

MosquitoGram

The Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of IPMS



December 2016

The Iron Works

By Bill Schwarz, President



Hi all. Hope you are all doing well. I can't believe it is already XMAS time! Time goes by very fast for me anymore, and I just don't seem to have enough for everything like I used to ! Just getting old I guess! :) Not much new for the club going on at this time. The next up for us is the annual XMAS party and model of the year presentation. Just so we are clear on the party, wives are allowed if you wish. Glenda will be doing her thing like last year so expect to be well fed and have a good time!

Next up is Maraudercon. A bunch of us went and the Boys put on quite a show! Over 500



models on display !. The venue was close to I-95 and was plenty big enough! Lots 'a Vendors and decent food at a good price. I hope all of our guys had a great time there and I thank you for supporting these guys who always support us!

Lastly, to this date, no one has stepped up to be the new Newsletter editor. I myself do not have the tech savvy to do it, and if no one

steps up at the next meeting, we will be considering closing it down. If you can help the club, feel free to. It's an important job, but if not it will be gone! Just that simple. On that note I would like to Thank Devin Poore for all he has done for the club newsletter and website wise as long as other things he has done. He did it in an unrivaled level of professionalism. Thanks Dev again, more than you could ever know.

Well I think that covers it for me. I'll be seeing you all on Friday. Come, come hungry, and enjoy one of the many perks this club has to offer.

Happy Holidays to you all as well!

~"Big Bill"

Next Meeting:
Friday,
December
9th

Upcoming Events:

December
Annual Christmas Party

January
Out of the Box Night

February
Chrysler Night

March
Nostalgia Night

April 1st
Mosquito-Con



From the Vice President's Desk

By Joe Smith

Congrats are in order for Martin, & any of our club members who were winners at Maurdercon ! This year the show was held in a functioning fire house, near to but not in Baltimore! It was a good show! Merry

Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a safe and Happy New Year!

~ *Joe Smith*

From the Vice President's Desk

By Vince D'Alessio

WOW the last local show of the year, that happened Saturday, November 19, 2016 in Maryland. It was the Marauder Con. Big Bill, Joe Smith, Chris 'The BOY' and myself drove down. We had a great breakfast at the Cracker Barrel that really hit the spot. Big Bill did his Christmas shopping for Diane at the Cracker Barrel gift shop. What a thoughtful guy, imagine being married to such a caring guy as Big Bill, I haven't even started my Christmas shopping yet.

The show Venue was at an active Fire House and Museum, a very interesting place. The tables at the show were loaded with some very well done models. A quarter scale B-36 really stole the show for me. Many of our members showed up for the show, there was Ivan Ordonez (we all miss you), Ed Minto, Martin Quinn, Mike Pavlov, Buzz Lockwood, Mike Dobrzelecki, Louis Silva, Chris and Bob Evans, Dan Spera, Ruevan Shapira, Art Doran and the afore mentioned Big Bill's Posse. Great support for a club that always supports MCON. The venue had a well-stocked snack bar, and there were various rooms with many of the

usual venders with plenty of stuff for your Christmas wish list.

We the Posse did not enter the contest, technically all our models were ineligible because of region and national wins.



So we left at 330 p.m. and were going to hunt for an Arby's restaurant, but we had no luck and instead went for a Nathan's at a Parkway rest stop. Overall fun was had by all in the Posse. The drive home seemed a lot shorter because of the interesting banter. Great job Big Bill.

Stay healthy and stay modeling.

~ *Vince*



THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva

Alright guys, we've come to it at last! Our end of the year party! If the following members could please bring these kits in so we can decide the Model of the Year, it would be great!

Reuven Sharpira - E3B
Mike Terre - Nakijima Nieuport
Vince D'Alessio - Brumbar
Mike O'Connor - M3 Quad 50
Art Doran - p51 Mustang
Stan Stankewicz - F4 Phantom
Bruce Wilson - Highlander
John Tamasik - 1977 GMC Pickup
John Bucholz - 47mm AT Gun
Marc Rocca - Roland D.VI
And lastly whoever built the Moebius Satellite I.

In case you're wondering, "Why these models?" it's because those are the ones that were voted as winners of each monthly contest. There are some months missing. On months where I only have 1-2 votes, I find it very hard to actually score the points. The points not only decide the winner of the monthly contest, but are also registered into an Excel spreadsheet to determine the top 3 Builders of the Year. Every vote does count, as one point may make the difference



between receiving an award or not. Next year, when it comes time to vote, please do so! It only takes a few seconds, makes my life



easier, and can potentially land a nice award on your coffee table, come December 2017.

