



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

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**FROM THE IRON WORKS**

**By Big Bill Schwarz**

Hi all. Just a few words because I'm busy with rehabbing my leg! I'm ok and hoping for 50% so I can at least walk again. First it's a sad month in the club! As most of you know, we lost ART DORAN! He was just an all-around good guy! As one member said, he was a decent human being which is hard to find these days indeed! A moment of silence will happen Friday at the meeting for him! GOD SPEED ART DORAN! YOU WERE ONE OF A KIND AND WILL BE TRULY MISSED!!!!!!

Next and last for this month is MCON 31! It's on the horizon and soon enough it will be that day! You all know what you're doing so there's no need to say any more about it. If something new comes up we will let you know! THANKS FOR THE HELP IN ADVANCE! We the E-board are doing our part up until showtime, then it's all your turn to make it all happen! I'm sure it will be great as usual!

There's more to say but nothing that can't wait. I'll close with this! BURY ANY HATCHETS, ENJOY EACH AND EVERY DAY AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST, BE WELL AND HAVE FUN! That's it for me.

See Y'all at the meeting FRIDAY !!!



REGARDS, BILL, DA PRES !

## THE CONTACT'S VIEW

By Mike Pavlo, VP



It was such sad news to hear of Art Doran's passing. Art was a happy, upbeat guy who loved to laugh, and he really loved to build models.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

My wife and I were recently in Washington DC and we had the opportunity to check an item off my bucket list - visiting the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. All I can say is...WOW!...and that it's worth the visit from anywhere. It's located about 30 minutes from downtown DC in Chantilly Virginia and it's open every day except Christmas. You can visit its website and learn more about the exhibits and special events. If you have ever visited the Silver Hill facility in the past, you'll recognize many of the aircraft from there - except now they're out in the open, well lit, and easily seen. If you have the opportunity to visit, don't hesitate, just go!

Best Wishes,

Mike P.

**Mike sent some pictures from the Museum-which I concur is great. The only downside when I was there is that the only food vendor is McDonalds!!!!**















**Thanks for the great pictures Mike!!**

**John “The Librarian” Bucholz continues his tutorial on figures.**

## **FRANKEN-FIGURES II**

Last issue we showed you how to make many figure parts into one figure. No matter how many pieces you have in the spares box, there is always the case of needing to position a body part into a position you just don't have the correct part for. This calls for the Doctor to get even more creative. Instead of gluing various limbs onto a torso we will be making the bones for the missing part and then adding the "skin" to the figure. First step-find a part that is close to the position you need. In this case we need to make some arms that will hold onto a steering wheel. The arm sets in the picture show Tamiya arms (dark grey) and Dragon arms (light grey). I find that Dragon figures will often scale out a bit larger than Tamiya figures (something to keep in mind when you have to change a lot of parts on a figure).



I use the green floral wire to make the armature we will create the arms on. Drill a hole in the center of the torso's shoulder to a depth of 3 or 4 mm. Find a set of hands that are very close to the position needed (here they should grasp the steering wheel). I save some time and effort by cutting the hand and the cuff as one piece. This makes it easier to sculpt the arm and gives you the proper diameter at the wrist. I then drill a hole in the hand/cuff assembly as deep as the length of the cuff. As you can see in the picture we are using the light tan figure for the armatures. Next I glue a two inch piece of wire into the torso and then bend it with some needle nose pliers

(note I have a slight gap in the wire at the shoulder as we want the wire to be in the center of the arm we are making. Using the arms on the mat we determine the length of the armature (as a rule of thumb the distance from the center of the shoulder to the elbow is about the same as the distance from the elbow to the wrist).

Next we place the hand onto the wire but don't glue until the arm position is set and you have placed the hands on the wheel at the correct location. I find it best to glue the hands with the figure in place. Next we mix up a small batch of putty (Apoxie Sculpt is my usual go-to). The first application is just to slightly cover the wire armature as you can see on the light tan figure. Before anything is fully dry, double check the figure to make sure you haven't accidentally moved the arm out of place. When the putty is completely dry you can mix up another batch and proceed to fill in the arm as you can see on the dark green figure who is pointing. Use the spare arms as models when you add the folds and creases to the arms. While you can sculpt when the putty is still soft, I find it is often easier to add a bit extra and then sand and file to the proper shape. Now you can create a figure in almost any position you need.

Foot note- Art Doran...

I knew Art mainly from Mosquitocon as he worked the raffle table with me for more years than I can remember. He was always a soft-spoken man who listened as much as he spoke and always had a kind and gentle demeanor. I remember he always tried to make sure youngsters got a kit they liked when they won a prize. In short he was a man that any organization would be proud to call a member. He will be missed.

