

MosquitoGram

The Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of IPMS
Vol. 07 No. 01 – January 2007

**JANUARY 2007
ISSUE**

This month's contest is:

Open

Newsletter Editor:

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This month's meeting
is on:

Friday January 12th



Please note:
All submissions to the
next newsletter **MUST**
be received by
1/29, or they **WILL NOT**
make it into the 02/07
newsletter.

THE VIEW FROM PIT ROAD

By Dave Schwartz

I certainly hope everyone enjoyed December's meeting and had a great time. I know I did. Congrats to Dan Spera on his knockout model of the year. BEAUTIFUL WORK!!!!

Now as 2006 ticks away to its conclusion, my thoughts turn toward 2007. Guess this time of year brings out the reflective thought process in me. Two things are on my mind at the moment. One pertains to the club and the other on a more personal event that occurred that has effected me, but I'm sure the same has occurred to everyone who builds.

First and foremost the club. It was distressing to me to learn that one of IPMS chapters dissolved. It also gave me cause to think about why such things occur and what needs to be done to guard against such a thing occurring to us. It's been my experience that any organization fails due to the onset of apathy, which leads to general disinterest on the part of the members involved which eventually leads to a bad end. The buck stops with the E-Board as it's our job to stand the watch, guarding against the evil apathy. But what then? Sure, we can try and make our meetings as fun and interesting as possible, and I can't tell you how much I personally appreciate the help I've been given so far by my E-Board and many of you. But, (there's always a but) I think we can do a little better. In light of this a few things you might want to ask yourself:

1) Are you passive or interactive? Do you sit quietly each meeting or do you open up and get involved? From my standpoint, I'd rather hear a negative than nothing at all. I know you all have something to contribute and I just want to hear from you. Please get INVOLVED.

2) When is the last time you actively tried to get a fellow modeler down to one of our meetings and hopefully join the club? I can't stress to you how important this is to keep the club as strong as it is. New members bring new ideas and keep any organization growing and vital. MosquitoCon is going to provide us with an awesome opportunity to gain new members. All that needs to be done is to circulate around and talk to the people attending the show. We are "Chapter Of The Year" and that's no small thing. Believe me,

there are plenty of modelers out there who would love to join a club and simply don't know where to turn or think they don't build well enough to even join a club. We belong to a great organization, so let's get out there and let 'em all know about it. Wear your NJIPMS hats or shirts that day, it couldn't hurt, either.

Next, on a more personal, note. The model I had been diligently working on, took I decidedly turn for the worse over the weekend. To be precise —I snuffed it. To be honest, I had found myself less willing to work on it as the weeks passed and then turned into months. I must admit this was probably the worst molded model I had ever seen, all my time had been devoted to remanufacturing the parts that I paid good money for. Enough was enough, so I angrily put an end to the project. Actually, the anger was self directed. I simply did NOT take a hard, objective look at the parts before starting.

Typical me. Jump right in and then suffer later. After I furiously cleaned up the work bench and shop, I was still upset and decided to go out on an errand. While I was out, I found myself behind a pick up truck with a bumper sticker that had me in mind. "IT'S NOT FUN-- WHY DO IT? I cracked up. This was the answer. It's exactly why, I walked away from this project, although I didn't realize it at the moment this model and I parted company. I do now. Valuable lesson learned. I still have it and keep it as a reminder of what this hobby should always be about. FUN.

Guess that's about it. I've always felt that auto racing really reflects life. So here's my wish for all of you in 2007: May all your pit-stops be under 14 seconds, and when you leave pit road, all your lug nuts are always tight. May you have the thrill of running up front and if truly blessed, take the point and run it right to the checkers. And no matter what else may happen, may you never run out of gas for your enthusiasm for this club and this hobby.

A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO YOUR AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

Your friend--- **Dave**

FROM THE VEEP'S LAIR

BY TOM "THE BEEMASTER" STEAD

Happy and healthy New Year to all! What a great party last month (as usual). Next stop...Mosquitocon! The volunteer list is starting to fill slowly, so get your name in this month, OK?

Not a lot to report from the Lair this month. Just wanna apologise for the late dinner last month, but hey, I'm new at this authority gig.

The main request I have is for as many past recipients of the Helen Kennedy Award to show up for the January meeting. We gotta discuss the next honoree.

