence with a specialist "Tilly" group and have in my possession MTP 47 (Military Training Pamphlet) for 1944-45 which lists every type of RAF vehicle on charge in that period. The RAF used Morris Y 10cwt van, Hillman 5/10cwt and a few Standard 14HP in that class.

The other schemes are generally accurate except that in the so called 'Mickey Mouse' patterning the whole top of the vehicle was the darker colour as were the entire front mudguards (see MTP 46/4A instruction below).

5. Adaptation of one pattern to different types of vehicles. Suggestions as to how one pattern, Fig. 7, the "foliage" type may be adapted and applied to vehicles of different types, are made in Figs. 10, 11, 12 and 13.



Fig. 10

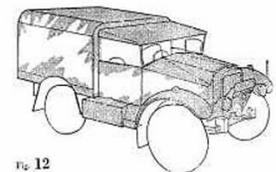


Fig. 12

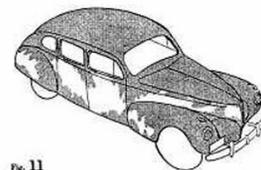


Fig. 11

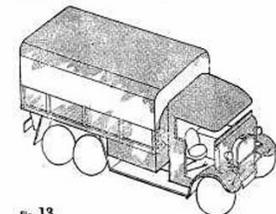


Fig. 13

To err is human. Even big bro like Tamiya can get it wrong sometimes. Always do your research before you "dive" into building a kit.

If you have any question, you can contact Mike Starmer via email mike_starmer@hotmail.com. 

Editor

*The official translation of RAF's Latin motto "Per Ardua ad Astra" is "Through Struggle to the Stars." Evidently the Austin Tilly's had its own share of struggles to be with the stars as it was never on any part of RAF's wartime inventory!

(SS Grenadier, Ardennes 1945 continued)



Before I started to paint, I did a little research on the uniform the figure is wearing. He is dressed in a late second pattern winter anorak issued in early 1944. It has buttoned up closure front for better ventilation and an enlarged fur lined hood. This anorak replaced the pullover version which seems too hot for mild cold weather.

The box art has the figure clad in Italian camouflage scheme, but I decided to paint the anorak in an Olive/ Khaki Drab color to show his participation in the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944/ early 1945. Vallejo, Andrea and Vallejo Panzer Ace acrylics were used to paint my figure. The arm with the MP40 was painted separately because if I had it attached, it would have interfered with painting of the body and ammo pouches. After the base color was applied to the anorak, I then shadowed, highlighted and outlined it. The rest of the items like the belt, holster, ammo pouches, and binoculars were painted next.

The winter trousers were painted in Pea Pattern camouflage, a late war variant that was supposed to replace all other types of SS camouflage patterns. A base color of pale brown and salmon pink with a drop of flat base was applied to the trousers. Next, two large color blotches of Dark Green and Sand/Pink were painted. I then applied the Dark Green, Sand/Pink, Medium Green, and finally the Light Green dots that would make up the Pea Pattern camouflage with a Winsor & Newton Series 7 #000 brush.

After the camouflage was painted, I applied a glaze (almost to a wash consistency where the moist brush has most of the paints removed) to the trousers to pull the camouflage colors in. Next, I stippled a controlled glaze using a Floquil #4 wide soft bristled brush. You don't want to brush the glaze on because it might brush your camouflage off. I then shadowed, highlighted and outlined the trousers.

The leather on the boots were painted using a mix of Andrea Flat Black and Vallejo Leather Brown. The felt uppers on the boots were painted in Beige Brown and US Olive Drab with highlights in US Field Drab. A black acrylic wash was then applied to the felt uppers.

The painted arm with the MP40 was then attached to the body with no problem. Next I fitted the MP40 sling parts around the hood to get that fit look. I glued the two ends of the sling into slits that I had carved out under the hood. I then checked the shoulder seam for minor outlining and painted the sling in Leather Brown, highlighted with Panzer Aces Yellowish Rust and a black wash.

The base color for the fur in the hood was Burnt Umber. After applying a Black Brown wash, I drybrushed with German Beige. For the light brown fur, I used Panzer Aces Splinter Brown Camouflage, and for the dark brown fur, I used Camouflage Black Brown plus Andrea Flat Black and Flat Brown. After highlights and some minor touchups, the hood was done.





