



**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODEL SOCIETY**

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FROM THEIRONWORKS

By Big Bill Shwarz, President

Hi all. hope you are doing well. Sorry this will be short but I have no time to really get into my shop and write. Anyway the meeting is on and the show is only a few weeks away so my only thoughts are this. Please make the meeting if you can. I would like to go over the plan and make sure we don't miss anything. I'm hoping we will have a great show but a few bigger vendors aren't coming this year due to high gas prices, lodging, and tolls !!! We will see. Other than that , Danny ,Mike ,Marty , Erik , and Patrick, are the only members in charge of putting teams together for various jobs! " NO ONE ELSE " !

Vince has his team for the raffle so no help needed there ! Jon will assist me again with vendor set up ! Please cooperate the 1st hours of the show and relieve each other so all can enjoy the show. Big thanks to all who help out too ! I can think of a million things to say but won't at this time. You all , after all these years know what to do. I know things will get done. Thanks for the cooperation and I hope we have another great show ! Be well. !!!!!!!

THE CONTACT'S VIEW

By Mike Pavlo, VP



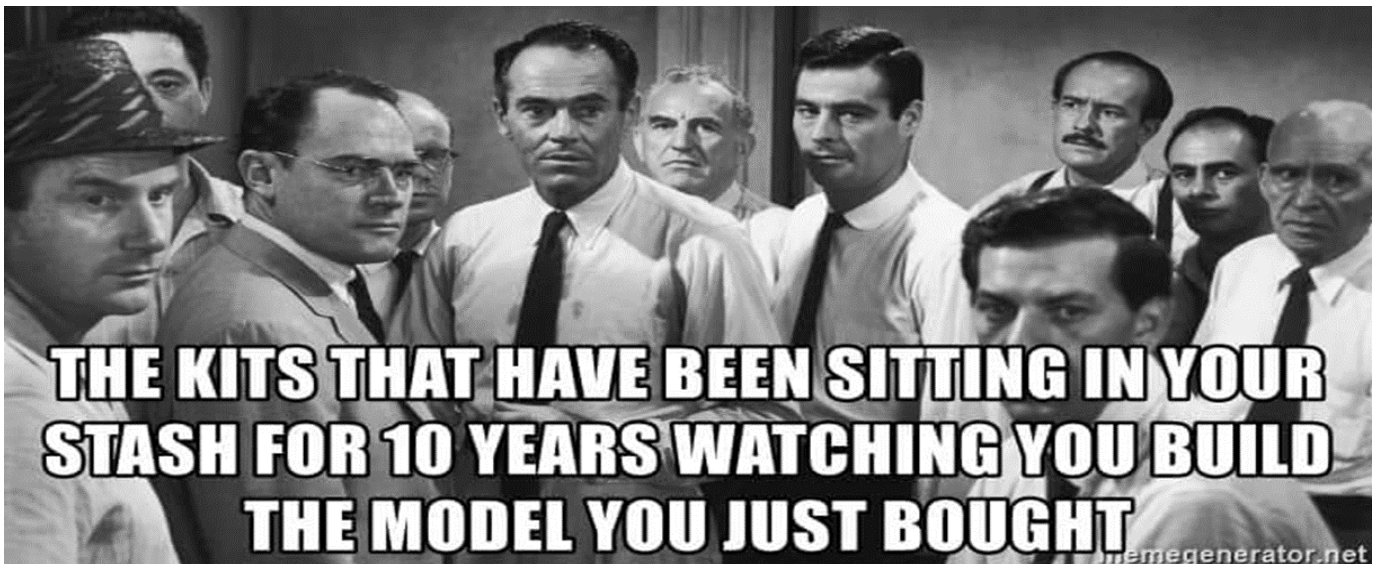
As you know, the March meeting is “Nostalgia Night”. It was thought up years ago by Mike Terre and Dan Spera and it’s probably my favorite meeting night of the whole year. It’s always fun to see what the guys will bring out to share from their modeling past. It becomes very apparent that we all share so many common memories about the kits, supplies, magazines, hobby shops, etc, etc. This year’s Nostalgia Night will be extra special because we haven’t had a March meeting in person since 2019!!

