

MosquitoGram



*The official Newsletter of NJIPMS
January 2008*

*Please visit our website at <http://www.njipms.org>
or join the discussions at <http://groups.google.com/groups/njipms>*

The Iron Works



By Bill Schwarz

Fellow members, with the holidays behind us, it's now time to knuckle down for things to come!!! All members are needed to get things done for the upcoming shows. Mosquitocon is right around the corner, then within a few months, Region 2, Jerseycon will be upon us!!!! The eboard as well as Jimmy, Ron, and Mikey D are working to get the bulk of things done, and done they will be. We are also trying a few new things this year as well. One being Premium Vendor slots along the wall in the main model room. This will afford us more working cash as well as more vendor tables for all to enjoy. I also am requiring all eboard and vendor contacts to write a status report in the newsletter to let you the members know what's going on. I also believe that all members should benefit as well as help the club in large endeavors such as the shows! Every little bit helps. Nuff on that.

Next up is the December Party. We took a different approach to this as well and it seemed to have worked out very well. With the eboard serving the membership it was my and their way of giving back to the membership on a personal level! I hope you all enjoyed it. We will be taking a similar approach at the yearly picnic. I also want all of you to know upfront about the club treasury. I believe, as do the other members of the eboard that any money we make as a club should be given back to the club on some kind of level. we took into account the Knights of Columbus etc and figured out it's OK to have some give backs. The 1st was the Christmas party. there will be more to come and we will tell you as events unfold. Nuff on that

Next up is the group build of the Pegasus hobbies 48th scale models. Please bring in progress models to share and inspire other members. I as well as everyone also would like to see how these are progressing. When the March meeting night happens, there will be the usual 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards given. The twist is there will be some prizes as well! But these will be given out at random by picking names of builders that participated and displayed in the EZ snap group build. Also I have the names of everyone that has the kits and as I said if you don't finish it, you pay for it. That was the stipulation from the start. So it's simple. "FINISH THE MODELS" also HAVE FUN!!!

Next up is the model and modeler of the year awards. Congrats to Mike, Mike and Marc. Great job. With that said, Marty and I have given great thought to this and the criteria for modeler of the year will be changing. in 09. I would like more member participation in 09 as well! so get off yer butts and build some models. You will be pleasantly surprised if you do!!!

Further on in this NL you will be hearing from Mac Rocca on the club contests, as well as the Minister or Workshops Dan Spera. I know he has something good for January, but I will let him tell you what it is. Marc and Dan are doing a fine job at these jobs and the membership should give them a Hoooooorah!

Next thing is "PAY YOUR DUES" It has been brought to my attention and I will address this simply. "PAY YOUR DUES" The club uses this money for various functions and it is needed. They are overdue now and before Swabby DeHaan gets out the Cat N 9 Tails, Pay your dues"

Last up is the newsletter. Tom is now the official editor. He asks cooperation and would like members to submit reviews, articles, and general club stuff. so send stuff his way. A little further down is a quick word review of some decals I just bought. Well, I think I'm done for this month, so remember MCON IS UPON US! It's build model and Work time !!!!! See Y'all at the Meeting in January. Big Bill

A Brief Note From the Minister of Workshops:

Our thanks to Marc Rocca for his demonstration on hairspray chipped paint in November. We appreciate you stepping right up Marc.

You asked for it, you got it. That's right boys and girls, our January Workshop will feature none other than the rigging master and builder of the 2008 Model of the Year: Mike Terre. We've all gazed in wonderment at Mike's rigged masterpieces and wondered, "How does he do that?" Well, this month, he's going to show us.

In February, yours truly will attempt to share what little he knows about natural metal finishes. Mmmmmmmmmmmmm, aluminum; it's not just for breakfast anymore.

There will be no workshop in March because of the Pegasus Snap-Together Group Build.