See ya there!

VonSchtead

THE PROTOTYPE PAGE

By Tom "The Bee Master" Stead

The shipbuilders of Blohm & Voss designed and built a number of flying boats. One of the lesser known, and decidedly odd-looking, was the BV-138. The central body literally had the shape of a wooden shoe! Powered by three diesel engines, it performed patrol, recon and air-sea rescue with style. Later models were equipped with a hoop that was powered by a generator in the fuselage, and used to detonate magnetic mines.



Model: Blohm & Voss BV-138	Mfr: Supermodel	Origin: Italy
Scale: 1/72 nd	Type: Injection molded plastic, clear styrene, instructions and decals in a flimsy cardboard box.	

Comments: Fit problems ahead, I'll give you plenty of warning.



Assembly:

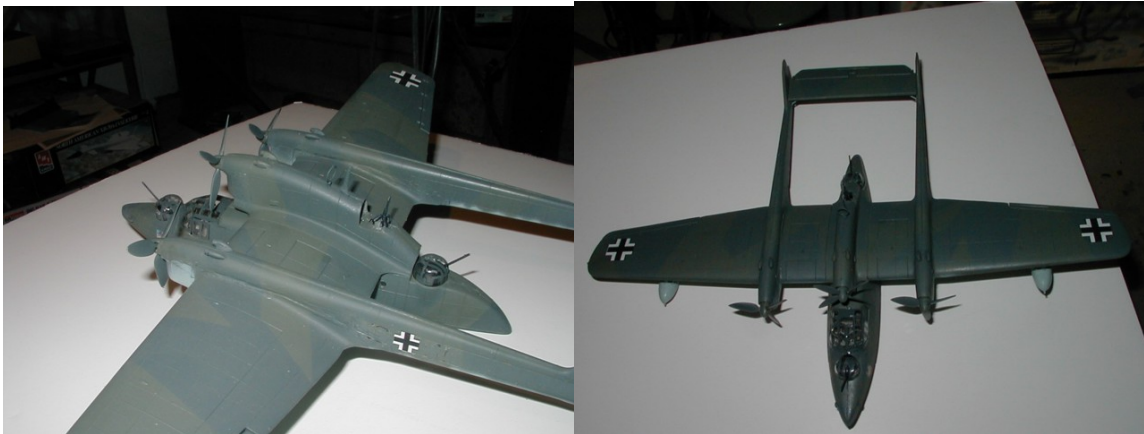
- 1) As with most kits, you start with the cockpit. This has a lot of nice detail, and includes a map table and seats. Adding harnesses and PE rudder pedals will finish this part nicely. There are two turrets on a forward turret and rear cover for the minesweeping version. You probably could build them and mask for painting, enabling them to rotate, but I chose to trim the mounting bracket and glue them in at the end. The cockpit is glued in one fuselage half and then trapped with the other. Filling and sanding are minimal. The fuselage portholes can be installed prior to gluing or replicated via white glue afterwards.

- 2) The wings, booms, floats and stabilizer can all be built and painted prior to assembly. If you want the props to be spinnable, use care when gluing. The central power unit has a four-bladed prop, not a three blade. I often wonder if anyone stuck their head out of the cockpit and got a trim!
- 3) Start bringing things together. I glued the stabilizer to the booms first, than the wings to the central fuselage,
- 4) Back to the main fuselage and the first bad fit, the fuselage strakes. These are large and fit poorly. My advice is to do a lot of test fitting and trimming.
- 5) Glue and fill the wings to the fuselage.
- 6) Now the next bad fit, the booms. When these are glued to the wing, its time to break out the putty and sandpaper.
- 7) Home stretch now. The floats and their braces are glued to the wing undersides. Likewise the braces for the stabilizer. Add the bombs to the underside of the wing.
- 8) I didn't build the minesweeper version, so can't comment on the fit.
- 9) The antennae and clear parts are added after painting and decaling. The clear parts are absolutely beautiful! I left a cockpit window in the open position.
- 10) There are a large number of small parts (aileron actuators, under wing vanes, scoops and such that need careful filling sanding and fitting. Some of these are best glued after painting and decaling.
- 11) A trolley is provided that is a bit tricky to build, but provides a good support for the model.

