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“FROM THE IRON WORKS”

By Big Bill Shwarz, Pres.

OK!! MosquitoCon is pretty much all set....except for the work all of know what to do.

We'll iron out any last-minute issues at the meeting this Friday.

Like Mike P. said, I you have UNBUILT kits for the raffle, please donate for the cause.

And don't forget about sponsoring an awards package-see Joe at the meeting.

Congrats to the Year-End winners last month-great skills shown!!!

That's it! Keep smilin' and keep enjoyin'!!

Big Bill, Pres.



THE CONTACT'S VIEW

By Mike Pavlo, VP



As I write this, it's Groundhog Day. Even though we have more than a foot of snow on the ground and the wind chills are below zero every day, he saw his shadow this morning. In my experience, we always get 6 more weeks of harsh winter no matter what that little rat sees. Oh well, at least we have MosquitoCon to look forward to help us through this brutal weather.

Speaking of MosquitoCon, we'd like to again invite you to please continue to support the show by sponsoring one or more trophy packages. Please see Joe Smith at the meeting.

Also, please use the time between now and the show to review your stash and see if there are any kits that you'd like to donate for the MCon Raffle Table. Your generosity is always appreciated.

Stay Warm!

Mike P.

THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva



Hello everyone. In February we are supposed to have our Gundam group build showoff. I'm pretty sure plans are still the same. I built mine out of the box without painting it which is something I never normally do. I think the last time I built a Gundam kit without painting it would be sometime in the 1990s. PLEASE remember to bring your kit unless Big Bill states otherwise in his article.

This is also a friendly reminder that Mosquitocon is about two months away. I expect a huge turnout for the show, and as per usual, we're going to need cooperation from all the club members to pull the show off without a hitch. We're absolutely going to need people on security detail and to help with the door and registration. In the morning I have to be all over the place and then the afternoon is usually full of judging a plethora of categories that many people don't like judging. I think this is a good time to point out that I build ships and science fiction. I've been in the club for probably 20 years now but I've never judged ships. It is NOT a bad thing to judge a category you are not familiar with. A few years ago, Mike Terre joined me to judge the miscellaneous categories and he had an absolute blast. We are ALL skilled model builders and are more than capable of judging anything on any table to IPMS standards. Do not be afraid to come out of your comfort zone and help judge a category you don't "feel" familiar with.

I won't be at the March meeting, even though it's the last before the show. I have a wedding to attend in Orlando, Florida, so if someone else could please run the contest that night it would be immensely helpful. This also allows me to talk about the topic of our monthly contests. Would anyone be interested in sponsoring a Theme Night? They're always wildly successful. The entire year is a blank slate. Please reach out to me if you're interested so we have ample time to prepare people for that theme.

All the best,

Jon

And now a delayed build from our esteemed Dr. Simon. (delayed due to my computer issues last month,)

BEAUTIFUL FINNISH (CONT.)

I have kept a fond place in my heart for Finland ever since making an extensive and, at times, inebriated tour of that country fifty years ago, in 1975. It goes without saying that this interest applies to their aviation with its mix of German, Soviet, Dutch and other aircraft that they managed with great resourcefulness.

You probably know the saying "if it looks right, it'll fly right". Regrettably, this didn't pan out to be true for the VL (Valtion Lentokonetehdas) State Factory Myrsky II fighter, their attempt starting in 1939 to produce a modern fighter. First flying in 1941 and entering service in 1943, it was anything but a success in spite of its good looks. Its engine, a license-built P&W R1830 chronically overheated, even in the chilly Finnish air. It also had some dangerous flight

characteristics. But worse of all, because of its partially wooden construction and of the use of poor-quality adhesives forced by a lack of resources, it was prone to catastrophic structural failures. It did have good ground handling... A series of 51 was built, and their combat record was limited to two damaged Yak fighters, while Brewster Buffaloes, French MS406's and Fiat G50's were cleaning up around them. One has recently been fully restored, and you can see it at the Finnish AF Museum.

It sure looked good, though, and I recently pulled a late 1980's vintage Aviation Usk 1/72 Myrsky from my long-term stash. It was molded in what was then Czechoslovakia, in a hard but rather pleasant-to-work-with dark brown plastic which I suspect was the same material they made uniform buttons with back then. I should know, as I was there when it was still WarPac. Basic assembly was headache-free, with definitely no over-engineering issues. The horizontal tailplanes were butt-joints, so I staked them in place with brass wire. I know I'm a fossil, but I strongly dislike a fragile model ! The kit-provided wheels were overly plain, so I used aftermarket wheels for Soviet fighters. The wheels on the real Myrsky looked exactly like those on Yaks, MiGs and LaGG's and, the Finnish being masters of adaptation, I wonder if in fact they did use recovered Soviet wheels.

