



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

**December, 2022**

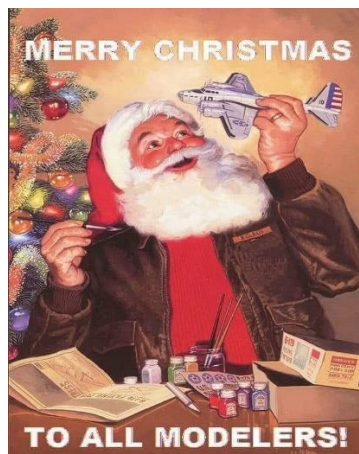
**Vol.XXX,Iss.xii**

**FROM THE IRON WORKS**

**By Big Bill Schwarz**

Hi all, hope everyone is well. Iron Works will be short and simple this month. #1 I wish you all MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, or which of the many newer holidays these DAZE! With that said, NJIPMS HOLIDAY PARTY is this coming Friday, and will be at the K OF C as always. Food will be served 7:15-ish. There's items added this year plus some subtracted but there's enough for everyone.! I absolutely hate saying this but it seems I have to and most of you know why! Take the 1st serving, which will be dished out by the E-board, then SECONDS can be an all-out blitz till the finish. Be courteous of the other members. Frank our bartender and a few Knights will be invited too. Most of all I want everyone to have a good time and enjoy something other than models! Brotherhood in any club has always meant a lot to me. I'M most fortunate to have had several club relationships last for over 30 years! Bars open, so with this I leave you all to have a great time. ENJOY LIFE, AND BE HEALTHY. HAAAAAAPY HOLIDAZEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE !!

**BIG BILL SCHWARZ, PRES.**



## THE CONTACT'S VIEW

By Mike Pavlo, VP



I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving. There were so many messages in my email inbox for internet hobby shop "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" sales.

Some really nice prices and sale offers were floating around. Hopefully you guys were able to grab a few "must have" items at bargain prices for Santa to put under the tree.

Thinking of that, I still can't believe that we're already into December. But that of course means our annual Holiday Party for this meeting. Surely Bill will be bringing all the delicious food selections for us all to enjoy. As always, it'll be a fun time.

Best Wishes,

Mike P.

## THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva



Hi all! At the December meeting, we hope all of the monthly theme and topic winners can bring in their work again so we can vote on the best of the year!! Here's the list:

January Eric Schroeter - P47 (no land and sea)

February Bill Connolly - FJ-3 FJ-3M, Dave DeNardo Panzer IV, Ausf. J

March Mike Terre - Sopwith Triplane, Eric Schroeter - Panzer I Breda Diorama

April - Martin Quinn - KI27 (no land and sea)

May No theme

June - John Bucholz - Russian "Beauties" Figures Contest

July Marc Rocca - Yukikaze, Bill Connolly - Macchi MC.205

August Bob LaPadura - R-2RheinTochter-SAM, Eric Schroeter - P-51D

September no theme

October Bob LaPadura - T90 tank, Jerry Hughson - Sukohi SU-34

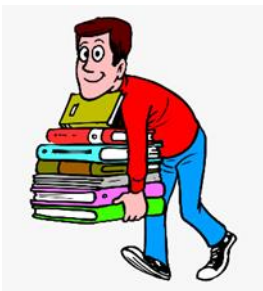
Patrick O'Connor won Russia Night with his Typhoon Class Sub in 1/350 scale.

November John Bucholz - 37mm Bofors, Erich Schroeter - Spitfire Mk. I

So if you can bring these in again, it will be great!

Thanks Jon

**There has to be some mistake-I'm not up there at all!!! Ed.**



**From the "LIBRARIAN" John Bucholz**

### **Franken-Figures or How to create a figure out of spare parts (ala Dr. Frankenstein.)**

So, you're ready to put a figure on your latest model creation, except you can't find any in the pose you need. You have a bunch of standing troops but you need them in a sitting pose. You want a driver for your vehicle but the arms don't reach the wheel. The walking men need to be in a running mode. What to do? Rather than settle for a figure you have on hand, let's get creative like the good doctor! I needed a British infantryman advancing at a crouch with a pointing right arm. Nothing in my spare figure box had anything close to what I wanted. It was time to start creating. The first photo shows some spare parts to be used in the creation of my man. The bust in the center has copper wire in the arm area and stiffer floral wire drilled into the bottom. Floral wire is available at most craft stores and is firm enough to hold the shape of the figure until you fill in the gaps with putty. I use copper wire for the arms (explanation will follow ). The second photo shows the initial construction phase. The legs are from the Tamiya LRDG truck kit, the torso is from the Tamiya universal carrier kit, and the arms and foot are from the Tamiya British infantry figure set. While these kits are from the 70's and 80's they are still useful in creating unique figures. You can see that the right arm needed to be set at an

