



## **MOSQUITO-GRAM**

**Official Newsletter of the NJIPMS.**

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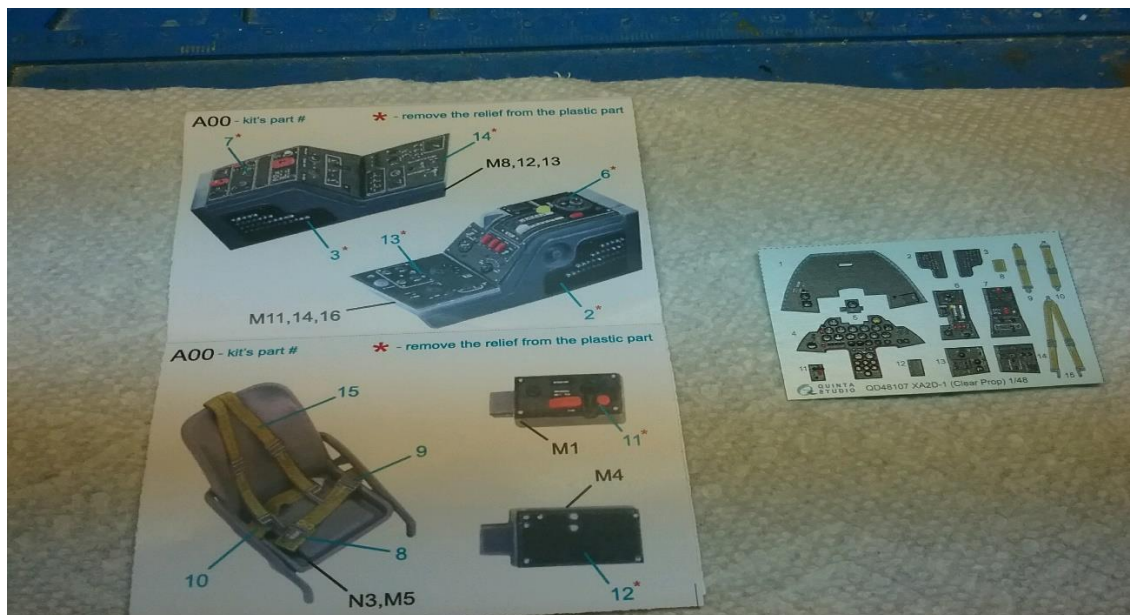
### **FROM THE IRON WORKS**

**By Big Bill Schwarz, Pres.**

Hi all. Not much new on my end. Sorry I had to miss the meeting. It's something I don't do too often but until my leg gets better its yes or no to come! The meeting is in other e-board members most qualified hands so I don't worry at all. That's it on that. I hope to see everyone at the meeting Friday too. The next 2 months are off time for us then it's on to the work for MCON. WE will keep you informed as to what's going on in the coming months. FYI I already have many of the vendor tables spoken for and some already paid! I'm sure the show will be another BIGGIE !!!.

Next up is the XMAS PARTY . It will be in-house and catered by DEMARCOS. BE PREPARED TO BE HUNGRY AND EAT! That's it for me this month except look at the quick review that I just did for Quinta Studios ! They sent me a few items for review so I will put one up each month for you guys to look at. Hope to see y'all Friday. BE WELL, ENJOY LIFE, AND HAVE SOME FUN EACH DAY!

**REGARDS BB PRES**



" QUICK REVIEW QUINTA STUDIOS 3D INTERIOR SET "

" FOR THE CLEARPROP XA2D-1 SKYSHARK "

" BY BIG BILL SCHWARZ "

Hi all. By now most of you are familiar with 3d model items. It is definitely the future but it's here now and here to stay. It's GREAT to be a modeler these days with the wealth of after-market and after-market 3d items ! GREAT STUFF INDEED !