In some other model related news, I'm working on the Meng FT-17 and I can't speak enough about how great this model is. I know it's kind of old now, but at the pace I build it's surprising I actually even started it. With luck, I'll have this and my Graf Spee done in time for Mosquitocon, which is just around the corner. Lastly, as those of you who paid attention last meeting know, we are doing a Tomcat Group Build for I believe the IPMS Nationals. I have some custom designed award for the event and will bring in some samples for everyone to view on Friday. I think you'll really like them. One is in the form of a wooden coin and is very sharp.

With all that said, I hope to see every member on Friday. Here's to happy holidays for all, a pleasant new year and a fun "model building season."

~Jon



The Contact's View

By Mike Pavlo, VP

The MarauderCon show down in Maryland was held a few weeks ago and I was able to head down to check it out. Quite a few of our members made it as well and it was fun sharing laughs with them and a few of our guys who have moved...notably Ivan Ordonez and Doc Peters. The turnout of models and modelers was good and the venue was more spacious than the hotel where it was held last time (and closer to NJ as well). The vendor turnout was pretty good also and I was able to find quite a few hard to find items at bargain prices.

Microworld Games was there with an entire room to itself with the usual nice assortment of unique finishing supplies and kits. There were also many high quality models in the contest room, my favorite being a 1/48 Academy F-4B Phantom in VF-111 Sundowners markings. It was built to Nationals award winning quality and I kept going back to it and was fortunate to chat with the builder and pick his brain for some of his techniques and products used in the

build. A really nice guy. A 1/48 Monogram F-105G was a standout as well.

As evidence of just how quickly time goes by, December and the Christmas party are upon us. I look forward to another fun time of good food and good cheer. I'd like to wish everyone and their families Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a very happy and healthy New Year. May Santa bring you all the modeling goodies you've been asking for!

Best Wishes,

~Mike

A Manger for Deb

By Mike Terre



Late last year my wife Deb purchased a set of Nativity figures, you know Mary and Joseph, Baby J, the three kings (Manney, Moe and Jack or was it Moe, Larry and Curley? Can never remember!) along with assorted donkeys, cows and sheep. These were large figures; the standing ones were over 14 inches tall. However there was no manger and it was up to me to build one. Deb would decorate it and chose how to light it.



Ok, I'm a scratch builder and this was nothing as complex as building a 1/72 biplane, should be a simple thing right? First thing I did was to have Deb go online and get me some pictures of the manger she wanted. This was easily done and I could now start my work.



I engaged my modeler's brain and first tried to figure what scale I was to work in. Let's see the tallest figure is 14 inches tall and I'd need two inches head space from the top of the figures head to the bottom of the hay loft. That means I'll have to make the center of the manger at least 24 inches wide with a depth of at least 17 inches and then it hit me.....STOP WORRYING ABOUT SCALE AND DETAIL AND JUST BUILD THE THING!

After this revelation I adopted the TLAR method of scratch building. What's TLAR you ask? It's That Looks About Right and it was perfect for this project! I'm very lucky in that I live in a community where new construction is constantly going on. This means that there are dumpsters full of wood and other inspirational items needed for this project. It is amazing at what gets thrown out. All the shelves in my work shop came from scrap dumpster wood as well as material to build another modeling bench.

I found a perfect 2 foot by 4 foot piece of half inch plywood that became the base of the manger. This was reinforced with lengths of 2x4's for strength. A large 4 foot by 4 foot piece of cardboard was found and cut to be used as a template for the rear of the manger. The template was laid over another piece of half inch plywood and the rear of the manger was cut out and attached to the base.

The material for the railings was made from 1 inch square wood that was quartered on my table saw to get perfect 1/2 inch square railing stock. This stock was cut and nailed to make the railing. The 1 inch wood was also used for the main columns, beams and rafters for the manger. Wood from property marker stakes was similarly cut and assembled into the hayloft ladders. This wood was beautifully weathered by the way.

I decided to get a little fancy however. I noticed that the manger in Debs picture had supports between the columns and rafters. These were easily made from the 1/2 inch railing stock and mass produced on my band saw and were glued and nailed to the structure.

It must be noted that seldom used modeling



tools such as a table saw, jig saw, electric drill and band saw were used in this project.



Other seldom used products also included nails, wood screws and wood glue. Assembly went forward without much trouble for until it came time to figure out what to use for the roof. I could cut some thin wood into strips and use them to simulate the roof but then my friend the dumpster helped out. I found two complete bundles of cedar shakes, you know the wood wedges that are used to level windows. Hey, they are also used for roofs as well and my problem was solved. These were quickly glued and tack nailed to the manger and the roof completed.