extreme angle so scrap plastic was used to fill in the gaps. The Third photo shows the figure after the gaps have been filled with Apoxe-Sculpt. You can use filler putty but I find the epoxy



putty is stronger and easier to sculpt and file. I also added a sheet lead shirt collar (upturned ), helmet strap, and waist belt and holster. When you put a figure together out of different colored plastic, it is best to prime before painting. You can also see that the copper pins used to hold the arms in place have disappeared under the primer coat. Copper is a soft metal and when you sand the filler on the arms the copper smooths down nicely and doesn't show under the primer. No, I didn't forget the helmet-it is easier to attach it after it is painted (less chance of getting green paint on the face of the figure!) As you can see there is nothing here that the average modeler

can't handle. I hope that the next time you need a custom figure you follow this guide- after all it's just what the Doctor ordered(Dr .Frankenstein that is!)

**John, Very cool and helpful. When my son Eric was younger, he loved doing tons of 1/35 figures, but after finishing them, he would just stick them in a box and build more. When he got older and moved out, he didn't want them, so I sorted and divided them and have tons of figures, torsos, arms, legs, heads, gear and accessories. I really enjoy doing the same thing John is demonstrating here. I also agree that Epoxy-Sculpt is the go-to putty for these types of jobs. Ed.**



**Now it's time for another TERRE-A-Gram!!**

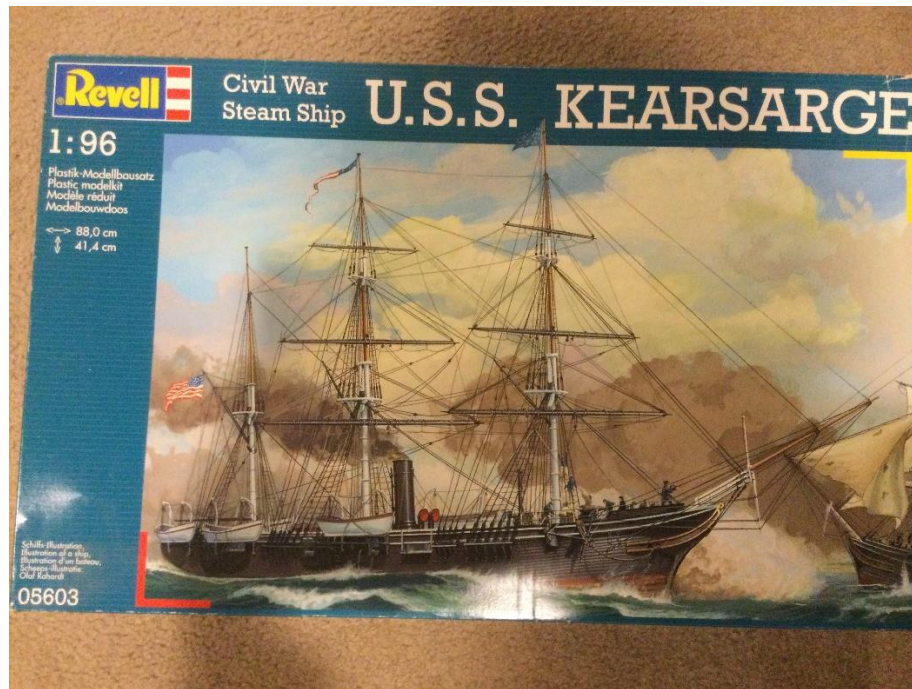
Christmas 1961

I was eight years old in 1961 and was an avid modeler even then. This was the day of cheap Aurora kits that were built in one rainy Saturday afternoon and died a glorious death by firecracker soon thereafter. My favorite place to buy kits was Great Eastern Mills, a discount store just off Rt.46 in West Paterson. My Dad went there as they had a great hardware section as well. In those days Dad used to let me stay in the hobby section while he did his hardware shopping. It was a different time then, kids could be left in hobbies without much worry, not like that anymore.