We need volunteers from April onward. Please guys, there are some talented modelers in this club and we need you to step up and share what you know. Don't make me name names. Also, don't be afraid to send us your questions and problems. We'd be happy to put together a workshop around your issues. I can be contacted at ogre1164@aol.com

Dan Spera

Following in Footsteps By Mike Pavlo

They say that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. For my children's sake, I sort of hoped that wouldn't necessarily be true! However, that theorem did seem to gain validity at my house recently. My son was very proud to show me the Airfix 1/76 scale kit he had just completed. It was the Skdfz 222 armored car with Kubelwagen that we had picked up during our last trip to the hobby shop. The significance of this particular build was that it was the first time he completed a model completely without my assistance. Previously, we worked on them together, with me acting as guide for the techniques needed and offering suggestions for parts preparation, alignment, etc. On this "solo" build, his pride was justified – he had tackled the many small parts associated with this scale and the models were very well constructed. His manual dexterity has now developed to where he can conquer the pitfalls associated with small scale armor.

Mike has several others on his "to be built" pile, and I can't wait to see him working on those. He really loves those Airfix armor kits. At the hobby shop, he carefully decides which one is going to be his next purchase. Now, here's the apple and the tree part- I used to do the exact same thing all those years ago. My source for them was at Woolworth's (in Irvington) where they were normally sold shrink-

wrapped in 3-packs (for \$1.88 if I recall). What a challenge it would be to find a 3-pack that didn't contain a kit you already had (there seemed to be a Scammel Tank Transporter in every one-Arghhh!).

To me, it's amazing that my son is building some of the same kits that I built growing up, and I'm certain that he's enjoying them as much as I did. The wonderful high-tech kits of today are amazing...but thank goodness for those great little Airfix kits. They are the seeds for future generations of modelers.

Best Wishes & Happy New Year,

Mike

Hello my fellow members. I hope your holidays were safe and enjoyable and you received what ever gifts you hoped for! As we say goodbye to 2008, let us look ahead to the New Year with confidence and self assurance that the tasks in front us will be handled just like the tasks in the past have gone well.

I believe like Mosquito con success, Jerseycon will show that the club is more then up to the task and will emerge as even a better club for it! I have been plugging away on my ME262 and having a blast working on it! I would like to congratulate are winners from last month, and to every member for entering models during the past year! In closing i would like to wish are members a safe and happy new year!

Joe

The Judge's Table

The 2008 contest season is behind us and we move on to 2009. And what a year it was. The curve keeps getting steeper as skills are honed and new techniques are learned.

The December meeting was a fantastic mix of great food and even greater models. The end of year festivities is the culmination of all our efforts at the bench. This year we had a tie for **Modeler of the Year** between Mike O'Connor and me. Considering the amount of sausage, sauerkraut and pasta that was consumed, everyone managed to get to the table to make their choice for the **Model of the Year**. This year Mike Terre's "Curtiss H-16" took well deserved top honors. Congratulations to all and thanks to all that participated in the contests throughout the year.