Now how to finish this thing. Deb went down to the Lowes by us and selected a



polyurethane stain for the final finish. This was brushed on, used almost the whole quart can by the way. As an aside, this stain gave me a splitting headache and stunk up my shop. That's why I'm a total user of acrylic paints in my modeling activities. Deb also picked out the lighting for the manger and I installed it, using a 3/4 inch hole saw (another seldom used modeling tool!) to cut access holes for the plugs. The holes were plugged with straw matting. Deb finished the manger with grass and straw matting from Michaels (purchased with those famous 50%off coupons) and the project completed. It now sits in the great room next to the fireplace. If your curious,



the base measures 2 foot by 4 foot, its 30 inches high and weighs 35 pounds.

I know this might not be your typical modeling project but I used many of the skills learned in building models to complete this project and it was also just plain fun to build. It was also a nice Husband and Wife project as well.

You know I think there's a "Miscellaneous " category for MosquitoCon, maybe I'll enter it. I know it would "dominate" and "tower above" the competition! Hell, can't you see the damn thing sitting there on the table, the look on the judges faces, what a Hoot! But I digress!

Thanks for reading. I'd like to wish



everybody and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I bet you never knew that it's bad luck to have an incomplete model sitting on your bench on New Year's Day, so you better get going and complete that sucker!

See you at the December meeting.

~Mike

Tamiya F-14a Tomcat Quick Progress Report

By Big Bill Schwarz

Hi Guys, I just wanted you to know a few things about this kit. I now own 6 of them. All with good reason. I'm a Tomcat fan ! Period! With that said, I have built a lot of them over the years for pilots and museums etc., but I wanted to build a few for me as well, but have not quite gotten around to it. Well that's no more. Along comes the Tamiya F-14a. To say the kit is good is an understatement! It is very well engineered and I believe with guidance and spray cans any novice who can read can build this model. It's gorgeous and fits like no model I have ever built. Tamiya hit a home run with this kit. There is no putty anywhere and the front to back and up and down fit is so good, the panel lines are as tight as any other on the kit. I am impressed to say the least! I will bring one in January to show you all how it builds. I would suggest one thing: use Tamiya's suggested building sequence. It is logical and will give you no problems. As far as landing gear, put the main legs on last. Part of the nose gear has to be built while building the nose gear well but doesn't interfere with the build. The kit also has a nice supply of ordinance, too. It shows you loadouts for various missions in the

instructions and where to drill holes for the pylons. I am building an F-14a Block 135GR Tomcat. It has several upgrades to make it a late model A. There are tons of revisions to Tomcats, some simple, some complex, so check references for the one you're building. I am using pre-production parts, some parts from Darren at Steel Beach, and from other sources to do mine. I'm not one for gull grey over white with radome tan. YUK YUK DOUBLE YUK. I like early and TPS low vis but that's just my preference. Steel beach has already released upgrades for this kit. Darren Roberts who is a friend of mine is an absolute Tomcat Fanatic and is doing a lot of upgrades including a B model for this kit! Look to him in the near future. Anyway, if you are thinking of buying this kit DO SO! It's everything everyone said it would be and more. It can use a few things but the overall kit borderlines fantastic, and is the absolute nicest kit I have ever worked on. There are lots of markings available, as well as aftermarket and more to come. S.A.C. has the metal replacement gear already. Tamiya has another winner here and gets my thumbs up. Do some shopping around and you can get a great price too!



From the Editor

By Devin Poore

It's the end of another year. Yes, everyone always comments on how quick time goes anymore, and I'm must reiterating it, but it does speed by indeed.

Newsletter: I've so far had no one approach me about taking over. As stated last month, I'll do the January newsletter, and then I need to call it quits for a while. I simply have too many other things going on right now, and can't devote the time I need to it in order to turn out monthly editions that are up to snuff. As stated, also, I WILL continue to do the website, so if anyone was worried about taking on two jobs (only a dummy would do that, namely: me), that's not an issue.

Besides the model building I'm doing at work – right now my days consist mostly of airbrushing all day, everything from test pieces to production 1/87th scale furniture and accessories – I do still get to build for myself, or at least a client. I'm nearing completion on a model of the Battlestar Galactica for a collector down in Tampa. It's coming along well.

For this month's "I learned it at work" tidbit, I've been using the Vallejo Liquid Gold line of metallic paints. These are alcohol-based; indeed, you can't use water with them as the



metal flakes will eventually rust. They brush-paint wonderfully, and I've also had good luck airbrushing them straight out of the bottle as well. They're not quite to the level of Alclad, but they're close, and a good, more environmentally friendly, alternative.

Finally, as stated earlier, MosquitoCon is on the way. The flyer is attached to the end of the newsletter, and will soon be uploaded to the website. Thanks, as always, to Ed Minto for his artistic expertise in preparing the flyer for us every year.

Happy holidays to everyone, and see you all at the party on Friday.