This month I am showing the 3d interior parts for the Clearprop 48th scale SKYSHARK. I also will be showing you a few different sets that ALEX the owner sent me to review. With that said Quinta captured the interior beautifully. It's new, not a Skyraider rehash. I have interior pics and it matches exactly. The images , resin ,color , and glazing are top notch and I can tell you from using them before, they are super easy to install and look great when finished. YOU DO NOT APPLY THEM LIKE DECALS. They require adhesive. I pre-bend them after removing from the carrier and after drying install them with slow drying CA. I'm sure there are other ways but that's what works for me. That's it. Enjoy the pics. I'll have the set at the meeting and will install them and show you what the finished cockpit looks like in a future installment. HAPPY T DAY !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ENJOY !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! BB





# From the Vice President's Desk

By Vince D'Alessio



Hi guys! I hope everyone is well and enjoying building. Here's a very gentle REMINDER that **DUES need to be paid at this meeting on November 12.** Dues are \$25.00. Let's get this done so it doesn't drag out? See you all at the meeting. VINCE

# The Contact's View

By Mike Pavlo, VP



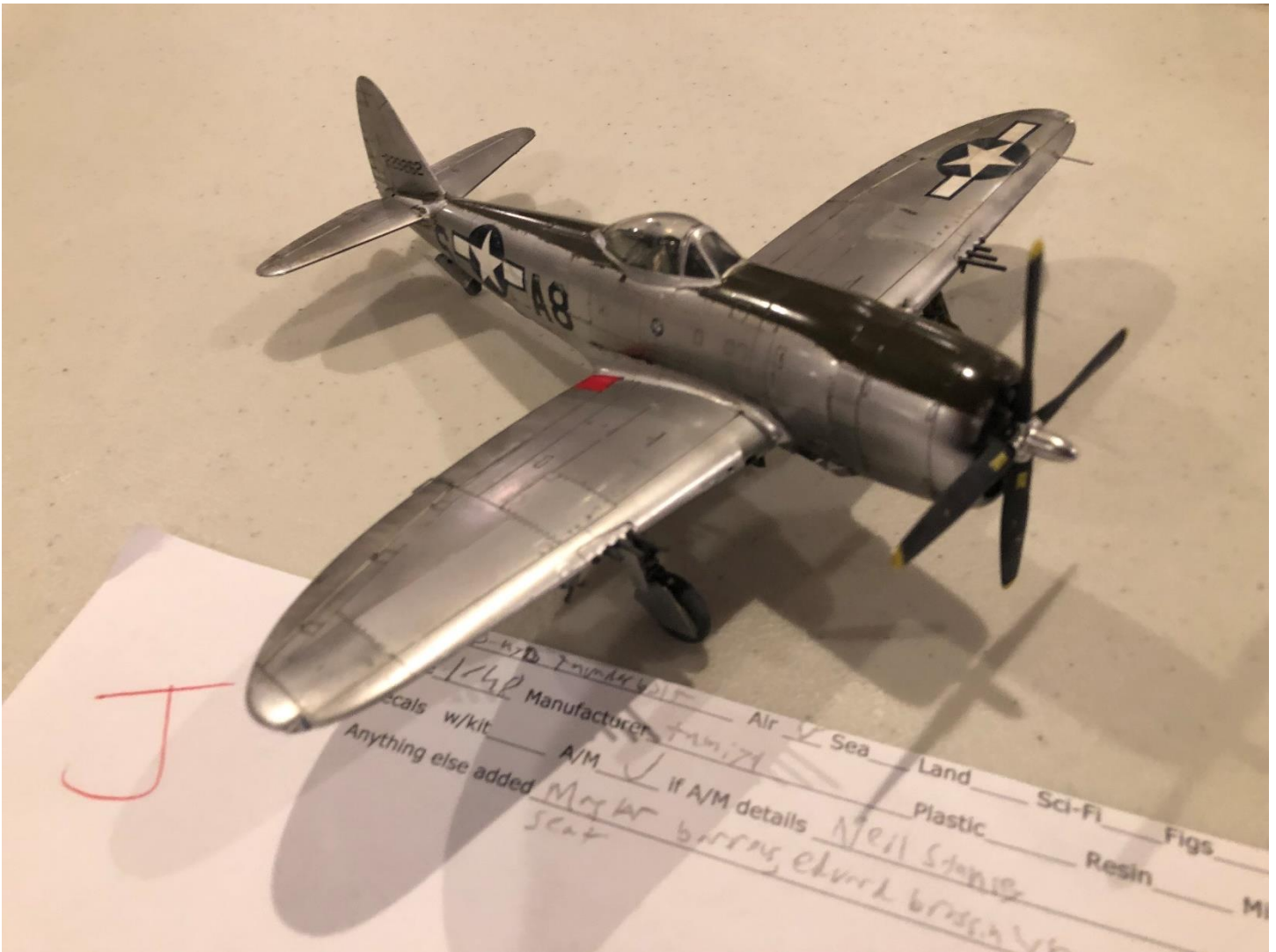
The final modeling show in our area for 2021 was the Hudson Valley Miniatures club's show in Poughkeepsie NY. I was able to attend this year and it was good to see a bunch of other guys from our club up there too. The ride up was truly enjoyable because of the vivid autumn foliage along the way. The show was a lot of fun with many really nice model entries on the tables and a good vendor turnout. I even found some nice bargains that I couldn't pass up. It made me realize that the next show for our region will be MosquitoCon 2022!

