

MosquitoGram

The Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of IPMS

MosquitoCon 24



May 2015

The Iron Works

By Bill Schwarz, President



HI everyone. I'm a gonna' make a dis nice an-a simple. I cannot say enough about MosquitoCon 24 so all I'm going to say is that we did fabulous in all phases of the show. Of all the comments we have gotten, there was only one instance of negativity but that was because the fellow didn't take the time to find out the facts before he shot his mouth off. I received an apology and all is square. As for you guys, the show went off without a hitch and I would LIKE TO THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU THAT SHOWED UP AND PARTICIPATED! WELL DONE BOYS! WELL DONE! You guys once again proved MCON is the best, run by the best. Period!

At the meeting we will discuss the financials, we did well but I will not discuss money in an open forum. You the members are free to check any goings on ever as to how I run things.

One last thing about MosquitoCon 24, Jon's awards were fabulous and he will be doing



them for the BIG SHOW next year.

Now, onward to MosquitoCon 25: Silver. The theme and the awards will all be silver. I've already booked 80 tables. Show date is April 2nd 2016 same time same place. The countdown was started as the nasty BINGO lady was roaming the Hall!

This is just a few words about the changes made in the club as of this minute. If you attended the meeting you know about our 2 members that are going through things. If you weren't, ask me. It's also not for public forum. At the meeting in May, we will be passing around the hat for donations to make some lives of members a bit easier. That's all I have to say on this for now.

Next up: the Nationals are coming up in July. I'm going to sponsor a van ride to and from the Nats. You help pay for gas and tolls that's it. I will get a van that holds 8

Next Meeting:
Friday,
May 8th

Upcoming Events:
June
Italian Night

July
Africa Night

September
Out of the Box Night

October
Russian Night

November
Number 13 Night

December
Annual Party



comfortable with room for models and a small bag. Let me now at the meeting if interested and I will go from there.

One last note. the Yearly picnic will be at

~ Regards,

Big Bill

Famous Dave's BBQ . It will be the 1st or 2nd week in June. I will let you all know at the meeting. That's about it. I'm done for the night. See y'all at the K of C.

Joe's VP Piece

By Joe Smith

I am very sorry that I had to miss a very successful show. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make this a great show, year in and year out!



I am sure that the pictures do not do justice to the quality of work that I have seen!

Next up is the F4 phantom build, which I'll do my best to meet the deadline as well.

Please pray and keep Martin's daughter, Keira Quinn, in your thoughts as this sweetheart of a girl battles cancer!

~Joe Smith

From the Vice President's Desk

By Vince D'Alessio

I hope you all had a great time at Mcon 24 and enjoyed the pizza, beer and drinks party at the Knights hall last meeting. There are many more good times ahead that Big Bill has planned for us all.

I would like to personally thank the guys who helped me at the raffle tables, Art Doran, Rueven Shapira, John Buchotz, Steve Zajac and the youngster, Brandon Quinn. I would also like to thank Glenda for running



the 50/50. Without her, there would be no 50/50. The show was a financial success, and



while we do not publish the numbers, I will who asks me for them.

better and better month after month. We do have some new members who are just starting out and I hope they are not intimidated by what they see, and instead see the potential of what they will be able to do with time and practice. These models represent many years of building and

be happy to provide them to any individual. It's great to see the amount of models at the meetings. The build quality is getting practicing and perfecting the techniques that result in the quality of the finished pieces. Have patience, you will all get there.

~Vince

THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva

It's hard to believe that this year is already about half gone. MosquitoCon seems far in the past, yet it was only a few short weeks ago. The show was a success by all definitions of the word. We had, I believe, over 400 models on display. I'm sure someone else has an exact count. The vendor tables had a wide variety of kits, but perhaps the thing I enjoy most about the show is the interaction between fellow modelers and people. Thru the years, our hobby has become more and more of niche subject. I am not as old as many of you, but I remember when I was a kid, I could walk into a K-mart or Target and find a selection of Revell / Monogram or Bandai model kits. Today you'd be hard pressed to find model kit outside of a hobby store. "Our hobby is a greying one...." Yet despite this, at the show, and particularly in the sci-fi section, I saw many young people. It makes me happy to see that not all kids are playing video games in their free time or are on their smartphones.

Anyway, as far as club business goes. I hope everyone that is participating in the Phantom group build has at least opened the box of their kit. Mine is missing parts, at least I think it is, but no big deal. The Esci

kit is very nice for its age and depending on



the variant you got, you can really go wild. I happened to get the F-4E and aftermarket is amazing for it, IF you can find anything in stock. I enjoy group builds because it gets people to build things they normally wouldn't. I've never really been into planes, but the Phantom always interested me. After I started working on my kit I ended up buying a few newer tooled Hasegawa F-4EJ Kai kits and I'll bring one to the meeting as a sort of comparison.