The Myrsky had a relatively spacious cockpit with good visibility, one of the few positives reported by the men who flew it. And, since the cockpit interior would be very visible when this model was completed, I gave it a lot of attention , with pedals, pedal tracks, a Revo gunsight, seat belts from KitsWorld, a turnover pylon and oxygen bottles all being included in addition to nice molded-in sidewall detail. Cockpit color was a light blue gray, same as the Soviets'. The rather good armored pilot's seat provided with the kit had black cushioning.

The kit came with a vacuformed cockpit, which I've always found to be a pain. But I got to work on it and as I was just about done cutting it out, it cracked ! This was not a major problem, since I also had a much more recent Special Hobby Myrsky in my basement. And upon retrieving it, I was pleasantly surprised to see that its cockpit fit the elderly Commie kit well. So, after giving it a dip in « Future », I super-glued it in place. That's when I realized that I'd forgotten to put in the spade-handle joystick that I'd made . Rats !!! Just don't tell anybody, OK ?



After priming with MrSurfacer 1000 primer spray , I brushed on the usual olive green,black and light blue camouflage, once again very similar to pre-1943 Soviet fighter colors . I tried to conform to the pattern of the original but, having looked at a lot of photographs, I get the impression that the Finns had more important things to do than to make sure that the green and black bands were exactly the same from one Myrsky to the next.

By September of 1944, the Finns had surrendered to the Soviets, and fought along them against German forces in Lapland.



The yellow Axis ID markings on their aircraft had to be removed, and I represented this on my Myrsky by painting the cowling and rear fuselage band a darker, fresher olive green color.

Having already raided my Special Hobby Myrsky for its cockpit, I thought that I might as well use its nice decal sheet, made by « DEAD » studios(!?) . These were incredibly fragile, and unuseable without first using Microscale's Decal Film . I was able to use their tiny swastika markings for the propeller blades. I actually had better luck with the ancient Aviation Usk decals, even though the sheet showed signs of water damage. As per my usual, a coat of semi-gloss varnish finished off this project ; I now use Tamiya's spray can since Testor's "Satincoate" is no longer available.

This was a pleasant project, and a change from my usual multi-engine subjects . And it certainly is a nice-looking airplane!

Thanks Doc! I built a Finnish Buffalo a few years ago, and their particular green looks great with their National markings. Ed.

No our Librarian John Bucholz has more about building buildings, or is that buildings building?!??



Building Better Buildings—adding paint...Once you have set up the building on your base it's time to start the first steps in painting. You will want to add your colors from the inside to the

outside (bottom of the rubble pile to the top). The first step is to undercoat everything with a very dark shade which will represent the bottom or innermost pile of debris. I use flat black spray from a can as this is just the undercoat for the paint colors to come. If you are using water base paint for the building, use an enamel or laquer based color for the undercoat (flat black is my choice for city debris but dark brown works well for country settings). As you can see from the picture, everything was sprayed flat black before any color was added. Start from the innermost objects and work up to the surface debris. You will want to save some extra debris to add on top of the lower items. The building in the background shows the basic color blocking of the walls, window trim, and brick work. The foreground shows the first steps in painting the bricks and mortar before painting the inner and outer wall colors. The cobblestone street was done with several shades of gray dry brushed over the surface and the darker mortar lines were added later with a fine brush. As you can see individual bricks are picked out on the base and each has a slightly lighter or darker hue from each other (don't forget to add some mortar to some of the fallen bricks !)

Next time- Details to add to your building....Happy Modeling. John B.

And now photos from las month. I was unable to attend due to health issues, and thank Martin Quinn for the pics.



One of the best modelers around, Kieth Bender visited us and brought his scratch-built 1/350 scale USS Patoka !!!!!

Patrick O'Connor did a great job “Tar Heel Hal;” P-47 D, in /48 scale.





Oscar Hernandez 1/48 P-39 from Guadalcanal is excellent. I've always admired the men who held the line in 1942-43, when the Japanese Zero reigned supreme. Guys flying P-39's and F4-F Wildcats kept us in the war.

BUY WARD BONDS!!



Martin Quinn called Oscar Hernandez build “some German thing!”. I’m thinking it’s an Arado ‘what if’ that was on the drawing board at war’s end.



I couldn't read the tag, but these 1/72 Soviet aircraft look great. I'm guessing either Antonio Merollo, Bill Connolley, or Bill Joel?



I'm pretty sure these two are from Jerry Hughson. He was on an airliner tear for a while.



Nice work everyone! This FRIDAY the 13th is our meeting. Bring your lucky rabbit foot!