Speaking of which...it will be here before we know it. I'd like to ask for input on potential show themes for MCon. Please think about that and be ready to share some ideas at the meeting. We'll need to finalize the theme so that work on the show flyer and Journal ad can commence. Thanks in advance for your help.

See you at the meeting.

Best Wishes,  
Mike P.

Here's a few pictures from last month.



Our newest member Lucas Chapman, showed his Tamiya 1/48 P-47D. He included Eduard Brassin' details, metal gun barrels, and after-market decals.





Martin Quinn brought in his Italeri 1/35 M36-B1 Hellcat Tank Destroyer. Martin added a metal barrel, PE and resin stowage. This is the first non-ship kit I think I've seen done by Martin! Good job.





Antonio Meroli built this Hasegawa F2A3 Brewster Buffalo in 1/72 scale. It's OOB.



Martin Quinn again. 1/48 Tamiya P-47, with after-market decals. Nice!



John Bucholz built a Polish TKS-Tanketter in 1/35 scale. John scratch-built the interior and the crew!

THIS SPACE FOR LEASE OR SALE



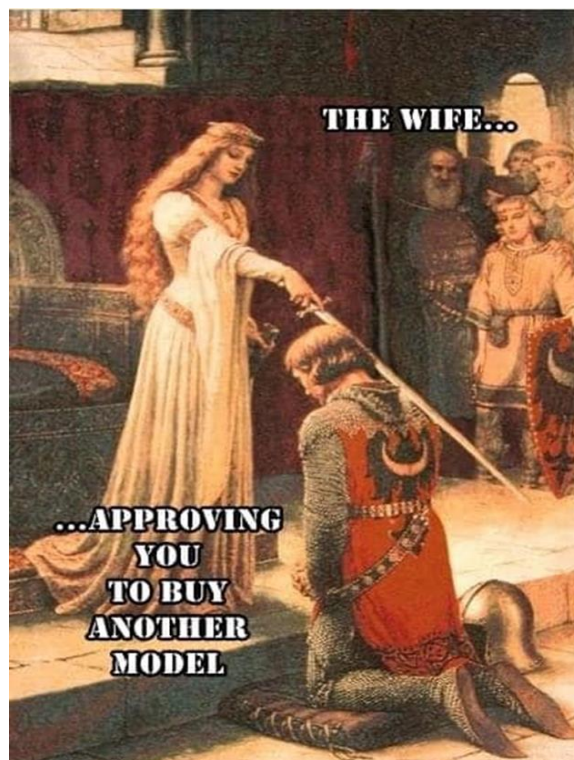


Reuvin Shapira showed off his Revell RJ-85 in 1/144 scale, built OOB. Nice finish!





John Bucholz again. Fine Molds 1/1500 Goliath Air Destroyer. The props spin!