Of course, no one needs a reminder that MosquitoCon is less than a month away. If you’d like to sponsor a trophy package and haven’t done so yet, please see Joe Smith at the meeting. Also, please consider bringing a kit/kits to the show for the raffle.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Best Wishes,

Mike P.



THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva



Hello all,

I believe this will be our first in house Nostalgia Night since the pandemic began. The thought of it has made me feel somewhat "nostalgic" (pun intended). I can vaguely remember walking down to Gordon's Pharmacy in Newark with my mother and getting my first model kit. It was the AMT 1/25 scale Bigfoot Monster Truck. I built it on my deck with my mother using nail polish as paint and super glue to piece it together. I could have been no more than 8 or 9. I've seen people in the club bring in the first model they've built and it makes me wish I still had the one I'm describing.

The next model felt like a rare find at the time. My grandmother walked me down Ferry St and a new store had opened up, primarily selling Japanese toys and games. It was there that I saw my first Gundam model kit. It was a 1/100 scale kit of the Gundam Shenlong. It wasn't even one of the ones I liked in the show, but it was the only one they had and the price was right so she bought me it. I liked that there was no gluing or painting, and that stickers were included. It would be more than a decade after that model before I returned to the hobby.

I'm sure everyone has a story like this and I look forward to hearing them at the meeting.

Nostalgia Night also means Mosquitocon is less than a month away, and I expect it to be busy, but perhaps less so than last year due to many people returning to their normal lives. I do ask that anyone who is willing, help volunteer for the Sci-Fi and other odd categories. Last year the Gundam category had almost triple digit entries and took a substantial amount of time to judge.

If the turnout is near what it was last year, it was exhausting at the Check-in tables from 900-1200. I was so wiped out I couldn't be a Judge, which I always do. I'm hoping I'm in better shape this time around. Ed.



AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR "THE RETURN OF TERRE-GRAM!!

Revell 1/72nd scale Sopwith Triplane

For "Nostalgia Night" I decided to build an old favorite of mine, the Revell 1/72nd Triplane (kit# H-75-380). This kit was first issued in 1966 and has been reissued many times, in fact it's still in the current Revell of Germany catalog! This kit had a list price of 50 cents but I got mine at Eastern Mills discount store for 39 cents. And they still made money!



It has a total of 24 parts which includes a choice of horizontal stabilizers to represent the prototype aircraft or a production aircraft. The decal sheet had typical British markings but there was a neat Sopwith company logo for the rudder.

Although I didn't use the decals I definitely kept the sheet as that Sopwith company logo could be used on other early aircraft.



I was impressed with the detail and fit of the parts. Remember this was 1966 and there was no computer aided design to help make the molds. This was done by very skilled tool and die makers, probably a lost art nowadays. Anyhow the only major drawback to this kit was the landing gear. Although the struts were thin and to scale the axle and associated mounting boss was terrible. The instructions said to “snap” the wheels onto the axle so they’d rotate. I think this was done so Little Johnny” could play with his built model. It just amazed me to see some beautifully molded “to scale” parts and then this came along. I’ll have more to say about the landing gear later.



While going through some books I came across a picture of a Triplane that had been given to the Russians. It had Red stars on all the wings and was on skis. It was love at first sight!

I first detailed the cockpit area using Evergreen rod stock as well as sheet stock for the floorboards. All wooden parts were simulated by first coating them with Tamiya XF-17 Flat Flesh, then streaking Tamiya XF-9 Hull Red, followed by a final coating of Tamiya X-27 Clear Orange. This technique really works for me. I made an instrument panel from sheet stock, made a set of rudder pedals, glued the fuselage halves together and that was it. Oh, I added a PE throttle quadrant from Toms Model Works for a little extra detail. The control stick and seat would be added during final assembly. Next I installed the lower wing, which fit snugly into the fuselage. A little sanding and that was done.