I should note that there is no theme for May, so anything you bring in is fine!

~Jon



The Contact's View

By Mike Pavlo, VP

Well, another MosquitoCon has come and gone. By virtually all accounts, it was another good one! Throughout the day, and since, I have heard positive feedback from modelers and vendors. It was great to see even more models on the tables this year, thanks in part to AMPS not having their show the same day as ours (as happened last year). It was nice to have all those quality armor pieces back again. We had well over 500 models on display, which everyone certainly enjoyed. I am always amazed at the workmanship seen at the show. The quality of the models just seems to get better every year. I thank all those who attended the show, the vendors, the modelers and the spectators. They all help to make it great. A

big Thank You also goes out to the trophy sponsors and raffle donators – their support is truly valuable and very much appreciated!

I'd also like to thank all of our members who contributed their time and effort in all areas to help make the show a success. Without everyone's support, none of it would be possible. After 24 shows, I think we're starting to get pretty good at what we do, or so it seems! Next year's show will be the big 25. The date will be April 2, 2016 – so mark your calendars now!

See you at the meeting.

~Mike P.

Shops We Used to Visit and Prices We Use to Pay

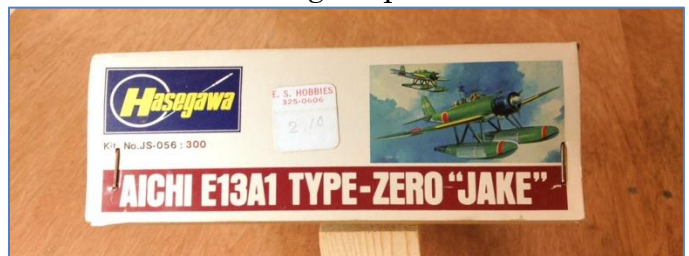
By Mike Terre

Well my stash is completely moved to Delaware and is slowly being sorted out. It's great to have the space to have everything sorted out by manufacturer and to see what you've actually got. How the devil I got five Nichimo A5M4 Claude's is beyond me, but I've got Rising decal sheet that has markings for eight different aircraft, looks like I've got to get three more of them!

While going through the stash it makes me realize how few local hobby shops are around anymore. I don't think that there are any large chain stores that still sell kits with the exception of Hobby Lobby, Michaels and A.C. Moore. It also makes me realize how expensive kits have become, no wonder the hobby is dying. I'd like to show some

examples of old prices from old shops, get ready to down memory lane.

Does anybody remember a shop called E&S Hobbies? It was owned by a real nice guy named Linc. The shop was first located in Upper Montclair and then moved to Bloomfield Ave in Verona. Linc died while he owned the shop and his son closed the business. I purchased a Hasegawa Jake from him in the late 70's for \$2.10, it's list price was \$3.00. I think Hasegawa still produces the kit at a much higher price.



I used to get a lot of my models from a discount department store called Great Eastern Mills located on Rt.46 in Great Notch section of West Patterson. In my opinion they had the BEST hobby department around, although their shelves were very messy.



Here's the original Monogram 1/72 B-52 my Dad got for me in 1968, list price was \$12.98, their price was \$10.77. They still release this kit from time to time at much higher prices.

I also got the AMT boxing of the Frog He-219 from them, list price \$0.79, their discount price \$0.51, or how about a Revell Ki-43, list price \$0.60, discount price \$0.43. Please note



that the Revell kits used to List for \$0.50 and their discount price was \$0.39, if you look closely you can see the label Revell put over the old price. How did anybody make any money on this??

There used to be a small hobby shop in Totowa, appropriately called the Totowa Hobby Shop

, located in a small strip mall we all pass when leaving the Wayne PAL. It was owned by a guy and his daughter. They never had price tags but wrote the price on the box.



Note the discount of the Airlines boxing of the Frog Beaufort, list price \$0.79, discount price \$0.59, final price \$0.48. Gotta move that plastic!

Large department stores used to sell kits as well. Here's a Matchbox Gladiator I purchased from Bradley's in 1972 for \$0.48. If I remember correctly they used to have a good kit selection.



Another large discount department store was Two Guys. I think this was Mike Pavlo's favorite. I went to the one off Rt.46 in Totowa. They had a great hobby department but they were a few cents more expensive than their rivals, Great Eastern Mills. Two Guys used to have a great Lionel section at Christmas time also. Here's a factory sealed Airfix Do-217 that my Dad got for me in 1968. It was a "Special Unadvertised Hobby Special" for \$0.46! Wonder what the profit was on that!