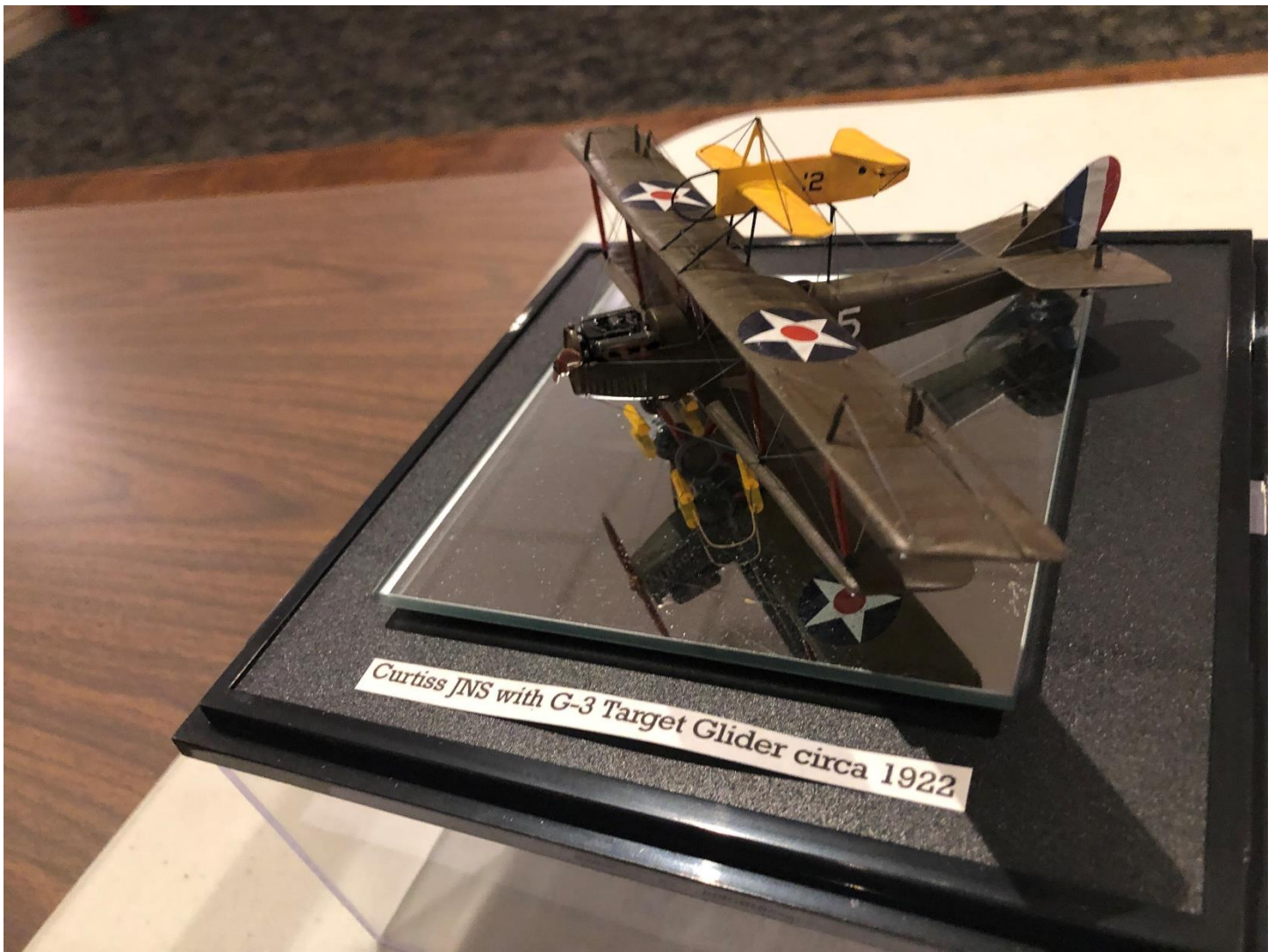




Patrick O'Connor brought in a "Hoolywood" Zero from Kittyhawk/LSM in 1/32 scale. A mixed plastic and resin kit of the Zeroes made from Texans used in a lot of films!







Mike Terre brought in a 1/72 JNS Olimp Curtiss JNS with G-3 Target glider. Mike converted the JNS-4 to a JNS target towing air craft. An Aero Club Suizo-Hispana engine was added, and the G-3 glider is scratchbuilt, with shadings for patches. Tamiya and PollyScale paints were used, and the rigging is stretched sprue.