The head was the last thing I tackled. It came with the M43 cap molded on. I painted the cap in the base color of Andrea Field Grey + Brown Violet + Dark Sea Grey with a drop of flat base added to the mix. A highlight of Panzer Aces White plus the base color was used on the cap. I carefully painted the insignia and outlined the cap with a wash of Black Grey. With the face

painted, I mounted the figure onto the base.

It was fun building and painting this finely sculpted figure from Alpine Miniatures. I was most fortunate to win both Best Figure and Best of Show with this figure at IPMS/SWAMP's CALMEX last month. I would like to thank two great figure modelers, Bob Bethea and Rick Rutter, for their guidance and their advice on this project. Kudos to Eric Choy also for his wonderful photography. ✈️

Henry

Tobacco & Aviation

by Tim Robb
IPMS #34705

My Lockheed Vega and Beech Staggerwing models have been part of a **Tobacco & Aviation display** in the **History of Medicine Gallery** at **Texas Medical Association (TMA)** downtown Austin offices since September. The display will be up till the end of March.



What do tobacco and aviation have in common? According to Ms. Betsy Tyson who works at TMA's History of Medicine gallery, in the early days of airline travel, stewardesses passed out little cigarettes to everybody including children just like they pass out peanuts today!

The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. The street address is **401 W. 15th Street, Austin TX 78701**. You can enter from either 15th Street or San Antonio across from Starbucks. Free parking is available in the TMA garage. Park anywhere on the first level where it says visitor and take the elevator down to Level 1. ✈️

Tim

The Glossy Side

by Michael Broussard

Welcome to The Glossy Side! This is a new column for cars, trucks, and SUVs'. My name is Michael Broussard, and I will take you on this journey to the glossy side. This is my favorite genre of the hobby. I do venture to the flat side on occasion. I have an "Atomic Cannon" I am working on as well as a Queen Mary Troopship. I really enjoy the customs that are done in the car category, especially 1949 Mercury's. 1/24th and 1/25th are the scales I usually work with.



A little about myself, I moved to the Austin area in 1983. Married 25 years with two grown daughters, I work in the automotive industry specializing in Jeeps. Building scale models allows me to have the vehicles I cannot have in full-size. I have converted one of the spare bedrooms, since my daughters have moved out, into my hobby area. I plan on building a paint booth so that the wife does not get upset while I'm painting in the house.

In this column I will be doing kit reviews, articles on 1:1 vehicles, and anything else related to the car genre. If you have a question or a suggestion on a topic, just email me at MBTX08@gmail.com.

Enjoy the hobby! ✈️

Michael

[Editor: It's been a while since we had a car column in our newsletter, so we look forward to reading what Mike has installed for us. Maybe he can inspire Keith Townsend to finish the second part of his chopper article for us after all these years! (Sorry, Keith. I couldn't help bringing it up again)]



Volunteer Modelers Needed for USS Lexington Museum Display

Randy Barnes, an IPMS/USA member out of the Corpus Christi area, is working with the **Lady Lex Museum On The Bay Association** to redo the museum on **USS Lexington**. He is asking for volunteers to build and donate models for the museum's new display. If you are interested in participating, please contact me (**Mike Kachoris, mjk05@excite.com**) or Mr. Barnes directly (**shspr@shsrockport.org**). ✈️

Mike Kachoris



Scale Modeling In China

by Eric Choy, IPMS #44323

Every once in a while, I travel to Hong Kong to visit my folks. Aside from the fun of family gatherings, I enjoyed the model shopping spree; there are many King's Hobby sized model shops all over the city.

Last Christmas was the first time I went home after I took on the job of your editor. I decided to do more than just shopping this time. I wanted to find out what the local modeling scene was like since I relocated to Texas (the last time I actually lived in Hong Kong was 28 years ago). Coincidentally, I managed to convince my parents to go with me to Taiwan for a three-day vacation. Now my one stop trip to Hong Kong turned into a Far East tour! So I took the opportunity to examine the sprues in Taipei City (capital of Taiwan) as well.

