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Mike's Memo

Mike Miodonski

OK, it's a new year. This means new ideas, new projects, new shows, and new goals. We have them all! For those of you who know me personally, you know I am a typical Leo - anal, stubborn, and needing to be in control all the time. Luckily I am surrounded by E-Board members who are smarter, wiser and in many cases more experienced than me, so they guide me on my path. But, I digress; let me explain the reason for my self profiling.

Being an anal guy, I was going through my semi-organized photo collections the other day and realized I have photos of club members going back 15 years or more. They aren't really entertaining anyone sitting in my closet, so I'm going to have all of them scanned to a digital format, and around February or March you should begin to see 3 - 5 photos of friends from old events and years past in the e-Dizpatch. Look for these under the column "Remember When...". I know a lot of you have prints that are in the same vein, so bring them to me to scan. I think it's important that we share our collective memories and this should help stir some up. This also may give me a reason to justify purchasing a flatbed scanner, so help me out guys; Mike needs another toy...

This year I also want to resurrect two projects that the E-Board has been talking about for a long time, but neither has really fully gotten off the ground. I'm speaking of our club's book and video library. All of you may not be aware that the club owns a pretty sizable book and video (VCR only) collection that can be borrowed by any club member for reference or just plain old enjoyment. I'm looking to have the video library saved in our storage cabinet, where the book collection is now, so anyone who wants to browse through it at a meeting can do so within the next month or two.

Now on to the housekeeping:

- Saturday, January 19th is the beginning of our annual Kid's Class. Thank you to those of you who volunteered, it should be a good time.
- The E-Board continues to plan for the 2009 regional. We will give you updates periodically on our progress. The next E-Board meeting will be on the 21st at my house at 7:00. Any one is welcome to attend.
- Just a reminder that this month's, and February's general meetings will be held the 4th Monday due to federal holidays falling on the 3rd Mondays. The regular schedule will resume in March. This month's club question is an extension of a previous one, which was "how many models have you completed in the past year". This month is "how many have you purchased in the last year and do you have a preferred source?".

Well that's about all I have for now. I'll see everyone at the meeting.

- Mike.

**The
"BuffCon"
Boys**

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**Notes From The
December
Meeting**

**The Geneseo
Air/USO
Memories Show**

BuffCon 25

**NoreastCon
2008**

**IPMS Niagara
Frontier
Member's Page**

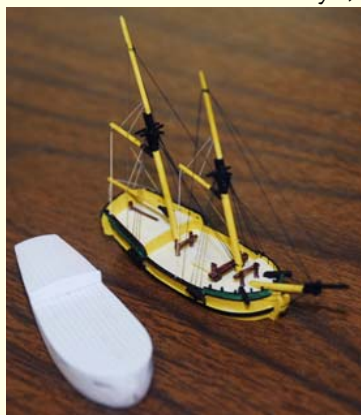
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Notes From The December Meeting Dick Schulenberg

Tonight's meeting was our annual holiday celebration featuring traditional fare such as pizza (various toppings) and chicken wings (various intensities) along with sweets (various persuasions). Good stuff that was enjoyed by all.

An important part of this year end celebration is our participation in the USMC Reserve's "Toys for Tots" program. Our gifts of unwrapped toys go to the Marines who distribute them to needy families in our area. Unfortunately, there is a great need here. We've been active participants for a long time now. This year's focus was on the older kids who benefit from this wonderful program. You guys have always been more than generous with your support and this year was no different, with two tables full of toys, CD's, games and other items. We were unable to have a representative from the Reserves join us for the meeting as most are on deployment. Keep them in your thoughts too.



We had several tables full of models on display as well. However, I elected to share in the pizza and conversation rather than taking notes, so please check out the pictures Bob Collignon took.

One of the sleepers in the photos is Paul Kittel's pretty waterline sailing ship model. What is not apparent is that is totally scratchbuilt and it's only a couple of inches long. Paul built it as a sample for the Fort Niagara circa 1812 diorama that Tom Faith is coordinating. The ship is on the order of 1/350 scale, the anticipated scale for the diorama. Good start, Paul.