Painting and decaling:

Sad to say, I am aware of the difference in maritime Dark Green versus RLM Dunkelgrun, but (to my knowledge) the maritime version is not available. That said the cammo for this bird is Dunkelgrun and Schwarzgrun in a hard splinter over Lichtblau. Some of them were given a splotchy whitewash when operating in northern waters.

I bought this kit more than 30 years ago and only got around to building it recently. This explains why the decals didn't stick at all. This is my fault, and not the suppliers. Fortunately, I was able to raid the spares box for replacements



Summary: Well, it is another odd one for the shelf. I happen to like this one, and the tri-motor appearance along with the overall busy appearance will make it an eye catcher. Recommended, due to fit issues, for the intermediate modeler.

DECEMBER 2006 CONTEST RESULTS

By Steve Zajac

Congratulations to Dan Spera for his well done OV-1 Mohawk, the Model of the Year! And to our Modeler of the Year, Marc Rocca and Most Improved Modeler, Jerry Rinaldi! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable New Year, and gotten a few styrene presents as well.

We are looking for sponsors for upcoming 2007 theme nites, so far we have 2 on tap, let me know if you are interested.

MODEL OF THE YEAR

1 st	Dan Spera	1/48 OV-1 Mohawk	Roden
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Upcoming Theme Nights

February: Japanese Night sponsored by Rob Siebelts

TBA: One of a Kind Night: sponsored by Tom Stead

If you would like to sponsor a theme night please see or email stevezaj@msn.com.

Quick Review

By Bill Schwarz

Just a quick word on a very old model you guys might enjoy. I am currently building a 1960 HAWK Models (Not Testors) 48th scale ME-163 KOMET. If any of you guys want to do a really nice out of the box model try one of these. It is fairly accurate in shape and size, and if you can get past the minimal interior, a nice model can be made. If you want more detail, go to Mike West's website over at Lonestar models and get a nice resin interior set for about 11 bucks. It includes the earlier dropped tail wheel and a cannon bay also!!! My set was pretty good after a bit of tweaking, but I added a few extra details. I am going to do the red V-41 with the codes P-K-Q-L. I have done several DML, and Trimaster ones in camo in the past, but I would like to see if I can make red Visually interesting instead of being just bright! Mikes set also comes with a vac canopy, but you have to make your own Ballistic glass in front of the gunsight. I have only 13.00 total in this kit! a far cry from those TRIMASTER 163's I have done in the past!!! That's about it for this review! TRY 1 you'll like it!!!

BJG Bill Schwarz

P/S The fuse has scribed lines on it and the wings can be re-scribed in about 1/2 hour. There are only a few raised lines on them

From the Iron Works

By Bill Schwarz



Hello fellow modelers. I don't really have a whole lot to say for this volume of the Iron Works. Only a few short things! 1st being I will not be able to be at the meeting on the 12th. The Hospital rescheduled my Hip Replacement for the 10th of January. I should be able to make it for the next meeting though. With new hip in pocket, I will be similar to the old SR71! I will contain a couple of pounds of Titanium! That's a good thing! I am looking forward to being able to walk again and start riding one of my Motorcycles! Next up is the workshop. I believe Mike O'Connor, and Ronnie D are 1st up with a workshop on vacuum form aircraft and clear parts. I am looking forward to this one! I hope Dave Schwartz will coordinate it in my absence. Next up is the XMAS Party/Meeting. I had a lot of fun, especially at the auction part!!! The Pizza was good too! I really liked all of the models that were up for model of the year too. It's getting harder and harder to pick winners because there are so many good modelers in the club!!! KUDOS to those who one! Next is I forgot to say something in that I will say now! I neglected to add Pat O'Connor's Mirage, as one of my favorites of the night! Then he plopped a great looking Skyraider on the table!!! Keep it up Pat! You're a big Leaguer now!!! Poppa Mike taught him well!!!! Nuff Bout That...Next is some of the upcoming shows. I will be going to Poughkeepsie (*editor's note: that's the Region 1 convention in April*) this year, and I would like to see a lot of you guys there competing. I would like to relive the old days when we came as a club and conquered!!! Nuff said!!! I think that's about it for this installment of the Iron Works. I am looking forward to seeing you all in February!!!! Happy modeling!