You might wonder why does anyone care who is modeling what in China. I hate to point out the obvious: Chinese manufacturers have now dominated the world's mainstream model production, and the market in America is no longer as significant as it used to be. Consequently our desire is no longer a deciding factor of what will be released next. We build what other people want now (sad, isn't it?). To find out what the latest trend of the industry, one has no choice but to look elsewhere. And that elsewhere happens to be mainland China, the latest battleground for all the major model companies.

In case you are not familiar with the history of the region, here's a recap of what happened since WWII: the Chinese Civil War in 1949 ended with the Communists as the victors in the mainland and the establishment of **People's Republic of China (PRC)**. The losers, Nationalists, fled to nearby island of Taiwan and continued the fight as **Republic of China (ROC)**. Both government claim to be the sole legitimate state of all of China, and a state of war still exists between the two "countries." The people of PRC endured extreme hardship under the iron rule of Chairman Mao and the Communist Party. Recent economic reforms had opened up its market and allowed foreign investment in the mainland. PRC is now the darling of manufacturing in our globalized economy.

Democracy took a while to flourish since ROC moved to Taiwan. The single-party state tradition did not end till 1986. Before the mainland opened up, Taiwan was a manufacturing powerhouse in electronic components. Since then its economy has been hugely overshadowed by the success of PRC. Despite

the tough talks made by the politicians of both countries, ROC and PRC have never been tighter socially and economically since the end of the civil war.

And then there is Hong Kong, a tiny fishing port forcefully ceded to Britain in 1842. When the Crown colony returned to PRC in 1997, the political, judicial, and economic systems were left fairly intact, minus the "Royal" and "Her Majesty" titles of course. Hong Kong remains the only place in mainland China where individual freedom and free speech rights are protected and exercised on a daily basis. Its financial and commercial significance, however, have been slowly and surely taken over by Shanghai in recent years.

HONG KONG (HK)

Due to the proximity to Japan and the influence of its culture, scale modeling is a popular pastime ever since Japanese model



kits started showing up in HK. Growing up there, I recalled seeing and building a lot of Tamiya and Hasegawa kits. In fact, my very first model kit that I built was a Tamiya 1/100th Mirage III back in 1974.

Two events changed the modeling scene in HK forever. First is the airing of *Gundam 0079* on television in the late 1970s. The hugely popular Japanese *anime* series took us all by storm, and Bandai's mobile suite kits sold like hot cakes ever since. The other event is the creation of **DML (Dragon)**. The story of DML started with the local hobby retail outfit **UML (Universal Model Limited, www.universal-models.com)**. I remembered shopping there a lot as it was (maybe still is) the sole importer of Hasegawa products in HK. Some time in the mid-80s, the UML folks decided to expand into publishing and model manufacturing, and they created Concord and DML. The rest, as they say, is history. No modeler stopping in HK should skip a trip to UML, and UML has made it easy for everyone; there are now three "megastores" in town.

There are also numerous "mom and pop" hobby shops all over the city. One thing I noticed at all the model shops in HK was the missing of regulars bantering inside the stores. No doubt the lack of floor space is the primary reason. It could also be because of the employees' lack of interest in what they are selling; nine out of ten of them are not modelers!

As far as the best selling genres, Gundam still rules among teenagers and young adults. On the "serious" scale modeling side, armor (1/35th) outsells aircraft followed by automobiles. Due to the absence of space, most aircraft modelers prefer to work in 1/72nd or smaller. Ship and figure modelers are few and far between.

Scale modeling in HK is supported by **The Hong Kong Society of Scale Modelling**. Founded in 1972, it is the largest model

club in town. Every year in November it hosts a two-day "Open Model Competition" event. The one I attended four years ago was heavy on contest entries but light in vendors. Thanks to the generous financial support of UML, admission and contest entries are both free.

TAIWAN (ROC)

I like Taipei City, the capital of Taiwan, a lot. Home to 2.6 million souls (versus 7 million in HK), it is a smaller version of HK with people driving on the right side of the road (US style). Of the three days I was there, I visited many hobby stores and had a wonderful visit with the owner of **Hobby Fan**, the parent company of AFV Club (more on that in a later article).