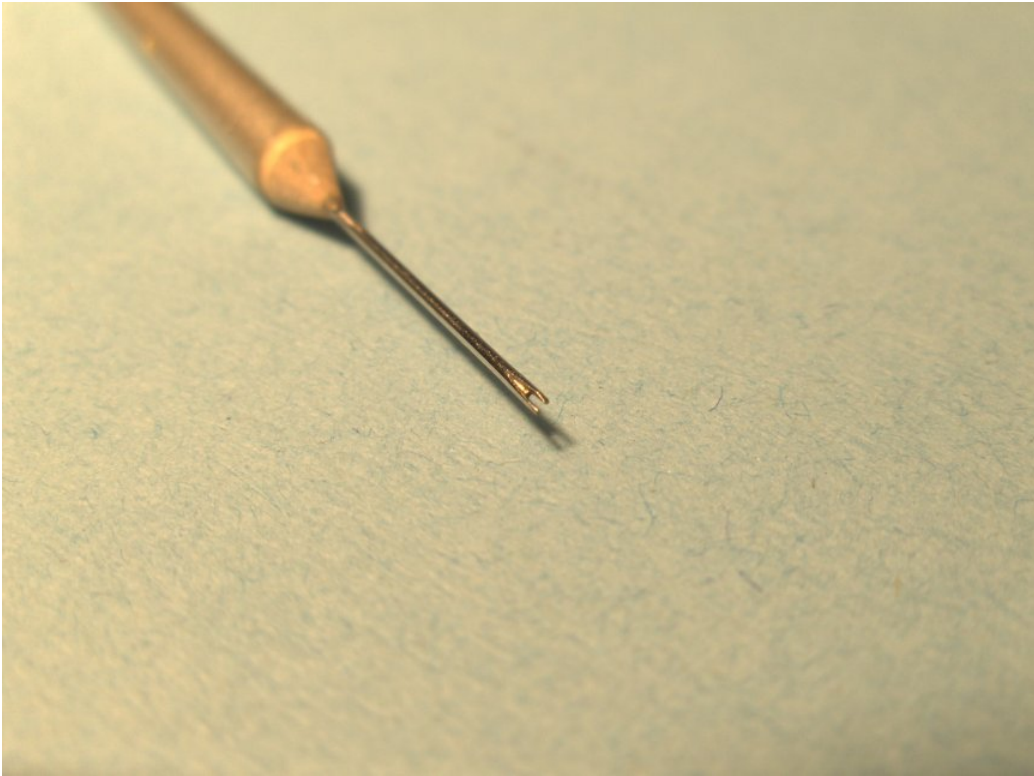
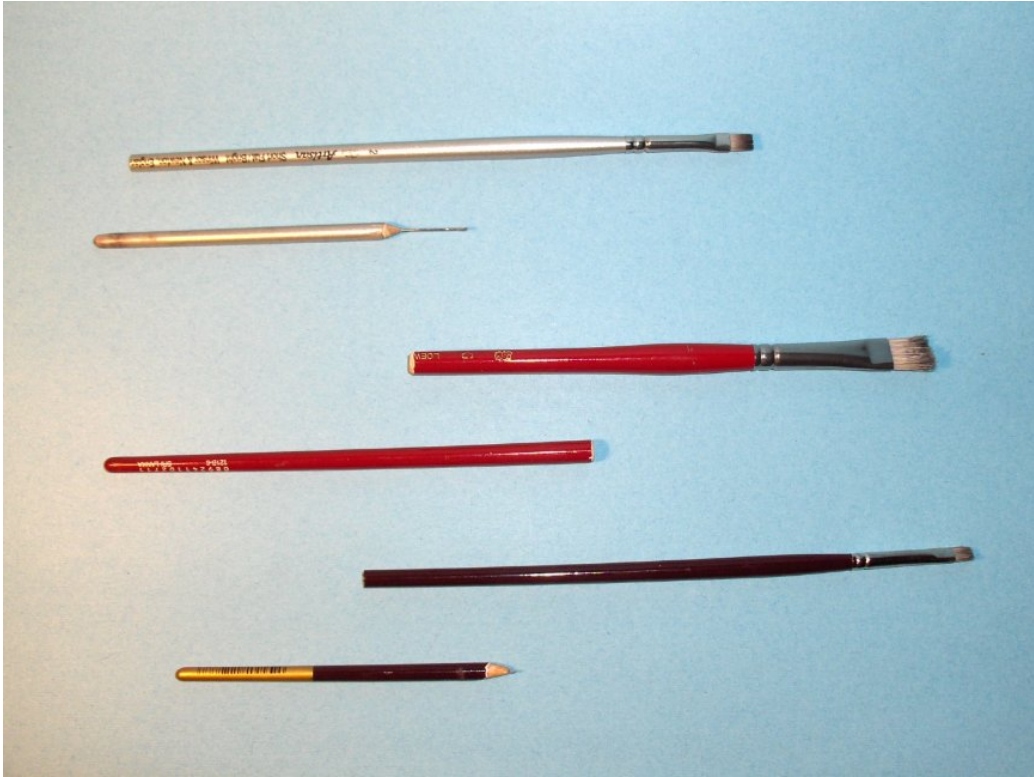
Theme nights also start fresh again. At the moment the schedule is a little on the thin side. Right now we have just 2 slated for the year. We need club support for theme nights. Don't feel you must provide prizes for both Air and Land & Sea. That is your choice. You can do both or just one prize overall. If you want to sponsor a theme night please email me at wingnut@wingnutmodels.com and I will put you on the grid.