Finally we have an Airfix Belvedere helicopter that I purchased in late 1980 from Everyready Sport and Hobby, Dan Spera's favorite shop, located in Bloomfield. I paid \$1.39, I think the list was \$1.98. This shop was owned by two brothers who sold it to another guy. This shop stayed around for a while but finally closed.



In closing, I must say it was fun to go through the stash, but at the same time a little melancholy, as it makes you realize how many shops have closed and to realize that our hobby is slowly going away. It's become an expensive old man's hobby that today's kids are just not interested in. Today's generation will never experience the simple joy of building an old Aurora jet fighter on a rainy Saturday afternoon with your friends and blowing the sucker up with a fire cracker the following Saturday.

Well enough, I've got a new tool Airfix 1/72 scale, the true and righteous scale, Gloster Gladiator to build. Hope to see all of you at the May meeting!! Now go build something!

~Mike Terre



Imperial Defender Zoukei-Mura J2M3, 1/32nd Scale

By Tom Van Dermark

The J2M3 Raiden (Allied code name Jack), was a point defense interceptor used by the Imperial Japanese Naval Air Force during World War 2 to defend the capital from B 29 Superfortress's during the final stages of the war. For this build I will be using the Zoukei-Mura 1/32nd scale J2M3. The kits from this manufacturer are the most detailed

models that I have had the pleasure of building. Some may think they maybe too detailed, considering you really won't see everything that you do to the kit without removing panels. Saying that I actually like the idea as along with building a nice kit, you also learn a lot about the aircraft itself. A good example is the 1/ 32nd scale P 51,



building that kit I was able to find out why exactly it was so vulnerable to ground fire due to the engine liquid cooling lines.

Before I go any further, the one thing I have to emphasize is building this kit you have to follow the instructions and pay attention to the details. Starting with the engine assembly, ensure you are properly aligned and you will have no issues later on down the line. After installing the engine mount cover I decided to detail the engine by adding an ignition harness and adding weld seams on the exhaust manifolds by using .019 brass wire for the harness and stretched sprue for the weld seams.



Figure 1 engine assembly

After finishing the engine assembly I next moved onto the cockpit assembly. I used the kit seat with the seatbelts molded onto the seat already. I added foot straps on the peddles with .019 wire bent to shape and painted. I used the kit supplied decals applied to the rear of the clear instrument panel after this was painted, this way it looks as though the dials are behind glass. I used Vallejo colors as called out in the instructions for the interior and Tamiya

acrylics for the exterior colors



Figure 2 instrument panel

The remaining cockpit assembly, radio compartment, and engine assembly with frame was glued together. I have to say at this point the other thing I always pick up along with these kits is the corresponding concept books. While they are not required to build the kits, they are especially helpful with building the kits. They give you a good reference for where and how everything goes together, helpful information, and upgrade ideas. They also are a good detail reference as they come with detail shots of the real aircraft.



Figure 3 Engine, cockpit, radio compartment

This was then set aside and construction started on the wing. The main spar was glued into place along with the bulk heads and ribs, and painted aluminum. The

wing fuel tanks were painted Tamiya NATO scale black with metal tie down straps. I also wanted to at least show that the fuel tank was inside and painted, so I drilled a 1/16th size hole where the cover is on the upper portion of the wing, thinned down the inside surface so it did not appear that thick, then added a cap on the fuel cell using an old photo etch disk. The guns went together very nicely and the magazines will hold them securely. I gently rubbed some black pastels onto the surface before mating the guns to darken the overall appearance

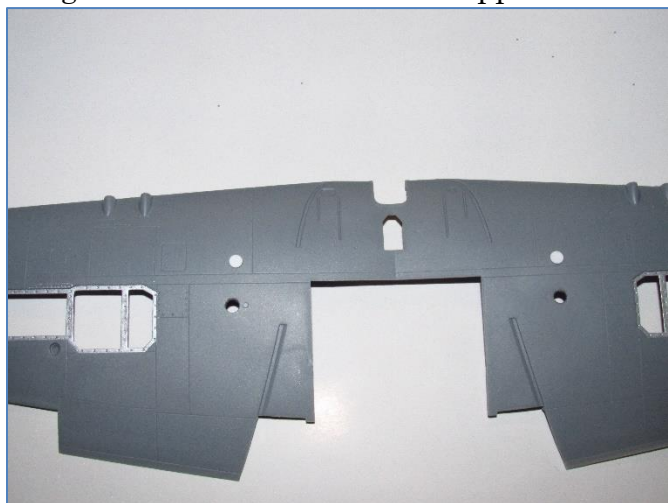


Figure 4 Upper wing with covers drilled out.