We had an excellent round the room question for discussion. The question was "Do you model for quality or for quantity?". As you might expect, quality was the criterion of choice for most of our active modelers. Several people had obviously thought about the question a lot. They had well thought out answers addressing what quality in modeling means for them, how important that quality is to them and how much effort they are willing to put into achieving that quality. Their modeling shows it.

[Here's where I go off on my own modeling philosophy, sorry guys].

What makes this an important question, at least for me, is the quality of the models to be seen on the internet and in other sources these days. It's pretty easy to get a little discouraged with our own efforts when faced with these beauties. It's compounded by the limited modeling time available for most of us and just how long it seems to take to get anything done, or more importantly, to develop the skill need to reach a perceived quality level. It almost seems that quality and quantity are mutually exclusive because the quality standard is just so high.

I thought it was interesting that almost no one talked of building up a collection (quantity) of models to some exhibition (quality) level, whatever that may be. Personally, I have long had this vision of a collection of US, Dutch, French, Polish and British pre- and early WWII aircraft models in 1/72 that I would like to have (along with early post war USN airplanes, not to mention a nice selection of Spanish Civil War airplanes and maybe a few 1/35 French WWII tanks and some 1/32 fighters, a couple of ships, you get the picture). Definitely quantity, but at what quality?

continued...

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December Meeting...

My "serious" modeling goes way back. Some of the first magazine articles I read about plastic modeling were by a fellow named John Townsley in Flying Models magazine in 1959/1960. He was making real models out of the bagged 1/72 Airfix kits and some of the 1/48 Lindberg kits like the Ju-87B Stuka and their Me-262 jet fighter. This was the first I knew about removing seams and how to paint camouflage. A revelation was that the bare Airfix cockpits looked much better if they were painted in a mottle of dark grays. This was my first real brush with modeling quality and it left an impression. In the 1970's and '80's, guys like Mike Dario in Scale Models, Alan Hall in several British modeling magazines and the crew at "Replica in Scale" also shaped my concept of model quality. These guys did some neat conversions, focusing on getting shapes right, adding primarily external details, replicating the stance of the airplane on the ground and finishing up with an interesting color scheme. I've had a couple of flings at superdetailing cockpits and such, but, for me, it rapidly becomes a task. I'll still do it again, though. Where I'm going with this is that, for me and my envisioned collection on a shelf, quality encompasses the basic modeling skills we always talk about, an attention to what the real plane looks like on the ground or in the air (its "sit", if you will), adding the details you can see from a foot or two away, and an interesting paint job. (I still like the mottled gray cockpits, especially with closed canopies.) It's not the quality level I see on Hyperscale, but it works for me.

Today's modelers don't have the advantage of this background in where modeling used to be, so the quality bar starts at a much higher level. It's pretty daunting to me and more so to a beginner or casual modeler.

My point in all of this is that quality is subjective and, I think, personal, depending mostly on what you want to get out of your modeling efforts. You don't need to aim for someone else's standard unless that's where you want to be. Figure out what your sustainable quality level is or where you want it to be, and then go for it.

As the late Al Superczynski used to say in his column in Internet Modeler "Build what YOU like, the way YOU want to", to which I'll add "Just build!".
[End of the personal philosophy. Thanks for reading this far.]

Well, it was a fun evening for everyone. I know I had a great time. Thank you to all who brought refreshments.

Remember that the next meeting is on January 28, one week later than usual because the Youth Center is closed on our regular night for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. As always, bring in a completed projects, works in progress, new kits, or a model you'd like to show off.



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E-DIZPATCH

IPMS Niagara Frontier

January 2008



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From: "Julie and Brian"
Date: January 11, 2008 10:06:28 AM EST
To: Bob Collignon
Subject: Geneseo Air Show

Good morning,

My name is Julie Duddy and I am with the 1941 Historical Aircraft Group Museum in Geneseo, New York. I just wanted to pass this information onto you and the group.

The 1941 Historical Aircraft Group Museum in Geneseo, New York holds an annual Air Show. (See website for past performers) These air shows are extremely successful and this year the show has all ready been branded the best air show in 2008. Our theme for the show is a "Flying Tiger Reunion" where we will have the biggest collection of P40's in the country present. This year the show is the weekend of July 12 and 13, 2008. (www.1941hag.org) Visit the website for this years as well as past performers and information. Also, to see updates as additional information is posted about the show.