Tom DeHaan is sponsoring "Destroyer Night" in May. As the name implies, it must be a "destroyer". This can be a ship like the USS Buchanan or anything that has destroyer in its title. If you don't have a ship in the stash, fear not, there is stuff out there for you too. The Dicker Max is a tank destroyer and there is the Bf-110 "Zerstorer" for you other wingnuts. Even the figures guys can join in with Conan the Destroyer. (Still can't believe he is a State Governor)

I am sponsoring "Tool Night" in February. Bring in 1 or 2 of your favorite tools....remember that E-Board members to not qualify ;o). It can be a manufactured tool but one that you use in a special way or that you have modified to make it better. Is it a rare or lesser known tool that not everyone has? Maybe you have made a tool of your own to fill a specific need or it may simply be a household item that you use for a particular task. Write a short note to leave next to the tool explaining what it is, how you made it, if that applies, and how you use it. Here are a few examples:

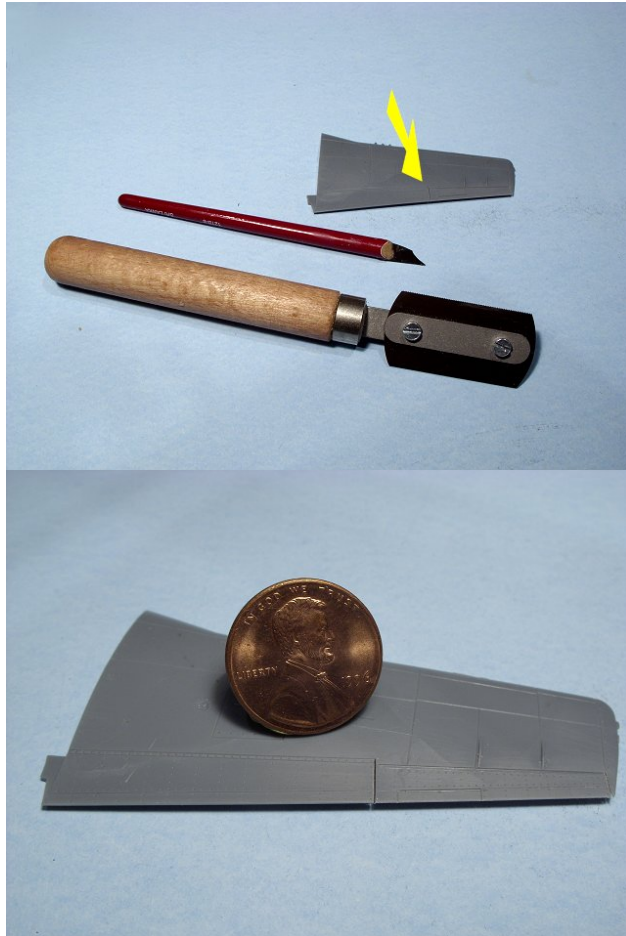
Homemade Tools

Use the ends of long brush handles to make tools. From top to bottom are a CA glue applicator, a spot sander and a riveter. The glue applicator is a needle with the end of the eye filed off. Dip it in CA accelerator to have a tiny little drop that can be precisely placed. The spot sander has a dot of sandpaper, punched with a standard hole punch, glued to the end to get into tight spots. Peel it off and stick on a new one when it gets worn. The riveter has a piece of hypodermic needle that has been sharpened at the end. When pressed into the plastic it leaves a round impression like those that might be seen around an engine cowling.



Manufactured Tools

This is the JLC Saw made in the Czech Republic. Available from Sprue Brothers, and others, online and is a must have. The blade is super thin and has both fine and course teeth. The blade is a little brittle but if it breaks you can use that to your advantage. Make another homemade tool that can get into tight spots and is one of the best scribes I have ever used. For an idea of how thin the blade is, look at the kerf between the aileron and flap of this 1/72 mustang wing. Mount the saw blade at one end and it has enough flex to be used like a Japanese flush cut saw as in woodworking. Great for removing detail for PE work.





'Round The House Stuff

Flat edge nail clippers made by Tweezerman are great for cleaning up the sprue nubs. Sometime they barely need to be sanded at all.