The modeling scene here is very much like in HK: Gundams for the younger generation and armor for the grown ups. WWII German subjects remains the "in-things" for most armor modelers, and naturally patriotic models (i.e. ROC tanks and aircraft) are also popular here. One unusual fact I learned from the folks at Hobby Fan was the popularity of installing RC components in 1/35th armor models.

While garage based resin shops are practically nonexistent in HK, there are quite a few in Taiwan (in fact that was how Hobby Fan started back in the early 1980s: a limited production run all-resin kit company). Obviously tailored to the local market, most of their products are subjects of patriotic models.

Business tie to Japan is a lot closer in Taiwan than in HK, and it is apparent in the pricing of Japanese kits here in Taipei City. Unlike in HK, regular customers bantering in the store is a lot more common here. Thanks to the owner of Hobby Fan driving me around town, I experienced my first "model shop crawl!" Of all of the stops we made, I was most impressed with **MPK Hobby World (www.mpk.com.tw)**, the largest store in the city. It's a bit hard to get to by public transport, but it is well worth the trip.

I did not have a chance to check out any model club in town. But from what I heard, there is one armor and one aircraft club that support the hobby in Taipei City.

MAINLAND CHINA (PRC)

One of the questions I asked the folks at Hobby Fan was where their biggest market is these days. I was surprised to learn that it is not America or Europe but mainland China. While scale modelers are slowly becoming an endangered species elsewhere, the number of modelers in China grew by leaps and bounds in the last eight years. Both



cultural and economical reasons contribute to this unusual phenomenon. Oriental culture always has a deep appreciation of arts and craft, and scale model as a serious hobby and an art form are not alien concepts in China as in the U.S. Thanks to the blooming economy in recent years, young people possess higher disposable income to create the demand for model kits. As Chinese toy manufacturing facilities are capable of producing both toys and models in their assembly lines, they are readily available to supply that need. That explains why model companies like Trumpeter can afford to introduce new kits every other month; there is a domestic market that supports its products, and it doesn't have to rely solely on exporting their goods for the return of investment.

So what are Chinese modelers building these days? Mostly military and "anything German" of course! Materiel used or currently in use by the People Liberation Army and Air Force are also popular there. Free of any Japanese *anime* "poisoning" on the telly (there is a ban of foreign produced animation programs on any Chinese stations), I'm not sure if there is any interest in mobile suites models at all.

As far as any public organization or model club that supports the hobby in mainland China, I have no clue if any exists. Knowing the ruling Communist party's neophobic nature and its phobia of anything organized, it seems unlikely that it will approve of any. ✍️

Eric

Did You Know?

[Editor: Here's something for you and your family to share while enjoying your President's Day off. Kudos to Tim Robb's cousin Roz Ewalt for finding this article on the Internet and sending it to us.]

Who was the first president of the United States?

I'm sure that George Washington was your best guess. After all, no one else comes to mind. But think back to your history books — The United States declared its independence in 1776, yet Washington did not take office until April 30, 1789. So who was running the country during these initial years of this young country?

It was the first eight U. S. Presidents. In fact, the first President of the United States was one **John Hanson** (Check John Hanson on Google).

The new country was actually formed on March 1, 1781 with the adoption of **The Articles of Confederation**. This document was actually proposed on June 11, 1776, but not agreed upon by Congress until November 15, 1777. Maryland refused to sign this document until Virginia and New York ceded their western lands (Maryland was afraid that these states would gain too

much power in the new government from such large amounts of land).

Once the signing took place in 1781, a President was needed to run the Country. John Hanson was chosen unanimously by Congress (which included George Washington). In fact, all the other potential candidates refused to run against him, as he was a major player in the revolution and an extremely influential member of Congress.



As the first President, Hanson had quite the shoes to fill. No one had ever been President and the role was poorly defined. His actions in office would set precedent for all future Presidents. He took office just as the Revolutionary War ended.

Almost immediately, the troops demanded to be paid. As would be expected after any long war, there were no funds to meet the salaries. As a result, the soldiers threatened to overthrow the new government and put Washington on the throne as a monarch. All the members of Congress ran for their lives, leaving Hanson as the only guy left running the government.