While I was scouting out the shelves, I saw the biggest most wondrous kit I had ever seen. Revell had just released the 1/96th scale USS Kearsarge, a Civil War Union steam ship. It was the most incredible thing I had ever seen, the box art was great and all the pictures on the box sides showed all sorts of neat stuff like cannons, life boats, even tiny figures of sailors. I knew I had to have this thing! The list price was \$9.99 but Great Eastern discounted it to \$6.96, a price far beyond my means! I showed Dad the kit but he thought it would be a little hard for me, after all it contained 741 parts. I disagreed and campaigned for that kit all through the fall and into winter without no success whatever.

Well patience is a virtue so Christmas 1961 there was a very large box under the tree. You guessed it! It was the Kearsarge in all its glory. And that became a wonderful memory for me.

Dad and I built that kit together in the dining room of our house. We would work on it a little bit every day. Dad was a good builder but he was also a fly fisherman and knew his knots. The rigging on that ship was complex but he did an outstanding job. (Kind of makes me wonder



why I like rigging biplanes!) I would do small jobs like building the cannons and lifeboats. By the Spring of 1962 the Kearsarge was complete and displayed on top of the dining room china cabinet.

That model stayed in the family for many years but a couple of moves, years of being on top of the china cabinet and a few drops had taken its toll, although the rigging remained tight. Finally around 2003, can't remember the exact year it just had to be discarded, although I saved and still have a couple of the cannons I built.

Again I can't remember the exact year but Dan Spera and I were visiting Avenel Hobbies (I miss John and that shop to this day) and I saw they had the Kearsarge; Revell had just reissued it. I told Dan the story related above and we both reminisced about childhood model building.

Now you probably know that Dan and I were in the Federal Aviation Administration (he's still there, poor guy!) and we worked together. Now I usually took leave over Christmas and was leaving the office when Dan came running out with a large gift-wrapped box. (Bet you can see where this is going) I remember he just caught me as I was getting into my car. He said I couldn't open it till I got home. Well it was the Kearsarge!

I now have great memories of building the Kearsarge with my Dad all those years ago and now getting another Kearsarge for Christmas from a great friend. And you know something I still have the cannons from the old Kearsarge and I'll bet they find their way onto the new

Kearsarge. Our stashes are like photo albums, we can't remember what we had for breakfast but we know where every model came from and the story behind it.

I'm going to try and make it up to the club Christmas party ( and to pay my dues!) and hope to see you all then. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families! Thanks for reading.

Mike Terre

**I remember in 1963, when I was 10 years old, and I got the Monogram 1/48<sup>th</sup> B-25B, AND a First Edition of “Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo” from Santa!! Ed.**

**And here are the pictures from the November meeting, including the winner of “British Empire Night”.**



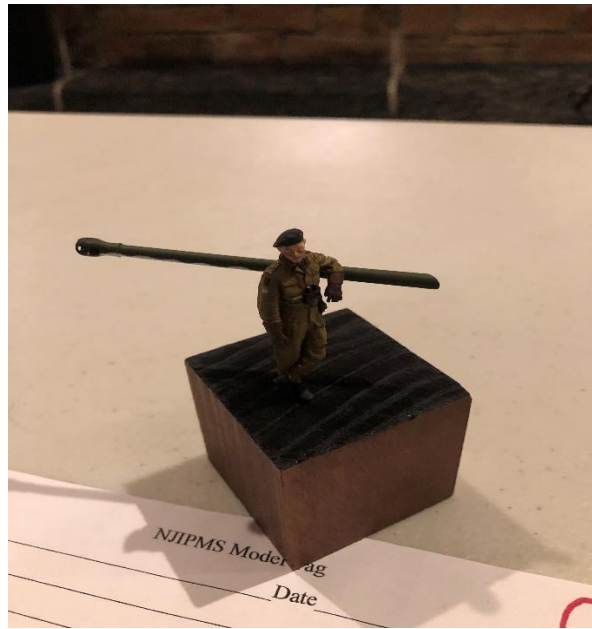
John Bucholz built Tom ModelGlam's 1/35 37mm Bofors gun with crew. John had to replace many of the guns part with scratch-built parts, and the figures were scratch-built as per his article.



Antonio Merolli built Airfix (old tool) 1/72 Boulton paul Defiant. He used a canopy from R&W, carved landing lights in the wings, scratch-built the antenna mast and pitot tube, and use decals from his decal bank.



Jerry Hughson built a 1/72 Spad XII



**Eric Schroeter built a 1/35 Alpine miniatures British Firefly Commander leaning on a barrel from a Dragon Firefly.**



**And the winner of Empire night was Eric Schroeter's Spitfite MK I in 1/48 scale.**

**He added Eduard and Big Ed details.**

**THAT'SIT!! See everyone Friday!!**