**Now a very different TERRE-gram!**

### **Volunteering at Fort Miles Museum**

This will be a little different from my normal modeling building article but it's relevant to our hobby and might give you some idea how you can share your modeling skills with local organizations.

Earlier this Spring one of my neighbors, Steve, knowing of my modeling skills and activities got me involved with the Fort Miles Historical Association (FMHA).

What is Fort Miles you ask? Fort Miles was built during WWII as a system of interconnected coastal gun batteries protecting the entrance to Delaware Bay. Besides the guns there were extensive mine fields that could be command detonated. Much of the fort is underground and many of the rooms, such as the plotting room and the shell and powder room as well as one of the 12 inch guns have been restored to exhibition quality.

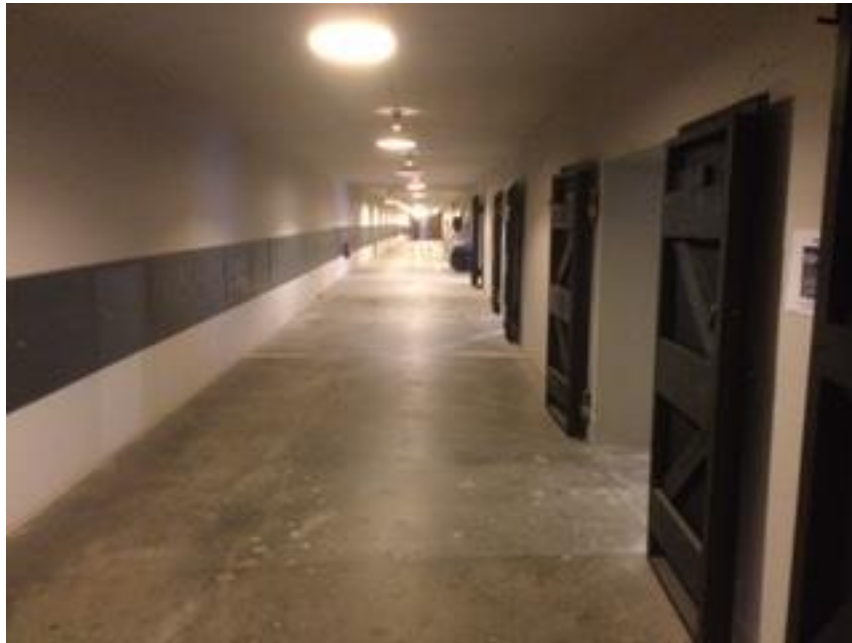


The museum also has a 16 inch gun barrel from the USS Missouri. This barrel was in the middle position of the number one gun turret when the Japanese surrendered ending WWII. The museum has recently added a artifact from the USS Arizona which was sunk at Pearl Harbor. The relic is part of a transverse bulkhead located near the boat deck. Fort Miles is one of two museums in this country that



has relics that originate from the beginning and end of WWII.

The museum also has extensive collection of WWII art work and an extensive collection of ship and aircraft models. I suggest you “Google” Fort Miles Historical Association and visit their website. I’m sure you’ll find it very interesting. After the war the fort became part of the US Navy’s secret Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS) program, finally being deactivated in the late 1989’s. Now getting back to my involvement, Steve my neighbor told me that there was an exhibit room as well as a store room filled with aircraft and ship models that needed restoration before going on exhibition. So one Thursday I visited the fort and found out what an extraordinary place it was. There is a group of approximately sixty volunteers that have done tremendous work in the restoration of this place. We meet every Thursday from 8am, break for lunch around 11:30 and go home in the afternoon.