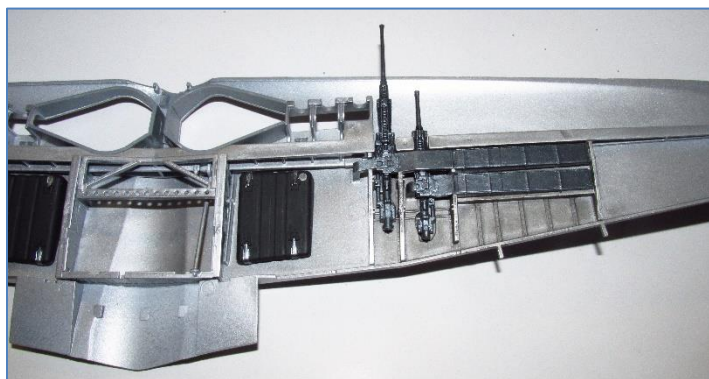


Figure 5 inside lower wing, fuel cell with cap and gun bay

Upon assembling the wing section I was pleasantly surprised with the fit, as there were no gaps to speak of and just a quick sanding was needed to clean up the seam. Because I primarily build naval ships, I have

gotten into the habit of prepainting major assemblies and touching up as I build. So, at this point I started painting the upper and bottom wing section. I was a little disappointed in the fact that there was no decal for the yellow identification stripe on the leading edge of the wing, but using Vallejo gold yellow I painted this stripe and actually preferred it over the decal. A quick fit check with the wing, cockpit assembly and one half of the fuselage confirmed my build so far.

The fuselage was then mated to the wings, along with the wing fairing. This took a little effort to get correct and care must be taken with the various parts coming from the cockpit assembly. When I assembled the bottom half of the fuselage I ran into the only gap I have run into so far, where the forward part of this piece mates to the bottom half of the wing there is a small gap which was filled, sanded and then painted. The flight control surfaces were then glued on with no issues. Be careful with the rail wheel assembly as it appears very weak and easy to break.

The landing gear was assembled next and as the same with all the other kits I built from SWS the gear starts to be installed sideways, then turned 90 degrees to be seated properly. When doing this it does take a little effort to turn the assembly to fit properly and I am always afraid of snapping the gear in half but this does seem to work nicely and results in a good tight fit with the gear in proper position. Brake lines and landing gear covers were glued on afterwards with no issues.

Upon assembling the forced air cooling fan and nose cowling I noticed that the ignition wires interfered with this fit, these were repositioned to run in-between the cylinders. At first I thought that the two cowling halves ran parallel to the wings but found that after



panicking about mounting something wrong, I test fitted the cowling pieces and found everything matched up perfectly. In the picture below notice that the notch cut into part D-16 is offset to the right when looking from the front of the aircraft.

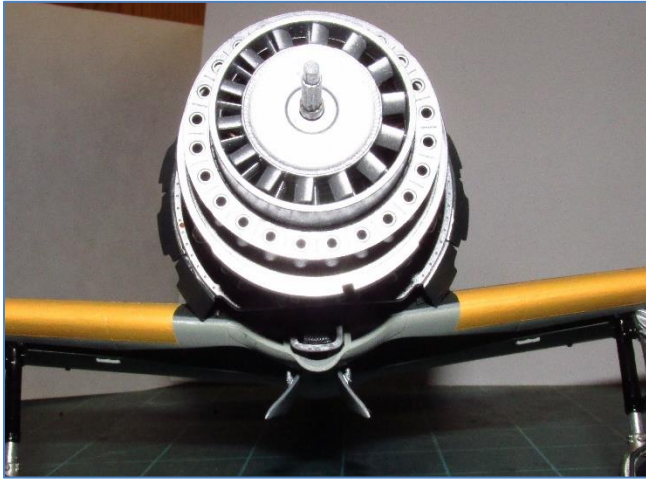


Figure 6 forced air cooling fan (notice notch on bottom right)