Also, in an effort to make the 1941 Historical Aircraft Group more visible, the group started having a USO Memories Show and our first USO show was held at the Geneseo Armory in 1994. Since then the show has become a favorite event for members and guests from all over the United States as well as Canada. The Annual Memories USO Show is now held at the 1941 Aircraft Group Airfield at the Geneseo Airport and is enjoyed by all who attend.

This year's USO Memories Show will be held on the Saturday evening of the Geneseo Air Show, July 12, 2008 from 7-11 pm. We are proud to announce that performing for us once again will be "78 RPM" with their authentic repertoire of 1940's music. So, come on over to just listen or kick off your shoes and dance the night away. It is a great picture taking opportunity.

Please let me know if these events are something your group may be interested in attending.

Julie Duddy
Co-Chair USO Memories Show

YOUR 2008 DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY

Your club dues for the 2008 calendar year are due at the January 2008 meeting. You'll remember that we changed back to an annual schedule in 2005 because of the difficulties we had tracking the dues schedule for members who received Dizpatch via e-mail.

If you receive a mailed Dizpatch, your renewal date is listed next to your name on the address label.

If you get Dizpatch by e-mail, your dues are probably due. Either check with Dave Schwab at the meeting, or e-mail him at davidsp51stang@aol.com if you're not sure.

Everyone is now on the January to January schedule. Regular memberships are still \$10.00 per year and Juniors (under 18) are still \$5.00.

You can pay the Treasurer Dave Schwab at the meetings or by mailing a check to Dave at 28 Wanda Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14211. Please make checks (or money orders) out to Niagara Frontier Chapter IPMS.

Make sure that you share any updated information like addresses and e-mail addresses with Dave as things change.

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the
"BuffCon"
boys

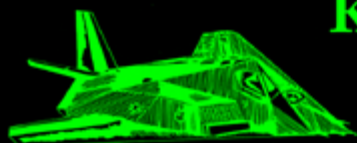
BUFF CON 25

SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2008

Knights of Columbus Club

2735 Union Rd. at William St.

Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY

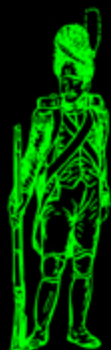


ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION OPEN AT 9:00

REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 2:00

JUDGING FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 (VENDORS OPEN)

AWARDS AT 4:00



LOTS OF VENDORS!

OVER 80 CATEGORIES INCLUDING JUNIORS AND
BANTAMS, WITH MANY OUT-OF-THE-BOX
AWARDS

GENERAL ADMISSION - \$4.00, UNDER 12 FREE

(Admission FREE with entry!)

Senior Entries - 2/\$6.00, \$1.00 each additional

Junior (Ages 11-17) - \$1.00 each entry

Bantam (Under 11) - Free

(Sales tax included with admission fee)



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716-896-8720



NOREASTCON 2008

IPMS Region I Convention

Scale Modeler's Convention April 25-26, 2008

at the

Holiday Inn Express | Schoharie, NY

518-295-6088 or 800-272-9273

IPMS / NENY Website
www.aloder.freeyellow.com

or write:

Bill Ellis, 50 North Allen Street,
Albany, NY 12203

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IPMS Northeast New York

MEMBER INFORMATION PAGE



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	Dan Marafino	684-0733	digbee45@aol.com
Chapter Contact	Bob Collignon	837-2204	cjltd@adelphia.net

The Next Club Meeting:

The next meeting of the Niagara Frontier Chapter IPMS will be on Monday, January 28, 2008 at the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road (near Main Street), Amherst, New York. We meet in the basement youth room from 7:00 P.M. to about 10:00 P.M. Please do not arrive before 6:45 P.M.

Important: All submissions to e-DIZPATCH

must be received by the Monday one week after our scheduled meeting night.

Printed articles and pictures can be mailed to:

JuJuLizard
25 Huetter Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207
Attn: e-DIZPATCH

Digital files can be e-mailed to:

ipmsediz@aol.com