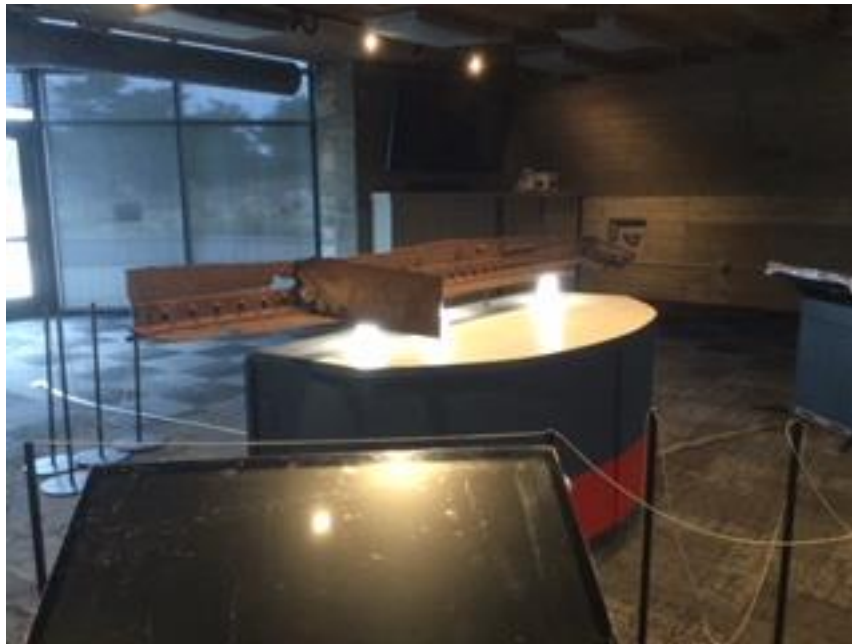


Steve was right, there was indeed a storeroom full of ship and aircraft models many of which had been stored in a shed for a long time before being donated to the museum.

The aircraft models were mostly hard wood manufacturers models that only need a little clean up. However the ship models were in poor shape. These were mostly old Dumas radio control models, like a 1/48th scale Fletcher class destroyer. There was a 1/144th scale Casablanca escort carrier, the USS White Plains that had a mouse nest in its interior! This summer I slowly worked through these models, cleaning and repairing as need. I also had some of my fellow volunteers repair



display cases that were donated by a jewelry store. These cases had internal lights and were perfect for some of the models.



Perhaps the best thing I found in one of the store room was a beautiful large scale scratch built USS Missouri in a wooden display case. Remember I said we had a gun barrel from the Missouri? In order to raise money for this project FMHA sold commemorative brick that could be inscribed with a message. These bricks are displayed in the main hallway of one of the gun batteries. I had the model moved from the store room and cleaned it up. The volunteers then built a shelf on the brick display to hold the model where it is now displayed. I also added a small yellow arrow pointing to the position of the gun barrel current on display.

As stated earlier we also have a relic from the USS Arizona. We also had a 1/350th scale Arizona that was in a display case but the model was heavily damaged. It took a few Thursday's to get the repairs done but it got done. As with the Missouri model I also added a yellow arrow indicating the origin of the relic.

The model is now on display in the same room as the relic.



As the fort was heavily involved in antisubmarine work during the war there are many exhibits concerning this subject. Currently I'm building the Revell 1/72nd U-Boat in U-552 markings to support one of the exhibits. Would you believe that the fort has one of the then very secret German Enigma code machines as well as a German grid chart of the Atlantic Ocean? What a great display it will make! I've also donated my build of the old Pyro Nantucket light ship.