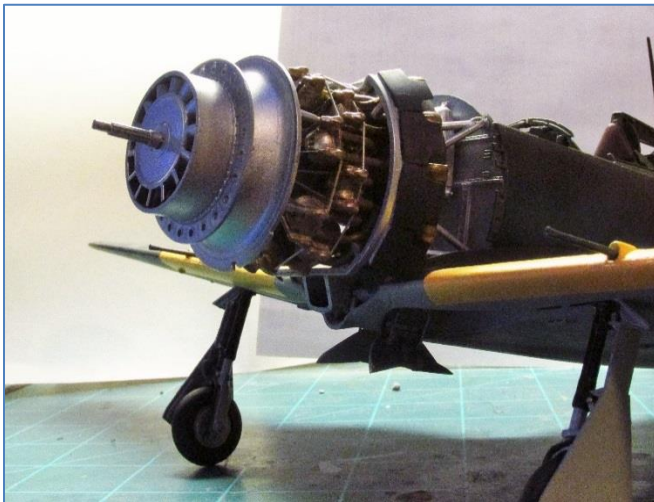


Figure 7 Cooling fan mounted on cylinder heads

The remaining cowling for the engine and fuel tank went together with no problems what so ever. You can leave some or all of these off to show all the work that you did to the engine and forward part of the fuselage. The propeller was assembled next, with the balance weights and internal structure of the hub. The flaps on the real

aircraft when lowered moved back and down and I elected to leave mine in the raised position with just a small gap from the flap and the upper portion of the wing. You get two different canopy assemblies with this kit. One being the normal for a kit where the canopy frame and the glass are one piece and the other where the frame and glass are two separate pieces. This allows a very easy painting of the frame and I elected to use this version. The kit supplied canopy masks where used and aligned very nicely with both versions of the canopy. I used the masks on the internal portion with the frame and painted the internal color so you cannot see the clear plastic around the inside frames.

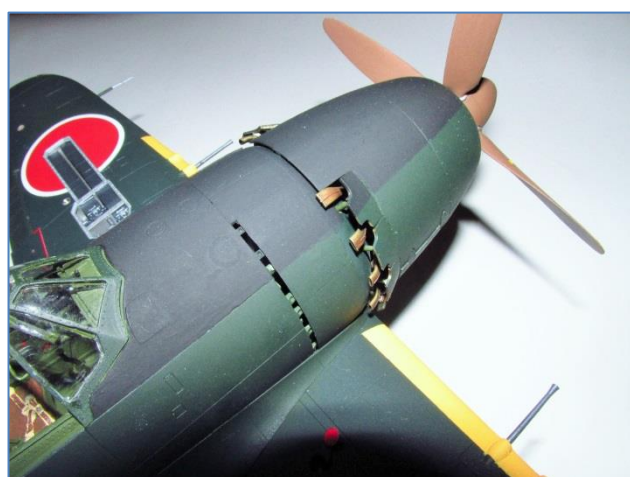
On a side note if you intend on using the decals supplied with the kit for LT. JG. Yoshihiro Aoki, I would leave off the side step C-36 until after decaling or putting it in the stowed position. Otherwise you will have to cut the decal were this piece mates to the fuselage. I used the decals for LT. Susumu Ito, who was stationed at Atsugi Japan, with the 302nd naval air group. After applying another coat of gloss clear coat I used Tamiya's dull coat to seal the paint and decals. I chose not to weather this kit as I wanted a nice clean appearance to the kit, with very little wear and tear. I used .003' surgical steel wire for the aerals fixed with a drop of superglue.

Overall I had a wonderful time building this kit and only had one seam to fill which probably was self-inflicted at some point and very minor at that. If you follow the instructions and pay attention to aligning all parts to their proper orientation you will end up with a nice kit that just might teach you how certain aircraft are built, and the design theory behind the aircraft. If there is any criticism I have of this kit I would have liked to see the aerial phosphorus bombs that Japan used during



the closing months of the war against the B-29 Superfortress. Both units that the decals represent used this weapon and while it was ineffective, I thought it would have added

immensely to the overall look of the finished kit. Saying this I can only highly recommend this kit.



From the Editor

By Devin Poore

Everyone else has done a good job of recapping MosquitoCon, so just a few housekeeping notes from me. The show photos have been uploaded to the gallery website, which you can find here: <http://njipms.zenfolio.com/p1019017052> . If you would like to see a listing of the Best Of winners and the specific photos of those, you can find them in a separate post on the website here: <http://njipms.org/?p=2468> . And to see an entire list of the contest results you can look here: http://njipms.org/?page_id=2479 .

You'll notice that I did not email the newsletter out as an attachment this month,

but rather provided a link to it on the website for everyone to download. This is how it will be done from here on. Long story short, it'll cut down on bandwidth needed to send and receive the newsletter. Plus, the newsletter is uploaded to the website every month already, so may as well leverage that. Also, it'll cut down on the error messages I get every month from people whose mailboxes can't accept the large attachment for whatever reason (out of space, out of office, etc.)

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the newsletter this month with articles and reviews. Keep 'em coming!



For all of the MosquitoCon 24 photos, please visit: <http://njipms.zenfolio.com/p1019017052>



This month's meeting will be on:

Friday
May 8th, 2015



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