He somehow managed to calm the troops down and hold the country together. If he had failed, the government would have fallen almost immediately and everyone would have been bowing to King Washington.

Hanson, as President, ordered all foreign troops off American soil, as well as the removal of all foreign flags. This was quite the feat, considering the fact that so many European countries had a stake in the United States since the days following Columbus.

Hanson established the Great Seal of the United States, which all Presidents have since been required to use on all official documents. He also established the first Treasury Department, the first Secretary of War, and the first Foreign Affairs Department. Lastly, he declared that the fourth Thursday of every November was to be Thanksgiving Day, which is still true today.

The Articles of Confederation only allowed a President to serve a one year term during any three year period, so Hanson actually accomplished quite a bit in such little time.

Seven other presidents were elected after him: Elias Boudinot (1782-83), Thomas Mifflin (1783-84), Richard Henry Lee (1784-85), John Hancock (1785-86), Nathan Gorman (1786-87), Arthur St. Clair (1787-88), and Cyrus Griffin (1788-89). All prior to Washington taking office.

So what happened? Why don't we hear about the first eight presidents? It's quite simple. The Articles of Confederation didn't work well. The individual states had too much power and

nothing could be agreed upon. A new doctrine needed to be written, something we know as the Constitution.

And that leads us to the end of our story. George Washington was definitely not the first President of the United States. He was the first President of the United States under the Constitution we follow today. And the first eight Presidents are forgotten in history.



PRESENTS

MODELFIESTA 29

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Live Oak Civic Center
8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, Texas

www.alamosquadron.com

International Plastic Modelers Society

IPMS - HOUSTON
Since 1965
FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCALE MODELING

MODEL MANIA

2010

PRESENTS
Houston Area's Largest Model Show

- > Fine Scale Model Contest
- > Make & Takes for Youths
- > Technique Demonstrations
- > Vendors & Manufacturers
- > Guest Speakers
- > Exhibits & Displays

April 24th
Stafford Centre
 10505 Cash Road
 Stafford, Texas
 Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm

IPMS-Houston: a not-for-profit organization supporting & promoting the hobby of model building as an activity for the whole family.

Old Rumors & New Kits

Hello everyone! The annual circuit of model shows has begun. The first one was the SWAMP show in Louisiana. This year's show had about 265 models entered and from what I hear the quality was quite good. The next one is right here in our neighborhood—San Antonio's ModelFiesta. The Alamo Squadron's show is set for Saturday, February 20 or just two days after our next meeting. Be sure to attend if you can.

I've heard from Lee Forbes that the first batch of vendor tables, 130 of them, sold out early and they've had to add a few more to accommodate the vendors. I hope this is an indication of renewed interest in the hobby. After San Antonio, the next Texas show will be IPMS/Houston on April 24, back at the Stafford Center.

Our own show will be October 9 at the Norris Center. We have IPMS approval of the schedule and all the pertinent data has been forwarded to the people who keep up the IPMS/USA website.

Now on to new models. Unless you spend a lot of time on some of the modeling sites, you may not know that the Nuremberg Toy and Hobby Show was held earlier this month. As usual there were a lot of vendors there with "samples" or in some cases just CAD representations of new products. There were quite a few and several announcements of reissues.

Some of the announcements are of the "why did they do that" category but many will find an eager bunch of customers. Unfortunately, the price tags will most certainly show increases; we haven't seen the end of the dollar's fall I'm afraid. But then prices go up all over the world.

The sudden appeal of 1/32nd scale aircraft continues with several new kits promised. There are too many to list but here are some highlights. Azure will release a Caudron 714. Interesting choice but not high on my want list. Naturally, Czech Models (Squadron) will do a T-33, a logical companion to their successful F-80. Most of Hasegawa's large scale models are variations on kits already released but they will likely be popular. These include the P-40 series, the Ki-44, F-86, and P-47.

Revell is doing much the same but does have some interesting subject choices. These include the Arado Ar.196A, BaE Hawk in Red Arrows markings, EC-145, and He-111 which were announced earlier. All of these are scheduled for release later in the year. Best of all, Revell will have a new tool B-17G for their 1/72th series. If it's anything like their Lancaster, it will be a real winner!