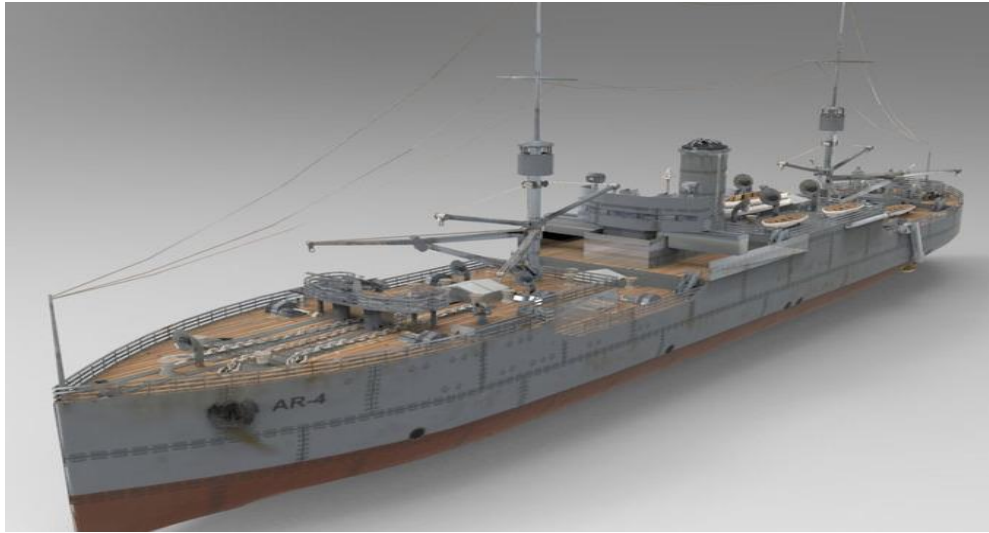
Now don't let this article think I've gone over to building ships. I'm sure that some club members like Martin Quinn, Bob LaPadura and Devin Poore will think I've gone over to the "dark side". Not true at all, I'm still a 1/72nd scale aircraft builder with a strong preference for biplanes!

My point in writing this is that as modelers we have tremendous skills that can be used by various organizations. I kind of knew this but never paid much importance to it until I got involved with Fort Miles. It's really satisfying to help out a local organization and I would encourage club members to seek them out. I'm glad I did!

Hope to see you all for the November meeting! Thanks for reading.

Mike Terre

**Thanks Mike! That is very cool. Historical note: My Father was on the Vestal at Pearl Harbor, and he had a crew on the Arizona (next door) beginning to install electronic systems in the flagship, to replace electrical systems. (Don't ask me, I have no idea of the difference, but it was a big deal.) When the Arizona blew, he was blown off the bridge along with the bridge watch and the Capt., Cassin Young. They got back aboard and managed to get almost all of the electrical crew off. But my father's cousin Ted, who was a Motor Machinist's Mate in the Arizona, went down with the ship.**



### **USS Vestal (Ar-4) Fleet Repair ship**

**When he told me this, I asked my Dad if he personally saved anyone from the Arizona. He said he helped one guy, a cook, who stayed on the Vestal for the rest of the war. My father said, ‘He was the most grateful SOB in the Navy; day or night he’d make anything you wanted!’ Capt. Cassin Young was awarded the medal of Honor that day, and my Dad a Bronze Star. Cassin Young then took command of a brand new Heavy Cruiser, the USS San Francisco, which showed exemplary service in the Battle of Cape Esperance, and the first Naval battle of Guadalcanal. He was killed on that ship during the furious night action of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Naval battle of Guadalcanal.**



#### **USS San Francisco (CA-38)**

Class: New Orleans

Displacement: 11,585 Tons

Dimensions: 588' 0" (oa) x 61' 9" x 22' 6" (max)

Armament: 9 x 8"/55, 8 x 5"/25, 8 x 0.5" 4 Aircraft

Aarmor: 5" Belt, 8" Turrets, 2 1/4" Deck, 5" Conning Tower

Machinery: 107,000 SHP; Geared Turbines, 4 Screws

Speed: 32.0 Knots

Crew: 1,125





Capt. Cassin Young



Lt. John Schroeter, Sr.

**And now something from our favorite Mad Scientist-Dr. Simon!**



## **WATER FOWL**

The Beriev MBR-2 deserves to be remembered better than it is because, with a production run of about 1,600 examples, it was the most numerous flying boat of World War II after the PBY and the PBM. An already outdated 1931 design at the start of the war, it was gifted with excellent air and water performance, and could also be used as a land plane, with wheeled or ski landing gears. Its name, MBR, sounded like “ambar”, « the barn » in Russian, and the name stuck. It was also called « korova », “the cow”. It was by design a reconnaissance plane with some offensive capacity, but was widely used for search and rescue missions. It saw action in the Finland war, and it saw action from polar regions to the Caucasus against the Germans. And, in August of 1945, it went into action against the Japanese trying to evacuate from Korea back to their home islands. The « barns

« were involved in acts of derring-do such as sinking a couple of Japanese mine-sweepers and a crab-meat processing ship ! The last hurrah of the MBR-2 was the Korean War.