BJG Bill Schwarz

KIT REVIEW

By Devin Poore

Galactic Raider
By Fantastic Plastic
1/48th scale resin kit
11 pieces resin, plus decals
\$75 MSRP

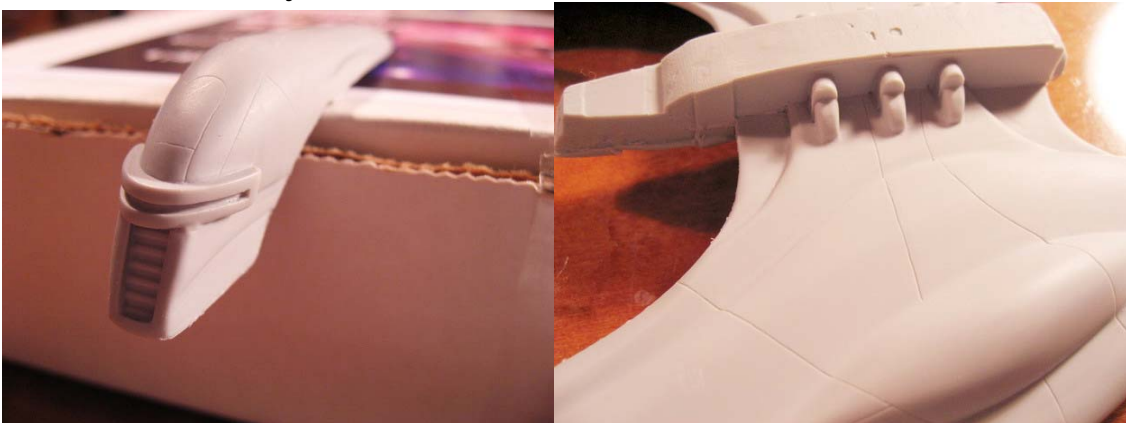
The remake of the classic Sci-fi series "Battlestar Galactica" debuted with a mini-series in 2003. With it came updated characters, stories, and of course, hardware. While the big plastic kit producers have yet to produce any kits of the new ships in injected styrene, the garage kit producers have stepped up - as they thankfully always do - and are producing many kits based upon the show.

This is a model of the new Cylon Raider fighter. The master is made by Alfred Wong, a veritable machine when it comes to turning out models, cast by Blap! Models, and marketed by Fantastic Plastic.



In the box you get 11 pieces of resin, a length of plastic rod to scratch-build two small guns. Included are also a set of decals with insignia, stripes, and the name Starbuck, in case you want to replicate the tape markings on the captured Raider from the first season episode "You Can't Go Home Again". There is also a single sheet of instructions, double-sided, that covers basic resin working techniques, assembly, painting, and decals. One item that I would have like to see is some sort of display base.

From the photos you can see the quality of the casting and the resin. It is in light gray, very well cast without a single air bubble that I've been able to locate so far, and only minimal flash. Two large casting blocks on the engine cowlings looked to be an issue when I first opened the box, but a coarse sheet of sandpaper took care of them in short order with minimal effort. Dry-fitting shows that all of the pieces indeed match up where they should, and with minimal seams. The surface is so smooth on this kit that I will be painting it in various shades of Alcad metal lacquer for a natural metal finish. I anticipate no problems at all with assembly and painting of this kit. After assembled the Raider will measure out at 7 ¼" long and just over 5" wide, and barely 1" tall.



All in all a great looking kit out of the box, and one that should go together relatively quickly to make a fine looking model. I purchased the kit on line for \$75 at the Starship Modeler website store. If you have any interest in modeling sci-fi subjects, you need to check them out.

-Devin

www.devinjpoore.com

Sources:

Fantastic Plastic: www.fantastic-plastic.com

Starship Modeler: www.starshipmodeler.com

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OPEN

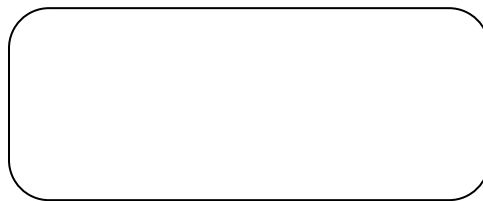
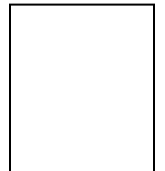
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The Monthly Newsletter of NJ/IPMS

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Postmaster: Dated material. Please deliver by January 11th