A note from the Editor

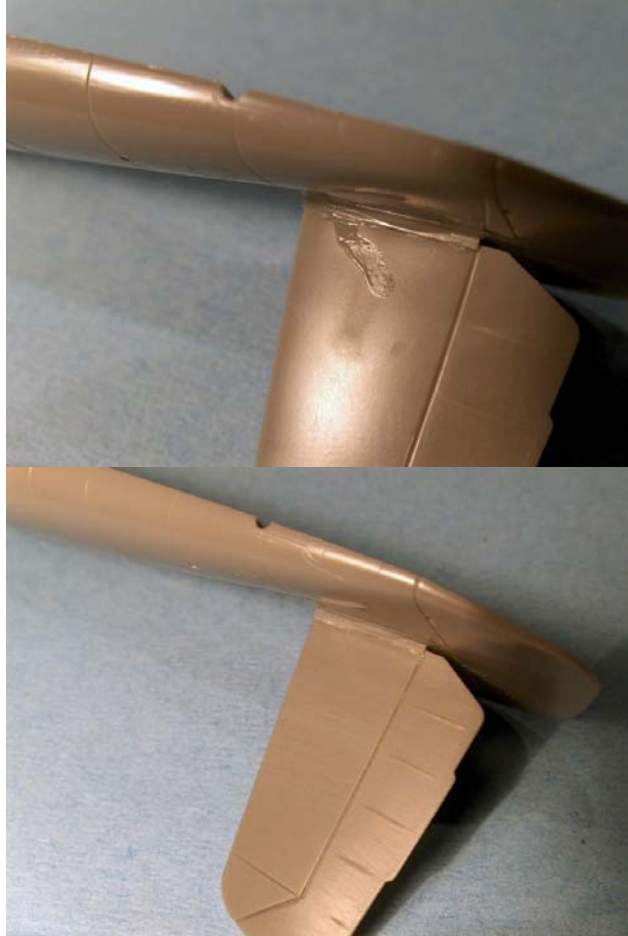
Hello from your new newsletter editor, first off I would like to thank Martin for all his work since the last time he took over the newsletter from yours truly. My goals are simple for this newsletter and that is continue the fine tradition that you have come to expect every month. In this regard I myself cannot accomplish this without your assistance. Everyone reading this article has built models in the past and can contribute by submitting an article. Whether by writing a full model review, a small tip that you have stumbled upon or anything along that line will be accepted. The only rule that I will enforce is that all articles **must be submitted by the last weekend of the month**. If I do not receive the article in time, it will not be deleted but simply put onto the following newsletter. With your assistance I know that this newsletter will become the leading newsletter of region 2 possibly even IPMS USA.

Tom VanDermark



I use a Scotch Brite scouring pad on about 95% of the parts on my models. It is great for cleaning up parts for things like the burr the forms after filing or sanding, mold lines and even damage. I use to buff glue seams on leading edges or fuselages before I use a sanding stick because it dulls the surface a bit leaving the glue a bit shiny to see where to concentrate your efforts. It leaves surrounding detail more or less untouched. The photos below show a landing gear legs with the mold separation line buffed out and it left the small bands that simulates the hydraulic line straps. The others show how it cleans up the inevitable liquid glue mishap.





A REMINDER!!! Any month that has a theme night still has its regular open competition. If you model happens to qualify for theme night, you have a chance at doubling the amount of glory. If you have a model that was previously entered in an open night but now it falls into a theme category, bring it in and have it compete for theme night only. Let's fill those tables up guys.

Marc Rocca

Irish Diplomacy

By Martin J Quinn

Irish Diplomacy: The ability to tell a man to go to hell so that he looks forward to making the trip.



Lately I've seen a lot moaning and groaning on the various scale modeling message boards (especially on the ship modeling sites) about the high prices for new injection molded models. Prices for new kits have been eye popping - \$80 for a 1/35 armor kit, \$200 for a 1/32 jet, \$370 for a 1/350 aircraft carrier.

The differences between certain companies can be just as dramatic. While you can get a 1/350 World War Two era USN aircraft carrier or battleship from Trumpeter from for \$150, the Akagi from Hasegawa is coming in at the aforementioned \$370 bucks, while their Mutsu is almost \$300. And that's **BEFORE** all the aftermarket goodies. Of course, these are the "retail" prices, which you'd rarely pay, unless you don't shop around.

However, for ship modelers like me, the cost of an injection-molded kit with associated aftermarket photo-etch (which is almost a must for ship modelers) can now equal the cost of a resin kit. Which, of course, the resin manufacturers having been pointing out, and raising their prices accordingly.