There are only two kits that I know to be available for this type . One is a “ gashopon “ in 1/144 from Cafe Reo/ Big Birds , and it is more than adequate . The colors are too bright , but they can be repainted to great effect.

The second option , and the subject of this build is an MBR2-bis in 1/72. It has been around for a good twenty years , and appeared under the Russian labels “ Siga”, “Avia” and more recently, “ Eastern Express “.which is the one I built . This is an all-plastic kit with the exception of a very small photo-etch fret with the instrument panel and seat belts. The instruction sheet is very basic . Personally, I find a kit like this a lot easier to build than a lot of fancy « mixed-media, limited issue » kits .

Molding quality is quite good, with very little flash . Assembly begins with the hull, which is molded top/sides/ bottom. Some interior detail is molded on the sides, and parts are supplied for seats, floors,a control column and instrument panel; the latter is not a good match with the metal one, so I made one out of styrene stock, and added a big horizontal compass at the bottom, British naval- style. The hull closes up without much fuss; the hull chines are too prominent , but I didn't bother grinding them down .

The wing is a multi-part assembly, with a large top center section, tops, bottoms and separate ailerons and flaps. It all goes together without much fuss, and there is some pleasing detail such as the aileron hinges. The same can be said of the tail assembly. The fabric effect on flying surfaces is overdone, a fault shared by quite a few other kits.

The smaller parts of this kit are surprisingly good. The engine nacelle is very convincing, with a choice of two types of exhausts. Mounting it above the fuselage is easy, and the same comments also apply to the underwing floats. The kit-supplied struts are fine, but fragile and I replaced some of them with brass rod.

Parts are supplied for a landing gear, but I chose not to use them. When the MBR-2 was used as a land plane for an extended period of time, the underwing floats would be removed. Finely molded ShKAS machine guns with Scarff rings, tie-down cleats, Venturi tubes and a wind- driven generator are all provided and look good.

Clear parts are quite thin, a little dull, which is actually realistic-looking if you look at period photos, and the framing is neatly marked and ( relatively) easy to paint with a fine brush. Homey doesn't do masks!

Wanting to depict my boat in flight, I scrounged two appropriate pilot figures, painted them and added parachute harness by using thin strips of yellowed newspaper before seating them in their respective positions.

Final details included position lights on the wingtips and rudder. A brass wire airspeed probe went into the starboard wing leading edge. Although the MBR-2 definitely had a radio, I have never seen evidence of an external radio mast or lead. I would guess , with its construction being mostly wood, that the antenna wire was inside the fuselage.



I used the small but well molded kit-supplied bombs in the underwing position.

Color schemes choices for the MBR-2 are fairly limited . All production was ended before war broke out in the East on June 22 nd 1941 , and an overall silver-gray finish was the rule . Initially, camouflage was limited to squiggles or a mottle of dark green applied to the factory finish . Later, an overall dark green and light blue, or a green/ black and light blue camouflage was applied, often when at the time of



overhaul; if the two-color topside scheme was applied , there was no set pattern . Interior was a light blue- gray , standard for Soviet WWII aircraft . You could also do a Finnish finish, basically the same as Soviet , but with lots of yellow. After a coat or two of Mr Surfacer 1000 primer spray, I used my usual, Testors Model Master enamels , mixed to taste . I am not the only one out there who still swears by those paints, and I dread the day when they become completely unavailable .

The decals supplied with the kit look well printed, but they have a flat finish which invariably means silvering as far as I am concerned. MBR-2 markings were very basic, typically red stars in four or six positions, and a single digit on the rudder, all of which were furnished by my file.

To finish it off, I gave my “ barn “ a coat of Testors semi-gloss spray .

I am happy with the results that I got from this unpretentious but competent kit. I displayed it skimming above “swampland “, a piece of textured plexiglass painted green on the reverse side , with some Walthers tall grass and paper waterfowl , inside one of those Trumpeter clear cases . I hate dust on my models !

**Thanks Doc!**

**Well that ends this Newsletter. Please try and be at the meeting this Friday, and remember-PAY THOSE DUES!**

**Bill Schroeter**