~Devin



This month's meeting will be on:

Friday

December 9th, 2016



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NEW JERSEY IPMS IS PROUD TO PRESENT FOR IT'S 26th YEAR...

MOSQUITOCON 26

Model Contest April 1, 2017



This year's show theme is: **"The Cold War"**, at the **Wayne PAL Hall, PAL Drive, Wayne, NJ (973-696-2896)**

- Best Aircraft
- Best Armor
- Best Civilian
- Best "Cold War"
- Best Ship
- Judge's Best
- Tailhook Award
- Trifecta category
- Club "Make & Take"
- Raffles and Prizes
- Wall to wall vendors
- Hot food available
- Doors open at 9:00 AM
- Judging begins at noon
- EXTRA parking in back



FOR CONTEST AND VENDOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Bill Schwarz: 732-567-3724 (No calls after 9 PM) **Email: whsch@optimum.net**

Visit our web site at www.njipms.org for more information

Registration info: Adults-\$15 (includes unlimited model entries). Walk-In's-\$10. Kids under 16 - \$5 (children under 12 free). Active members of the military are also free. No bills larger than a \$50.

The "Make & Take" time, to be announced at the show. Please note that registration ends at 12 noon. Models "should not" be removed until awards ceremony. There is "No snow date" for this show.



MOSQUITOCON 26 CONTEST CATEGORIES

AIRCRAFT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Single Engine Prop Aircraft | 1/72 & Smaller |
| 2. Multi-Engine Prop Aircraft | 1/72 & Smaller |
| 3. Single Engine Prop Aircraft | 1/48 |
| 4. Multi-Engine Prop Aircraft | 1/48 |
| 5. Jet Aircraft | 1/72 & Smaller |
| 6. Jet Aircraft | 1/48 |
| 7. Props & Jets | 1/32 & Larger |
| 8. Rotary Wing | All Scales |
| 9. Commercial (Civil & Racing) | All Scales |
| 10. Vacuforms & Resin Aircraft | All Scale |
| 11. Conversions & Scratch built | All Scales |

MILITARY VEHICLES

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 12. Military Vehicles, Armored & Soft Skinned | 1/72 & Smaller |
| 13. Military Vehicles, Armored & Soft Skinned | 1/48 |
| 14. AFV, Tracked & Wheeled, Pre 1945 | 1/35 & Larger |
| 15. AFV, Tracked & Wheeled, Post 1945 | 1/35 & Larger |
| 16. Wheeled Soft Skins | 1/35 & Larger |
| 17. Self Propelled Ordnance | 1/35 & Larger |
| 18. Towed Ordnance-Howitzers, cannons | All Scales |
| 19. Commercial Conversions | All Scales |
| 20. Major Conversions & Scratch built | All Scales |

SHIPS

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 21. Ships, Battleships, Cruisers, Carriers | 1/400 & Larger |
| 22. Ships, Battleships, Cruisers, Carriers | 1/401 & Smaller |
| 23. Ships, All Others | All Scales |
| 24. Submarines | All Scales |

AWARDS

1st, 2nd, 3rd place in all categories. "Best Out of Box" in categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 24

CIVILIAN VEHICLES

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 25. Automotive, All Types | Smaller than 1/25 |
| 26. Automotive, All Types | Larger than 1/24 |
| 27. Stock | 1/24 & 1/25 |
| 28. Custom | 1/24 & 1/25 |
| 29. Street Rod (1948 & earlier) | 1/24 & 1/25 |
| 30. Street Machine (1949 & later) | 1/24 & 1/25 |
| 31. Competition, Open Wheel (excluding Drag) | 1/24 & 1/25 |
| 32. Competition, Closed Wheel (excluding Drag) | 1/24 & 1/25 |
| 33. Competition, Drag | 1/24 & 1/25 |
| 34. Commercial/Trucks | All Scales |
| 35. Motorcycles | All Scales |

SPACE & SCIENCE FICTION

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 36. Factual Vehicles | All Scales |
| 37. Fictional Vehicles | All Scales |

FIGURES

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 38. Beings, Robots & Suits | All Scales |
| 39. Figures | 54mm & Smaller |
| 40. Figures | 55mm & Larger |

DIORAMAS

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 41. Vignettes & Dioramas | All Types & Scales |
|--------------------------|--------------------|

MISCELLANEOUS

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 42. Miscellaneous- | All Types & Scales |
| 43. Trifecta- | All Types & Scales |
| 44. Classic Plastic-(any 20+ year old kit) | All Types & Scales |

JUNIORS

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| 45. All Subjects, Types & Scales |
|----------------------------------|

SPECIAL AWARDS

Best "Cold War", Best Aircraft, Best Armor, Best Ship
Best Civilian, Best Tailhook (Naval Aircraft) Best of the Rest
and Judges Best