Due to the complexity of having three wings I decided to paint all parts at this time. I used Polly Scale Russian Underside Blue and Topside Green. I tell you those Polly Scale paints airbrush so well, it's a shame it's no longer in production. Decals were added at this time as well. I had some old MicroScale red star decal sheets and these worked perfectly. By the way they were purchased for 99 cents each from one of those great Squadron sales! With the decals on all parts were painted with Krylon flat. With painting done it was time to put this machine together.

This was an interesting portion of the build. You have to install all the struts first then slide the middle wing down over the outboard interplane struts and glue them to the cabane struts. By the way I finished the struts using the "wood" technique discussed above. Do you know I had all the wings on it fifteen minutes! I was amazed at how all these struts fitted to their mating holes and at the proper angle. This was a tribute to the guys who made these molds!.



Now it was time for the landing gear I discussed earlier. I thought of scratch building the gear but the struts were just so nice and I really wanted to use them. So here's what I did. I left the struts on the sprue so they would keep the proper angle. I then carefully cut the large axle bosses away till the struts were joined by a thin strip of material which was then cut away. Still attached to the sprue the strut sections were joined and reinforced with a very thin strip of styrene. When dry a slight groove was cut so a new axle could be fitted. Still on the sprue, the gear was painted (like I did as a kid) and when dry cut from the sprue. I managed to preserve the correct angle and the struts fit perfectly into their fuselage mounting holes. An axle was made from rod stock and the gear was done except for the skis. The skis used by the Russians had an aerodynamic fairing fitted over them to reduce drag (on a Triplane?) These skis were made from round sprue, sanded flat on one side and shaped accordingly. A small groove was cut on one side for the plate holding the ski to the axle and then attached accordingly. The skis were wooden and painted as previously discussed.



It was now time for the engine, cowlings and propeller and guess what the cowlings were missing! However this proves the old modelers saying "never throw

anything away"! My spares box had an old Rosemount Hobbies (remember those guys?) resin cowling that fit perfectly! This was painted Design Master Brilliant Silver. The nicely molded engine was painted Tamiya XF-69 Scale Black, with detailing done with various shades of Rub-N-Buff. The wooden propeller was painted as previously discussed.

Next I decided to add the pilots seat and control stick. The Triplane had a very distinctive control stick, with a triangular grip for the pilot. This was made from Evergreen rod stock. Hey, guess what? The seat was missing and again Mr. Spares came to the rescue. Seat harness was made from very thin tape with buckles painted on. The Vickers machine gun, very nicely molded too, was painted Tamiya XF-69 Scale Black with Rub-N -Buff highlights.

With the model completed it was time to rig it, stretched sprue being used. I found it interesting that the Triplane had minimal rigging due to the large interplane and cabane struts and was completed in a few hours.



I lightly weathered the Triplane with some black and green pastel/alcohol washes and it was done. This build won't win any competition but I'm happy with the

results. It only goes to show that with a little work even the old kits will build up nicely.



I'm going to try and make the March "Nostalgia Night" meeting and I'll bring along the Triplane. I hope you guys will bring some old "gems" from your stash and hopefully talk about them. Thanks for reading, now be useful and build something!

Mike Terre.

Thanks Mike, Great work! Ed

SIMPLE SCRATCH-BUILDING by JOHN BUCHOLZ

The subject for this exercise is the VW type 87 Beetle. While we all know about the Kubelwagen and the Schwimmwagen produced by Volkswagen, you may not know that the Beetle was also made in limited numbers. The type 87 was a four-wheel drive version of the standard rear wheel drive beetle. This version was specifically made for tropical climates (the North African desert = The Afrika Korps). Because of the sandy terrain the vehicle was equipped with the oversized sand tires (the ones that looked like giant inner tubes without any tread). Because of this the fenders on the Beetle needed to be extended about three inches on each side.