John Bucholz

**Thanks John! I've enjoyed doing figures this way as well. Except I use paper clip pieces instead of florist wire. Ed.**



## **Now it's time for another "Terre-Gram!"**

Revell 1/72nd scale Gato class submarine

As you might know from previous articles I volunteer at Fort Miles Museum, a WWII coastal defense fort located in Cape Henlopen State Park. It was recently decided to do an exhibit on the "Lost Submariners of Delaware, that is to remember all Delawareans who perished in WWII. Of particular interest was the USS Herring SS-233, a Gato class submarine. First it was the only US submarine to serve in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans during the war. The Herring sunk one ship in the Mediterranean Sea in support of Operation Torch, then completed four anti-submarine patrols out of Roseneath Scotland. Transferring to Pearl Harbor in September 1943. After extensive training the Herring conducted her highly successful sixth and seventh war patrols. On her eighth war patrol Herring surfaced Japanese shipping at Matasuwa Island, which is part of the Kuril Islands located in the Sea of Okhotsk, northwest Pacific Ocean. During this attack she was fired upon by shore batteries and was sunk with all hands, two of which were Delawareans. It's also interesting to note that the USS Herring was the only US Navy ship to bear that name.



For this project I used the Revell 1/72 Gato from my stash. It was a big build, 52 inches long, a far cry from my 1/72 biplanes. Because of its size I used some unconventional techniques, more on that as we go on.

The hull comprised three sections, the bow, midsection and stern and these went together like a dream. In fact the fit of these large parts was beyond belief. I used Tamiya Extra Thin Cement and sectionally glued the pieces together. In less than an hour the massive hull was done. What was great that the seam along the upper portion of the hull would require no sanding, except for a small three inch section at the stern, as the decking covered the entire joint area. The seam along the keel was dealt with in a few minutes. Now here's one of those strange techniques. The hull and most of the decking was black and a little too big for airbrushing. For this I use Rustoleum Black Automotive Primer out of a rattle can. I like this paint for large black areas as it's dead flat but can be buffed with paper towels or fine sandpaper to get a satin or semi-gloss finish. It is also very robust and tolerates different weathering solutions and methods. Now here's the thing, I use a handle that



attaches to the rattle can which makes application extremely simple. There's no sore fingers and you have great control over the paint, it's just like using a spray gun! By the way the handle will work with any size can. It's made by Rustoleum, costs about \$12, and is available at Lowes. I felt like I was doing body work on this build.



Getting back to the build, there were side panels leading from the hull sides to the deck. These were painted Tamiya XF-25 Sea Gray. Another great thing about this kit is that major parts and their joins follow the color scheme, meaning they can be painted separately but little jacking needed during assembly.



The conning tower and associated periscope mounts went together without problem, however the 20mm Orelikon gun, the 40mm Bofors and the 5inch deck gun were terrible. It was like two separate groups made the hull molds, which were great and the other team made the guns. The parts simply did not fit well and it took a lot of effort to getting them completed. I added some PE gunsights to the 20mm and 40mm guns.

Another nice feature was the stanchions for the safety lines on the hull. These were perfectly molded with absolutely no flash when the lines passed through their top. Revell also supplied fine nylon line that fit through the stanchions without any problem at all. It took less then an hour to rig, yes you heard right, rig the submarine!





I used pastel/ alcohol washes for weathering and there were no decals to deal with. Oh, another nice feature is that Revell supplies a broom that can be displayed attached to one of the periscopes. This broom signified a “clean sweep” and a successful completion of a war patrol.

Except for the miserable guns this was a very enjoyable two week build. I just delivered the model on Thursday to the museum and it’s sitting in its display case. The case will also hold various items including a submariners “Dolphins”.





As a plug to the museum, it's located just minutes from the Lewes Terminal of the Cape May ferry. If your every down this way be sure to visit the museum, you won't be disappointed.





I don't know when I'll be up for a meeting but will try to make the March meeting which is "Nostalgia Night", one of my favorite themes. I'll be heading down to the Richmond show which is the last Saturday in February then the Fairfax show the second Saturday in April. Of course I'll be at MosquitoCon which is April 1st....April Fools Day? What a way to celebrate! Better get building with all those shows coming up! Thanks for reading!

Mike Terre.



**Thanks Mike, excellent work for a good program!!!**

**Here are pictures from the January meeting. I'm sorry but I cannot find the tags! I'll try to remember who had what.**



**John Bucholz? 1/35 Russian Sniper**





**This was from Marc Rocca**



**Marc Rocca as well.**





**Bill Connolly**



**Patrick O'Connor**





**Rueven Shapira brought in an old metal toy!**



**I drew a blank on this one. Sorry everyone.**



**As a tribute to Art Doran, here's the best picture that I got of Art-thanks to Reuven.**



**Hope to see everyone on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Bill Schroeter, Editor**