Revell will also re-release the old Monogram A-10, Do.335, and the Eduard Dr.I and the classic Revell F-7U-3 Cutlass.

MPM release a 1/48th Martin Maryland this year. I believe this is the first injected kit in this scale. They have another first in a 1/48th Breda BA-65, a small but slick looking Italian twin-

engine fighter of WW2. Their 1/72nd CA-9 Wirraway is out already and will be followed by a 1/72th Westland Whirlwind.

Trumpeter will continue with series of popular subjects—the Ju.87, Bf.109E, and a very interesting looking pair of Su-25s. So, save some shelf space if you are into the large scale aircraft models!

Dragon showed the box art for a Do.335 and a Me.163B, both in 1/32nd scale. That Dornier should be good for the scale and I wonder if a two-seater may be coming? I've heard that Dragon is also doing a 1/48th P-51D. Let's hope it's better than the 1/32nd.

Special Hobby has two Japanese subjects that should fit into the 1/32nd category very well. Both the A5M4 Claude and the K-27 Nate were small single seaters and should be just right for the scale. Look for both about mid-year.

Speaking of big ones in big boxes, you should check out the 1/24th Mosquito from Airfix. Nice thing about big models, they can do a lot of very fine detailing and in this case, Airfix has added plenty of small styrene parts.

AZ Models is a newer outfit and they have jumped into the 1/48th scale hunt with several unusual but still desirable subjects. Personally, I would like to see the Ki-48 Lily but it seems to be hard to find. They also plan on a C5M Babs, a Grumman Widgeon, a Model 11 *Ohka*, a Kyshu Lorna, and perhaps best of all, a T-28A and T-28D.

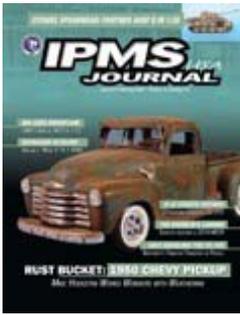
Hasegawa announced a 1/72nd He-111 *Zwilling* based on their excellent kit from a few years back and a Ju.188, surely using parts from that earlier Ju.88 series. MPM will have an A-20B and a Boston III in RAF service.

There were several new armor subjects as well with most coming from Trumpeter. They show a couple of Russian T-64 MBTs, a *Kommandowagen* BP42, a couple of ASU-85s, 1956 and 1970, and a bunch of BTRs. Hobby Boss has a couple of neat little armored cars; Sd.Kfz.222 *Lichter* and an Sd.Kfz.223. Italeri appears to be getting into the 1/48th business with a Kfz 3-ton Medium Truck and an Autoblinda AB41 armored car.

ICM showed some good looking models as well including a German Personnel Car, and an Le.Gf.Einleits-PKW (FFZ-1). Hobby Boss had a large and impressive German RR Gun *Dora* in 1/72th. That's a good scale for a *Dora*!

There are several new kits in the future for ship modelers. Mirage has some really nice submarine models, Heller is bringing have some of its ships, and Hasegawa shows drawings for a 1/350th CVE *USS Casablanca*. For something a little different, Trumpeter will have a 1/350th Italian Battleship *Roma*, 1943.

That's all for this month. See you at the San Antonio show! 



In the latest issue of...

IPMS Journal

January/February 2010
Volume 22, Issue 1

- **Bristol's Mistreated Monoplane** — Building CMR's resin rendition of the MIC Scout, by Harvey Low;
- **SPAD: Singoloposto AD** — Building a "what if?" bare-metal Italian Skyraider in 1/48th, by Rodney J. Williams;
- **Telling A Story With A Well-worn Chevy** — Weathering techniques add character to the story of a pick-up, by Mike Heekstra;
- **RCAF CL-52, X059** — Building the flying test bed, by Steve Bathy;
- **Stalker On The Steppes** — Building DML's 1/35th Panzer Ausf.D as a Kursk combatant, by Steve Taylor;
- **Northrop's Reluctant Raider** — The Trimotor that time - and the Air Force - forgot, by Norm Filer;
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February 18th, 2010
at
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