This brings us to the CMK kit of the VW type 87. While the bigger tires and four-wheel drive features are included, the body is the same one they are using for the standard rear wheel drive kit. This brings us to the simple scratch building step in building this kit- extending the fenders. There are several ways to do this but I will just use the easiest method in this example.

The first step is to place the body onto the fender section (this kit uses just two pieces- one for the lower chassis and fenders and one for the whole upper body). When you have the two pieces in place, simply scribe a line where the body meets the fenders and then remove the upper body. The scribe line is your cutting guide.



Use a razor saw to carefully cut each fender away from the lower body/fender assembly. Take your time and try to keep your cuts as vertical as possible. Once the fenders are removed gently sand off any plastic bits sticking off the cut areas. Using a reference, I determined that I

needed about a 2mm extension on each fender. The easy way (less precision cutting) is to find a strip the correct width and cut this into several small sections for each fender. The picture will show the white plastic strip I used cut into several different lengths. On tighter curves use smaller pieces and on gentler curves use longer sections of plastic. The strip should be slightly larger in width than the thickness of the fender (you want your plastic additions to stick up over the surface of the fenders).

Glue the pieces to the fenders you have removed and let them dry for a day. Before you glue the fenders to the lower body you should sand the inside sections to the proper curve shape of the inside of the fender (It is just easier before you attach them to the Lower body). Next, glue the fenders to the lower body being careful to line up the front and rear sections so your fenders are even all the way around. Let this work dry for a day and then you are ready for the next step-filling the gaps. Because you are using straight sections of plastic on the curve of the fender you will have small gaps where each piece meets the other. I use Apoxie Sculpt to fill in the gaps on each fender (any filler putty will work but I find the Apoxie Sculpt is more durable when sanding and shaping). After filling all the gaps let the fenders dry for a day before the final step-shaping and sanding.



I use a razor blade to roughly shape the plastic pieces I glued to the fenders into the proper curve. Then use sanding sticks to finish shaping the fenders to the proper contour. Start with a coarse grit and proceed to a fine grit for final polishing. You can use this method to extend any curved surface (make wheels wider or extend any circular object). I hope this simple system will be of use to you in your modeling experience.

John Bucholz

I find scratch-building a lot of fun. If the kit in question can be improved that way, it is a real test of my skills. Win some-lose some. Nice Job John!

Here's pictures from the February meeting-great turnout! But I forgot to pick up the tags!!!! I'll try to remember who build what. Please forgive me if I'm wrong.