While I'm not thrilled with the high cost of these new kits, I have a message to those crying about the high cost of models: ***Shut up and stop crying!!*** This is not 1972 and these new kits are a far cry from the Lindbergh Hood and Bismarck, which were the only large-scale ships available at one time. You wanted these kits - no, you *demand*ed these kits - be brought to market. Now that it's here, shut your trap about the price and either buy the bloody thing or find a new scale or a new hobby. But don't complain!

The Akagi in 1/350 has been a top 10 item on ship modelers most wanted list for years. I have it (it was given to me as a gift) and let me tell you - it's stunning. It's one of the best injection molded models I've ever seen. Hasegawa apparently has been researching and planning this for over 5 years and poured a lot of time, effort and money into its development. Is it worth \$370? Depends on what your hobby is worth to you.

Back when the Blue Water Navy USS Lexington was the only CV-2 available in 1/350, I plunked \$800 down for one, because I wanted a model of that ship. Had I not been given an Akagi, I would have bought it for myself as well. With two kids and limited space to display, I've started to scale back on how much and what I buy. However, I get a lot of enjoyment out of this hobby. I find it to be an excellent diversion and stress reliever, so when I see a model of something I *really* want, I usually buy it. Will I build them all? Probably not. But I'm never going to complain about the cost of a kit. If I think it's too much, I'll let my wallet do the talking.

Now that we've turned the page on 2008, MosquitoCon is only three months away! There is still lots to do, so please be ready to do your part.

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy New Year. May all your scale modeling dreams come true in 2009!

Martin J Quinn

"Quick Review"

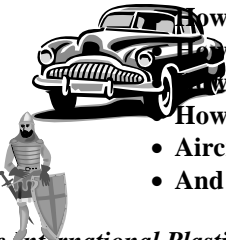
By Big Bill Schwarz, President

Fellows, Our hobby has really evolved from when I first started modeling! I like some of the other old timers had to do everything with what we had, It was fun and it built our modeling skills to higher levels. Then along came the cottage industries! This made things a whole different ballgame!!! With the stuff out today even a not so great modeler has a chance at making a really great model! It comes at a price though. Often it costs as much to enhance the kit as it does to buy the kit itself. We then pick a happy medium on where to stop the spending!!!!!! LOL. It has made the hobby better though. I am glad to still retain the casting and scratch building skills though. With that said my quick review is the new "Flying Leathernecks: Decal sheet for VMFA 122. The Werewolves! F.L.took a very new and hopefully continued trend in decals. It is a very large decal sheet, which covers many FA-18's in both the Werewolves guise and the Crusaders guise, which the Werewolves came from. The high point to the decal set is the instructions and the decals. 1st class all the way and the instruction sheet is a CD rom which has not only decal placements but actual pictures and info on every F-18 you can do with the sheet. I hope other decal makers get on board with this concept. It is a good one. The Price on the street is 25 bucks, but you get a lot for that in the form of information and pics. I will have them at the meeting to show u!!!!!! Big Bill Schwarz

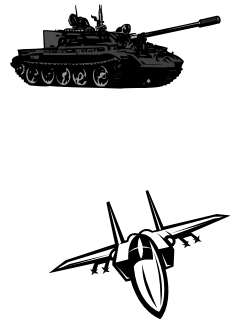


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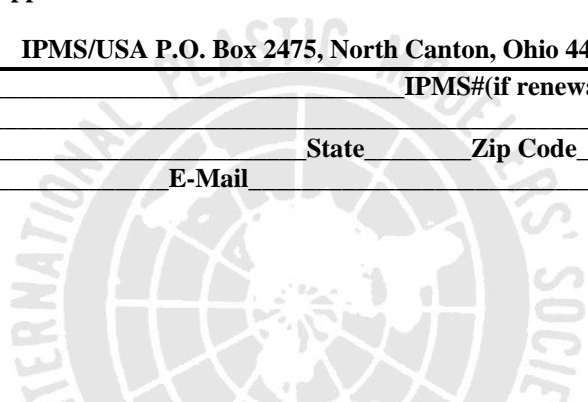
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