Dave DeNardo's Pzw IV



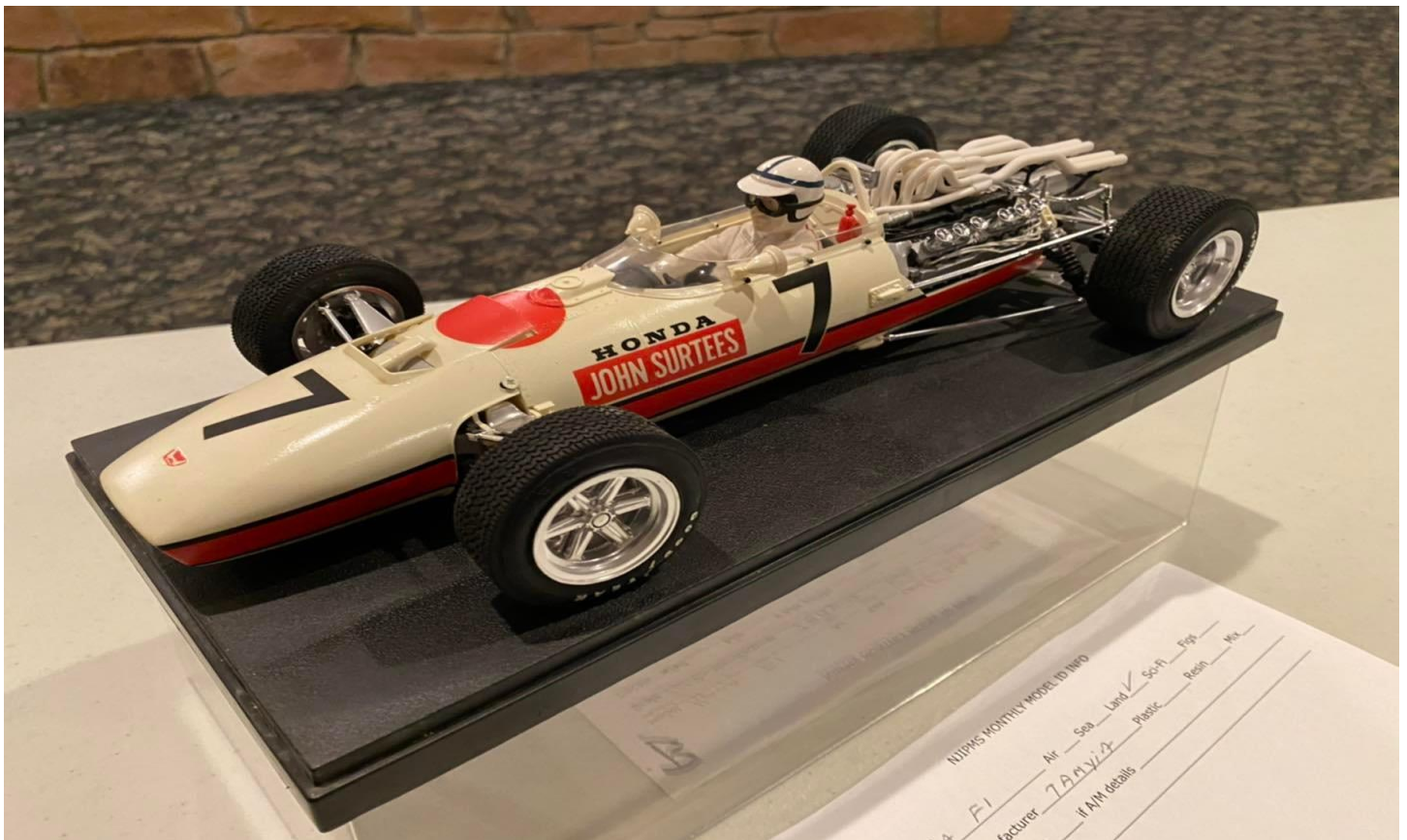
AHHH! Good Times



Bill Connolly built these beauties



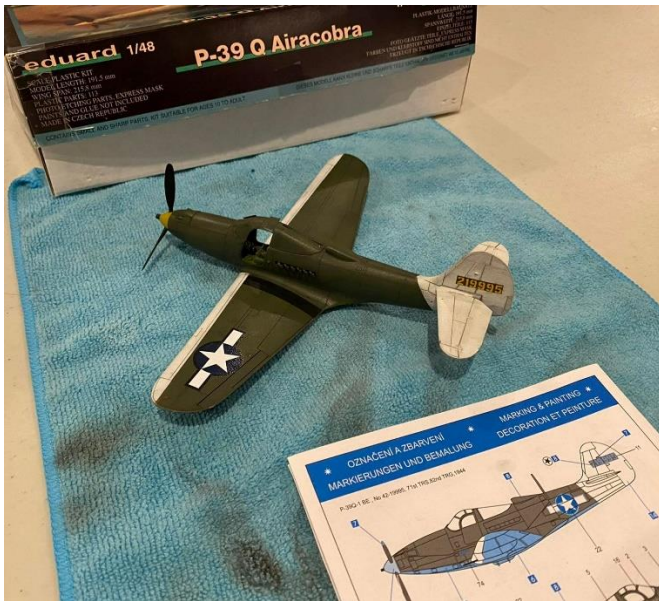
This is the Panther that John Bucholz featured during the last few months



Jimmy Pentafill



Antonio Merrolli showed this little gem.



WIP and a big new Stug for Eric Schroeter

Well that's all folks!

Remember the meeting is this Friday, March 11. **NOSTALGIA NIGHT.**

Hope to see a great crowd.